

# *Background Guide*

*Coffee, Corruption,  
Capoeiras:  
The Regency of Brazil*



**GatorMUN XVII**

## *Dear Delegates,*

My name is John McWhorter, and I welcome you all to GatorMUN XVII. I am truly honored and humbled to have been given the opportunity to direct my very first committee this year, and I hope you all enjoy it just as much as I've enjoyed putting it together. I am currently a second-year history and political science double major with a minor in philosophy at the University of Florida. This will be my sixth year doing Model United Nations and my second year as a part of GatorMUN, including last year, where I was a crisis staffer for the Subspace Defense Council. When not in committee, you can probably find me screaming at my TV watching my favorite soccer team Inter, or playing guitar and writing music. But enough about me, let's talk about the matter at hand, Brazil.

In my eyes, for its amazing and awe-inspiring evolution from colony to dominating kingdom, Brazil is criminally understudied in the academic field and underrepresented on the Model UN circuit. These factors are what motivated me to put together a committee centered around one of its most tumultuous periods, The Regency. Everyone knows the names Pedro I and Pedro II, but few know what happened in between, which is where this committee comes into play.

Brazil's history is one of social revolution and economic dominance, which is why some of the key topics you will be looking at in this committee are the fragile race relations in place, the coffee and sugar trade, and the developing nations in Latin America. Additionally, you will start to see that the Brazilian political system is a cutthroat one not dissimilar to the political system we see in the United States today—which is what truly makes Brazil stand out to me. Not only did they lead the world in sugar and coffee for a considerable chunk of our world's history, but they developed a political system ahead of its time and established what it meant to have a true bloodless social revolution. For this committee, I would like to see that same level of political elegance and commitment to ensure that Brazil stays on top.

**Position papers will not be required for this committee.** I truly look forward to seeing the crisis arcs you all come up with and the creative directives you all will pass. I wish you all the best of luck. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [gatormun@gmail.com](mailto:gatormun@gmail.com).

Best,

*John McWhorter*

Director of Coffee, Corruption, and Capoeiras: The Regency of Brazil

## **Quorum**

A majority of voting members answering to the roll at each session shall constitute a quorum for that session. This means that half plus one of all voting members are physically present. Quorum will be assumed consistent unless questioned through a Point of Order. Delegates may request to be noted as "Present" or "Present and Voting."

ompany any motion for a Moderated Caucus. In a Motion to Set Speaking Time, a delegate may also specify a number of questions or comments to automatically affix to the Speaking Time. These designated questions or comments may also have Speaking Time or Response Time (in the case of a question) limits, but these are not required. The Director may rule any Motion to Set Speaking Time dilatory. This motion requires a simple majority. Any delegate may make this motion between formal speakers in an effort to change the Speaking Time.

## ***Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of a Moderated Caucus***

This motion must include three specifications

- a. Length of the Caucus
- b. Speaking Time, and
- c. Reason for the Caucus

During a moderated caucus, delegates will be called on to speak by the Committee Director. Delegates will raise their placards to be recognized. Delegates must maintain the same degree of decorum throughout a Moderated Caucus as in formal debate. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

## ***Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of an Unmoderated Caucus***

This motion must include the length of the Caucus. During an unmoderated caucus, delegates may get up from their seats and talk amongst themselves. This motion requires a simple majority to pass. The length of an unmoderated caucus in a Crisis committee should not exceed fifteen minutes.

## ***Motion to Suspend the Meeting***

This motion is in order if there is a scheduled break in debate to be observed. (ie. Lunch!) This motion requires a simple majority vote. The Committee Director may refuse to entertain this motion at their discretion.

## ***Motion to Adjourn the Meeting***

This motion is in order at the end of the last committee session. It signifies the closing of the committee until next year's conference.

## ***Points of Order***

Points of Order will only be recognized for the following items:

- a) To recognize errors in voting, tabulation, or procedure,
- b) To question relevance of debate to the current Topic or
- c) To question a quorum.

A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker if necessary and it is to be used sparingly.

## ***Points of Inquiry***

When there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may direct a question to the Committee Director. Any question directed to another delegate may only be asked immediately after the delegate has finished speaking on a substantive matter. A delegate that declines to respond to a question after a formal speech forfeits any further questioning time. The question must conform to the following format:

Delegate from Country A raises placard to be recognized by the Committee Director.

Committee Director: "To what point do you rise?"

Country A: "Point of Inquiry."

Committee Director: "State your Point."

Country A: "Will the delegate from Country B (who must have just concluded a substantive speech) yield to a question?"

Committee Director: "Will the Delegate Yield?"

Country B: "I will" or "I will not" (if not, return to the next business item)

Country A asks their question (it must not be a rhetorical question.)

Country B may choose to respond or to decline.

If the Delegate from Country B does not yield to or chooses not to answer a question from Country A, then he/she yields all remaining questioning time to the Committee Director.

## ***Points of Personal Privilege***

Points of personal privilege are used to request information or clarification and conduct all other business of the body except Motions or Points specifically mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.

Please note: The Director may refuse to recognize Points of Order, Points of Inquiry or Points of Personal Privilege if the Committee Director believes the decorum and restraint inherent in the exercise has been violated, or if the point is deemed dilatory in nature.

## ***Rights of Reply***

At the Committee Director's discretion, any member nation or observer may be granted a Right of Reply to answer serious insults directed at the dignity of the delegate present. The Director has the ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY to accept or reject Rights of Reply, and the decision IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL. Delegates who feel they are being treated unfairly may take their complaint to any member of the Secretariat.

## ***Directives***

Directives act as a replacement for Draft Resolutions when in Crisis committees, and are the actions that the body decides to take as a whole. Directives are not required to contain operative or preambulatory clauses. A directive should contain:

- a. The name(s) of the author(s),
- b. A title, and

c. A number of signatories/sponsors signatures' necessary to introduce, determined by the Director

A simple majority vote is required to introduce a directive, and multiple directives may be introduced at once. Press releases produced on behalf of the body must also be voted on as Directives.

## **Friendly Amendments**

Friendly Amendments are any changes to a formally introduced Directive that *all* Sponsors agree to in writing. The Committee Director must approve the Friendly Amendment and confirm each Sponsor's agreement both verbally and in writing.

## **Unfriendly Amendments**

Unfriendly Amendments are any substantive changes to a formally introduced Directive that are not agreed to by all of the Sponsors of the Directive. In order to introduce an Unfriendly Amendment, the Unfriendly Amendment must have the number equivalent to 1/3 of Quorum confirmed signatories. The Committee Director has the authority to discern between substantive and non-substantive Unfriendly amendment proposals.

## **Plagiarism**

GatorMUN maintains a zero-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. Delegates found to have used the ideas of others without properly citing those individuals, organizations, or documents will have their credentials revoked for the duration of the GatorMUN conference. This is a very serious offense.

## **Crisis Notes**

A crisis note is an action taken by an individual in a Crisis committee. Crisis notes do not need to be introduced or voted on, and should be given to the Crisis Staff by sending the notes to a designated pickup point in each room. A crisis note should both be addressed to crisis and have the delegate's position on both the inside and outside of the note.

## **Motion to Enter Voting Procedure**

Once this motion passes, and the committee enters Voting Procedure, no occupants of the committee room may exit the Committee Room, and no individual may enter the Committee Room from the outside. A member of the Dias will secure all doors.

- No talking, passing notes, or communicating of any kind will be tolerated during voting procedures.
- Each Directive will be read to the body and voted upon in the order which they were introduced. Any Proposed Unfriendly Amendments to each Directive will be read to the body and voted upon before the main body of the Directive as a whole is put to a vote.
- Delegates who requested to be noted as "Present and Voting" are unable to abstain during voting procedure. Abstentions will not be counted in the tallying of a majority. For example, 5 yes votes, 4 no votes, and 7 abstentions means that the Directive passes.
- The Committee will adopt Directives and Unfriendly Amendments to Directives if these documents pass with a simple majority. Specialized committees should refer to their background-guides or Committee Directors for information concerning specific voting procedures.

## ***Roll Call Voting***

A counted placard vote will be considered sufficient unless any delegate to the committee motions for a Roll Call Vote. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the committee must comply. All delegates must vote: "For," "Against," "Abstain," or "Pass."

During a Roll Call vote, any delegate who answers, "Pass," reserves his/her vote until the Committee Director has exhausted the Roll. However, once the Committee Director returns to "Passing" Delegates, they must vote: "For" or "Against."

## ***Accepting by Acclamation***

This motion may be stated when the Committee Director asks for points or motions. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the motion to Accept by Acclamation is voided. If a delegate believes a Directive will pass without opposition, he or she may move to accept the Directive by acclamation. The motion passes unless a single delegate shows opposition. An abstention is not considered opposition. Should the motion fail, the committee will move directly into a Roll Call Vote.



## **The Commercial Empire of Portugal**

Although not commonly remembered as one of the major imperial powers like Spain or England, Portugal boasted an incredible empire of its own. The main difference between Portugal and the other two being that the Portuguese prioritized commercial success rather than territorial quantity. Portugal's empire traces back to the early 15th century when King Joao I ordered the exploration of the African coast and Atlantic archipelagos. This expedition introduced Portugal into the spice trade, which was a very lucrative and profitable industry. Under the leadership of Henry the Navigator, Portugal was able to add luxury items such as pepper, cotton, sugar, ivory, and gold, to its markets. Another industry in which Portugal heavily participated in was the Atlantic Slave Trade. Due to their successful economic partnerships alongside the coast of West Africa, Portugal was able to dominate the slave trade, importing more

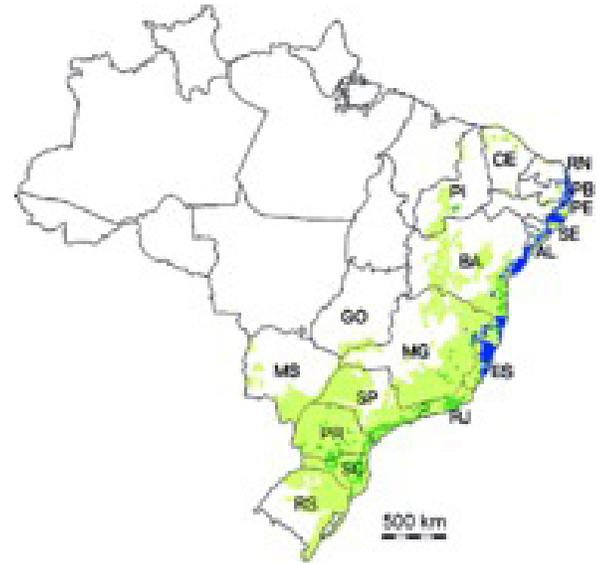
slaves than Spain or France. The vast majority of these slaves labored in fields for sugar, coffee, tobacco, and various other exports that were present in Brazil when Portugal colonized it. Aside from their economic gain, these conquests became legitimized in the eyes of the crown through the establishment of various Jesuit missions in colonized areas. Small ports in Asia and Africa faced relative success regarding the spread of Roman Catholicism.

## **Origins of Brazil**

The first European contact with Brazil was the result of a voyage made by Pedro Alvares Cabral in the year 1500.<sup>1</sup> Upon landing in Brazil, the Europeans found no organized political structures in place, but they did come across small indigenous groups engaged in genocidal warfare. At first, the Portuguese's intentions for Brazil were for commerce, not conquest. Some of these Brazilian exports introduced to Portugal's trade were dyewoods and exotic pets (parrots, monkeys, etc.), both of which are indicators of wealth amongst the Western European aristocracy. One issue that arose early on in Brazil was that the French, who landed in Brazil around the same time, also wanted a claim of the dyewoods found, which set off a series of battles between the two imperial powers.

These skirmishes between both nations were primarily fought by convincing rival tribes within Brazil to compete against each other. This proxy war paired with the disease spread by the Europeans decimated the native population. The spreading illness was also facilitated by the fights that took place in the very humid climate of the tropical lowlands. What made it so easy for the Europeans to convince the native Brazilians to fight against one another was that they had no unified sense of nationality or brotherhood as a country. They merely saw each other as enemies, which ultimately aided in the destruction of their population. The Portuguese won the conflict and seized control over the Brazilian dyewoods. These dyewoods produced a vibrant red hue that became very popular in European countries. These dyewoods were suspected to be one of the factors that led to the creation of Brazil's name from the word "brazá," which means red hue. The distribution of Brazilian dyewoods, alongside the Brazilian coast in 1500, is indicated on the map in blue coloring.

The first economic export that drove Brazil to prominence was cane sugar, which dates back to 1516. Between 1530-1549, Portugal set up a series of captaincies throughout Brazil with a representative of the king in each region overlooking it. Each region enslaved the natives and forced them to work on sugar mills. The area in Brazil that first benefited economically from sugar cane production was Pernambuco, and the success there would be seen as a regional trend throughout Brazil's history as the northeastern region would become known for its economic strength and capability. The strenuous labor that would come with working on the sugar cane fields and mills quickly wiped out the population of indigenous workers who were enslaved by the Portuguese. To replace the indigenous people, Portugal imported a staggering 12 million slaves, with 6 million of them going to Brazil to work on the sugar crop.



In addition to turning the Portuguese Empire into an economic powerhouse, the trade of cane sugar singlehandedly fueled the Atlantic Slave Trade. During the late 1530s, many of the surviving natives doing field labor revolted against the Portuguese because they believed fieldwork to be a “woman’s job,” thus raising the demand for even more slaves. The influx of African slaves into the Brazilian population was so immense that between 1530-1570, Brazil underwent a demographic shift in which the coastal population was primarily African.

The large investment of manpower, as well as the economic capital in Brazil, prompts King Joao III to establish two states within Brazil to divide their assets. The first state, the State of Brazil, was created in 1549, and its capital was the city of Salvador. In 1621, the second state, the State of Maranhao, was established. The king sent a governor-general to overlook each state.

### ***Relationship with Africa***

Portugal imported more slaves through the Atlantic Slave Trade than any other European imperial power. Much of this is due to Portugal’s efficient but vast economic empire. An integral part of this empire was the various holding Portugal has in West Central Africa. During the 1500s, Angola was set up as a Portuguese slave enclave and only existed for the facilitation of exporting slaves. The economic relationship between the Portuguese people and African slave traders went both ways, as the slave traders became dependent on the Portuguese for commercial items such as weapons, cloth, and alcohol.<sup>2</sup>

The economic relationship between the Portuguese and the Africans transformed the infrastructure of African society amongst the West Coast. Whole kingdoms would emerge just to establish slave ports, and the population would undergo a demographic shift towards people establishing themselves in coastal areas to avoid enslavement. Many of the slaves were prisoners of wars from battles between rivaling African kingdoms.<sup>3</sup>

Going into the 1600s, the Portuguese dominated the sugar market. The European market was primarily fueled by Brazilian exports coming out of Sao Tome e Principe, a Portuguese port in Western Africa. This caused an economic power shift in Brazil with power now being shared between the Northeastern region and the South Central region. Attracted by the commercial success of the cane sugar market, the Dutch began to try and break the Portuguese monopoly in 1600, which proved to be successful when they established economic interests in Angola. Additionally, Dutch merchants taught the British how to cultivate sugar through the use of sugar mills, which immediately prompted the British to begin producing cane sugar in the West Indies.

The emergence of sugar production in the Caribbean proved to be drastic for the Portuguese as the island of Saint Dominique, present-day Haiti, overtook Brazil as the world's leading producer of sugar in 1670.

Alongside the issues in Brazil, the Portuguese crown was also facing various problems throughout the 1600s that resulted in people viewing their kingdom as a third-rate imperial power. The royal family of Portugal, the Braganzas, began to desire independence from Spain's Kingdom of Castile. This resulted from the enlightening reform being enacted by the Spanish monarchy to further centralized power. In 1640, the Braganza house formally began the fight for independence because of Castile's refusal to recognize their royal dynasty. The Braganzas found an opportunity to establish their independence when France went to war with Castile and joined the Kingdom of Aragon to support the French.



Despite the Kingdoms of Portugal and Aragon's efforts, the war between Castile and France ended in a peace treaty. In response to this, Portugal allied themselves with the British crown in an attempt to maintain their independence, and the marriage of Catherine of Braganza to Charles II of England solidified the alliance. Additionally, both powers signed the Methuen Treaty in 1703,<sup>4</sup> which set up a client-state relationship between Portugal and England. This relationship meant the kingdoms would receive preferential treatment from one another in regards to trade. The Methuen Treaty benefited both parties involved since they each depend on each other for different exports. The English depend on the Portuguese for wine and cork, while the Portuguese depend on the English for manufactured goods.

Another by-product of this agreement was the establishment of various English shops within Portugal that led to English goods being sold more widely within Portugal and its colonies. A black market also developed in the colonies where English goods would be sold as contraband in order to avoid taxation.

By the end of the 16th century, Portugal had become a third-rate power, and members of Portugal's aristocracy wanted to see what Portugal needed to do to catch up with the great imperial powers of France and England.<sup>5</sup>

## Rise of Pombal

Portugal has always had a solid connection with the Catholic Church. Many of their imperialist ventures were legitimized under the guise of spreading the faith and establishing themselves

within the Portuguese colonies. Despite this, ideals stemming from the enlightenment began to raise sentiments that a society dominated by the church is a backward one. This sentiment comes at a time when Portugal was falling behind its European rivals and thus led the aristocracy to figure out ways to fix the issues going on in Portugal. Sebastiao Jose de Carvalho e Melo, or better known as the Marquis of Pombal, was the aristocrat that led this movement and began a political era of reform in both Portugal and Brazil.

Pombal grew up in a time where Portugal was a country whose socioeconomic mobility was determined solely by nobility. He was born into the gentry of Portugal but secured an apprenticeship with one of the greatest diplomats in the nobility. His time as an apprentice gave Pombal the ability to move up the social ladder where he met his wife, a noblewoman who had strong connections to the Habsburg court. By this time, Pombal had become a trusted advisor to the King Joseph I of Portugal and became a member of the council of ministers. His position allowed him to arrange a marriage between then king, Joseph I, and a Habsburg princess as a way of forging an alliance between the two powers and taking some of the attention away from himself.



Pombal then began to investigate the powers of France and England to see how he can use them as examples to make Portugal a first-rate power. He concluded that England embodied what it meant to have commercial strength, while France specialized in military power. Both empires were examples for the Portuguese elite, and this led to Pombal discovering the economic system of mercantilism. Mercantilism is a system that views all the wealth in the world as finite, meaning the more you have, the fewer others have. This system prioritizes a closed market system that caters to the needs of the mother country and leads to an empire that is

strong economically and militarily.

By the 1750s, Pombal ran Portugal behind the scenes while the king engaged in a life of debauchery and adultery. His power was solidified in the Lisbon earthquake that took place in 1755, which ended up destroying most of the city. Pombal's ability to take charge during the crisis impressed the king, who gave him even more agency.<sup>6</sup> When he came to power, Pombal first recognized that for Portugal to move forward, they needed to go down the path of modernization. Pombal emphasized talent, as well as education, which was centered around the teachings of the enlightenment and natural sciences. He believed that a focus on the natural sciences in universities would lead to both economic and military advancements. This reform put him at odds with the Catholic Church's Jesuits, an order of Catholic priests who specialize in education, who dominated the university system in Portugal.<sup>7</sup>

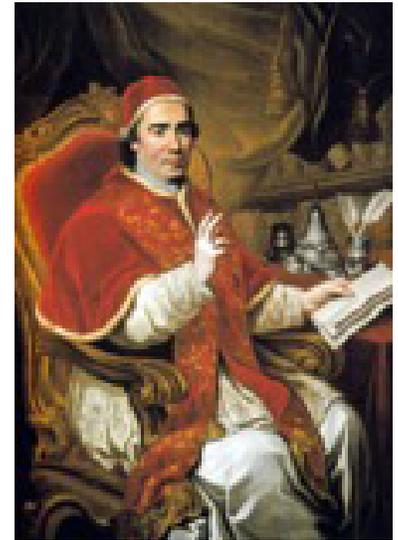
Pombal then wanted to shift the social hierarchy of Portugal to better resemble a meritocracy. He noticed a significant difference in performance and work ethic between those who achieved their position on merit, and those who got their job through family lineage. This second line of reform that Pombal championed put him at odds with the aristocracy of Portugal.<sup>8</sup>

By the late 1750s, Pombal was opponents with the two main pillars of Portuguese society, the Catholic Church (the Jesuits) and the aristocracy. Both groups were highly intertwined with the Jesuits being the confessors to the aristocrats and for the aristocracy's recruitment purposes. Pombal finally had the chance to get one over his enemies within the upper echelons of Portuguese society when an aristocrat tried to commit regicide. Pombal used this attempt on the king's

life to turn the public opinion against the aristocracy, and get rid of the Jesuit order altogether. Consequently, he dispelled them from Portugal as well as all their overseas possessions. His actions had broader implications for the order as Pope Clement XIII would go on to dissolve it as a whole in 1758, which would eventually come back in 1773.

## Pombaline Reform in Brazil

After effectively removing his domestic enemies from having any political sway, Pombal wanted to focus his political efforts on getting the most out of Brazil. Pombal wanted to expand Brazil's frontier, particularly the Western front, which included Amazonia, as well as exploit the vast natural resources it held. As part of his Brazilian plan, Pombal began to enact reform emphasizing regional development within Brazil. Pombal also made efforts to fortify the Southern Brazilian frontier bordering Spanish America. He recognized that the *Rio de La Plata* was the easiest and most direct way to reach the interior of Brazil. Alongside the fortification of borders, Pombal established two monopoly companies, inspired by the English East India Company, to overlook the extortion of natural resources from Brazil. Both companies were stationed in various areas of Brazil and focused on different crops. The first one, named *Companhia Geral do Grão Pará E Maranhão*, was established in 1755 and focused on cotton and rice. The second was named *Companhia Geral de Pernambuco e Paraíba* was established in 1759 and focused on sugar and cacao.<sup>9</sup>



While these reforms positively impacted Brazil economically, it came with a much darker consequence. Since many of the natives got displaced due to Pombal expanding Brazil's frontier into Amazonia, there wasn't a big enough population to carry out the labor demands required to enact the policies. Therefore, they widely recognized Pombaline economic reforms as the re-birth of the Atlantic Slave Trade to Brazil.<sup>10</sup>

Another byproduct of Pombal's reforms was the creation of a new class of skilled workers known as the Pombaline bourgeoisie, which consisted of those who were recruited by Pombal to run and invest in the monopoly companies. Additionally, more members of the military's leadership weren't aristocrats and were there based purely on merit. Pombal wanted there to be a cultural shift within Portuguese society where people would begin to link their jobs to their success rather than to their family line. The rise of the Pombaline bourgeoisie emphasized on the population of Portuguese who have talent and resources, and it effectively does away with the interests of those in the aristocracy.

Pombaline reforms also led to the unification of the two Brazilian administrative units that were put in place by King Joao III in the late 1500s, the State of Maranhao (pictured in yellow) and the State of Brazil (pictured in green). In 1772, both states were unified and are now collectively known as the State of Brazil. Brazil would go on to become two units again later that same year when Amazonia was brought into the fold and became its own administrative unit. Another regional change that took place prior, in 1763, was that Rio de Janeiro became the new capital of Brazil.



Pombal's reasoning was an attempt to consolidate power within Brazil as a response to the economic power shift in Brazil that led to sugar cane production and silver trade being centered in southeastern Brazil, in the same location as Rio.

Another essential aspect of the Pombaline reform was the fortification of the front with Spanish America. Pombal solidified this sentiment when he went to war with Spain over the territories that surrounded the *Rio de La Plata*. Pombal also went into Spanish America to gain access to the silver trade that was seeping into the Brazilian black market and becoming contraband. In 1750, after a successful attempt to challenge the Spanish, Pombal's war efforts lead to the Portuguese's control over the area that is now known as Uruguay. Pombal intended to make Brazil more centered around Amazonia. He tried to create constant communication between the mouth of the Amazon and Rio, but despite his best efforts, he failed at this and was unable to access any sizable exports from the region.

One overarching outcome of Pombal's reforms in Brazil was the increase of Portugal's presence within the colony, which was fueled by his distrust of the Brazilians. Pombal increased the ranks of the military overlooking Brazil, in addition to sending his bureaucrats to make sure they enacted his reforms. Members of the Brazilian elite were very upset by this, especially when he also decided to increase taxation for them as well. Despite this, commerce within Brazil and the Portuguese empire as a whole increased, and Brazil had an agricultural renaissance with the revival of several key crops and the emergence of coffee.

Overall, the Pombaline era led to the centralization of power due to the enlightening reform, the Brazilians' suffering under Portugal, the slave trade's rebirth, and the establishment of the Pombaline bourgeoisie.

Pombal would continue to be in power until King Joseph I was replaced by Queen Maria I in 1777. Maria had a very negative opinion of Pombal and banned him from all of his political positions as soon as she assumed her reign. Despite this, she kept much of the Pombaline bourgeoisie in place, which established itself in the ranks of both Brazilian and Portuguese socioeconomic matters.

## ***International Pressures***

When Napoleon went to war with Great Britain in the Peninsular War, Portugal decided to stay neutral in the conflict. Despite this, Napoleon, in an attempt to cut off Britain economically, tried to take Portugal and stifle their trade with the British. Even then, Portugal stuck with their neutrality but was pressured by Great Britain because the British saw the Portuguese as old allies and credited themselves with giving the Portuguese military strength in their struggle against Spain in 1640. Additionally, Britain threatened Portugal that if they decided to give into Napoleon's demands, they would take Portugal for themselves.<sup>11</sup> These pressures led to King Joao IV of Portugal to move to Brazil since it is now the economic center of the Portuguese empire.

## The Flight of the Court

When Joao left Portugal while the French and English were pressuring it, he took his whole court with him to live in Rio in 1807. As soon as he left, France successfully invaded Portugal. In an attempt to please the British, the Portuguese made mercantilism less strict and allowed Brazil to trade with not only Portugal but its allies as well, which includes Great Britain.



One of Joao's first impacts on Brazil was his development of the academic system. Upon arrival, he began to set up schools for officers and doctors, as well as academies for those studying botany and theatre. Joao used the revamped academic system to research crops that Brazil could grow to maximize its economic strength.

In 1815, when Napoleon lost the Peninsular War at Waterloo, many people, not including Joao, went back to Portugal. In fact, by the time the war ended, Joao had no intention of returning to Portugal because Brazil was quickly becoming a strong power in the Americas, while others continued to see Portugal as a third-rate imperial power. Furthermore, Joao raised Brazil's status from a colony to a kingdom, putting it on equal terms with Portugal in terms of status. A year later, in 1816, Maria passed away, thus making Joao the official king of both Portugal and Brazil.

One group that was dissatisfied with Joao's decision to stay in Brazil was the Pombaline bourgeoisie. Their discontent was mainly due to their status in society being dependent on the crown and the implementation of mercantilist policies fueled through the monopoly companies. With the lack of Joao's presence in Portugal and the decreasing strictness in the mercantilist economic policies, their power in society began to erode. The Pombaline bourgeoisie recognized that the only way they would be able to gain their status back was if the king returned to Portugal to reestablish order.



## Emergence of Liberal Politics

In 1812, liberal political thoughts began to circulate Spain, Portugal, and Brazil. This philosophy emphasized that the sovereignty of the state came from its people. A direct result of this was the passage of the Cadiz Constitution in Spain, which set up a Spanish constitutional monarchy that served as a balance to the powers of the king. Portugal and Brazil widely studied the Spanish Constitution. Soon after the adoption of the Constitution, King Ferdinand VII of Spain was released from captivity and immediately voided the Constitution and established an absolute monarchy in 1813. This occurrence led to another event that fueled the circulation of liberal thought throughout Portugal and Spain and the Riego revolt. The Riego Revolt took place when Spanish military officials, many who were liberal, refused to back the crown in the wars of independence between Spain and the colonies in Spanish America. This revolt had implications for Portugal when a similar uprising took place in Porto, a city in Portugal.<sup>12</sup>

The introduction of liberal ideals and political thought in Portugal, mobilized the Pombaline bourgeoisie to push for dramatic reform. They began to advocate for a constitutional monarchy since their political position had regressed substantially under Joao IV's absolute monarchy.

## ***The Assembly of 1820***

In 1820, the constitutional assembly in Portugal met to establish a constitutional monarchy for their government. They caused local elections to be held in Brazil so they could send delegates over to Portugal. Prior to these elections, liberal ideas had been present in Brazil since the 1700s. In 1789, a separatist movement took place in Minas Gerais, a city in Brazil, which drew inspiration from the French and American revolutions; in 1798, there was a slave revolt in Salvador, which was inspired by the Haitian revolution. Additionally, people who were living in Rio De Janeiro had begun printing and circulating political pamphlets that contained enlightenment ideals on them that called for more liberal forms of government.

The Brazilians sent members of their local political elite as representatives of their interests in Portugal to ensure that Brazil wouldn't end up under absolute Portuguese control. Upon arriving in Portugal, the Brazilian delegates were treated as second-class citizens by the Portuguese members of the assembly. Their discrimination was evident through the assembly's proposed Constitution, which attempted to establish a colonial relationship between Brazil and Portugal, which also made it clear that Brazil's interests were not a priority. After realizing they were wasting their time, the Brazilian delegates snuck out of Portugal back to Brazil with a new political mindset: independence.

Similar to the Pombaline bourgeoisie, the Brazilian elite wanted to break away from Portugal and establish a constitutional monarchy. This shift caused a political "tug-of-war" between the Brazilians and Portuguese over who gets to have Joao IV as their ruler.

## ***Joao's Departure and the Beginning of the First Reign***

King Joao IV ended up leaving Brazil to rule Portugal because the members of the Portuguese assembly threatened to annex Portugal away and expel Joao. Thus, on April 26th, 1821, Joao IV and the rest of the Portuguese fort left Rio, Brazil, to go back to Portugal. Joao's return to Portugal meant that his son, Dom Pedro I, was now the ruler of Brazil. Dom Pedro I's time as ruler of Brazil is commonly referred to as the first reign by historians and academics.

Upon making Pedro I emperor, Joao told him to be at the forefront of any independence movement that was to spring up in Brazil. Joao wanted to ensure that both kingdoms stayed within the same family, with the assumption that Dom Pedro I will owe allegiance to Joao IV.

Despite Joao IV giving in to the demands of the Portuguese, they demanded that Dom Pedro I go to Portugal out of fear of the establishment of a Brazilian royal dynasty. Pedro was reluctant to return to Portugal because he feared he would become the elite's political puppet if he went back; additionally, all the political factions within Brazil wanted Pedro to stay as their emperor. To force Pedro out, the Portuguese began to send troops in an attempt to extend their control over Brazil.<sup>13</sup>



## Independence

In response to the heightened presence of Portuguese troops in Brazil, Pedro I began to travel throughout Brazil to solidify his support and establish his legitimacy as a ruler. On September 7, 1822, while Pedro traveled along the *Rio Ipiranga*, he informally declared Brazil as an independent state. He then returned to Rio de Janeiro and called for a constitutional assembly to meet. Pedro I used his connections and leadership within the Masonic Lodge and Grand Orient Lodge, which were designated areas where the political elite met up to use their masonic channels. These individuals used their resources to issue a manifesto to the local governments of Brazil, so he could pass resolutions that declared Pedro I as their emperor.<sup>14</sup>



Upon his return to the capital, the people of Rio de Janeiro were elated to receive Pedro I as their constitutional emperor. The official acclamation took place on October 12, 1822, where the emperor acknowledged the desire of the municipal councils throughout Brazil's provinces to make him the emperor. By acclamation, Pedro I was declared Emperor of Brazil, thus effectively breaking away from his father, while establishing his very own monarchy.

After sending away the Portuguese troops, Pedro I launched a naval assault on the Portuguese-dominated northern ports of Brazil to put them back under Brazilian control. This transition of power was bloodless, and the naval forces were led by the esteemed British general, Thomas Cochrane.

## Coronation and Constitution

Dom Pedro I's coronation occurred on December 1, 1822, at the city-palace chapel in Rio de Janeiro. The coronation was arranged by Jose Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva and Friar Antonio de Arrabida, Pedro I's childhood tutor. The inspiration for the ceremony was the traditions of the Holy Roman Empire and included strong religious convictions.<sup>15</sup> After his crowning, Pedro I addressed the multitude of Brazilians waiting outside of the city-palace and said, "I swear to defend the Constitution that is going to be made, if it turns out to be worthy of Brazil and me."<sup>16</sup> This declaration pleased the masses and political elite of Brazil alike since they all wanted a constitutional monarchy.



Despite the public declaration affirming the eventual creation of a Constitution, Pedro I merely saw this as a way to get the ruling classes behind him. In Pedro I's view, he wanted to consolidate power within the executive branch of the Brazilian political system. The Constitution Pedro I first proposed to the constitutional assembly was theoretically less liberal regarding the concentration of power, as it placed most of the power in the hands of the head of state. It would also establish Roman Catholicism as the empire's religion and make the emperor the patron of the church in Brazil.

A Brazilian Constitution was passed in 1824, and created a national government made up of four branches, which were the legislative, executive, judicial, and moderating branches. The legislative branch included the general assembly made up of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate. The members who served on the Chamber of Deputies served four-year terms, while senators served a life sentence. The Constitution extended suffrage to all free adult males who had an income of 422 reals, which is approximately 100 U.S. dollars, but the elections were indirect rather than democratic. Voters would choose electors to cast their ballots for deputies and senators. Those senators would nominate three individuals for selection per each vacant seat, and then the emperor decides who wins the final election.<sup>17</sup>

The population determined provincial representation in both houses of the General Assembly, which included slaves as well. For every two deputies, there was one senator. Another power granted to the executive was the power to appoint presidents, the governors of Brazil's provinces. The presidents would be advised by political councils that were locally elected.<sup>18</sup>

The emperor was labeled as the "chief of the executive power and delegated power to his council of ministers." The emperor appointed each minister, who served at his discretion, meaning they have no political obligations to parliament. The dynamic between the executive and legislative branches was that the executive branch would be tasked with the responsibility of enforcing and enacting laws and reforms passed by the General Assembly. The executive branch was also involved in conducting foreign relations and running the military.<sup>19</sup>

The judicial branch of the Brazilian government consisted of the Supreme Court, which now stands as the highest appellate court in Brazil for non-constitutional questions of federal law and lower courts that were established by law. Although Brazil had no experience with a jury system regarding criminal trials, the Constitution had provisions that ensured they offered the option of trial by jury in both civil and criminal cases as soon as possible. The Constitution also guaranteed freedom of the press but maintained that certain rights could be taken away momentarily in cases of rebellion. The emperor could declare the suspension of these rights with the approval of the general assembly.<sup>20</sup>

Despite Pedro I's personal angst against slavery, he wanted the Constitution to be widely accepted around Brazil so that there were no provisions in the Constitution that addressed ending the Atlantic Slave Trade. To counteract this, the emperor gave himself the power to make treaties to attempt to stifle the slave trade in the future.

The fourth and final power delineated in the Constitution was the moderating power. Moderating power rested solely within the hands of the emperor, and its purpose was to be a judge over the political process. It gave the emperor the ability to break legislative deadlocks, ensure "functioning of the government in accordance with the Constitution and in the permanent interests of the nation."<sup>21</sup> Through this power, the emperor could pardon convicts, reduce sentences, and veto legislation. The most relevant authority would be the power to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies before an election and cause elections for a completely new parliament. Since the emperor was not able to write his own legislation, this gave him the tools to exert extreme political pressure upon those in parliament to carry out the laws he wanted in place.

There was some resistance to the Constitution, primarily due to the consolidation of powers under the emperor. Pedro I's vision of Brazil was one where the emperor dominated the state, but the ruling classes had a more liberal vision where they were more involved in the political pro-

cess. The ruling classes advocated for a clear balance of power between the legislature and the monarchy.

## ***Decline of the Regime***

The tide began to shift negatively for Pedro I in the year 1828 when he started to lose his grasp over Brazil and its affairs both domestically and internationally. In response to the passing of the 1824 Constitution, also known as the four-power Constitution, the members of the constitutional assembly began to mobilize and gain support amongst the masses of the middle and lower classes.<sup>22</sup> The main factor that facilitated the growth of the assembly's resistance was that they were Brazilians while the emperor and his ministers were all Portuguese.

The Brazilians felt they lacked proper representation and did not approve of the ways that Dom Pedro I was using the moderating power. Pedro I was using his power to exile and repress his political opponents. A majority of the Chamber deputies were against the emperor and refused to pass any of his proposed budgets. This was a political tool known as an obstruction that the Brazilian legislature picked up from the British. In 1828, the rhetoric displayed by the Chamber of Deputies was one openly hostile to Pedro. These deputies reminded him that they chose him to rule over them, and thus he owed his allegiance to what the people wanted rather than consolidating power under him. They began publicly denouncing the ways the emperor would politically repress unpopular members of the legislature and wished to shift accountability of the government's shortcomings towards the executive branch.

In June of 1828, there was an army mutiny in Rio de Janeiro, who proved to be a fatal blow to the emperor's regime since he largely depended on the army to maintain his authority.<sup>23</sup> The mutiny was caused by the unfair treatment foreign soldiers received in Brazil. The population of foreign soldiers grew when the Imperial regime purchased mercenaries from abroad to make the army stronger and promote immigration to Brazil. Their growth led to the formation of two "foreign regiments" primarily made up of German immigrants.<sup>24</sup> Once they arrived in Brazil, the immigrants were automatically treated as second-class citizens and underwent demeaning treatment and discipline. Once the mutiny of the foreign soldiers took place, they held onto the capital for a few days. This mutiny destroyed the prestige of the army and forced the minister of war to resign, which only served to weaken the executive's position further.



Aside from issues in Brazil, Pedro I also had to worry about what was going on in Portugal when Dom Miguel usurped the Portuguese throne from Pedro's niece in 1828. Dom Miguel's regime in Portugal was extremely hostile towards Brazilians because he associated being a Brazilian with being in rebellion towards the crown. This association is concerning for Dom Pedro because there are many Brazilians in Portugal attending the University of Coimbra, resulting in the expulsion or imprisonment of students enrolled there. The new regime in Portugal refused to acknowledge that Brazil was truly independent of them, and led to an influx of Brazilian refugees and Portuguese liberals in Brazil. The stories told by the people seeking refuge from Dom Miguel in Brazil only served to fuel anti-Portuguese sentiment.<sup>25</sup>

The culmination of these failures caused the political climate in Brazil to be highly polarized. Political newspapers such as the *Astreia* and the *Aurora Fluminense* served as the model for op-

positional newspapers against the regime.<sup>26</sup> They gave Brazilians a vision of what Brazil could be and served as a way to spread liberal thought throughout the provinces. The regime was unable to counteract the influence that the growth of journalism had.

The elections of 1828 proved to be a catalyst for a new phenomenon in Brazilian politics. Political activity in Brazil began to become increasingly radical, and ideas like republicanism and federalism began to introduce themselves to the political scene in Brazil.<sup>27</sup> *Exaltados*, a movement that supported these ideas, began to take root. Local club meetings facilitated the spread of their ideas, and the group utilized small periodicals to survey public opinion rather than spread the news. This group was prevalent amongst lower-class workers in the coastal cities of Brazil. Groups like the *Exaltados* began to radicalize the political landscape of Brazil, which led to increasingly hostile responses towards the regime by the opposition.

## **Financial Crisis**

The closing months of 1828 and the beginning of 1829 raised a series of issues for the regime. First, Pedro I's search for a suitable princess to marry him failed due to his growing negative reputation amongst the royal European families. Additionally, Brazil's economic situation was on the brink of collapse due to a growing deficit because of a decline in sugar and coffee exports. In order to help quell the growing political opposition, Pedro I got a loan for 8,454,000 reals, approximately \$2,000,000, from a London based bank, but it proved to be useless and further increased their economic deficit.<sup>28</sup>

Desperate to solve this crisis, Pedro proposed a plan to consolidate all economic power under the executive branch. In his view, it would give him greater agency in negotiating with foreign rulers to open up foreign investment to Brazil. In his plan, he provided an ultimatum that if they refused to give him the requested powers, then he would abdicate the throne. When Pedro showed his plan to his closest advisors, they strongly motioned against it since they believed it violated his oath to defend the Constitution. His advisors also thought that his intentions were economically irresponsible due to the state of Brazil's treasury. Pedro took the advice of his advisors and decided not to push forward with his plan, but, despite this, its main tenets of consolidating economic power under the executive and threatening abdication stayed present within his mind.

The general assembly of Brazil was summoned in April of 1829 to deal with the financial crisis. Upon convening, the Chamber of Deputies acted with extreme hostility towards the emperor's ministers. The anger of the deputies was appropriate to the extent of the financial crisis since the report published by the Minister of Finance indicated that the expected revenues made in the 1828-1829 fiscal year amounted to a little over one-half of their total expenses. This decline resulted in a monumental financial loss for Brazil.

## **Communication Breakdown**

The legislature went on to fail at passing a budget for 1829, and the only piece of legislation passed to solve the issue resulted in the dissolution of the *Banco do Brazil*, the national bank of Brazil. The deliberate inaction of the deputies as they spent more time attacking members of the cabinet than working on legislation to solve the crisis. Their neglect angered Pedro I greatly, causing him to break tradition and close the session on a blunt note saying, "The session is closed," rather than giving the customary formal thanks.

Both sides' positions on each other had radicalized. Pedro I saw the legislators in the chamber

as radicals trying to usurp his role as a constitutional monarch, while legislators saw Pedro I as someone who abandoned their promise of defending the Constitution. The attitude of the legislators became uncompromising, resulting in them wanting complete control over the political system.

The election of 1830 saw the growth of radical political blocs within the legislature. Both the Coimbra and Nativist blocs had grown in number and commanded a greater presence within the political system.<sup>29</sup> Pedro I's frustrations with the political situation in Brazil caused him to look to Portugal and sympathize with the plight his daughter, Dona Maria, was going through. Pedro believed that if he could solve the problems in Portugal, he would be able to give life back to his name and enjoy the political freedom he desperately craved in Brazil.

Adding to the divide between the emperor and the Chamber of Deputies, a series of reforms passed in 1830. These reforms were seen as ways to limit the executive's position, which included the discharge of any foreign-born officers in the Brazilian army and reduction of both government and military spending. Additionally, reforms were passed that threatened the livelihood of government employees who were born in Portugal. Although the Constitution of 1824 protected their rights and citizenship, these new reforms caused them to fear a loss of citizenship.

The emperor wasn't entirely without allies; a secret society called the "Columns of the Throne" was formed in 1829 to carry out the goals of the monarchy, and it consisted of traditionalists within the bureaucracy and the military. On the opposing side, the *Exaltado* faction, the main opposing force against Pedro I, had become more vocal and aggressive.



The final crisis Pedro I faced during his reign came from the July Revolution, which took place in France in 1830. King Charles X attempted to limit the rights of the press and dissolve the legislative body of France. Instead, he was overthrown after a three-day uprising in Paris and replaced by Louis Philippe. The opposition to Pedro I noticed a lot of parallels between the situation in France and Brazil. Pedro's political position took a severe blow when one of his dismissed ministers published a pamphlet exposing the use of "secret councilors" to carry out projects that Pedro wanted abroad. This confirmed much of what the legislature already suspected and alienated Pedro I from most of the moderate base that still supported him.

The confirmation of Pedro's loss of support throughout Brazil occurred when he visited Minas Gerais to support the re-election campaign of a deputy who served on his cabinet. Pedro I hoped to reignite the political base that put him into power, but his attempt proved to be a failure when the deputy lost his re-election.

While the emperor was away campaigning, the *Exaltados* organized street gangs throughout the capital city and started to influence members of the city's military garrison to join their cause. Pedro's supporters met these actions with significant pushback by throwing a three-day-long celebration to honor the emperor's return to Rio. The *Exaltados* attempted to break up the festivities, but this only pushed Pedro's loyalists further. Those running the festivities made householders illuminate their windows to honor Pedro I, and this night would be known as the *noite de garrafadas* or "night of the broken bottles."<sup>30</sup>

## Abdication of the Throne

In the year 1831, violence erupted on the streets of Brazil as moderates started calling for an anti-Portuguese government to amass popular support against the emperor. People were alarmed that they were arresting members of the army on the grounds of protecting the *Exaltados*, who were under attack. The opposition then demanded the release of these officers, but the emperor's response to this was the dissolution of his cabinet and the implementation of a new one made of supporters of his political opposition. Despite this concession, the Cabinet failed to establish any authority or restore any sense of calm within the capital.

At his wit's end, Pedro I then decided he needed to rule Brazil without compromise. Thus, on April 5th, 1831, Pedro dissolved the cabinet again and filled it with his most trusted advisors. The opposition saw this as a *coup d'etat* from Pedro I and immediately began to mobilize against his actions. By April 6th, large crowds had formed in the Campo de Santa Ana area in the center of the city, where people were demanding the reinstatement of the previously dissolved cabinet. In response to these protests, Pedro I stated, "I will do everything for the people and



nothing by the people." This quote summed up his stance on the issue and his perspective on leadership as a whole. As the riots began to grow and become more aggressive, members of the city's garrison and the emperor's guard joined them as well.

In order to combat the street revolts, Pedro I calls upon the military to repress the protestors, but they informed him that most of the officer corps have turned against the emperor. This is largely in part because many were Afro-Brazilian and sympathized with the sentiments of the protestors. Pedro I came to terms with the situation and realized that the only way he would be able to maintain his rule in Brazil would be through a civil war where there was no certainty of his victory. Therefore, seeing that he could better preserve his honor by aiding his daughter's cause in Portugal, Pedro I decided to abandon his post as Emperor of Brazil.



On April 7, 1831, Dom Pedro I, writes a sentence that passed all political turmoil and crisis in Brazil over to his political opponents. He wrote, "Using the rights conferred on me by the Constitution, I hereby totally and unreservedly abdicate the throne of Brazil in favor of my beloved son, D. Pedro de Alcantara." Pedro I then set sail to Portugal, leaving his 5-year-old son Pedro II to assume the throne when he becomes 17, which is the minimum age to assume the throne according to the Constitution.<sup>31</sup>

The period that would follow Brazil while Pedro II was coming of age to rule would be known as the regency, and it is at the start of the regency where this committee begins.

## Going into Committee

Pedro I's abdication removed the monarch as the center of power from the Brazilian political order. Despite this, 5-year-old Pedro II remained the national symbol of authority and unofficial head of the government. Political legitimacy was not derived from the will of the people rather than a central figure of authority. This gave the new leaders of Brazil space to experiment and try to refashion Brazil into ways that they see fit.

In order to deal with the constitutional crisis caused by Pedro II's constitutional inability to assume power until he was 17, a regency was set up to oversee the government. Constitutionally, the regency was a three-person body elected by the general assembly. Despite the inclusion of this position within the Constitution, there were no legal means in place for them to control the government. Soon after, a provisional regency overseen by the Bishop of Rio was put in place to organize an election of a three-person regency to be held by the Chamber of Deputies. The session of the general assembly to elect the permanent three-person regency took place on May 3rd, with the start of the first committee session beginning soon after. The members of the committee will be acting as the Regency, which is the overseeing body of Brazil during the time period of this committee.

This committee consists of the three regents as well as significant deputies, regional leaders, journalists, and activists, who all collectively share the tasks of the three regents. Therefore, the three regents in committee will not enjoy the full administrative power that they originally had upon being elected. Despite this, the regents can appoint/dismiss ministers (only those who aren't members of the committee), name senators, hire government employees, call for special sessions of the General Assembly, and prolong GA sessions.<sup>32</sup> To maintain a reasonable balance of power between these positions of this committee, larger-scale actions can only be done through a joint crisis note that is co-signed by the three regents in committee, which alternatively may be passed through a directive sponsored by at least two of the regents in committee. To enact smaller-scale actions, these delegates can write regular crisis notes, but at the discretion of the crisis director and staff.

Within the context of the political structure of Brazil, this committee will be the overseeing body that the three regents were historically. Its responsibility will be to ensure that Brazil stays on track economically and militarily, and not torn apart by regional tensions. Additionally, the committee will be able to endorse and push for pieces of reform and legislation in a similar fashion to how the emperor was able to persuade the chamber deputies to pass pieces of legislation he wanted. Additionally, this body has the power to mandate policies at the regional level and mobilize the armed forces of Brazil.

## Domestic Issues Facing Committee

The Regency has inherited all the issues caused by the downfall of Pedro I's regime. Brazil was given to them in a state of economic ruin, being torn apart by rival political factions and lacking any sense of nationhood.

Despite the extremely profitable exports of coffee and sugar that the country has been able to sustain up to this point, Brazil is currently without a bank and in extreme debt due to the loans taken out by Pedro I.

The rival political groups that backed both Pedro and the opposition now find themselves with an opportunity to establish themselves on the main stage of Brazilian politics. This rise to power can be done either through political campaigns, the spread of propaganda, or mobilization of the lower classes through uprising and revolt. The main groups going into the 1830s are the *Exaltados*, the Coimbra bloc, the Nativists, the liberals, the reactionaries, and the moderates.

The *Exaltados* were the most prominent opponents of Pedro I. Not only did they turn the officer corps against him, but they also mobilized the masses in Rio before his abdication. The Coimbra bloc consisted of those who graduated from the University of Coimbra in Portugal, who helped shape Brazilian academia and create a strong support base amongst the Luso-Brazilian population in Brazil and plantation-owning elite. The Coimbra bloc is a powerful presence in the government, with many of their graduates in both the government's executive and legislative branches, and this committee. The Nativists are composed of Brazilian nationalists who feel like the government did not accurately portray their background and views. They have popular support amongst the lower classes in the provinces rather than in the higher levels of the government. The liberals, reactionaries, and moderates were the closest factions within politics that Brazil had to political parties. The liberals wanted to push Brazil to a more representative form of government while also keeping in mind issues such as slavery and political corruption. The reactionaries wanted to centralize political power and push for the re-establishment of a monarchy. Moderates were the majority of the members in the legislature who looked to maintain the status quo and eventually have a monarchy with evenly distributed power amongst the branches of the government.

Another glaring issue the committee is facing is the lack of popular support for the government. Brazil currently lacks a national identity, and this largely attributes to the lack of a coherent education system, as well as the strong regionalist movements in Northern and Southern Brazil. These regional movements have gained momentum due to the disarray seen in the national government and with the spread of liberal ideas paired with the contrast of the economic weakness seen in the national government to the economic booms of regions due to the exports they produce. Another factor causing Brazilians to lose faith in their government is the increasing corruption amongst politicians as well as in their elections. Elections in Brazil are seen as a farce given the heavy presence of armed gangs and capoeiristas paid by the elite to ensure that the people who vote, vote in their favor. Those already in power base their legislative decisions and stances on what will keep them in a positive light with the executive.

## ***International Issues Facing Committees***

Outside of Brazil, the three biggest red flags for the government are the United Kingdom, Portugal, and neighboring Latin American countries. In regards to the United Kingdom, they share a long economic partnership with Brazil that makes them Brazil's most important ally given their significance amongst the Western European empires. Great Britain's recent opposition towards slavery puts this strong relationship in peril. The Queen has engaged in a campaign to use her massive navy to block slave routes to eradicate the Atlantic Slave Trade. These intentions generate concern for the Brazilians, given their long reliance on slave intensive exports, such as coffee and sugar.

Additionally, Brazil is historically one of the largest importers of slaves in all of history, which has led to a population that is largely made up of Afro-Brazilians. Although Great Britain has not yet made any direct motions to interfere with Brazil, the threat of their great navy looms. Those in committee can choose to either try and limit slavery at the risk of stifling the economy and upset-

ting the ruling classes or circumvent the British and impose lax policies without any enforcement and risk the rise of a contraband slave trade.

Around the 1800s, many neighboring countries to Brazil, including Argentina, Gran Colombia, and Mexico, are all experiencing revolutions and dramatic political changes of their own. These



vast changes have led to the influx of new political ideas and outlooks in Latin America. Without the creation of clear borders, nations around Brazil are looking for ways to gain strategic geopolitical advantages, and a clear example of this is the tension between Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina with *El Rio de la Plata*. This river goes straight through Uruguay and Argentina and into the interior of Brazil, making it a precious asset to have control over. There is already existing tension between Brazil and Uruguay since Uruguay used to be under Brazilian control from 1816-1828. The annexation of Uruguay by the Portuguese empire, which was then enforced by Brazil, led to the Cisplatine War. This war had no clear winner and proved to be a financial and political disaster that only

further pushed Pedro I towards abdication. Uruguay became independent of Brazil after signing the Treaty of Montevideo in 1828.

The committee should be aware of how important it is to be in control of the *Rio de La Plata*, and wary of rival nations that seek its economic and military advantages.

## **The Regency: Moving Forward**

Therefore, as you enter this committee, I want you to truly think about the type of government you want to rule Brazil. Regardless of whichever direction you and your fellow delegates choose to take, you all must consider specific details for the future success of the country. Firstly, what will the committee do about the child emperor? Despite having no current political power, he is a symbol adored by the people of Brazil and he'll assume absolute imperial power when he turns seventeen. Therefore, it is up to the committee to establish the conditions under which Pedro will find himself under when he comes of age to assume the throne. These conditions define his dynamic with Regency members as well as his sentiments towards the different political factions at play. Another essential factor to consider is the role that slavery will play in the Brazilian economy. With the main exports of sugar and coffee being slave intensive crops, an alternative source of labor would be needed if the committee abolishes slavery. This choice is necessary for ensuring that Brazil stays economically competitive and avoids a complete financial collapse. The final broad issue that the committee needs to address is the lack of popular support that the Brazilian government currently has. Without the backing of the majority of the constituency, the government renders itself vulnerable to foreign-based attacks, political riots, and potential acts of domestic violence. The Regency enters the narrative of Brazilian history at a time of extreme uncertainty and instability, and it is ultimately up to the committee to decide whether you will thrive under those conditions or contribute to the downfall of one of the world's most significant economic powers.

## **Diogo Antonio Feijó, Minister of Justice**

A former member of the Chamber of Deputies in 1826, Feijo was brought in to bring stability to the Moderate party within the new regime of the regency. Born in Sao Paulo, he went to the local clerical college and became an ordained priest of the Catholic Church in 1807. Despite this, his views on the faith are described as unorthodox, particularly his thoughts on celibacy within the priesthood, which is evident through his many affairs and children born out of wedlock. His post as Minister of Justice allows him to oversee and disassemble military bodies that are under the supervision of the Brazilian General Assembly and Chamber of Deputies, mainly the National Guard. Feijo is also believed to have had strong ties to the Brazilian nationalist movements, better known as the Nativist, that had a presence in Brazilian Politics and had a hand in creating the Brazilian Moderate Party.

## **Francisco de Lima e Silva, Regent**

Francisco de Lima e Silva is a military commander who was selected to be one of the first three temporary regents and then carried over to the first permanent three-person regency in 1831. Silva was instrumental in convincing Pedro I to abdicate his throne, once he ordered the military officer hierarchy of Brazil to not support the emperor in his stalemate with the Chamber of Deputies. People believe his selection as one of the regents was primarily due to his heavy influence and connections throughout the military's leadership. Additionally, Silva's son, Luis Alves de Lima e Silva, is an accomplished military officer who serves as an assistant in the emperor's hand-picked infantry unit. Silva's family also has a heavy influence and history with the Portuguese society, *Fidalgo Cavaleiro da Casa Real*.

## **Evaristo da Veiga, Journalist**

Evaristo da Veiga is a Brazilian poet and journalist most commonly known for writing the lyrics to Brazil's anthem of independence from Portugal, *Hino da Independência*. Additionally, Veiga was the most outspoken member of the press against the reign of Pedro I and drafted the official government proclamation calling for moderation in the Brazilian political system and announcing the establishment of the three temporary regents. Also, Veiga is the founder of one of Brazil's leading newspapers, *A Aurora Fluminense*. Alongside being an accomplished poet and journalist, Veiga has served as the senator for the state of Minas Gerais.

## **Honório Hermeto Carneiro Leão, Deputy of Minas Gerais**

Honorio Hermeto Carneiro Leao was elected deputy of his native state, Minas Gerais, in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies in 1828, and he is known by his noble title, the *Marquis de Parana*, throughout the Brazilian aristocracy and society. His status stems from inheriting his uncle's landholdings and planting frontiers through marriage. Leao had a successful political career, mainly serving as a vocal political opponent to Pedro I and many of his centralization policies. Leao also became a prominent member of the Coimbra faction when the regency was established and created the Reactionary Party, a political faction stemming from the Brazilian Liberal Party, soon to be Conservative Party. Additionally, he served as a judge in both Rio de Janeiro and Minas, where he established political connections and networks in each of the local governments of those states.

## **Jose da Costa Carvalho, Regent**

Jose da Costa Carvalho was one of the three regents of Brazil. He was born in the state of Bahia

and has a law degree from the University of Coimbra in Portugal. Before entering the national political scene, he was a law professor in Sao Paulo and had a seat in the Chamber of Deputies. Carvalho also has significant economic power since he married into one of the most powerful planter families in Brazil. He became a prominent liberal within political politics, and his stances against radicals made him an attractive candidate for the regency.

### ***Joao Braulio Muniz, Regent***

Joao Braulio was the third and final regent selected in 1831. He previously served as a deputy for the state of Maranhao in the Chamber of Deputies and consistently vocalized the political concerns and interests of the North while in office. Aside from being a graduate from the University of Coimbra in Portugal, he also had an extensive and accomplished career in journalism. Prior to accepting his post of regency, Muniz founded the political newspaper *Astrea* which is seen as a cultural tastemaker in Brazil and enjoys great prestige.

### ***Aureliano de Sousa e Oliveira Coutinho, Viscount of Sepetiba***

Aureliano de Sousa e Olivera Coutinho is a prominent Liberal politician in Brazil who served as a deputy representing Minas Gerais in the Chamber of Deputies. His noble title of the Viscount of Sepetiba also gives him a prominent position in the Brazilian aristocracy of Rio de Janeiro and profitable, but modest, landholdings in the area. Coutinho was one of the founders of the first Brazilian Liberal party and served as one of the main voices of opposition towards the current governing moderate government. Additionally, Coutinho has close ties to many of the royal servants of the imperial palace through his prominent position in the early Brazilian interest group, the "Courtier Faction." These connections make it more accessible for him to reach the royal palace and those who inhabit it.

### ***Jose Clemente Pereira, Minister of War***

Jose Clemente Pereira served as a deputy representing Rio de Janeiro in the Chamber of Deputies. Additionally, he served as the Minister of War under the reign of Pedro I and was one of the primary founders of the Conservative Party. He is respected among his peers because he is a veteran of the Portuguese War against the French, where he fought in the Coimbra brigade. Pereira is a leader within the masonic order, the Grand Orient Lodge. Alongside serving as Minister of War, Perreira served as a judge in Rio de Janeiro, and he later got promoted to a magistrate. He possesses considerable wealth due to the fact that he married the widow of a successful merchant. As the Minister of War, his duties are mainly centered on creating battle strategies, declaring war, and overseeing the direction that the military takes during these battles.

### ***Martim Francisco Ribeiro de Andrada, Minister of Finance***

Martim Francisco Ribiero de Andrada was an accomplished scientist, mathematician, and politician. He served as Minister of Finance under Pedro I due to his expertise in the economy and fiscal affairs and is a vocal supporter of the monarchist faction within the conservative party. In addition to his political accomplishments, his book, *Diario de uma viagem mineralógica pela província de São Paulo em 1805*, allowed the world to understand the customs and natural makeup of the state of San Paulo in the early 19th century. He is highly respected within the scientific community for his discoveries in the field of mineralogy, and he's also in charge of the Brazilian Historian and Geographical Institute. Prior to his reappointment as Minister of Finance for the Kingdom of Brazil, Andrada lived in Le Havre, France, in political exile because of their resistance against Pedro I's dissolution of the cabinet in the "night of agony."

### ***Francisco do Monte Alverne, Bishop of Rio de Janeiro***

Francisco do Monte Alverne is a Franciscan Friar who, alongside being the Bishop of the archdiocese of Rio de Janeiro, is recognized as the official preacher of Brazil. His duties as an official preacher require him to preside over all royal ceremonies, including weddings, funerals, coronations, and parties. He also serves as a spiritual advisor and counsel to the royal family and high ranking members of the aristocracy. In addition to his clerical duties, Alverne teaches philosophy at the University of Rio de Janeiro and is a patron at the Brazilian Academy of Letters.

### ***Jose Bonifacio de Andrada, Statesman***

A renaissance man, enjoying his role as a politician, dabbling in science as a naturalist, educating the future as a professor, and reshaping societies' understanding of the present as a poet, Jose Bonifacio de Andrada was one of the most important brains behind the Brazilian independence movement. When it comes to policy, he was an influential proponent for public education while also opposing slavery in Brazil as an abolitionist. Andrada was elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and graduated with degrees in law and natural philosophy. He taught geology at the University of Coimbra before returning to Brazil. If you have ever come across the mineral andradite, you have come across one of Jose Bonifacio de Andrada's legacies in this world.

### ***Pedro de Araujo Lima, Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies***

A monarchist and one of the founders of the Brazilian Conservative Party, Pedro de Araujo Lima is the proud owner of a long political career. Early on in life, Pedro grew up on his family's sugarcane plantation, eventually traveling off to Europe for his education. He studied law at the University of Coimbra in Portugal and later received a doctorate in Canon Law, the study of internal ecclesiastical law. Now with some years and experience under his belt, Pedro would return to Brazil and make a name for himself as an outspoken politician, also helping to run the Law Academy of Olinda. In his political career, Pedro was adamant about the need for independence. He gained popular support that allowed for his selection for the advocacy position of Ombudsman for the region of Paracatu. However, he would truly become a famed figure when he was elected as a representative to the General and Extraordinary Courts of the Portuguese Nation, where he would give moving speeches on his country and set forth proposals for its betterment.

### ***Bernardo Pereira de Vasconcelos, Minister of the Treasury***

A founding father of Brazil's empire, Bernardo Pereira de Vasconcelos spent his life serving his country as both a political journalist and a member of the state judiciary. He began this journey as a member of the Government Council of the Province of Minas Gerais, where he laid the foundation for what would become the Conservative party of Brazil. Later, in 1825, Vasconcelos would become the chief editor of the newspaper *O Universal*. In 1826, he authored a project that created the Supreme Court of Justice. Vasconcelos is also very well known for his expertise on economic and fiscal matters, which led to him being named Minister of the Treasury right before Pedro I's abdication of the throne. For anyone that knew him, it was evident that Bernardo was a man who valued integrity, due process, and truth.

### ***Manuel Marques de Sousa, Commander of the Calvary***

"The Gloved Centaur," Manuel Marques de Sousa was an army officer, politician, abolitionist, and monarchist of Brazil. Born into opulence, Manuel was surrounded from an early age by military men. It was only natural that at the age of 13, Manuel joined the Portuguese Army in Brazil. He would go on to fight in the conquest of the Banda Oriental, the struggle for Brazilian independence, and the Cisplatine War. In 1829, Manuel joined the war against the secessionist threat

in Brazil, serving under field marshal Manuel Jorge Rodrigues. He soon became a major and a year later, in 1830, he was trusted with the command of the 6th company of the 4th Regiment of Light Cavalry. This responsibility was more than a job; it was Sousa's inheritance. He assumed a position that had been held by his father and grandfather before him, and all that remained was to follow in their legacy while carving out his own path forward.

### ***Jose da Silva Lisboa, Deputy of Bahia***

A famous economic reformer, Jose de Silva Lisboa was an accomplished historian, a published jurist, and a promoter of the common good. As the son of a Portuguese architect, Jose grew up studying philosophy, music theory, and piano from a young age. After completing his studies, he served his community as a professor of philosophy for many years, until he was appointed the Deputy of the Portuguese Inspection Bureau of Sugar and Bahia Tobacco. A few years later, he was appointed to the office of the Deputy of the Royal Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture, Factories, and Navigation for the State of Brazil. In his new role, one of his accomplishments was to organize the state code of commerce. Hoping to reconcile differences and prevent separation between the Portuguese and Brazilians, Jose founded a newspaper called the Conciliator of the United Kingdom.

### ***Joaquim Gonçalves Ledo, Deputy of Rio de Janeiro***

Joaquim Goncalves Ledo was a prominent figure during the time of the Brazilian independence movement. A proponent of democracy and freedom, Joaquim spent his life as both a journalist and a politician. Born in Brazil but educated in Portugal, Joaquim had ambitions of being a physician and pursued a degree in medicine. However, the tragic death of his father forced him to cut his education short and return to Brazil, where he enlisted in the army as a clerk. It was during this time that Joaquim became involved with the secret society known as the freemasons. At the same time, but seemingly unrelated, he also formed an unnatural interest in triangles. Following his time in the army, Joaquim identified as a viciously patriotic liberal, who supported a democratic government in Brazil. To promote his ideals of independence, he helped found the newspaper Reverbero Constitucional Fluminense. Later, as Brazil's Constituent Assembly began to take shape, Joaquim would be elected as a deputy. Joaquim would stay active within the freemasons as he took the position of First Vigilante within the group and worked significantly on expanding the organization. Eventually, this work would backfire, and Joaquim was accused of conspiring to overthrow the monarchy. To avoid being arrested, he fled the country and moved to Argentina, where the freemasons there gave him refuge. Once tensions died down, Joaquim returned to Brazil and reclaimed his seat as deputy.

### ***Jean-Baptiste Debret, Cartoonist***

Jean-Baptiste Debret was a skilled painter who developed many lithographs that are referenced by historians today. Having studied at the French Academy of Fine Arts under the legendary artist, Jacques-Louis David, Jean-Baptiste traveled Europe competing in arts tournaments and making a name for himself. In 1816, as a part of the French Artistic Mission, he went to Brazil under royal request with his mission to create a lyceum based around arts and crafts. Through his work, many would begin to request Jean-Baptiste's services, commissioning countless portraits, including the Portuguese King Dom Joao VI and the Archduchess Maria Leopoldina of Austria, the first Empress of Brazil. Taking root in the country, Jean-Baptiste took on disciples and began opening art exhibitions to demonstrate their work. At the request of his brother, Jean-Baptiste began to sketch depictions of everyday life in Brazil, commonalities like street scenes, local dress, and slavery were all immortalized in his work.

***Cipriano Barata de Almeida, Social Activist***

Born to a middle-class family in Bahia in 1764, Cipriano Barata de Almeida had an educated upbringing. He got his medical degree from the University of Coimbra and had a successful career as an editor, working for publications such as the *Gazeta da Pernambuco* and *Sentinela da Liberdade na Guarita de Pernambuco*. Almeida was eventually elected to serve in the Cortes, representing his native province of Bahia. When it came to his politics, Almeida was a radical who advocated for Brazilian independence and radicalized liberal reform. His politics led to suspicions of him having connections and conspiring with those who carried out military revolts in Bahia in the years 1798 and 1817. It is widely speculated that he is a strong leader within the Jacobinism movement and the mastermind behind several revolts within the officer hierarchy of Brazil leading up to Pedro's abdication.

***Manuel Odorico Mendes, Deputy of Maranhao***

Manuel Odorico Mendes was born in the state of Maranhao to a wealthy aristocratic family. He attended the University of Coimbra, and upon graduating, became a well-known liberal journalist. His main claim to fame in his professional field were his criticisms of Pedro I, particularly his use of military force when dealing with revolutions and populous revolts. Mendes was elected to serve as a deputy representing Maranhao in the year 1826, where he serves now. In the Chamber of Deputies, he is an influential member of the liberal-moderate bloc. In his free time, Mendes continues to provide articles and satirical pieces to political newspapers such as *O Sete de Abril* and *Aurora Fluminense*.

***Nicolau Pereira de Campos Vergueiro, Deputy of São Paulo***

Nicolau Pereira de Campos Vergueiro was born in Portugal in 1778 to a middle-class family. He attended the University of Coimbra and obtained a law degree and then emigrated to Brazil in 1803. Vergueiro became a planter and settled down in San Paulo. In 1826, he was elected as a member of the Chamber of Deputies to represent Sao Paulo and later elected as the president of the province Alagoas. During his time in the Chamber of Deputies, he was the leader of the faction of the liberal party that was the most moderate. Vergueiro was a member of the temporary regency that preceded the current three-person regency and thus had a hand in helping design the regime. Aside from politics, Vergueiro is known for his vast profitable landholdings and literary-historical publications.

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