

# Brazil

## *Ethnicity in Brazil*

### *Group selection*

According to the 2010 census, 47,7% of the population is White, 43,1% is Pardo (mixed white and black), 7,6% is Black. 1,1% of Brazilians are Asians <sup>(327)</sup>. According to scientific practice, we consider Pardos and Blacks as Afro-Brazilians . So, for the first time in Brazilian history, Afro-Brazilians form with 50,7% the majority of Brazilian population. As in many Latin American countries census figures are based on self-identification questions. This means that for the first time, more people consider themselves to be Pardo or Black than White. 0.4% of the population is indigenous <sup>(328)</sup>.

<sup>327</sup> [Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, 2010]

<sup>328</sup> [IWIGIA, 2010]

### *Power relations*

*Afro-Brazilians:* The year 1978 marks the political opening of the military regime in Brazil, and with this opening came the emergence of an organized Afro-Brazilian "movement" (the first Afro-Brazilian organization being the Negro Unificado - Black United; <sup>329</sup>, 200) that had not been evident since its organizations were closed in the 1930s (along with many others) by Vargas. As Burdick <sup>(330)</sup> and Loveman <sup>(331)</sup> note, and as Hanchard <sup>(332)</sup> laments, this movement has had difficulty convincing non-whites that they are "Afro-Brazilians" (and in convincing them accordingly to mobilize on this basis, choose "preto" on the census form). Nonetheless, this movement fits the coding criteria of an organized political group claiming to represent the interests of an ethnic group. Moreover, it has not been without consequence. The 1988 Constitution has an anti-discrimination clause (a notable change in a country known historically for the robustness of its racial democracy "myth"), and the movement has compelled the collection of government data on ethnicity, a practice that had been eliminated by the military regime. At the sub-national level, the movement has had some success in compelling "positive discrimination". For example: "The 1982 state elections of Rio de Janeiro made PDT leader Leonel Brizola governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro. Once in office, Brizola fulfilled an earlier promise made to black activists of his party by appointing blacks to important positions within his cabinet" <sup>(333, 134)</sup>. Still this influence does not rise to the level of "regional autonomy" - hence, the "powerless" designation.

<sup>329</sup> [Skidmore, 2010]

<sup>330</sup> [Burdick, 1998]

<sup>331</sup> [Loveman, 1999]

<sup>332</sup> [?]

<sup>333</sup> [?]

First affirmative action quotas were introduced in the form of

a decree by the Cardoso government in 2001. They applied to all federal ministries in the field of personnel recruitment, not only considering Afro-Brazilians but also women and other minority groups. Other actions directed towards a more just representation of Afro-Brazilians (and other vulnerable population groups) consisted in the creation of the preparation program for the diplomatic corps and the National Affirmative Action Program (a decree addressing government agencies and companies with government contracts) (<sup>334</sup>, 223).

<sup>334</sup> [Skidmore, 2010]

Lula Inacio da Silva of the Worker Party (PT) was elected in October 2002 and reelected in October 2006. The Lula governments allowed a wider participation of formerly excluded social groups. Lula appointed 4 Afro-Brazilian ministers, officially recognized the racial discrimination problem and initiated various affirmative action programs to reduce racial inequality (i.e. quotas at university, Special-Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality). This kind of public policy does not produce sudden changes and can lead to growing frustration if racial inequality continues (<sup>335</sup>). But under Lula, the black movement has had a greater influence at the national level than ever before (<sup>336</sup>).

<sup>335</sup> [Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2008]

<sup>336</sup> [Campos de Sousa Nascimento, 2008]

Even though the new government under Dilma Rousseff – elected in 2010 – keeps on strengthening and broadening the existing affirmative action programs (e.g. in 2012 a ley was promulgated that requires all federal universities to enact admission quotas; before there was no national ley regulating admission quotas) (<sup>337</sup>, 4) the political influence of Afro-Brazilians did decrease in comparison with the Lula legislature period (there are two Afro-Brazilian cabinet members, but no minister; and there is no Afro-Brazilian governor; from 513 deputies 22 are Afro-Brazilian and from 81 senators there are 3 Afro-Brazilian) (<sup>338</sup>).

<sup>337</sup> [Dávila, 2012]

<sup>338</sup> [U.S. State Department, 2010]

*Indigenous peoples:* As indigenous peoples faced increased external threats, they started to mobilize at the end of the 1970s. As Levinson (<sup>339</sup>, 327) notes, "the status of American Indians has become a major issue in the last two decades". This led to the creation of the Union of Indian Nations (UNI) in 1980. In the 1980s the indigenous movement was highly visible through demonstrations and lobbying in the capital. As a result, in the 1988 Constitution cultural, legal and territorial rights of the indigenous peoples were recognized (<sup>340</sup>). The Constitution gives Brazil's indigenous peoples the right to inhabit their ancestral territories but not to legally own them. Lula da Silva stalled many land titling initiatives and left the government with Brazil's worst indigenous rights record since the military regimes (<sup>341</sup>).

<sup>339</sup> [Levinson, 1998]

<sup>340</sup> [Perz, Warren Kennedy, 2008]

<sup>341</sup> [?]

## *Bibliography*

- [Bayley, 2009] Bailey, S. R. (2009). Public opinion on nonwhite underrepresentation and racial identity politics in Brazil. *Latin American Politics and Society*, 51(4), 69-99.
- [Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2008] Bertelsmann Stiftung. (2008). Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2008 – Brazil Country Report. Retrieved on 17.12.2014 from: [http://www.bti-project.org/uploads/tx\\_tao\\_download/BTI2008\\_Brazil.pdf](http://www.bti-project.org/uploads/tx_tao_download/BTI2008_Brazil.pdf)
- [Burdick, 1998] Burdick, John. (1998). The Lost Constituency of Brazil's Black Movements. *Latin American Perspectives*, 25(1), 136-155.
- [CSP, 2008] Center for Systemic Peace. (2008). Polity IV Country Report 2008: Brazil.
- [Campos de Sousa Nascimento, 2008] De Sousa, L. C., Nascimento, P. (2008). Brazilian national identity at a crossroads: The myth of racial democracy and the development of black identity. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 19(3-4), 129-143.
- [Dávila, 2012] Dávila, J. (2012). Brazilian Race Relations: A Changing Context. *The Latin Americanist*, 2012(December), 1–10.
- [Hanchard, 1998] Hanchard, Michael George (1998). *Orpheus and power: the Movimento negro of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1945- 1988*. Princeton University Press: Princeton, NJ.
- [IWIWGIA, 2010] International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). (2010). *Indigenous World 2010*. Copenhagen: IWGIA. Retrieved on 17.12.2014 from: [http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia\\_files\\_publications\\_files/0001I2010\\_EB.pdf](http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/0001I2010_EB.pdf)
- [Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, 2010] Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística. (2010). *Resultados do Universo do Censo Demográfico 2010*. Retrieved on 27.4.2014 from: [ftp://ftp.ibge.gov.br/Censos/Censo\\_Demografico\\_2010/Resultados\\_do\\_Universo/tabelas\\_pdf/tab3.pdf](ftp://ftp.ibge.gov.br/Censos/Censo_Demografico_2010/Resultados_do_Universo/tabelas_pdf/tab3.pdf)
- [Friedman and Hochstetler, 2002] Friedman, E. J., Hochstetler, K. (2002). Assessing the third transition in Latin American democratization: representational regimes and civil society in Argentina and Brazil. *Comparative Politics*, 21-42.

- [Levinson, 1998] Levinson, David. (1998). *Ethnic Groups Worldwide: A Ready Reference Handbook*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press.
- [Loveman, 1999] Loveman, M. (1999). Making "Race" and Nation in the United States, South Africa, and Brazil: Taking Making Seriously. *Theory and Society*, 28(6), 903-927.
- [] Paschel, Tianna S. Sawyer, Mark Q. (2008). Contesting Politics as Usual: Black Social Movements, Globalization, and Race Policy in Latin America. *Souls*, 10(3), 197-214.
- [Perz, Warren Kennedy, 2008] Perz, Stephen G., Warren, Jonathan, & Kennedy, David P. (2008). Contributions of Racial-Ethnic Re-classification and Demographic Processes to Indigenous Population Resurgence The Case of Brazil. *Latin American Research Review*, 43(2), 7-33.
- [Reiter, 2010] Reiter, Bernd & Gladys L. Mitchell (2010). *Brazil's New Racial Politics*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- [Skidmore, 2010] Skidmore, T. E. (2010). *Brazil. Five Centuries of Change*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- [U.S. State Department, 2010] U.S. State Department. (2010). *Country Reports: Brazil*. Retrieved on 17.12.2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/>
- [Van Cott, 2007] Van Cott, Donna Lee. (2007). Latin America's Indigenous Peoples. *Journal of Democracy*, 18(4), 127-142.

## Political status of ethnic groups in Brazil

*From 1946 until 1977*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites	0.54	IRRELEVANT
Afrobrazilians	0.45	IRRELEVANT
Indigenous peoples	0.004	IRRELEVANT

*From 1978 until 2002*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites	0.54	DOMINANT
Afrobrazilians	0.45	POWERLESS
Indigenous peoples	0.004	POWERLESS

*From 2003 until 2010*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites	0.54	SENIOR PARTNER
Afrobrazilians	0.45	JUNIOR PARTNER
Indigenous peoples	0.004	POWERLESS

*From 2011 until 2013*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Afrobrazilians	0.507	POWERLESS
Whites	0.477	DOMINANT
Indigenous peoples	0.004	POWERLESS



Figure 78: Political status of ethnic groups in Brazil during 1946-1977.



Figure 79: Political status of ethnic groups in Brazil during 1978-2002.



Figure 80: Political status of ethnic groups in Brazil during 2003-2010.



## *Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Brazil*

*From 1978 until 2013*

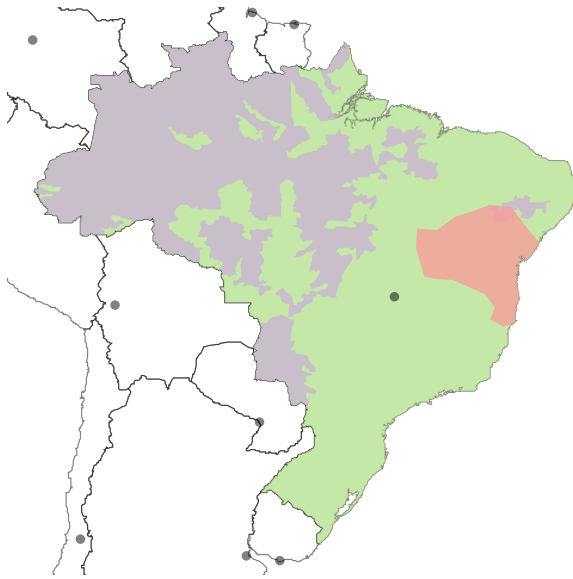


Figure 82: Map of ethnic groups in Brazil during 2011-2013.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
Whites	8 504 608	Statewide
Indigenous peoples	3 581 593	Regionally based
Afro-Brazilians	571 491	Statewide

Table 28: List of ethnic groups in Brazil during 1978-2013.