

A Presentation about Brazil

by Leonardo Toshiaki Takano, June 2020

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What do you think of if you hear the word “Brazil”?

What kind of country is Brazil?

For those who have never been there, Brazil seems to be a very strange country and that’s not so far from the truth.

Now, I will introduce my dear Brazil, one of the most magnificent countries in South America.

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If you go to Brazil, you will soon be enchanted by the beautiful sea with its peaceful weather and many merry Brazilians.

To view the sea while enjoying churrasco is really amazing.

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However, the attractions of Brazil are not only these, but also many other unique spots.

If you want to breathe the air of nature, but you have little time, then go to Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden.

This garden is over 200 years old, and the Victoria Amazonica, an attraction that even a little child can get on, is a must-see.

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In São Paulo, you will see a lot of modern and historic buildings.

You will never get tired of the mixture of various cultures in the architecture.

For example, visit the Metropolitan Orthodox Cathedral of São Paulo.

It has an amazing blend of European and Brazilian architectural styles.

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If you are feeling restless, you must go to Iguaçu Falls, which is one of the most famous World Heritage Sites in Brazil.

The view is so awesome that you will never be able to forget it.

Besides, if you are lucky, you may make friends with some indigenous animals on your way there.

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Moreover, it is essential to enjoy two things: Brazilian football in a stadium, and the Carnival of Rio de Janeiro, if you are blessed with good timing.

Brazilian people have a very strong feeling of empathy, so they will liven up with whoever is around them and you will soon join them.

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Thus far, I have introduced the wonderful attractions of Brazil, but unfortunately, there are pros and cons to everything, and Brazil is no exception.

As you already know, Brazil is a land of immigrants like America.

There are various kinds of races or ethnic groups that have roots from all over the world living together in Brazil.

What is definitely different from America is that there are no strong racial, ethnic, or religious conflicts within the country.

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However, as for social problems such as disparity in wealth and social inequality, Brazil is one of the most awful countries in the world.

You will soon notice that by seeing slums, what are called *favela* in Brazil, and the deforestation in the Amazon.

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Furthermore, corruption between politicians, bureaucrats and criminals is often seen.

Brazilian people no longer believe the politicians or the government, and now, the crime rate of Brazil is one of the highest in the world.

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What is worse, you may have heard about the Bolsonaro administration's mismanagement of the COVID-19 problem.

This disaster shows that the politics of Brazil is not working well anymore.

What I want you to know is that the dark side of Brazil is a very deep-seated problem.

The construction of a fair political system is an imperative matter for the people.

It is high time to change.

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As I described thus far, Brazil is a country which is full of paradoxes.

In the turmoil and chaos of the Carnival and the stadiums, people ridicule the national motto "ordem e progresso," which means "order and progress".

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Beyond the ultra-modern cities, there is a tropical rainforest that swallows all human thought.

Brazil is where various contradictory things such as civilization, the jungle, savage development, and chaos engage in eternal dialogue.

The key to appreciating this dialogue is just to go to Brazil, a country that is so far by distance yet so close in other ways.