

Renan Pereira Alessio

Assignment 1 – General overview of Brazil

Abstract

Brazil is a country situated in South America and is the only country in the American Continent which speaks Portuguese. That is due to the fact that only Brazil was colonized by the Portuguese in the past while the majority of the countries in the Americas were colonized by the Spanish, British and French. Regarding geographical aspects, Brazil has 26 states and a Federal District and its capitol is called Brasília. Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world in area and is evaluated as the fifth most populous country in the globe. Due to the great number of people living in Brazil, the cultural diversity in the country is incredible and it varies greatly going from the north until the south. Each of the five regions in Brazil, north, south, southeast, midwest and northeast, has their own characteristics. Those characteristics include accent, food, climate and culture. The south region of Brazil for example, had great influence of the German and Italian during its development in the past and the culture of this region is based on this european influence. There are cities which were built in a way to represent german architecture and the culinary of this region is based on italian dishes with some particular brazilian aspects. On the other hand, the north region of Brazil was more influenced by the portuguese and by the indians who lived there before the Portuguese arrived. In fact, there are still tribes of indians who still live in the Amazon Forest, which in majority is situated in the north region of Brazil. The southeast region of Brazil is considered as the economical core of the country. Cities such as São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are situated in this region and both are considered the brazilian financial powerhouses. The northeast and midwest also have particular characteristics, especially regarding the nature. The midwest is known for its variety of nature, including swamps, forests and large rivers. On the other hand, the northeast presents a very dry and warm weather and lacks vegetation and even water in some areas.

Keywords: Brazil, Portuguese, geographical, culture, region.