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A construção simbólica da Marca Brasil

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THE ECONOMIST (PARTE II)

Green energy

Still short of puff

Europe's wind-turbine makers are pleading for more political support

DATA: 2014.03.01



EUROPEAN climate policy has spent vast amounts of public money, sent power utilities to the brink and done little to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, an impressive display of multi-pronged incompetence. But might all that money at least have built a robust, world-beating European renewables industry?

Not yet. European makers of solar panels have been largely wiped out by a combination of the financial crisis and competition from cheaper Chinese rivals. Q-Cells of Germany, once the world's largest solar manufacturer, went bust in 2012. SolarWorld, Germany's largest remaining maker, begged successfully for investors' patience to avoid bankruptcy late last year. The EU, like America, is bringing anti-dumping complaints against Chinese firms, but even if these were to succeed it is clear that the future of solar-panel manufacturing lies beyond Europe.

Besides barely-green biomass, geographically limited hydropower and unproven tidal power, that leaves wind turbines as the best hope for European green energy. The picture is brighter than for solar. But Prokon, a German wind-park developer that offered generous profit-shares to small investors, filed for bankruptcy in January. And Europe's makers of wind turbines have gone through a dark few years, shedding jobs and racking up losses.

Vestas, of Denmark, was once the pin-up of the wind-turbine industry. But it overinvested just as others piled into the market. As its balance-sheet deteriorated, investors took fright, forcing the management to announce huge cost-cuts and lay-offs, culminating in the sacking last year of Ditlev Engel, its boss. His successor, Anders Runevad, announced last month that the restructuring was paying off, producing €211m (\$288m) in operating profit before special charges.

Kristian Tornoeh Johansen, an analyst at Danske Bank, thinks that Vestas's new "asset-light" model, with many of its production processes outsourced, puts it in a strong position to compete in Europe, America and emerging markets. HSBC's wind-sector analysts are also bullish on Vestas, as they are on two European competitors, Nordex of Germany and Gamesa of Spain, saying that the industry is ready for a turnaround, as it were.

Perhaps it is appropriate that Mr Runevad came from Ericsson, a Swedish telecoms-equipment maker. Tom Brookes of the European Climate Foundation compares the renewables firms' boom and bust to Nokia and Ericsson, which lost their early lead in mobile telephony when Apple and Google entered the market and became "killers". The two killers the wind-turbine makers should fear are not the Chinese but GE and Siemens, two huge Western conglomerates. GE has overtaken Vestas to become the world's biggest wind-turbine maker. Siemens outsells Vestas in the small but growing market for offshore windpower installations. Both conglomerates boast that they can offer their customers a complete package of transmission, storage and other capacities, in contrast to Vestas's focus on generation only.

Free as the wind

In some countries, such as Brazil, windpower is already competitive without subsidies, and as the technology continues to develop there will be more such markets. But in Europe that point is still far off: Siemens is aiming to cut the cost of electricity from offshore turbines to ten euro cents a kilowatt-hour by 2020, from around 14 cents now, but this is still well above the current cost of fossil-fuel generation.

So Europe's specialist renewables firms are pleading for help. A group of the firms' bosses, including Mr Runevad, has gone to Brussels to call on the EU to impose a further round of binding renewable-energy targets on each member, for the decade to 2030. The EU's initial proposals for energy policy during this period, announced in January, did not include these.

Mr Runevad and his fellow windpower bosses argue that compulsory targets would encourage power utilities to buy lots of wind turbines, helping their makers achieve economies of scale. Maybe, but there is a more sensible way for Europe to accelerate the switch to renewable energy and boost its wind-turbine makers. It should reform its crippled market in emissions permits, in particular by scrapping the exemptions from having to buy permits that many polluting industries enjoy. If the turbine-makers were to lobby for this, rather than pleading for a guaranteed market share, it would be a sign of an industry confident of its future.

[From the print edition: Business](#)

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Protests in Venezuela

Stop the spiral

Dialogue, not repression, is the way for Nicolás Maduro to save his government and his country

DATA: 2014.03.01



THE echoes are striking: division, a government combining a democratic mandate with thuggery, and an opposition that is increasingly radicalised. The parallels between Venezuela and Ukraine are not exact: the fractures in Venezuela are based largely on class, and those in Ukraine partly on geography. But both are caught in a spiral of protest and violent response.

Years of mismanagement of the oil-rich economy, first by Hugo Chávez and latterly by Nicolás Maduro, his successor, have come home to roost. The country is sitting on the world's largest oil reserves, but scaring off the investment needed to exploit them. Much of its oil revenue has been sucked up by corruption, or diverted to unsustainable social programmes and subsidies to allies, especially Cuba. The private sector is treated like a hostile force. Basic goods, from cooking oil to toilet paper, are scarce. Throw in rampant crime, and no wonder the country is buckling under the biggest protests in a decade.

Mr Maduro won a (wafer-thin) majority last year, and although that result was tainted by suspicions of fraud, recent local elections suggest that half the population—mostly poorer people—still backs *chavismo*. But democracy does not end at the ballot box. Mr Maduro, a former bus driver, rose through the ranks by offering Chávez unconditional loyalty; he won the presidency by invoking the *comandante's* ghost (once claiming to have been visited by the late president in the form of a bird). Lacking his mentor's charisma, he appears unable to resist his party's hardliners, whose only answer to dissent is repression. The government's response to the protests has followed a totalitarian script: armed activists on the streets, media blackouts and the arrest of Leopoldo López, an opposition figure, on trumped-up charges. Repression will provoke more protests and more violence, and further damage the economy.

The death toll already stands at 13. If it is not to rise dramatically, everybody must draw back. The opposition—supported by better-off and professional Venezuelans—is right to demand the freeing of Mr López and other political prisoners, an investigation into torture by the security forces and the disarmament of armed pro-government militias known as *ascolectivos*. But rowdy opposition leaders who have blocked city streets should take down the barricades and instead should follow Henrique Capriles,

leader of the moderates, who has called for protests to remain peaceful. The opposition has a responsibility to keep the streets calm.

Latin American governments have obligations, too. Most of the region has been uncritical of Mr Maduro since the protests began in early February; Brazil, the regional heavyweight, has been characteristically mute. Leftist sympathy for *chavismo* is one thing. Allowing Venezuela to become another Cuba, without any cry of complaint, would make a mockery of the claims of Latin America to be a democratic continent.

The revolution will eat itself

However, the man who can do most to break the spiral of violence sits in Miraflores, the presidential palace in Caracas. Mr Maduro must realise that his strategy of dividing Venezuela is only deepening its misery. If he wants to avoid chaos, he must instead seek to unify the country.

The regime will forfeit its claims to democratic legitimacy if he does not get the armed gangs off the streets, allow the media to report what is going on, release Mr López and enter into proper dialogue with Mr Capriles. He also needs to change Venezuela's economic direction. A revolution that was once fuelled by oil is running on fumes; if the shelves get any emptier, even the poor will withdraw their support. Time is running out for Mr Maduro—and for Venezuela, too.

[From the print edition: Leaders](#)

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Security in Brazil

Unarmed and dangerous

Legislators and police ready themselves for World Cup protests

DATA: 2014.03.01

A CURB on masks is an odd thing for Brazilians to be contemplating just days before Carnival gets cracking. The justice minister, José Eduardo Cardozo, insists that the prop, as integral a part of the festival as scantily clad *sambistas*, will not vanish from Carnival parades or other “cultural, historical and folkloric events”. But a bill he is about to send to Congress aims to restrict the use of masks in political protests.

Faceless protesters have been stirring up trouble sporadically since huge nationwide demonstrations, sparked by a proposed rise in bus fares, erupted last June. In February a television cameraman covering a protest in Rio de Janeiro died after being struck by a firework set off by two “Black Blocs”, members of an anarchist group. One militant recently told *Estado de São Paulo*, a newspaper, that the group is ready to shower national football squads’ buses and hotels with Molotov cocktails during the World Cup, which Brazil will host in June and July.

This is something President Dilma Rousseff wants desperately to avoid. Severe disruptions could spoil Brazil’s big party, not to mention her chances of re-election in October. She has set aside 1.9 billion reais (\$800m) to pay for extra security during the event. The new law is another attempt to forestall violence.

Besides requiring masked protesters to identify themselves to the police when asked, the law would stiffen penalties for vandalism and require organisers of demonstrations to forewarn authorities about protests. It is based on analysis of legislation in 30 countries, says the justice minister, who wants the bill fast-tracked through the legislature so it can enter into force before the World Cup.

The government proposal is more liberal than others that have been percolating in Congress since last year’s unrest. But many think that Brazil already has all the legal tools it needs. Mischief-makers don’t care about such laws in any case, says Pedro Serrano, a professor of constitutional law at the Catholic University of São Paulo; the authorities like them because their vague wording offers a way to contain inconvenient social movements. Renato de Lima of the Fundação Getúlio Vargas Law School suggests that, instead of playing to public anger over Black Bloc excesses, the government ought to boost intelligence and co-ordination between dozens of disparate state and federal police forces.

Meanwhile, the police are experimenting with new tactics. An anti-World-Cup protest in São Paulo on February 22nd saw the debut of the state’s “ninja squad”. Loosely modelled on outfits in Germany and New York, a special unit of roughly 100 men was recruited from among the burliest of the state’s military police. The officers, who carried shields and truncheons but not firearms, used martial arts such as ju-jitsu and capoeira to immobilise demonstrators spoiling for a fight. With the backing of conventional troops they eventually rounded up 262 out of the 1,500-odd crowd. Just eight people were injured, a low toll by Brazilian standards. Mr Cardozo is talking about deploying ninja cops elsewhere. Not during Carnival, mind.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21597940-legislators-and-police-ready-themselves-world-cup-protests-unarmed-and-dangerous>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

Bello

A test of political maturity

Only outsiders can break Venezuela’s deadlock

DATA: 2014.03.08



IN DECREERING that the Carnival holiday would last an extra two days this year, Venezuela's president, Nicolás Maduro, seemed to have hit on a clever way to damp down opposition protests that began four weeks ago. But the gambit failed. The protests have claimed 18 lives; scores have been injured and hundreds arrested. And still they rage.

As in 2002-04, when a similar protest wave threatened Hugo Chávez's populist regime, Venezuela is split into two irreconcilable camps. Back then, an unpopular Chávez withstood vast demonstrations, a short-lived coup and prolonged strikes-cum-lockouts. Mr Maduro seems to think he can likewise ride out the storm. His security forces continue to beat up demonstrators and his officials denounce the opposition as "fascists". His offers of dialogue smack of bad faith and the government shows no sign of entertaining the opposition's demands.

Contrary to the regime's claim, these do not include the overthrow of the government (though that would surely delight many). Instead the opposition is calling for the restoration of democratic norms—the release of its jailed leaders, the disarming of *chavista* paramilitaries, an investigation into the deaths and torture of demonstrators, media freedom and the replacement by bipartisan consensus of Supreme Court justices and members of the electoral tribunal whose terms expired last year.

Mr Maduro, narrowly elected after Chávez died a year ago this week, still has the support of many poorer Venezuelans. But the opposition senses that time is no longer on the government's side. Mr Maduro lacks both his mentor's political skills and also his good fortune. Chávez survived in 2002-04 largely because the oil price shot up, giving him a windfall that he spent on Cuban-designed social programmes. In contrast, Mr Maduro must grapple with a rotten legacy: soaring inflation, widespread shortages and crime. The economy needs a devaluation and also for the private sector to function. But that is anathema to his base.

By taking to the streets, the opposition is laying bare the contradiction at the heart of *chavismo*. Though Chávez claimed to lead a revolution, his legitimacy came from the ballot box. If Mr Maduro steps up repression, the regime will become an outright dictatorship for the first time. But the opposition has a problem, too. The next election (for the legislature) is not due until 2015 and a recall referendum cannot be held before 2016. It fears that by then Venezuela will be a totalitarian state and its chance will have gone—so it will not give up today.

With the two sides locked in mutual mistrust, more Venezuelans are likely to pay the price with their lives. Breaking the deadlock needs the help of outsiders. But whom? The government refuses any role for the Organisation of American States (because it includes the United States); after Panama called for a debate there, Venezuela broke off ties with the Central American country on March 5th.

Neither the Union of South American Nations, whose secretary-general is a *chavista*, nor CELAC, a broader regional group currently chaired by Cuba, which provides Mr Maduro with political and security advice, is credible as a referee. By giving subsidised oil to a dozen Caribbean and Central American countries, Venezuela has bought their loyalty.

Back in 2003 Brazil organised a “Group of Friends” to mediate in Venezuela. Could it do so again? Brazil’s left-wing presidents have sided with Venezuela’s government out of a mixture of ideology and business opportunity.

Latin American leaders clothe their silence over *chavismo*’s gutting of democracy with the mantra of non-intervention, as Brazil’s Dilma Rousseff did last month. But that policy is applied only when it suits them. Brazil intervened to punish both Honduras and Paraguay when left-wing presidents were ousted (constitutionally in Paraguay’s case). Argentina’s foreign minister complains that Venezuela’s demonstrations risk overthrowing an elected government—yet that was how his own party came to power in 2001.

Brazilian officials say that they are working behind the scenes to persuade Mr Maduro to be more moderate. If so, they are not having much success. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a former president and political opponent of Ms Rousseff, notes that Brazil would not be taken seriously as a world power if “we stayed paralysed in our area of direct influence”.

On March 11th Mr Maduro will join other regional leaders for the inauguration of Chile’s new president. It is a timely moment to launch a mediation effort to bring peace and restore democratic norms to Latin America’s most troubled country. Venezuela’s turmoil poses a test of the region’s political maturity. Looking the other way is no answer.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

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Chevron and Ecuador

Courtroom drama

A judge finds foul play behind a controversial case against Chevron

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“THIS case is extraordinary. The facts are many and sometimes complex. They include things that normally come only out of Hollywood.” So wrote Lewis Kaplan, an American federal judge, in a gripping, John Grisham-esque 485-page verdict on March 4th. It found that a controversial multi-billion-dollar judgment in Ecuador against Chevron had been “obtained by corrupt means”, lambasting Steven Donziger (pictured), the prominent New York lawyer who had brought the case against the oil giant.

The ruling, in a civil case brought by Chevron, provides a large measure of vindication for the firm, which opted to fight rather than bow to the usual pressure on big businesses to minimise bad publicity by accepting an out-of-court settlement. In 2011 an Ecuadorean court had ordered it to pay \$19 billion—later reduced to \$9.5 billion—to clean up environmental damage in the Lago Agrio oilfield in the Amazon region. This was allegedly done, more than 20 years ago, by an arm of Texaco, a smaller firm Chevron bought in 2001. Its supposed responsibility for miserable conditions experienced by rainforest dwellers has become a pet cause of celebrities such as Mia Farrow and Trudie Styler, environmental groups and Rafael Correa, Ecuador’s president. (An earlier Ecuadorean government had declared that Texaco had shed its legal responsibility by cleaning up the affected areas.) Last October Mr Correa accused *The Economist* of “barefaced lies” and of acting on behalf of Chevron because of our reporting of the case, allegations that we reject firmly.

Mr Kaplan delivered an eviscerating commentary on the actions of Mr Donziger and two of his Ecuadorean clients. The three, he ruled, will not be allowed to benefit in any way from the verdict they “obtained by corrupt means” in Ecuador. Among other things, the judge found that fraudulent evidence had been submitted to the Ecuadorean court; the main “independent” expert advising it was secretly in the pay of Mr Donziger’s team; one Ecuadorean judge had been coerced and another bribed; American judges had been intimidated; and Mr Donziger and his clients controlled the body to which the damages were ordered to be paid.

The judge described Mr Donziger as in “ultimate command” of a criminal “enterprise” that also included environmental groups and public-relations, law and consulting firms, that sought to use a high-profile campaign of false allegations to extort money from Chevron.

Mr Donziger plans to appeal against the ruling. He says it relied on evidence from an Ecuadorean judge who has admitted being paid by Chevron. Mr Kaplan’s ruling accepts that there are credibility issues with that testimony, but says that the other evidence is sufficient to support his conclusions. Ironically, some of the evidence considered most damning by Mr Kaplan came from out-takes from “Crude”, a documentary about the Lago Agria case made at Mr Donziger’s behest.

The ruling does not undo the decision of the Ecuadorean court. Yet Chevron hopes it will at least persuade judges in other countries, including Argentina, Brazil and Canada, that they should not use the Ecuadorean court decision to enforce claims against the oil firm’s assets there.

Mr Kaplan reached no conclusion on whether Chevron had a case to answer regarding the environmental damage. Instead, he noted, the behaviour of Mr Donziger and his clients meant that the truth of that matter will now probably never be known. As Mr Kaplan hints, this case seems made for Hollywood, with one big difference: this time, the victim is not the plucky lawyer but the big oil company.

[From the print edition: Business](#)

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Business in emerging markets

Emerge, splurge, purge

Western firms have piled into emerging markets in the past 20 years. Now comes the reckoning

DATA: 2014.03.08



VODAFONE'S latest figures appear at first glance to vindicate the most powerful management idea of the past two decades: that firms should expand in fast-growing emerging economies. Sales at the mobile-phone company fell in the rich world while those in the developing world rose smartly. Corporate strategy is usually a contentious subject: there are fierce debates about how big, diversified and financially leveraged firms should be. But geography has seduced everyone. Vodafone is one of countless Western companies that have bet on the developing world.

Look closer, however, and those figures contradict accepted wisdom. At market exchange rates Vodafone's sales in the emerging world fell, reflecting the widespread currency depreciations in mid-2013, when America's Federal Reserve signalled it would taper its bond purchases. This drag may linger: in January the lira and rand tumbled in Turkey and South Africa, two biggish markets for Vodafone. On longer-term measures things look cloudy, too. Over a decade Vodafone has invested more than \$25 billion in Turkey and India. These operations made a paltry 1% return on capital last year. Vodafone has created a lot of value for its shareholders—but through its American investments, which it has sold to Verizon for a stonking price.

This year Western firms' giant bet on the emerging world will come under more scrutiny. Most multinationals are far more profitable in emerging markets than Vodafone. American firms made a 12% return on equity in 2012, roughly in line with their global average. But having grown fast, profits are now falling in dollar terms. There has been a long bout of share-price underperformance as investors

have lost their euphoria. An index run by Stoxx, a data firm, of Western firms with high emerging-market exposures has lagged the broader S&P 500 index by about 40% over three years (see chart 1). And the recovery in the rich world will mean there will be more competition for resources within firms.



All this will bring strategic questions into sharp relief. Divisional chiefs from Brazil or Asia will no longer get a blank cheque from their boards. Although the average company has prospered, there have been disasters; plenty of firms and some whole industries need a rethink. The emerging-market rush may end up like a giant version of the first internet boom 15 years ago. The broad thrust was right but some big mistakes were made.

The companies suffering a slowdown in profits come in three buckets. Consumer firms including Coca-Cola, Nestlé, Unilever and Procter & Gamble have suffered a gentle weakening in demand and a currency drag. Most are still upbeat about the long term, says Andrew Wood of Sanford C. Bernstein, an analysis firm.

Companies in the second bucket face a sharper slowdown. They are in cyclical and capital-intensive industries. Fiat Chrysler's profits in Latin America, a vital cash cow, halved in 2013. This week Volkswagen and Renault joined the ranks of Western carmakers warning of weak emerging-market sales. Last month Peugeot wrote off \$1.6 billion of assets, mainly in Russia and Latin America. Emerging-market sales have fallen at Cisco, a technology firm; its boss, John Chambers, reckons it is "the canary in the coal mine". Industrial giants such as ABB and Alstom have seen orders falter for infrastructure projects, for example the building of power stations, says Andreas Willi of J.P. Morgan.

Those firms with mismatches—costs or debts in firm currencies but sales in depreciating ones—face a nasty squeeze. Margins in emerging markets have halved at Electrolux, which makes fridges and other appliances. Codere, a Spanish firm with an empire of gaming and betting shops in Latin America paid for with debts in euros, is now on life support and restructuring its balance-sheet.

In the third bucket are firms with idiosyncratic problems. China's war on graft has hurt luxury-product makers that have grown fat by selling bling to the Middle Kingdom. Sales at Rémy Cointreau, which makes cognac that Communist Party big-shots quaff, fell by a fifth in the quarter to December, compared with the previous year. Russia's once-frothy beer market is shrinking as the country conducts one of its periodic crackdowns on alcoholism.

All this may be breezily dismissed as short-term turbulence. But emerging-market wobbles can have a profound impact on corporate strategy. After the 1997-98 Asian crisis many multinationals tilted back towards the rich world. Citigroup and HSBC, two big banks, played down their Asian heritages and spent the next decade building subprime and investment-banking operations in America. Unilever's operating profits fell in 1997. It felt obliged to tell shareholders that the rich world was its "backbone" and by 2000 it too had made a huge American acquisition, of Bestfoods.

Rising exposure

The emerging world's troubles are not as bad as in 1997-98. But the exposure of rich-world firms is far higher than then (see chart 2). Big European firms make one-third of their sales in the developing world, almost triple the level in 1997, reckons Graham Secker of Morgan Stanley. For big, listed American companies the total has doubled, to about one-fifth. For Japanese firms it is about one-tenth, says Kathy Matsui of Goldman Sachs. The bigger a firm is, the greater its exposure tends to be. Rich-world firms do business across the emerging world, with China accounting for 10-20% of it. Consumer goods, cars, natural resources and technology are the industries with most exposure. Property, construction and health care have the least.



Many of these operations pre-date the boom. European firms have footprints in Asia and Africa from colonial times. American firms dominated foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in the 1970s and 1980s. By the 1990s manufacturing firms were creating global production chains. A wave of privatisations in Latin America enticed a new generation of *conquistadores* from Iberia and North America.

But by the mid-2000s the process had accelerated dramatically as executives and boards latched on to the idea of the fast-growing BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India, China) and their ilk. Once the subprime and euro crises began, the urge to escape the Western world was irresistible. FDI into China in 2010 was more than double the level in 1998. Takeovers became common. In 2007 purchases in emerging markets by rich-world firms reached \$225 billion. That was five times the level just half a decade earlier. One measure of how discipline slipped is the valuation of those deals. In 2007 rich-world buyers stumped up a dizzy 17 times operating profits for their targets, double the multiple paid in 2000-03.

Some firms had unexpected identity changes. Suzuki, a Japanese carmaker, found that its formerly sleepy Indian arm accounted for the biggest chunk of its market value. Portugal Telecom's Brazilian unit kept it afloat during the euro crisis. Having taken control of a beer firm in St Petersburg, Carlsberg, a Danish brewer, became a "Russia play". Mandom, an 87-year-old Japanese firm, found itself a giant of the Indonesian male-cosmetics market.

Other firms' efforts to peacock their emerging-market credentials look, with hindsight, like indicators of excess. Having been bailed out for its toxic credit exposures back in America, Citigroup rebranded itself as an emerging-market bank. Schneider Electric, a French engineering firm, and HSBC relocated their chief executives from Europe to Hong Kong (HSBC has since backtracked).

Historians may judge the peak of the frenzy to have been in June 2010. Nathaniel Rothschild, a scion of a banking dynasty (some of whose members are minority shareholders in *The Economist*), raised \$1.1 billion for a shell company in London, set up to buy emerging-market mining assets. Months later it invested in Indonesian coal mines with the Bakrie family, known in that country for its political ties and web of businesses. According to Bloomberg, Mr Rothschild shook hands on the deal without visiting the main mine in question, in Borneo. The transaction was a "terrible mistake", he later admitted.

Every corporate-investment cycle creates triumphs and disasters, and a lot of mediocrity. The emerging-markets boom will be no exception. Hard figures are elusive but the book value of the equity that Western firms have invested in the emerging world has probably risen by at least \$3 trillion since 1998. This is a colossal sum, equivalent to 11% of the emerging markets' combined GDP in 2013. Many firms have prospered, such as the banks that braved Mexico in the 1990s. But there is plenty of rot, too.



Start with takeovers. There have been \$1.6 trillion-worth since 2002. A rule of thumb is that half of all deals destroy value for the acquirer. Like Vodafone, many firms paid dizzy prices justified by pepped-up forecasts. In 2010 Abbott Laboratories, an American drugs firm, paid \$4 billion for the small Indian drugs unit of Piramal, predicting it would grow at 20% a year for a decade. Two years later sales were stagnant in dollar terms. Daiichi Sankyo, a Japanese drugs firm, has been badly burned in India, as the company it bought into, Ranbaxy, has hit serious quality problems. Lafarge paid \$15 billion for Orascom, a North African and Middle Eastern rival, in 2007. The French cement giant predicted sales would rise by 30% a year. Since then its shares have almost halved, partly due to the crippling debt burden incurred.

Big greenfield projects have broken hearts, too. ThyssenKrupp, a German steel colossus, launched an ambitious project in 2006 to make steel slabs in Brazil and process them in America. Rising costs have made it unviable, and most of the \$10 billion sunk has been written off. The firm's boss has labelled the episode a "disaster". Anglo American, a mining company, buried \$8 billion and the career of its former chief executive, Cynthia Carroll, in a Brazilian project called Minas-Rio. Cost overruns have led to a \$4 billion write-off.

Besides such eye-catching failures, there are pockets of serious underperformance tucked away in corners of sprawling multinationals. Consumer-goods firms have made hay in emerging markets, but even the best have some iffy businesses. Procter & Gamble's margins outside America are half those it enjoys at home. Profits are weak in India and Brazil, where it is a laggard. A.G. Lafley, who returned as the firm's boss last year, has promised more discipline.

It is the same story with Spanish investments in Latin America. Telefónica makes good money across most of the continent, says Bosco Ojeda of UBS, a bank. But Mexico is a running sore. For 14 years Telefónica has poured in billions of dollars without threatening Carlos Slim, who dominates telecoms there. Even the world's two biggest brewers, Anheuser-Busch InBev and SABMiller, which have been huge successes, have bought some businesses with low market shares and commensurately weaker profits and returns on capital.

In some cases the underperformance is spread across an entire industry. During a boom every firm thinks it can be a winner, leading to excess investment and saturation. The more capital-intensive the industry is, the greater the pain in store for its weakest members. Insurance is a case in point. India has more than 20 foreign firms slugging it out for tiny market shares while bleeding cash. Turkey is also an insurers' graveyard. Most European firms have a motley collection of emerging-market assets, but only a few, such as Prudential, AXA and Allianz, have scale. "There are trophy markets where everyone has decided they have to be in. Typically they don't make a lot of money," says an executive.

The car industry also has a long tail of flaky businesses. It has invested more than \$50 billion in factories in China, with great success, reckons Max Warburton, also of Bernstein. But "China has affected the judgment of a lot of chief executives," making them too bullish about other emerging markets. More than \$30 billion has been invested in developing countries other than China. New factories are opening just as demand has slowed. Ford's number two, Mark Fields, this week expressed worries about excess carmaking capacity building up in Brazil, Russia and India. Mr Warburton thinks such operations could burn billions of dollars this year. "Everyone is bracing to lose a lot of money."

Taking the beer goggles off

Some rich-world firms need to take a long, cold look at their emerging-market businesses and work out if they make sense. But there are psychological barriers to this. One is that most Western businesses have low gearing—usually it is only when they have a debt problem that they make difficult decisions quickly. Without their emerging-markets pep pill many firms would have dire revenue growth. The developing world has supplied 60-90% of the growth of Europe's big firms in recent years. And a whole generation of chief executives has learned that quitting emerging markets is a mug's game. Bosses who panicked and left after the 1997-98 crisis ended up looking like idiots.

Yet companies should allocate capital carefully, regardless of the spare funds they have. Sales growth without profits is pointless. And comparisons with 1997-98 are imperfect. Most industries have become more competitive, as emerging economies' local firms get into their stride. The low-hanging fruit is gone. Reflecting this logic, a few big industries have already begun to trim their emerging-markets arms.

Exhibit one is banking. After being bailed out, some firms such as ING and Royal Bank of Scotland have largely retreated from the developing world. Bank of America has sold out of its Chinese affiliate. But even big, successful firms which are dedicated to emerging economies are trying to boost returns by trimming back. HSBC has got out of 23 emerging-market businesses. The world's biggest five mining firms are also adapting to lower emerging-market demand. They have cut capital investment by a quarter since 2012, says Myles Allsop of UBS.

The supermarkets are in retreat after decades of empire-building that led them to invest \$50 billion in the emerging world. Synergies have proved elusive, local rivals have got stronger and tastes more particular. In Turkey shoppers prefer discount stores to hypermarkets—the four biggest foreign firms there lost money in 2012. Aside from Walmart's Mexican unit, most rich-country grocers' operations in the developing world have low market shares and do not cover their cost of capital. Casino, a French firm, has already shrunk, says Edouard Aubin, of Morgan Stanley. He thinks Carrefour could slim down to five countries from a peak of more than 20 (although it said this week it would keep expanding in China and Brazil). Walmart is cutting the number of stores it has in emerging markets. Tesco seems to have abandoned its dream of controlling big businesses in Turkey and China.

In the next few years more firms may follow the example of some supermarkets and retreat from the developing world. Most, though, will adapt, cutting capital investment and pruning their portfolios. All this will create opportunities for rising local firms. On February 19th, as Peugeot announced its giant write-off of emerging-market assets, Dongfeng, its Chinese partner, said it would take a 14% stake in the French firm and that technology-sharing between the two would speed up. There are rumours that General Motors may sell its loss-making Indian plant to its Chinese partner, SAIC. In 2011 ING sold its large Latin American business to Grupo Sura, a Colombian conglomerate intent on becoming a regional player.

The rich-world firms that remain will need to make their business models weatherproof, not just suited for the sunny days of a boom. That means shifting even more production to emerging markets and borrowing in local currencies—both are a natural hedge against currency turbulence.

As others falter, the strongest multinationals are making bolt-on acquisitions. In 2013 Unilever bought out some minority shareholders in its Indian business for \$3 billion and Anheuser-Busch InBev took control of Grupo Modelo, a Mexican rival, for \$20 billion. The year before Nestlé spent \$12 billion buying Pfizer's baby-food business, which is mainly exposed to the emerging world. Rather than being the panacea envisioned by many Western firms during the boom, emerging markets are governed by the oldest business rule of all—survival of the fittest.

[From the print edition: Business](#)

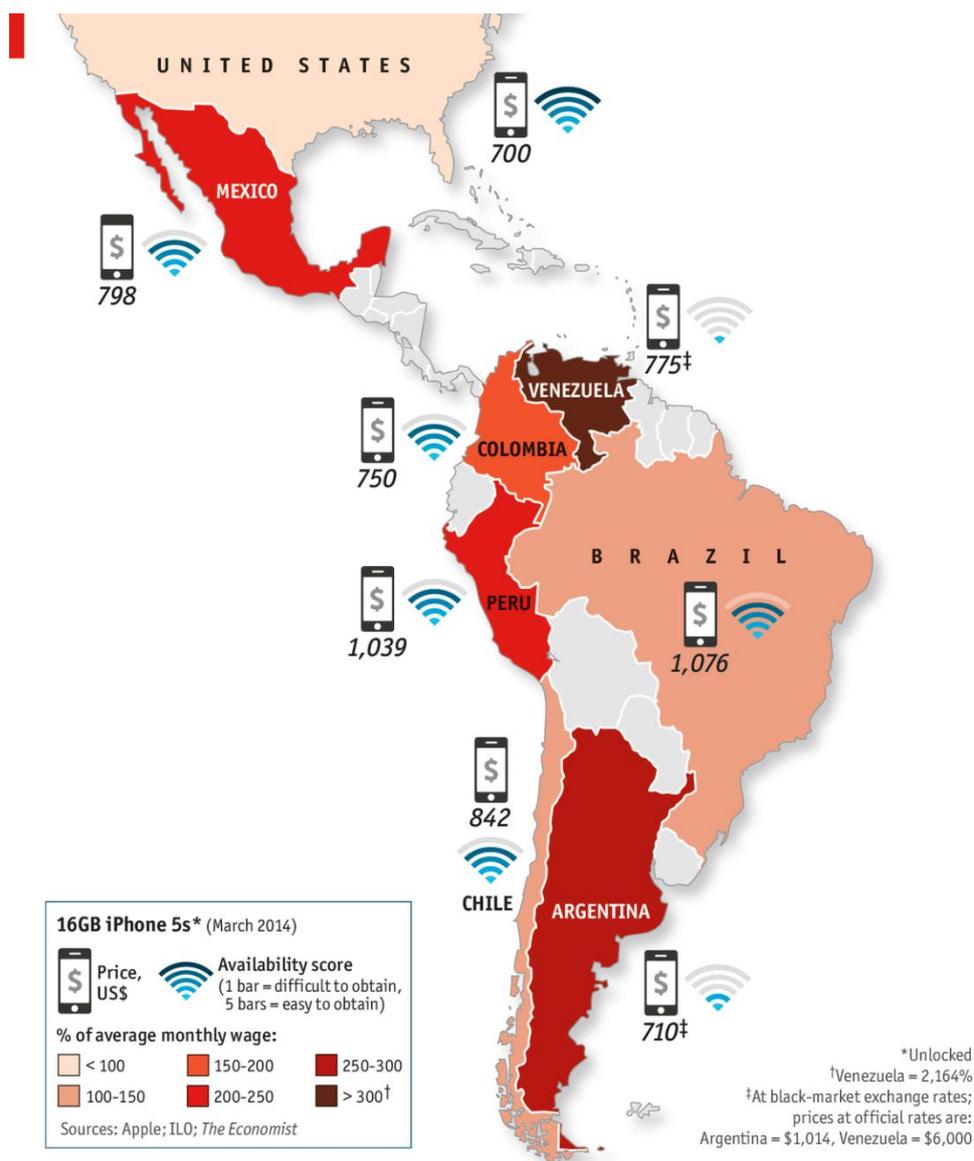
Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/business/21598642-western-firms-have-piled-emerging-markets-past-20-years-now-comes>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

iPhononomics

One phone, many countries

Costly Brazil, dysfunctional Argentina, bureaucratic Mexico. Our correspondents go shopping for the same Apple product

DATA: 2014.03.08



APPLE products are designed to say something about their owners. They also tell you something about the countries in which they are sold. Latin America's allure as a consumer market was underlined on February 15th, when the technology firm opened its first retail store on the continent, in Rio de Janeiro. Apple wants a bigger slice of the region's smartphone market, which has been growing faster than any region outside Asia (see chart). But the glass screen of the iPhone 5s, Apple's flagship smartphone, also reflects Latin America's economic diversity.

Start with Brazil, the region's biggest consumer market. Despite sluggish economic growth, Apple chose to plant its flag there for a reason. The country is among the top five markets for smartphones in the world. Last year was the first when more smartphones were sold in Brazil than traditional mobile phones, according to Abinee, an electronics-industry association; it was also the year when tablet sales overtook those of desktop computers. As many as 1,700 people queued up to be among the first on Apple's Rio premises.

iPhones are beyond the reach of most people in all the countries of Latin America, but the sticker shock is particularly striking in Brazil. A 16GB iPhone 5s costs 2,519 reais (\$1,076), compared with an average

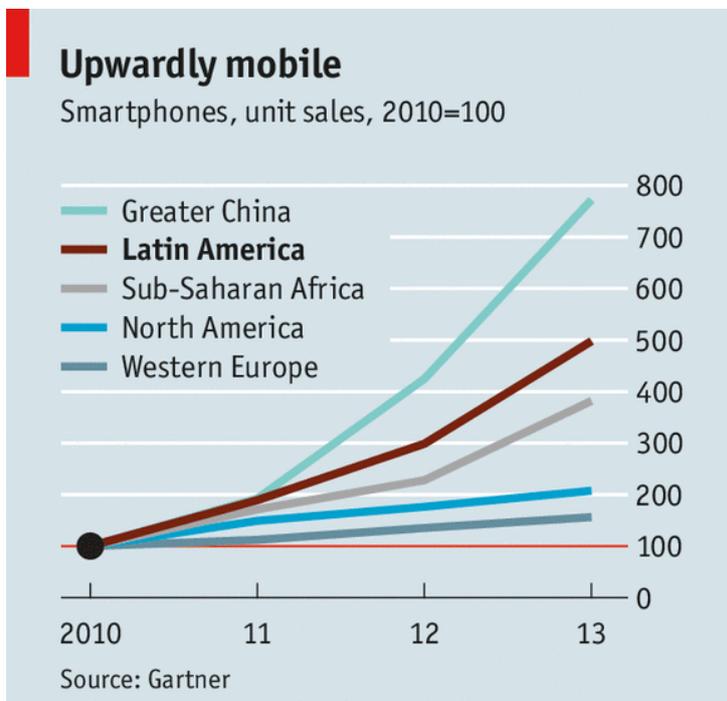
monthly income of just under 2,000 reais in the main metropolitan regions. That makes Brazil the dearest, in dollar terms, of the countries where Apple has stores; the tax-inclusive price of a 16GB iPhone 5s in the United States is around \$700.

The fault lies with the infamous *custo Brasil* (Brazil cost), the exorbitant cost of doing business in the country. The high price of the iPhone 5s is largely due to tariffs and state and federal taxes on imports, says Luis Fernández of Deloitte. He calculates that a gizmo which a foreign supplier sells for 1,000 reais could end up being resold at 2,017 reais, with taxes amounting to 900 reais, or 45%, of that sum. Brazil's government has introduced tax incentives for companies ready to assemble gadgets in the country. But even then, the *custo Brasil* hits home: iPads and older iPhones assembled locally still cost more than they do in the United States, thanks to high labour costs and expensive commercial rents.

iWatering

At least wannabe iPhone users in Brazil can get their hands on the things. In Venezuela the shortages that have hit everything from basic groceries to catfood had caught up with the gadget market well before the unrest that started in February.

Since 2010 telecoms service providers in Venezuela have been barred from purchasing direct from manufacturers and must go through a government intermediary, Telecom Venezuela. But Telecom is no longer authorising purchases by the providers, and their shelves are bare of phones. In the run-up to the December local elections, President Nicolás Maduro also forced retailers, especially of electronic goods, to slash their prices. Samsung-branded shops in Caracas look as if they have been looted.



A Venezuelan determined to get his hands on a 5s has a couple of options: either bring one in personally or buy one via MercadoLibre, Latin America's equivalent to eBay. But only a tiny minority of Venezuelans can afford the phone in any case. Because of the huge gap between the official and unofficial exchange rates, goods that are imported at the black-market rate are out of reach to most. It would take the average earner nigh on two years to have enough to buy an iPhone.

Venezuela is a law unto itself, but neither is Argentina any place to buy the 5s. In 2009 President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner passed a law that was designed to promote industry in Tierra del Fuego, the southernmost tip of the country and a splendidly daft place to locate a high-tech cluster. Devices that are assembled in the Patagonian province benefit from a 60% reduction in excise taxes. Samsung and BlackBerry did decide to start producing in Tierra del Fuego as a result: their devices are widely available, bearing orange stickers to advertise the fact they are "made in Argentina". Apple refused to play ball, and most stores do not stock iPhones.

The easiest place to buy the iPhone 5s is again on MercadoLibre. Another option is to have friends travelling to the United States or Europe act as iPhone mules, although that can mean sticky moments at customs: passengers are only supposed to bring goods worth \$300 into the country, and a 50% tax is payable on anything in excess of that. Using an iPhone can also lead to political embarrassment: Argentina's vice-president, Amado Boudou, once got into hot water for tweeting from his iPhone about the need to protect local industry.

Argentina is a member of Mercosur, a trade bloc that often seems ambivalent about trade. In the countries of the Pacific Alliance—Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru—things are easier for aspiring Apple customers. Consumers in these places have few problems getting hold of the iPhone 5s, provided they have two things: money and time.

"There are plenty of iPhones in Mexico. What's lacking is purchasing power," says Ernesto Piedras, head of the Competitive Intelligence Unit, a research firm in that country. BlackBerry and Samsung have 24% of the smartphone market each, says Mr Piedras, compared with Apple's 14%. An iPhone 5s bought without a plan costs 10,599 pesos (\$800). That is beyond the reach of most Mexicans, as are Telcel's monthly plans (85% of mobile usage in the country is pay-as-you-go). So iPhone vendors tend to focus on selling not the 5s, but previous models that are more affordable. The black market is another option for cash-strapped consumers. Places like San Andresito, a sprawling marketplace in Bogotá, offer Colombians the chance to find iPhones at cheaper prices than usual.

Patience is the other requirement. Your correspondent in Mexico City recently acquired an iPhone 5s from Telcel, by far the biggest mobile carrier, for 4,000 pesos (\$300), as part of a two-year plan. The process took two hours and the plan is stingy. Obtaining a smartphone contract in Peru similarly involves lots of queuing, lots of paperwork, and the waste of a few hours. The hassles do not end there. Customer service is poor and flaunting your new toy risks theft. That is true of other countries in the region, too. Diverse as it is, Latin America does have some things in common.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21598653-costly-brazil-dysfunctional-argentina-bureaucratic-mexico-our-correspondents-go-shopping>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

Brazil's presidential election

Winning hearts and likes

Social media will play a big part in this year's campaign

DATA: 2014.03.15



IN JUNE Brazil's elites received a rude introduction to the power of social media. Protests, many convened via Facebook, saw millions take to the streets to air disaffection with politicians. Those same politicians now want to harness social networks for their election campaigns.

Just before Dilma Rousseff was elected president in 2010, 6m Brazilians used Facebook at least once a month. As they gear up for a presidential poll in October, 83m do. Only the United States and India have bigger Facebook populations. One Brazilian in ten tweets; one in five uses Whatsapp—part messaging service, part social network. Cyberspace is seen as a crucial battleground for the election, even before campaigning officially starts on July 6th.

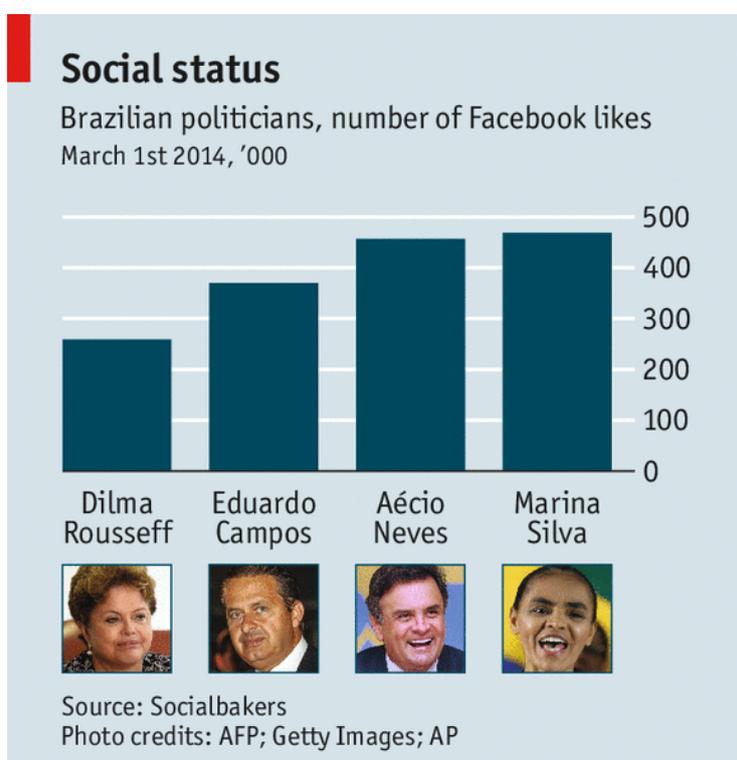
In September, shortly after the protests petered out, Ms Rousseff reactivated her Twitter account, dormant since the 2010 election. She has also joined Instagram and Vine, two image-sharing sites, and revamped her Facebook profile. Last month Ms Rousseff's Workers' Party (PT) held its first workshop for activists on how best to use social networks. It plans 13 more in the coming months.

The opposition is pinning even more hope on social media, in large part because the president is likely to dominate the traditional sort. During the campaign free television time is divvied up using a complex formula which takes into account the size of electoral alliances—and tends to favour the incumbent. Despite threats by the PT's junior partner to dump Ms Rousseff—and take its airtime with it—most pundits predict the coalition will pull through. That would leave the president with around half of the 25-minute television slots; the other candidates would split the rest.

Small wonder, then, that Ms Rousseff's likeliest rivals have been busy making Facebook friends. Aécio Neves, a senator from Minas Gerais state and leader of the centre-right Party of Brazilian Social

Democracy (PSDB), and Eduardo Campos, governor of Pernambuco and head of the centrist Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB), have so far notched up many more “likes” than the president (see chart). The most popular of all is Marina Silva, a former environment minister and Mr Campos’s probable running mate. All are active on other social networks, too.

They need to be. Mr Neves and Mr Campos in particular are little known outside their home states. One recent poll of voting intentions puts them at 17% and 12%, respectively, to Ms Rousseff’s 47%. But things could change rapidly. The president’s approval ratings fell sharply, from around 77% to 45%, in the aftermath of the June protests; they have recovered a bit since, but may dip again if more protests erupt during the football World Cup.



At MVL, a digital consultancy in São Paulo that works with Ms Silva, three analysts beaver away, compiling daily reports of her Facebook likes, Twitter mentions and so on. Relevant data are fed into a repository of over 1m e-mails, profiles and handles (usernames) that let Ms Silva reach an estimated 12.5m potential voters, nearly a tenth of the electorate.

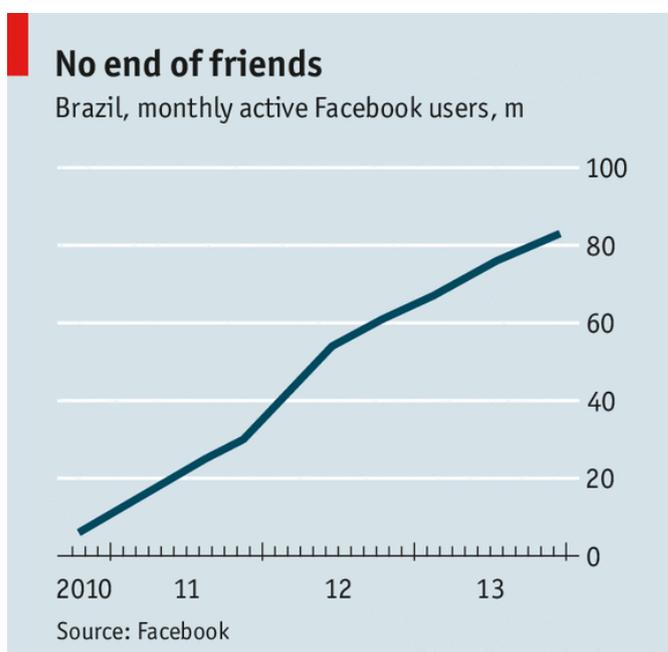
It helps to pick the right platform for the right audience. “Trying to talk to everyone everywhere is a waste of time,” explains Caio Costa of MVL. In Ms Silva’s 2010 presidential bid, Orkut (now much-diminished but with 26m users at the time) was reserved for Ms Silva’s fellow evangelicals; Facebook for women and disgruntled PT supporters; Google+ for opinion-makers. That helped propel Ms Silva from a rank outsider to 19.3% of the vote.

Mr Neves and Mr Campos will be hoping to repeat the trick and then some. Youngsters are a big target. Nearly 80% of Brazilians aged 16 (the legal voting age) to 25 use the internet at least once a week, well above the national average of 47%. Nearly half go online every day. At 18 voting becomes obligatory,

so the candidates' task is less to get out the vote than ensure the voters tick the right box, says Alexandre Bourgeois, Mr Neves's social-media wonk.

With that in mind, Mr Bourgeois has dispatched scouts to São Paulo's poor periphery to identify teenage movers-and-shakers, some with hundreds of thousands of Facebook followers. On February 24th the PSB invited one social-media starlet to a party meeting to discuss the lack of public spaces for teenagers to congregate.

The social networks offer counsel on how to "do an Obama", in the words of Emmanuel Evita of Twitter, referring to Barack Obama's astute use of social media in the 2008 presidential race in the United States. In the past few months the microblogging platform and Facebook have both organised tutorials for politicians.



All stress interaction. Reader comments on Mr Campos's Facebook page rarely go unanswered, for example. Mr Neves has room for improvement, however. He seldom responds to his Facebook visitors; his 28,800 followers on Twitter have yet to see a single tweet. Xico Graziano, his head of internet strategy, insists everything is in place: "We are waiting for an opportune moment to engage." A series of video clips designed to bolster his profile, including one of Mr Neves riding a motorbike along Brazil's coast, will hit YouTube this month.

To have greatest effect, however, the candidates must also do well in the battle of television, watched by 65% of Brazilians every day of their lives. The June protests spread in a roundabout way, notes Juliano Spyer, who studies social-media habits in Bahia, in the country's north-east. The news reached his poor but internet-connected town of 15,000 via television first. Only then was it picked up on "local" social networks, prompting protests. For the opposition to have a chance in October's poll, it has to make every screen count.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21598975-social-media-will-play-big-part-years-campaign-winning-hearts-and-likes>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

Bello

The bets that failed

Brazil's next government will need a new foreign policy

DATA: 2014.03.22



SINCE it is the only big power in South America, Brazil inevitably catches the eye of outsiders looking for a country to take the lead in resolving the region's conflicts—such as the one raging in the streets of Venezuela. Yet leader is not a role that Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's president, is keen to play. She has reasons for her reluctance—and they explain why Brazilian foreign policy has run into trouble.

Ms Rousseff has behaved as a loyal ally to the elected, but autocratic, government of Nicolás Maduro, which faces opposition protests almost daily. Brazil worked hard to thwart any role in Venezuela for the Organisation of American States, which includes the United States. Instead, the foreign ministers of the South American Union (UNASUR) have agreed to promote talks in Venezuela. It is an initiative without teeth: the ministers expressed their solidarity with Mr Maduro, disqualifying themselves as honest brokers in the opposition's eyes.

Brazil's wrong-headed calculation is that the protests will fizzle out. Mr Maduro took a UNASUR statement on March 12th as a green light to launch another crackdown. Faced with a deteriorating economy and mounting unpopularity, Mr Maduro's rule is likely to remain repressive. Given that Brazil's ruling Workers' Party (PT) claims to stand for democracy and human rights, he is a strange ally.

One explanation is that Venezuela has become an issue in Brazil's presidential election in October, in which Ms Rousseff will seek a second term. Venezuela's left-right divide is echoed, albeit more faintly, in Brazil. Whatever the PT's differences with Mr Maduro's authoritarian populism, they are trumped by left-wing solidarity. Having done lucrative business in Venezuela, Brazilian companies want to repatriate their profits and worry that Brazil may fall out of favour in Caracas. In addition, Brazil's long tradition of multilateralism and non-intervention means its default position is to talk, not act.

But not always. When Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Ms Rousseff's predecessor and political mentor, took office in 2003 he declared that Brazil would pursue a more ambitious foreign policy and seek a leading role in South America. Brazil duly forged closer ties with other rising powers of the global "south" and allied with them in the Doha round of world-trade talks. It sought a permanent seat at the UN Security Council. In South America a "pink tide" of electoral victories by the left allowed Lula's Brazil to recast Mercosur, the flawed customs union it leads, as an instrument of political co-operation, shared protectionism and social justice—an alternative to the "Washington consensus". When the 2008 financial crisis crippled the United States and Europe, Lula's bet on the south seemed to have paid off.

But five years later, the world is a much harsher place for Brazil, as Matias Spektor, an international-affairs specialist at Kings College London, points out. Brazil's new friends in the south helped to torpedo any meaningful Doha deal. The relationship with China has disappointed. China failed to back its security-council bid; it is happy to buy Brazilian soyabeans, but not its manufactures. Most wounding of all, the countries of Latin America's western seaboard—Chile, Peru, Colombia and Mexico—have forged their own Pacific Alliance, built on free trade and free markets, in a tacit rebuke to Mercosur.

Brazil still has international strengths. It has acquired influence in Africa, and has plenty of soft power (which will be enhanced if this year's football World Cup goes well). But in the region, its main allies now are ultra-protectionist Argentina and Venezuela, a basket case and political embarrassment.

Brazil's underlying problem in South America is its ambivalence about exercising real leadership. That would involve opening its economy to its neighbours, and seeking integration based on mutual national interest and binding rules, rather than fleeting ideological solidarity.

Brazil's foreign ministry recently launched a policy review (though, on South America, it is Ms Rousseff and her advisers who call the shots). So here is Bello's contribution: in Mercosur external trade negotiations are conducted by the bloc and hobbled by Argentina. Brazil should set out to turn it into a free-trade area instead. Brazil could then do trade deals with the Pacific Alliance, the EU and others. And it should recognise that the democracy clauses in regional agreements do not merely require condemnation of coups but also oblige elected presidents, like Mr Maduro, to adhere to minimum standards of democratic governance and human rights. Unfortunately, such changes are likely only if the opposition wins in October.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21599386-brazils-next-government-will-need-new-foreign-policy-bets-failed>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

Latin America's economies

Life after the commodity boom

Instead of the crises of the past, mediocre growth is the big risk—unless productivity rises

DATA: 2014.03.29

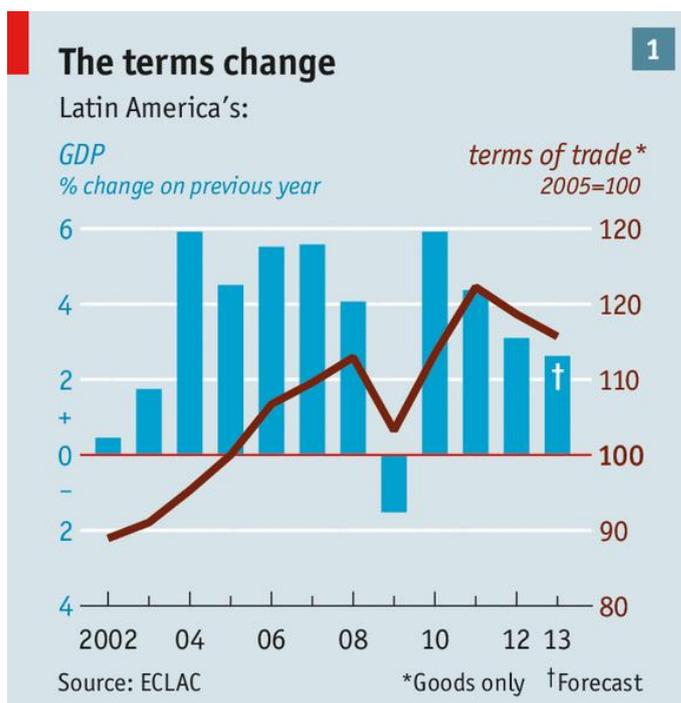


ONE morning last month Louis Dreyfus, a big commodity-trading house, formally opened a new \$10m storage depot in the Peruvian port of Callao. Two of its six bunkers were piled high with 55,000 tonnes of fine brown dust covered by white tarpaulins—copper and zinc concentrate, awaiting blending and shipment. The warehouse is “a bet that Peruvian mining will continue to be competitive,” says Gonzalo Ramírez, a Dreyfus manager. That looks like a sound wager. Blessed with high-grade ores and cheap energy, Peru’s output of copper—already the world’s third-largest—will more than double in the next three years (see [article](#)), thanks to the opening of several low-cost mines.

But rather than marking a new dawn, this burst of investment comes at the twilight of the great commodity boom occasioned by the industrialisation of China and India. By providing an unprecedented boost to the region’s terms of trade (the ratio of the price of its exports to that of its imports), this handed many Latin American countries a bounteous decade (see chart 1).

No longer. Oil and gas excluded, commodity prices are down by a quarter from their level of 2011, with prices of minerals falling by more than those of foodstuffs. After growing by an average of 4.3% in 2004-11, the region’s economies managed just 2.6% last year. Hopes of acceleration this year are being dashed. Brazil has had to raise interest rates sharply to contain inflation, and is unlikely to beat its 2013 growth of 2.3%. Mexico, although less commodity-driven than South America, is unlikely to do much better. Data suggest that Chile is growing at its slowest rate for four years. Even Peru, along with Panama the region’s star economy of the past decade, felt the cold draft: it expanded at 5% in 2013, down from an average of 7% since 2005.

To make matters worse, moves towards normal monetary policy in the United States have prompted jitters in Latin American financial markets since last May. Doomsters say that having squandered the boom in a consumption binge, the region’s traditional economic frailty will now be exposed as commodity prices fall.



The picture is more nuanced than that. Latin America saved and invested more of its windfall than in the past (though less than other parts of the world did), says Alejandro Werner, the IMF's leading official for the region. The World Bank's chief economist for Latin America, Augusto de la Torre, points out that the investment rate in the region, at almost 25% of GDP, has at last caught up with that in South-East Asia (though Brazil, at 18%, is a laggard).

Most countries have paid down debt and accumulated reserves; their banking systems are less dollarised than in the past. Floating exchange rates and inflation-targeting by more-or-less independent central banks mean that many countries can adjust by allowing their currencies to depreciate without triggering a downward spiral of inflation and devaluation.

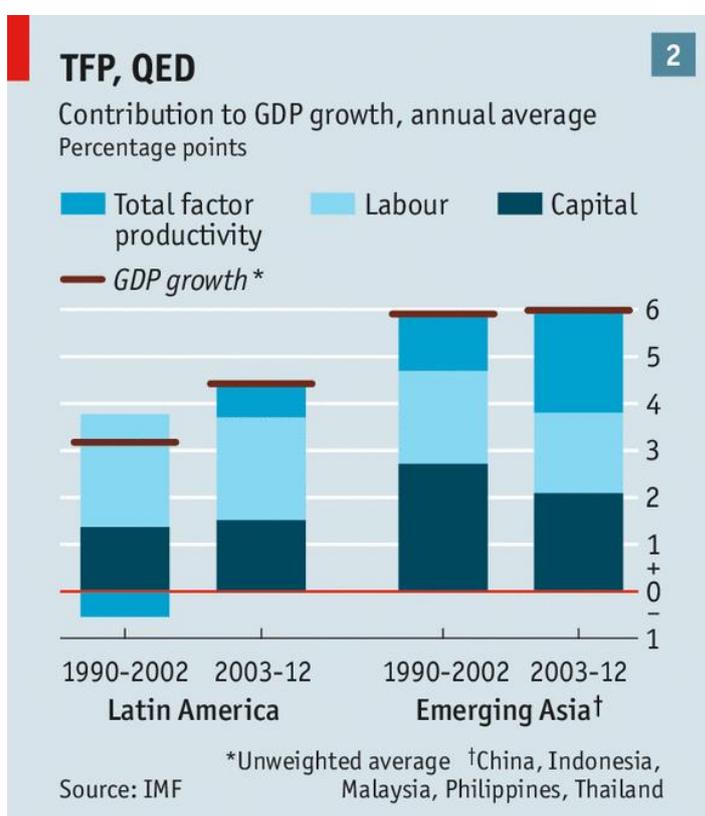
Some countries have been less responsible than others. Venezuela, with a fiscal deficit of 12.5% of GDP last year, is paying the price of squandering its oil windfall. Argentina is moving towards more orthodox policies, and may just avoid disaster. There are a few caveats elsewhere, too. Having used fiscal stimulus to counteract the 2008-09 financial crisis, some governments (notably Brazil's) were slow to tighten again. Santiago Levy of the Inter-American Development Bank notes that the region's structural fiscal balance is better than in 1997 but worse than in 2007.

He also worries that currency depreciation could catch out Latin American companies that took advantage of cheap money to issue bonds abroad. The stock of corporate bonds that is vulnerable to depreciation risk in five larger economies (Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Peru) amounts to \$200 billion, he reckons.

The biggest threat to financial stability is a sharp slowdown in China. Miguel Castilla, Peru's economy minister, notes that commodity prices are still above their average of the past ten years. Were China's growth rate to dip below 7%, that would soon change. But he stresses that Peru, like Chile and Colombia, has scope to respond with fiscal and monetary measures.

More than economic instability, the worry for Latin America is low growth—the risk that 3% has become the new norm. Mr Werner notes that the halt in the rise in the region’s terms of trade has itself knocked a percentage point off growth. With full employment, and with the labour force and domestic credit both expanding less rapidly, Latin America must look more to productivity improvements to boost GDP. And that is its Achilles heel.

Productivity has improved a bit, but still lags behind Asia’s (see chart 2). The reasons for this shortfall date back many years. Although Latin Americans have more education than in the past, international tests show that they still do not learn enough in school. Mr de la Torre points, too, to a relative lack of innovation by Latin American firms of all sizes, to poor transport networks and to a lack of competition, especially in services.



Another big handicap is the large informal economy. In Peru, no less than 61% of the workforce works in the informal sector, according to the statistics agency. “It was an escape valve when Peru was a poor country, but it’s a problem now,” says Piero Ghezzi, the minister for production.

To see why, take Mexico, where around half the workforce is informal. A new report by McKinsey, a consultancy, finds that, astonishingly, Mexican workers have become less productive over the past three decades despite numerous economic reforms. Output per worker fell from \$18.30 an hour (in purchasing-power-parity terms) in 1981 to \$17.90 in 2012.

The reason, McKinsey argues, is that Mexico has a dual economy. Productivity at large, modern firms, which are integrated into the world economy, has risen by 5.8% a year since 1999. But the productivity of small businesses (with ten or fewer workers), many of which are informal, declined from 28% of that

of large firms (with 500 or more workers) in 1999 to just 9% in 2009. And small firms account for a big (42%) and growing share of the workforce.

Fixing the productivity problem is far more complicated than slashing the fiscal deficit. Assembling land, permits and finance for infrastructure projects can take many years in Latin America. Education reforms take a similar time to have an effect. Informality is a complex issue, as much cultural as economic.

But governments can no longer afford to put off reforms indefinitely. The risk the region faces is not the financial crises of old but rather the clash between low growth and the aroused expectations of growing middle classes. As the mass protests last June in Brazil suggest, it is a clash that could be politically explosive.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21599782-instead-crises-past-mediocre-growth-big-riskunless-productivity-rises-life>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

Brazil's internet law

The net closes

Brazil's magna carta for the web

DATA: 2014.03.29

“THE best possible birthday gift for Brazilian and global web users” is how Tim Berners-Lee, the British inventor of the world wide web, which turned 25 this month, described Brazil's “internet bill of rights” in an open letter on March 24th. The next day legislators in the lower house of Congress duly approved it.

The sweeping bill, which now goes to the Senate, is “pretty much one of a kind”, says Ronaldo Lemos, a lawyer and academic involved in creating the original proposal in 2009. It enshrines the principle of “net neutrality”, which holds that network operators must treat all traffic equally. It also ensures that 100m Brazilian internet users enjoy online privacy (by barring providers from rummaging through their data) and freedom of expression (a court order is required to force the removal of contentious content).

Perfect it isn't, however. Tucked into the bill is article 11, which extends the reach of Brazilian law to any internet service in the world with Brazilian users. A firm based in the United States whose services are used by Brazilians could, for example, be penalised for adhering to its domestic data-disclosure laws if they conflict with Brazil's—as they often do. Penalties include fines of up to 10% of a firm's Brazilian revenues or even blocking services.

When the European Union mulled something similar following the revelations last year of widespread online snooping by the National Security Agency, United States officials argued that would be extraterritorial. They are following the Brazilian case closely.

So are the internet firms. If other countries follow this approach, says a policy wonk at a big Western firm, companies like his would have to contend with a bewildering array of national legislation. In some smaller markets, they might stop offering services altogether.

Mr Lemos thinks a better solution would be to renegotiate Brazil's mutual legal-assistance treaties, agreements which provide a mechanism for co-operation between different jurisdictions. This is unlikely. Brazil's secretary for IT policy, Virgílio Almeida, insists the clause is innocuous. Indeed, "it should make business easier, by making the rules clearer."

He adds that the government has already given ground by dropping an even more draconian requirement: that Brazilians' data be held on servers in Brazil. Concerted lobbying by internet firms, as well as many activists, convinced legislators that this would make business in the country prohibitively expensive, especially for smaller startups. But Dilma Rousseff, the president, sees the jurisdiction provision as a point of pride. She almost certainly won't budge.

Ironically, notes Sergio Amadeu, an internet scholar and member of the Internet Steering Committee, which oversees the web in Brazil, this may make Brazilians' data more vulnerable to prying eyes. Because the country lacks a comprehensive data-protection law, it may be easier for the Brazilian authorities to get their hands on user data if looser local standards apply.

The bill is set to race through the Senate, which is dominated by Ms Rousseff's Workers' Party. Sir Tim has conceded that "there is still discussion around some areas." Brazilian and global web users are getting a nice gift, but one that is less appealing than it might have been.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21599781-brazils-magna-carta-web-net-closes>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

Letters

On Russia, Brazil, guns, policing, Taiwan, infrastructure, college fees, Jay-Z, Turkey, crocodiles and hippos

DATA: 2014.04.05

Russia's strongman

SIR – “[The new world order](#)” (March 22nd) criticised Vladimir Putin for “defying the principle that intervention abroad should be a last resort in the face of genuine suffering”. Yet history has shown that adhering to this rule prolongs human suffering and results in more armed conflict, not less. Look at Nazi Germany, Rwanda and your own example of Kosovo. These genocidal calamities could have been prevented had the world not clung to the quaint notion that action of any sort was a “last resort”, and had the great powers of those days acted together and directly during the early stages of those crises.



True, Mr Putin has clearly stretched, possibly even perverted, the definition of human suffering in justifying his annexation of Crimea. But give him his due and grudgingly accord him some degree of respect for acting boldly and decisively in coming to what he rightly or wrongly perceives to be the requisite defence of his countrymen.

The real tragedy in Crimea is not Mr Putin’s rejection of international law. It is the West’s failure to act. The West may see intervention as a last resort, but Mr Putin apparently sees it as a first choice.

Jay Lewis

York, Pennsylvania

SIR – I do not agree that Mr Putin is a force for instability and strife. If anything, he is a calming influence on Western powers that have inflicted death and misery in Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, encouraged a terrorist group to take power in Egypt, and helped the terrorist groups that are trying to take over Syria.

Henry Polti

Brussels

SIR – I deplore your obsessive devotion to splashing Mr Putin’s face, torso, background, personality and cartoon image throughout your newspaper. *The Economist* has an editorial penchant for showing up third-world strongmen in a way that brings out their ridiculous pretensions and helps us right-thinking folks in developed countries to look on them with suitable scorn.

Mr Putin is different. Seriously different. He is not another Hugo Chávez or Jacob Zuma. He needs to be treated differently, journalistically as well as diplomatically.

Bryan Dunlap

New York

Brazil’s foreign policy

SIR – [Bello](#)’s column of March 22nd criticised aspects of Brazilian foreign policy, especially in relation to the situation in Venezuela. One has to ask why it is that “real leadership” has to be associated with interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.



The Brazilian government firmly believes in what Bello termed as our “long tradition of multilateralism and non-intervention”, through a democratic, collective approach. It is regrettable that Brazil’s commitment to non-intervention and to promoting dialogue is perceived by *The Economist* as “ambivalence”.

Roberto Jaguaribe

Ambassador of Brazil

London

Jumping the gun

SIR – You cited a phone survey among your evidence that there are more guns but fewer gun-owners in America (“[Locked and loaded](#)”, March 15th). Although the article mentioned some possible sources of sampling error, it ignored by far the greatest problem with the phone survey: respondents who lied.

It is impossible to test how many people don’t tell the truth in a phone poll, but we can get some idea. After reading your article, I carried out an informal poll on a website dedicated to firearms enthusiasts, and asked people how they would respond to a phone survey that wanted to know if they owned a gun. Of the several hundred people who responded to my poll, less than 10% said they would answer truthfully and admit to gun ownership. Over half of the respondents said that they would either refuse to answer and just hang up (which would obviously skew the sampling horribly), and over a third said that they would deliberately lie, and claim not to own guns.

Of course I personally do not own any guns. No sir, none at all.

Claus Langfred

Associate professor of management

George Mason University

Fairfax, Virginia

Police and the public

SIR – You argued that oversight of the newly elected police and crime commissioners in England and Wales is weak (“[Missing a beat](#)”, March 15th). PCCs were introduced to break the kind of crony management that dominated the police service under police authorities. Yes, only 8% of people can name their PCC, but only 22% can name their member of Parliament. How many could name a single member of their police authority? We all accept the election of PCCs in 2012 was a mess, although turnout was not all that different from a by-election held the same day. If you want evidence of change, look at the increase in public engagement by PCCs, lower costs (yes, they are), proper control on senior police pay and lower average police precept rises. That alone might suggest a healthy rebalancing of police accountability.

Through PCCs the public have control. Don’t expect the cosy old committee insiders to like it. You might be surprised that some of the new police leaders do.

Christopher Salmon

Police and crime commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

Llangunnor, Carmarthenshire

Taiwan and China

* SIR – In response to “[Manning the trade barriers](#)” and “[On the antlers of a dilemma](#)” (both March 29th), we would like to stress that over the six years of Ma Ying-jeou’s presidency, his ambition has been unprecedented on the international stage and in cross-strait relations. The most recent incarnation of this success was the historic Wang-Zhang cross-strait meetings in February, the first high-level official governmental meetings between the two sides. Widely hailed by governments from all corners of the globe and as extraordinarily significant, the talks also enjoyed public support within Taiwan.



To suggest that the president’s strategy is in any way quixotic, or that he is unwilling to accept its flaws, is unfair: it should be judged on the tremendous successes it has brought over the last six years and will continue to bring for the remainder of his term. The ambition of his cross-strait policy is both pragmatic and admirable, yielding strong economic benefits for the Taiwanese people.

The TiSA (Trade in Services Agreement) signed with Mainland China, currently the source of much debate in Taiwan, is but the latest piece in the progress puzzle. It will create an estimated 12,000 new jobs, offer greater stability, and further internationalise Taiwan. The deal is more favourable to Taiwan than to Mainland China – the number of commitments China is making to Taiwan outweighs commitments in the opposite direction by 80 to 64. The goals of implementing this agreement have been abundantly clear from the start: to encourage regional economic integration, make Taiwan a more attractive prospect for regional trade agreements, and to liberalise the economy. This can in no way be described as lacking ambition or vision.

To paraphrase a quote attributed to Michelangelo, there is no shame in aiming high and falling short but still achieving great success; the danger lies in aiming low and reaching your mark.

Kuo-min Chen

Director

Press division

Taipei Representative Office in the UK

London

Infrastructure investment



* SIR - Bold policy action is needed to turn infrastructure investments into a tradable asset class (“[A long and winding road](#)”, March 22nd). Europe has taken a step in the right direction with the EU/EIB project bond initiative but for global policy action the World Bank could play a key role. It could work with regional development banks to set project due-diligence standards and develop a bond documentation process.

Secure sustainable funding from private funds should be encouraged by policymakers and politicians for financing infrastructure. An infrastructure asset class would greatly benefit insurance companies which need to match their long-term liabilities with investable and tradable assets of equally long maturities. In today’s low interest rate environment, having other long-term assets with attractive investment characteristics should be a desirable public policy goal.

Guido Fürer

Group chief investment officer

Swiss Re

Zurich

Making college pay

SIR – In the 18th century, ship captains were paid just for taking convicts on board in England, not for their safe arrival in Australia. Around 10% of the prisoners died along the way. So the government switched to paying the captains a bonus for each man that walked off the boat alive, and mortality fell to virtually zero.

Universities are paid on input—for taking students on board—and your article highlighted the perverse effects that this brings (“[The price of success](#)”, March 15th). Universities should instead be paid for their output, for helping their graduates get into high-paying careers. As Milton Friedman once suggested, in place of debt-funded tuition fees universities should instead receive a percentage of their graduates’ earnings. This would properly align the interests of the university with the student over the long term.

Peter Ainsworth

London

Here's the rap

SIR – To suggest that “Perhaps Jay-Z should be offered a guest lectureship at Stanford Business School” is not as odd as you think (“[The art of the struggle](#)”, March 15th). He is a successful entrepreneur and investor, partly owning or founding businesses such as the 40/40 Club, Rocawear, Roc-A-Fella Records and Roc Nation Sports. And he made his millions from scratch. The harder thing would be to convince Jay-Z to teach.

Anup Karath Nair

Glasgow

Not wild about mild

SIR – I’m sure I speak for many readers of your newspaper when I commend you on the disappearance of your all-too-frequent mantra that Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s government in Turkey is “mildly Islamic” (“[Anatolia mostly loves Erdogan](#)”, March 8th).

But the void can readily be filled by a substitute: “harshly authoritarian”, perhaps, or “mildly totalitarian”.

Morton Keller

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Just so story



* SIR – Living close by to crocodiles and hippos, I must point out that a real depiction of them as crony capitalists (Cover, March 15th) would have them doing nothing but lying around all day in pools of water, exploiting the sunshine freely given to them. The crocodile is personally abstemious, consuming only once a month; the hippo rips off only grass growing gratis on the shore.

I cannot vouch for the wolf, except to say that he probably fears and avoids the two-legged men mentioned in your article (“[Planet Plutocrat](#)”, March 15th).

Margaret Titlestad

Mtunzini, South Africa

* Letter appears online only

[From the print edition: Letters](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/letters/21600084-russia-brazil-guns-policing-taiwan-infrastructure-college-fees-jay-z-turkey>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

Petrobras

Two heads are worse than one

Brazil's state-controlled energy giant, under Maria das Graças Foster, is paying dearly for meddling by Dilma Rousseff's government

DATA: 2014.04.05



“UNIQUE.” That is how Credit Suisse, a bank, sums up Petrobras. It has a point. Most companies' stocks would sag on the sort of news Brazil's oil giant has faced in the past three weeks. A federal investigation was opened, into alleged backhanders paid to its employees by a Dutch company in exchange for oil-platform and drilling contracts. (Both companies deny the allegations.) A parliamentary inquiry is imminent, into the purchase in 2006 of a refinery in Texas which cost \$1.2 billion but is now worth no more than \$180m. A former director has been arrested in a money-laundering probe. If that were not enough, on March 24th Standard & Poor's, a ratings agency, downgraded its corporate debt. Yet Petrobras's shares have risen by 30%.

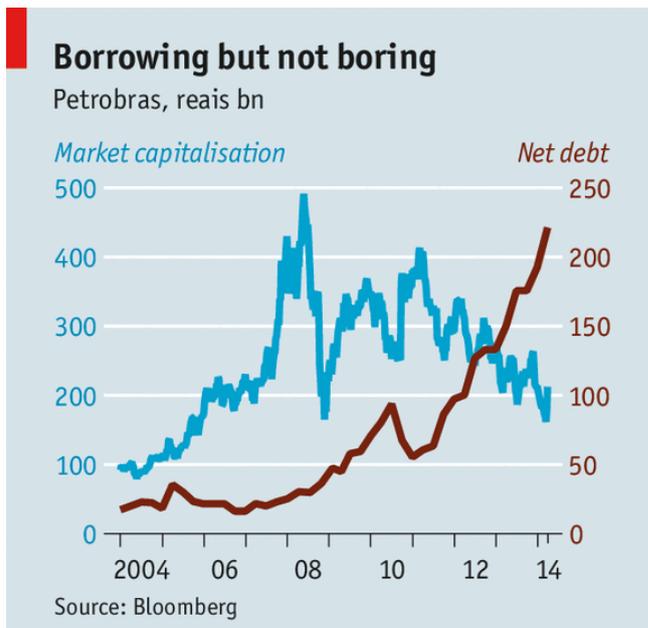
The reason for this seemingly irrational exuberance is that investors consider Petrobras's prospects to be inversely linked to those of Brazil's government, led by the president, Dilma Rousseff. The rally began with rumours (later proved premature) that Ms Rousseff's poll lead over her likeliest challengers in a presidential election this October was dwindling. The government owns a majority stake in the company and makes most of the strategic decisions over the head of Maria das Graças Foster, the chief executive.

These, the market feels, have been disastrous. The company is required by law to hire and buy parts from an inchoate local oil-services sector, leading to delays and cost overruns. It was told to build unviable refineries in the poor north-east to promote regional development. It is also the only principal operator allowed in vast, ultra-deep *pré-sal* (beneath the salt) fields discovered in 2006 off Brazil's coast. This monopoly is a curse as well as a blessing: Petrobras is obliged to devote resources to the *pré-sal* that might be better employed elsewhere. Despite debt-fuelled investment of roughly \$40 billion a year, production has flatlined at around 2m barrels a day (b/d) in the past three years.

Most damaging, says Adriano Pires, an energy consultant in Rio de Janeiro, “Petrobras is being misused as a tool of macroeconomic as well as industrial policy.” Since 2006 the government has capped petrol prices to curb inflation. Unable to meet rising domestic demand with what it produces, the company has to import petrol and diesel, which it must then sell at a loss. This has cost it an estimated 48 billion reais

(\$21 billion) in the past three years alone—and makes Ms Foster possibly the only oil boss in the world praying for lower petrol prices.

All this has left Petrobras overstretched and underperforming. It is the least profitable of the world's big oil firms, reckons Credit Suisse. Its market value has fallen by almost half, from 405 billion reais shortly after a public share issue in 2010 to 209 billion reais today (see chart).



Hopes that Ms Foster, a career engineer and chum of Ms Rousseff's, would turn the company around have proved forlorn. Widely regarded as clever and honest, she has done plenty of things right since taking the helm two years ago. The recent scandals pertain to events that predate her tenure. She replaced a management team dominated by political appointees with abler experts and returned some resources to maintaining mature fields, whose output suffered as attention turned to the *pré-sal*. She has also trimmed costs.

But Ms Foster's "rough and authoritarian" manner has alienated the ranks and stifled critical thinking, says a former executive who used to work with her. With little room for cost-cutting in the heavily unionised, 86,000-strong workforce, she has tightened the screw on suppliers. "She is killing the supply chain," laments the boss of a struggling medium-sized firm. Even small contractual claims can now take up to a year to resolve. That not only chokes suppliers but undermines Petrobras's own operations, which rely on their products. It also contradicts the government's loud support for local industry, remarks this boss.

Ms Foster's main failure, however, was that she did not convince Ms Rousseff to let domestic petrol prices rise, says Wagner Freire, an oil expert and a retired director of Petrobras. Investors at first gave the untested Ms Foster the benefit of the doubt because they believed she had the president's ear. Last October she seemed close, announcing that a transparent new price formula would be put in place. But she had to backtrack after herself getting an earful from Ms Rousseff.

Still, João Castro Neves of Eurasia Group, a risk consultant, thinks that the situation has reached a critical juncture. Domestic petrol prices will have to go up, regardless of who wins the election, he says, “as a matter of necessity, if not conviction”. Congress is rumoured to be considering the easing of local-content and lead-operator requirements in the *pré-sal*. If this happens foreign oil companies are likely to pile in, boosting the domestic industry which will cater to them. Mr Castro Neves believes the auction last year for the right to tap the Librapré-sal field, which raked in \$15 billion from a consortium of European and Chinese firms, was the last big concession deal on the old, stingier terms.

Petrobras has a lot going for it. It boasts reserves equivalent to 17 billion barrels, not counting the potential *pré-sal* riches which could be the world’s biggest. Last year it managed to install nine platforms at sea, a remarkable achievement, says Cristian Silva of Gaia Partners, an oil-services firm. Its *pré-sal* wells now pump 400,000 b/d, up from 70,000 b/d two years ago. In finding oil and getting it out of the ground, Petrobras is the second-most-lucrative among the oil giants, according to Credit Suisse. Investors still harbour hopes that it can reach its goal of doubling production to 4.2m b/d by 2020 (the company expects a 7.5% rise this year). An \$8 billion debt issue in March was three times oversubscribed. Despite the ratings stumble, Petrobras retains investment grade.

Petrobras is unlikely ever to be a normal company. But with less political meddling it could be profitably unusual—perhaps even unusually profitable.

[From the print edition: Business](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/business/21600123-brazils-state-controlled-energy-giant-under-maria-das-gra-foster-paying-dearly>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

Chinese lending to Latin America

Flexible friends

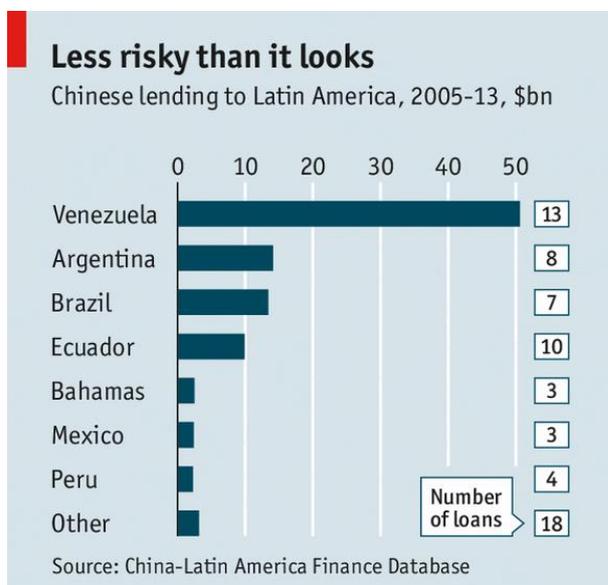
China lends disproportionately to countries that lack other options

DATA: 2014.04.12

THE rise of China has changed every region. But it has reinforced patterns, too. China’s demand for commodities has entrenched Latin America’s position as a supplier of raw materials. The country guzzles oil from Venezuela and Ecuador, copper from Chile, soyabeans from Argentina, and iron ore from Brazil—with which it signed a corn-import deal on April 8th.

Chinese lending to the region also has a strong flavour of natural resources. Data are patchy, but according to new figures from the China-Latin America Finance Database, a joint effort between the Inter-American Dialogue, a think-tank, and Boston University, China committed almost \$100 billion to Latin America between 2005 and 2013 (see chart). The biggest dollops by far have come from the China

Development Bank (CDB). These sums are meaningful. Chinese lenders committed some \$15 billion last year; the World Bank \$5.2 billion in fiscal year 2013; foreign commercial banks lent an estimated \$17 billion.



More than half of China's lending to Latin America has been swallowed by Venezuela, which pays much of the loan back from the proceeds of long-term oil sales to China. Ecuador has struck similar deals, as has Petrobras, Brazil's state-controlled oil firm, which negotiated a \$10 billion credit line from CDB in 2009.

Such loan-for-oil arrangements suit the Chinese, and not simply because they help secure long-term energy supplies. They also reduce the risk of lending to less creditworthy countries like Venezuela and Argentina. Money from oil sales is deposited in the oil firm's Chinese account, from where payments can be directly siphoned.

It is no surprise that Chinese money is welcome in places where financial markets are wary. Ecuador, which defaulted on its debts in 2008, has used Chinese loans both to fill in holes in its budget and to re-establish a record of repayment in advance of trying to tap bond markets again.

But Chinese credit has its attractions in other economies, too. It often makes sense for countries to diversify sources of lending. Loans can open the door to direct investment. And as Kevin Gallagher of Boston University points out, the Chinese banks operate in largely different sectors to the multilaterals. Of the money China has lent in the region since 2005, 85% has gone to infrastructure, energy and mining. Borrowers may have to spend a proportion of their loan on Chinese goods in return; some observers worry about the laxer environmental standards of Chinese banks. But the main thing is that money is available. Expect the loan figures to rise.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21600686-china-lends-disproportionately-countries-lack-other-options-flexible-friends>. Acesso em: 20 de ago. 2014.

Brazil's economy

The 50-year snooze

Brazilian workers are gloriously unproductive. For the economy to grow, they must snap out of their stupor

DATA: 2014.04.19

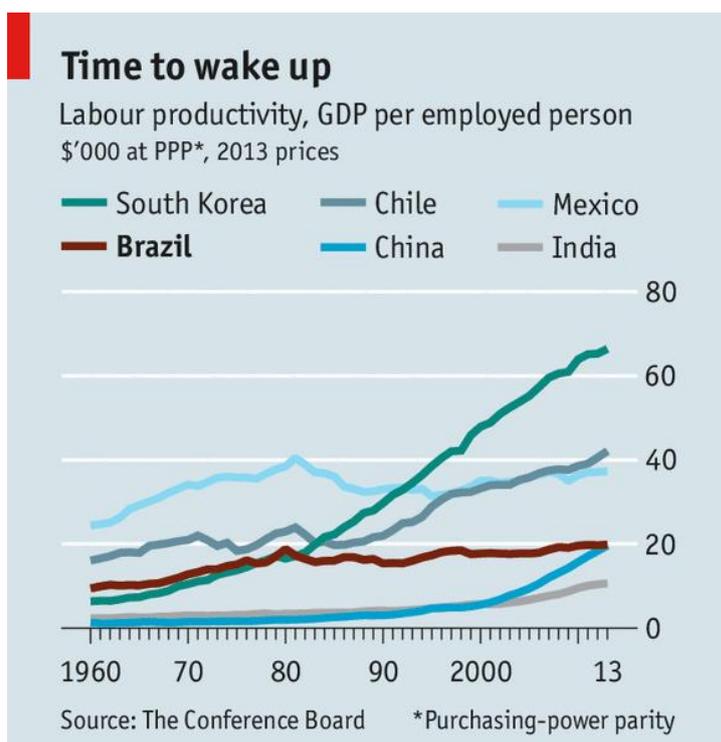


PECKISH revellers at Lollapalooza, a big music festival in São Paulo earlier this month, were in for a treat. In contrast to past years' menus of reheated hamburgers, they could plump for pulled pork, barbecue ribs or corn on the cob, courtesy of BOS BBQ, a Texan eatery in the city. More surprising than the fare, however, was the pace at which BOS's two tents dished it out. Over the course of two days the booths, each manned by six people, served 12,000 portions, or more than one every 15 seconds, boasts Blake Watkins, who runs the restaurant. Such efficiency is as welcome as it is uncommon. Neighbouring stands needed two to three minutes to serve each customer, leading to lengthy lines and rumbling stomachs.

"The moment you land in Brazil you start wasting time," laments Mr Watkins, who moved to the country three years ago after selling a fast-food business in New York. To be sure of having at least ten temporary workers at Lollapalooza, he hired 20 (sure enough, only half of them turned up). Lu Bonometti, who opened a cookie shop 18 months ago in a posh neighbourhood of São Paulo, has commissioned four different firms to fix her shop sign. None has come. Few cultures offer a better recipe for enjoying life. But the notion of opportunity cost seems lost on most Brazilians.

Apart from a brief spurt in the 1960s and 1970s, output per worker has either slipped or stagnated over the past half century, in contrast to most other big emerging economies (see chart). Total-factor productivity, which gauges the efficiency with which both capital and labour are used, is lower now

than it was in 1960. Labour productivity accounted for 40% of Brazil's GDP growth between 1990 and 2012, compared with 91% in China and 67% in India, according to McKinsey, a consultancy. The remainder came from an expansion of the workforce as a result of favourable demography, formalisation and low unemployment. This will slow to 1% a year in the next decade, says Mr Bonelli. If the economy is to grow any faster than its current pace of 2% or so a year, Brazilians will need to become more productive.



Economists trot out familiar reasons for the performance. Brazil invests just 2.2% of its GDP in infrastructure, well below the developing-world average of 5.1%. Of the 278,000 patents granted last year by the United States patent office, just 254 went to inventors from Brazil, which accounts for 3% of the world's output and people. Brazil's spending on education as a share of GDP has risen to rich-world levels, but quality has not, with pupils among the worst-performing in standardised tests. Mr Watkins complains that his 18-year-old barbecuers have the skills of 14-year-old Americans.

Less obviously, many Brazilian companies are unproductive because they are badly managed. John van Reenen of the London School of Economics found that although its best firms are just as well run as top-notch American and European ones, Brazil (like China and India) has a long, fat tail of highly inefficient ones.

Preferential tax treatment for firms with turnovers of no more than 3.6m reais (\$1.6m) has reeled many irregular enterprises into the formal economy. But it discourages companies from growing. And as big fish in areas like retail make efficiency gains they need fewer workers, who instead swell the shoals of less productive minnows. Many hire trusted kith or kin rather than a better-qualified stranger, to limit the risk of being robbed or sued by employees for flouting notoriously worker-friendly labour laws. The upshot is even more inefficiency.

Instead of collapsing, feeble firms plod on thanks to various forms of state protection, which shields them from competition. Protectionism weighs on productivity in other ways, too. Punitive high tariffs on imported technology—such as the whopping 80% cumulative tax slapped on foreign smartphones—make many productivity-enhancing gizmos prohibitively expensive, says José Scheinkman of Columbia University. Rather than buy cheaper and better products from abroad, firms have to pay over the odds for lower-quality local ones.

Historical evidence points to a solution, thinks Marcos Lisboa of Insper university. The period of catch-up in productivity growth began in the 1960s, following a bout of liberal reforms engendered by years of near-autarkic industrial policy. A smaller uptick in the early 2000s also followed liberalising measures, enacted a decade before to stave off hyperinflation. Success notwithstanding, both the military dictatorship of 1964-85 and the leftist Workers' Party, which has held the presidency since 2003, soon reverted to interventionist type. Recently this has meant local-content requirements, subsidised fuel and electricity, and overweening regulation. Productivity has duly sputtered.

Mr Lisboa highlights two salutary examples from recent years. Agriculture was deregulated in 1990, allowed to consolidate and gain access to foreign machines, fertiliser and pesticides. A few years later, financial services enjoyed far-reaching institutional reforms to boost the supply of credit and bolster capital markets. Both were left in peace—and became roughly 4% more efficient each year in the decade that followed. Brazilian soyabean producers are now the envy of the world. Mr Watkins, the restaurateur, praises the banking system as something that works more quickly in Brazil than it does in the United States.

Regulation is always hard to unwind, Mr Lisboa concedes. But if Brazil is to grow beyond 2020, when the working-age population will begin to decline as a share of the total, it will have to tackle its productivity problem. Until it does so, it risks falling into an ever deeper slumber.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21600983-brazilian-workers-are-gloriously-unproductive-economy-grow-they-must-snap-out>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Water in Brazil

Nor any drop to drink

Dry weather and a growing population spell rationing

DATA: 2014.04.26

BRAZIL has the world's biggest reserves of fresh water. That most of it sits in the sparsely populated Amazon has not historically stopped Brazilians in the drier, more populous south taking it for granted.

No longer. Landlords in São Paulo, who are wont to hose down pavements with gallons of potable water, have taken to using brooms instead. Notices in lifts and on the metro implore *paulistanos* to take shorter showers and re-use coffee mugs.

São Paulo state, home to one-fifth of Brazil's population and one-third of its economic activity, is suffering the worst drought since records began in 1930. Pitiful rainfall and high rates of evaporation in scorching heat have caused the volume of water stored in the Cantareira system of reservoirs, which supplies 10m people, to dip below 12% of capacity. This time last year, at the end of what is nominally the wet season, it stood at 64%.



On April 21st the governor, Geraldo Alckmin, warned that from May consumers will be fined for increasing their water use. Those who cut consumption are already rewarded with discounts on their bills. The city will tap three basins supplying other parts of the state, but since these reservoirs have also been hit by drought and supply hydropower plants, fears of blackouts are rising.

Without a downpour, Sabesp, the state water utility, expects Cantareira's levels to sink beneath the pipes which link reservoirs to consumers a week after São Paulo hosts the opening game of the football World Cup on June 12th. To tide the city over until rains resume in November, it is installing kit to pump half of the 400 billion litres of reserves beneath the pipes, at a cost of 80m reais (\$36m). The company says this "dead volume", never before used, is perfectly treatable. Some experts have expressed concerns about its quality.

Mr Alckmin has not ruled out tightening the spigots. Flow from taps in parts of São Paulo has already become a trickle, for which Sabesp blames maintenance work. Widespread cuts could hurt the governor's re-election bid in October. Hours after he announced the latest measures, a thirsty mob set fire to a bus.

Paulistanos use more water than most Brazilians, but lose less of it to leaks: 35%, compared with a national average of 39%. Sabesp, listed on the New York Stock Exchange but majority-owned by the state government, is a paragon of good governance, says John Briscoe, a water expert at Harvard and a former head of the World Bank mission in Brazil.

The problem exposed by the drought is that supply has not kept pace with the rising urban population. Facing a jumble of overlapping municipal, state and federal regulations, investment in storage, distribution and treatment has lagged behind. And not just in São Paulo; the national water regulator has warned that 16 projects in the ten biggest cities must be completed by 2015 to prevent chronic water shortages over the next decade. So far only five are finished; work on some has not begun. Short-term measures should keep the water trickling for now. But the well of temporary solutions will eventually run dry.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21601280-dry-weather-and-growing-population-spell-rationing-nor-any-drop-drink>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

The weakened West

What would America fight for?

A nagging doubt is eating away at the world order—and the superpower is largely ignoring it

DATA: 2014.05.03



“WHY is it that everybody is so eager to use military force?” America’s cerebral president betrayed a rare flash of frustration on April 28th when dealing with a question in Asia about his country’s

“weakness”. Barack Obama said his administration was making steady, if unspectacular, progress. By blundering into wars, his critics would only harm America.

Mr Obama was channelling the mood of his people, worn out by the blood and treasure squandered in Iraq and Afghanistan. A survey last autumn by the Pew Research Centre suggests that 52% want the United States to “mind its own business internationally”, the highest figure in five decades of polling. But when America’s president speaks of due caution, the world hears reluctance—especially when it comes to the most basic issue for any superpower, its willingness to fight.

For America’s most exposed allies that is now in doubt (see [article](#)). For decades, America’s security guarantee used to underpin Japan’s foreign policy; now, on his Asian tour, Mr Obama has had to reassure Japan that it can count on America if China seizes the disputed Senkaku islands (which China calls the Diaoyus). After his tepid backing for intervention in Libya and Mali and his Syrian climbdown, Israel, Saudi Arabia and a string of Gulf emirates wonder whether America will police the Middle East. As Vladimir Putin, Russia’s president, disrupts Ukraine, eastern Europeans fret that they are next.

Each situation is different, but in the echo-chamber of global politics they reinforce each other. The Asians note that in 1994, in exchange for surrendering nuclear weapons, Ukraine received a guarantee from Russia, America and Britain that its borders were safe. The Baltic countries remember the red lines crossed in Syria. Arab princes and Chinese ambassadors count the Republican senators embracing isolationism. Together, these retreats plant a nagging suspicion among friends and foes that on the big day America simply might not turn up.

A poisonous root

Admittedly, deterrence always has some element of doubt. Between the certainty that any president will defend America’s own territory and the strong belief that America would not fight Russia over Ukraine lies an infinite combination of possibilities. A lot depends on how each incident unfolds. But doubt has spread quickly in that middle ground—and it risks making the world a more dangerous, nastier place.

Already, regional powers are keener to dominate their neighbours. China is pressing its territorial claims more aggressively, Russia interfering more brazenly. In 2013 Asia outspent Europe on arms for the first time—a sign that countries calculate they will have to stand up for themselves. If Mr Obama cannot forge a deal with Iran, the nightmare of nuclear proliferation awaits the Middle East. Crucially, doubt feeds on itself. If next door is arming and the superpower may not send gunboats, then you had better arm, too. For every leader deploring Mr Putin’s tactics, another is studying how to copy them.

Such mind games in the badlands of eastern Ukraine and the South China Sea may feel far away from Toledo or Turin. But the West will also end up paying dearly for the fraying of the global order. International norms, such as freedom of navigation, will be weakened. Majorities will feel freer to abuse minorities, who in turn may flee. Global public goods, such as free trade and lower cross-border pollution, will be harder to sustain. Global institutions will be less pliable. Americans understandably chafe at the ingratitude of a world that freeloads on the economic, diplomatic and military might of the United States. But Americans themselves also enjoy the exorbitant privilege of operating in a system that, broadly, suits them.

A hegemon’s headaches

The critics who pin all the blame on Mr Obama are wrong. It was not he who sent troops into the credibility-sapping streets of Baghdad. More important, America could never sustain the extraordinary heights of global dominance it attained with the collapse of the Soviet Union. As China grew into a giant, it was bound to want a greater say. And the president has often made the right call: nobody thinks he should have sent troops to Crimea, despite the breaking of the 1994 agreement.

Yet Mr Obama has still made a difficult situation worse in two ways. First, he has broken the cardinal rule of superpower deterrence: you must keep your word. In Syria he drew “a red line”: he would punish Bashar Assad if he used chemical weapons. The Syrian dictator did, and Mr Obama did nothing. In response to Russia’s aggression, he threatened fierce sanctions, only to unveil underwhelming ones. He had his reasons: Britain let him down on Syria, Europe needs Russian gas, Congress is nervous. But the cumulative message is weakness.

Second, Mr Obama has been an inattentive friend. He has put his faith in diplomatic coalitions of willing, like-minded democracies to police the international system. That makes sense, but he has failed to build the coalitions. And using diplomacy to deal with the awkward squad, such as Iran and Russia, leads to concessions that worry America’s allies. Credibility is about reassurance as well as the use of force.

Credibility is also easily lost and hard to rebuild. On the plus side, the weakened West, as we dubbed it after the Syrian debacle, is still stronger than it thinks. America towers above all others in military spending and experience (see [article](#)). Unlike China and Russia, it has an unrivalled—and growing—network of alliances. In the past few years Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam and the Philippines have all moved towards it, seeking protection from China. And events can sway perceptions. Back in 1991 George Bush senior’s pounding of Saddam Hussein vanquished talk of America’s “Vietnam syndrome”.

But there will be no vanquishing as long as the West is so careless of what it is losing. Europeans think they can enjoy American security without paying for it. Emerging-world democracies like India and Brazil do even less to buttress the system that they depend on. America is preoccupied with avoiding foreign entanglements. Mr Obama began his presidency with the world wondering how to tame America. Both he and his country need to realise that the question has changed.

[From the print edition: Leaders](#)

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Bello

The post-imperial void

The United States’ relationship with Latin America suffers from a policy vacuum

DATA: 2014.05.10



FIFTEEN years ago, if a soothsayer had said that the United States would find itself in a minority of three (with Canada and Panama) in an important vote at the 34-member Organisation of American States (OAS), he would have been accused of magical realism. Yet that is what happened in March when the OAS agreed that its debate about repression in Venezuela should be held *in camera*. Given that Latin America was long seen as the *Yanqui* “backyard”, and given that the United States is still its biggest trade partner, the administration’s apparent loss of leverage there is startling.

The reasons behind this are complex. Some are conjunctural. Whereas other countries “send good diplomats to the OAS, the US doesn’t”, a Latin American official notes. Venezuela’s far-left government wants no truck with the OAS, which—ironically—it considers a tool of American imperialism. Petrocaribe, its programme of subsidised-oil shipments, has bought it the gratitude and votes of 15 small countries in the Caribbean and Central America. The damage done to Washington’s relations with Brazil by Edward Snowden’s revelation last September that the National Security Agency listened to the mobile phone of President Dilma Rousseff is still not fully repaired.

But there are also some weightier reasons for the United States’ relative loss of influence in the region. On the one hand faster economic growth, social progress and stronger democracies have made many Latin American countries more self-confident and independent in outlook—something that is welcomed in the White House. On the other China has turned up, as a big trading partner, investor and aid donor. The Chinese chequebook is helping to keep anti-American governments in power in Ecuador and Cuba, as well as in Venezuela.

What should Washington do about all this? Some in Congress would like to wield the big stick. Republicans such as Senator Marco Rubio of Florida accuse the administration of paying too little attention to Latin America and of being insufficiently robust in supporting the Venezuelan opposition. Together with Bob Menendez, a Democrat who, like Mr Rubio, is of Cuban descent, he has introduced a motion calling for targeted sanctions against Venezuelan officials. Others would say that the last thing the United States should do if it wants to recover influence in the region is to replicate the sanctions that for 54 years have failed to topple the Castros in Cuba.

“We’re determined to avoid bilateralising this”, a senior administration official says of the Venezuelan imbroglio. Instead, the administration is quietly encouraged that Brazil and the Union of South American Nations (Unasur) have moved from solidarity with Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela’s president, to intervening to organise talks between government and opposition. But officials also caution that there is no guarantee that Mr Maduro can or will take the minimum steps—such as freeing political prisoners

and achieving bipartisan renewal of the Supreme Court and electoral authority—required to restore calm and uphold democracy.

Barack Obama has stressed the Americas' common interests, values and heritage and talked much of "partnership". This embrace of multilateralism is welcomed in the region. But to be effective, it would help if there were one or two policies. The administration's inability to get immigration reform through Congress is a source of continuing irritation in Mexico and Central America. The fervour may have gone from the drug war but those countries continue to suffer from the failure of drug prohibition.

The most pressing policy vacuum concerns energy—or rather its lack in the small and vulnerable countries of the Caribbean basin. With its economy in a mess, Venezuela is likely to tighten Petrocaribe's terms. The United States may soon be in a position to export natural gas—but it doesn't do subsidies. So some creative thinking is swiftly needed, about emergency financing and technical help with wind, solar or geothermal power. Otherwise the Caribbean may see fuel riots—or China may step in to create neo-colonies on America's doorstep. "I don't know that we have an answer yet," says another senior official.

One of the region's ambassadors to Washington declares bluntly that "Latin America doesn't exist in US foreign policy." That is mainly because there are more urgent problems and priorities elsewhere in the world. Neglect is often benign. But not always. To adapt Dean Acheson's comment about Britain after the second world war, the United States has lost an informal empire in Latin America but has yet to find a role.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

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The campaign in Brazil

The president and the pretenders

Dilma Rousseff's rivals are gaining ground

DATA: 2014.05.10



EVEN after huge nationwide protests last June, when millions of Brazilians took to the streets to vent anger at ineffectual politicians, President Dilma Rousseff's approval rating never dipped below 45%—and then rebounded. And even though more Brazilians tell pollsters they want “change” rather than “continuity”, few pundits expect Ms Rousseff's Workers' Party (PT) to be booted out in October's presidential election after 12 years in power. But an upset may be on the cards.

Around 48% of Brazilians now approve of the president, down from roughly 55% in February. Her fall in popularity is at last beginning to translate into support for her two main rivals: Aécio Neves (pictured left), a senator who heads the Party of Brazilian Social Democracy (PSDB), and Eduardo Campos (pictured right), leader of the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB). They continue to trail Ms Rousseff but the gap has narrowed, especially with Mr Neves. He is now just ten points behind the president if it were a straight second-round race, down from 23 points two months ago.

As voters learn more about the anti-Dilma duo—both are still little-known outside their home states—they will spot some uncanny parallels. At 54 and 48, respectively, Mr Neves and Mr Campos are younger than Ms Rousseff, who is 66, and belong to a generation of Brazilian politicians who came of age after the end of the military dictatorship in 1985. Both are scions of political dynasties; each cut his teeth as an aide to a prominent grandfather. (Tancredo Neves was the first president elected after army rule but died before taking office; Miguel Arraes, Mr Campos's forebear, ruled Pernambuco before and after the junta.)

Both are trained economists. Both served stints as congressmen, then went on to become successful governors. In 2003-10 Mr Neves turned Minas Gerais, Brazil's second-most-populous state, from a basket case into one of the country's best-run states. His “management shock”, carried out by a team of able technocrats, involved cutting costs, boosting tax revenues, setting performance targets, capping public-sector pay and leaving 3,000 jobs unfilled rather than handing them over to political placemen. Poverty fell faster than in Brazil as a whole; the state now boasts the country's best-performing pupils. Mr Campos emulated this approach in Pernambuco, in Brazil's poor north-east, with equally impressive results from 2007 until last month, when he stepped down to focus on his candidacy. Both faced down unions opposed to reforms and were re-elected by big margins.

Small wonder, then, that Mr Neves and Mr Campos see eye to eye in many areas, especially on the economy. Armínio Fraga, an admired former central banker who is Mr Neves's chief economic adviser, bashes Ms Rousseff for too little macroeconomic discipline (swelling budget deficits, persistently high inflation) and too much microeconomic intervention (suppressed petrol and electricity prices, subsidised

credit from state-controlled banks). Eduardo Giannetti, a professor at Insper business school who is close to Mr Campos, recites the same criticisms nearly word for word.

Businessmen and bankers come out of meetings with both men purring. Both want to grant independence to the central bank, simplify Brazil's convoluted tax system, slash the number of ministries (which has ballooned from 26 to 39 under PT rule), and do more to drum up private investment in much-needed infrastructure.

But many see Mr Neves as a better bet than the PSB leader, whose party's bylaws still call for "common ownership of the means of production". João Doria Jr, an entrepreneur and founder of Lide, an employers' federation, which invited both men to a powwow in Bahia earlier this month, says that Mr Neves has so far been "more assertive" in articulating his market-friendliness, citing proposals such as a six-month deadline for tax reform.

Racing uncertainty

Mr Neves's talk of "unpopular measures" is honeyed by an affable manner, mischievous grin and fun-loving image. But it still leaves him open to charges of elitism. To mitigate that same risk to his campaign, Mr Campos has forged an electoral alliance with Marina Silva, a popular former senator and environmentalist who came third in the presidential race of 2010.

João Castro Neves (no relation) of Eurasia Group, a political consultancy, thinks that Mr Campos and Ms Silva will strive to portray themselves as the true heirs of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Ms Rousseff's mentor and predecessor. Lula enjoys sainted status among Brazil's poor thanks to the generous cash-transfer programmes he introduced, but also earned grudging respect from the markets for not reversing economic reforms under the previous PSDB government of Fernando Henrique Cardoso, president from 1994 to 2002. Mr Campos and Ms Silva, who held the science and environment portfolios respectively during Lula's first term, will claim that Ms Rousseff has wasted this progressive legacy.

Mr Campos is also banking on Ms Silva's presence as his running-mate to attract growing ranks of her fellow evangelicals, as well as better-educated, wealthier Brazilians, especially in big southern cities like São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, where the PSB is weak. But her—and her base's—principled opposition to relaxing the onerous environmental-licensing regime scares employers. In private, businessmen cite the "Marina factor" as a concern.

Another is the strength of Mr Campos's team. He surrounds himself with north-eastern business folk and can apparently count on the support of the Setúbal family, the clan behind Itaú, a big bank. He also inherited two top-notch economists from Ms Silva: Mr Giannetti and André Lara Resende, who helped vanquish hyperinflation 20 years ago. But neither has shown much interest in joining a potential Campos cabinet. Mr Neves, by contrast, has a crack team ready to take the reins, many with hands-on policymaking experience in the Cardoso administration.

That, combined with Mr Neves's ideological clarity and strong party structures in the biggest states, puts him in better stead to challenge Ms Rousseff, reckons Alberto Almeida, a psephologist at Instituto Análise, another consultancy. Ms Rousseff remains the favourite to win. Unemployment is at historic lows and disposable incomes are unlikely to slide between now and October (although the possibility of protests at the World Cup may provide a focus for discontent). She will enjoy more free TV time than Messrs Neves and Campos put together. But she is in a fight.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21601828-dilma-rousseffs-rivals-are-gaining-ground-president-and-pretenders>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

The World Cup

Pitch imperfect

They think it's all over budget

DATA: 2014.05.17

FOOTBALL'S World Cup was meant to display Brazil's coming-of-age as a global player. Instead, the preparations have illustrated the improvisation for which the country is nearly as famous as its footballers. With less than a month to go, organisers are scrambling to get everything ready. A swanky new terminal opened at Guarulhos Airport in São Paulo on May 11th. But just eight airlines will be operating there next month, not 25 as planned. Chunks of the airport in Belo Horizonte, another host city, are wrapped in scaffolding and sprinkled with dust—and will remain so well after the tournament ends in July.



Unfinished work at Arena Corinthians stadium in São Paulo means only 40,000 fans will attend a pre-tournament test game on May 18th, well shy of the 68,000 expected at the opening match on June 12th. The media centre at the stadium in Curitiba won't be ready for the event; journalists will slum it in a tent.

Red tape and overlapping federal, state and municipal fiefs have snarled projects. Jérôme Valcke, secretary-general of FIFA, football's governing body, has described dealing with Brazilian authorities as "hell". Eight construction workers have died in accidents, six more than in South Africa four years ago. FIFA insists stadiums will be ready when fans start pouring in. But delays have left little time to install and test telecommunications kit, prompting worries over patchy television and radio transmission.

Cost overruns, partly blamed on alleged price-gouging, mean that, measured by the cost of a seat, Brazil now boasts ten of the world's 20 most expensive football venues, according to KPMG, a consultancy. The whitest of these elephants, in Brasília, may end up consuming 2 billion reais (\$900m), nearly triple the initial estimate. After the Cup it is unlikely ever to draw capacity crowds again, as the city lacks a good league side.

A promised public-works bonanza has not materialised. Brazil's government insisted on staging games in 12 cities, rather than the required eight, in order to spread the benefits across the country. It succeeded only in spreading itself thin. Just five of 35 planned urban-mobility schemes are complete. Fans will use buses or taxis to get to most city centres.

Support for hosting the World Cup has fallen sharply, from 79% after it was awarded to Brazil in 2007 to 48% now, according to Datafolha, a pollster. Given Brazilians' love of football and knack for making merry, the tournament is almost certain to be a blast. But the legacy has been left in the changing-rooms.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21602214-they-think-its-all-over-budget-pitch-imperfect>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Protest in Brazil

Cheering for Argentina

The protest movement that shook Brazil last year has not died. But it is unlikely to disrupt the World Cup

DATA: 2014.05.31



WITH a university degree and a flat in a smart neighbourhood of São Paulo, Ernesto Filho, a 33-year-old choreographer and dancer, is not your average Brazilian. He is, however, typical of the 1m people who took to the streets 12 months ago, in the greatest social unrest Brazil has seen in two decades.

The protests began on June 6th last year, with a small rally against a rise in São Paulo bus fares of 20 centavos (at the time, nine American cents). Over two weeks they morphed into a nationwide outpouring of dismay at shoddy public services, corruption, the cost of living, ineffectual government and much else. Since then politicians and pundits have been analysing the events, which unfolded as Brazil hosted the Confederations Cup, a warm-up tournament for the football World Cup that begins on June 12th—and trying to work out whether they should brace for a replay.

For now the betting is against another round of mass demonstrations.

Among *paulistanos* support for them has dropped from 89% at the end of June 2013 to just 52% now, according to Datafolha, a pollster. That shift reflects the changing profile of the protesters, says Christopher Garman of Eurasia Group, a risk-analysis firm.

Research has found that an overwhelming majority of those who took part in the first big protests were, like Mr Filho, under 35, university-educated or students, and protest novices rather than hardened activists. Most had little sympathy for established political parties. They were also better off than average. Normally a quiet bunch, this middle class rose up at first in response to brutal repression of the bus-fare crowd by ill-trained police. Images of journalists wounded by rubber bullets and innocent bystanders choked by tear gas prompted Brazil's conservative press, which had called for a crackdown on public disorder, to perform an about-turn.

The authorities' reaction, Mr Garman explains, inadvertently helped to reshape the protests. Policemen were told to restrain themselves; seeing their popularity plummet, mayors around the country rushed to reverse bus-fare rises. This galvanised organised social movements with traditional agendas and, often, links to political parties, to occupy the space left open by the retreating riot police. Violent elements such as "Black Blocs", an anarchist group, moved in as well.

The fire last time

In the year since, the protests have become more overtly political, and more extreme—putting off moderates such as Mr Filho who had at first bulked them out. Again, the authorities have been partly

responsible. After the initial panic, little changed. Talk of a constituent assembly, for example—an idea floated by President Dilma Rousseff in response to calls for political reform—came to nothing.

That convinced Black Blocs of the futility of peaceful protest, says Esther Solano of the Federal University of São Paulo. In February a cameraman covering a protest in Rio de Janeiro died after being struck by a firework set off by two of the group's members. Violence and the presence of 100,000 policemen and 57,000 soldiers enlisted to keep the peace during the football championship are likely to deter many middle-class protesters.

None of which means the tournament will be entirely protest-free. On May 27th 2,500 indigenous and other militants confronted the police in Brasília, the capital. A few days earlier, in São Paulo, at least 15,000 homeless people blocked one of the city's main thoroughfares at rush hour, clogging already congested streets in the biggest single protest since last June. Guilherme Boulos, a leader of the protesters, says he was encouraged by last year's bus-fare reversals; his main demand now is for City Hall formally to hand over property that the protesters are occupying illegally. A huge rally to commemorate the bus-fare triumph is planned for June 19th, this time to agitate for a bigger prize: universal free public transport.

These demands are either too narrow or too radical to impress most Brazilians, who are consequently less willing to tolerate the considerable inconvenience caused by those who make them. At the same time, politicians are less likely to bow to activists' whims if these are not backed by an outraged citizenry.

Bruno Torturra of *Mídia Ninja*, an activist news outlet, thinks the scale of World Cup protests will depend on how well the event is run, as well as on the performance of Brazil's team on the pitch. Support for the tournament has already plummeted from 79% in 2007 to 48%. Should the national team be eliminated early, Mr Torturra reckons, more Brazilians are bound to question the extravagant expense, which the government puts at 25.8 billion reais (\$11.5 billion), spending that has not yielded the promised public infrastructure. "Social movements are quietly cheering for Brazil to lose," remarks one activist, "even to arch-rival Argentina."

But, given both skill and home advantage, the odds are that the Brazilian team will do well. And there are other reasons why unrest is unlikely to spiral. Last year's protests took everyone by surprise. That is no longer true. Security forces will be careful not to repeat the excesses of last June; 13,000 police officers have received special training in facing down troublemakers without undue violence. The social movements, for their part, will also tread carefully. Many have a bone to pick with Ms Rousseff's Workers' Party. But they are far less keen on her centre-right rivals in the presidential poll this October, who would use any upheaval to score electoral points.

Last June was a dress rehearsal for the World Cup and, for the politicians, a warm-up for arguments at the presidential election. This year there is more at stake, both for them and for Brazil's reputation. Not wanting to be tainted by association with the radicals, and fearful for their own safety, Mr Filho and many like him plan to play safe, and stay at home.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

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Football

Beautiful game, dirty business

Football is a great sport, but it could be so much better if it were run honestly

DATA: 2014.06.07



THE mesmerising wizardry of Lionel Messi and the muscular grace of Cristiano Ronaldo are joys to behold. But for deep-dyed internationalists like this newspaper, the game's true beauty lies in its long reach, from east to west and north to south. Football, more than any other sport, has thrived on globalisation. Nearly half of humanity will watch at least part of the World Cup, which kicks off in Brazil on June 12th.

So it is sad that the tournament begins under a cloud as big as the Maracanã stadium. Documents obtained by Britain's *Sunday Times* have allegedly revealed secret payments that helped Qatar win the hosting rights to the World Cup in 2022 (see [article](#)). If that competition was fixed, it has company. A report by FIFA, football's governing body, is said to have found that several exhibition matches were rigged ahead of the World Cup in 2010. And as usual, no one has been punished.

This only prompts other questions. Why on earth did anyone think holding the World Cup in the middle of the Arabian summer was a good idea? Why is football so far behind other sports like rugby, cricket and tennis in using technology to doublecheck refereeing decisions? And why is the world's greatest game led by such a group of mediocrities, notably Sepp Blatter, FIFA's boss since 1998? In any other organisation, the endless financial scandals would have led to his ouster years ago. But more than that, he seems hopelessly out of date; from sexist remarks about women to interrupting a minute's silence for Nelson Mandela after only 11 seconds, the 78-year-old is the sort of dinosaur that left corporate boardrooms in the 1970s. Nor is it exactly heartening that the attempts to stop Mr Blatter enjoying a

fifth term are being led by Michel Platini, Europe's leading soccercrat, who was once a wonderful midfielder but played a woeful role in supporting the Qatar bid.

Our cheating rotten scoundrels are better than yours

Many football fans are indifferent to all this. What matters to them is the beautiful game, not the tired old suits who run it. And FIFA's moral turpitude is hardly unique. The International Olympic Committee, after all, faced a Qatar-like scandal over the awarding of the winter games in 2002 (though it has made a much bigger attempt to clean itself up). The boss of Formula One, Bernie Ecclestone, stands accused of bribery in Germany, while American basketball has just had to sack an owner for racist remarks. Cricket, the second-most-global sport, has had its own match-fixing scandals. American football could be overwhelmed by compensation claims for injuries.

But football fans are wrong to think there is no cost to all this. First, corruption and complacency at the top makes it harder to fight skulduggery on the pitch. Ever larger amounts of money are now being bet on each game—it may be \$1 billion a match at the World Cup. Under external pressure to reform, FIFA has recently brought in some good people, including a respected ethics tsar, Mark Pieth. But who will listen to lectures about reform from an outfit whose public face is Mr Blatter?

Second, big-time corruption isn't victimless; nor does it end when a host country is chosen. For shady regimes—the type that bribe football officials—a major sporting event is also a chance to defraud state coffers, for example by awarding fat contracts to cronies. Tournaments that ought to be national celebrations risk becoming festivals of graft.

Finally, there is a great opportunity cost. Football is not as global as it might be (see [article](#)). The game has failed to conquer the world's three biggest countries: China, India and America. In the United States soccer, as they call it, is played but not watched. In China and India the opposite is true. The latter two will not be playing in Brazil (indeed, they have played in the World Cup finals just once between them).

In FIFA's defence, the big three's reticence owes much to their respective histories and cultures and the strength of existing sports, notably cricket in India. And football is slowly gaining ground: in the United States the first cohort of American parents to grow up with the game are now passing it on to their children. But that only underlines the madness of FIFA giving the cup to Qatar, not America. And the foul air from FIFA's headquarters in Switzerland will hardly reassure young fans in China who are heartily sick of the corruption and match-fixing in their domestic soccer leagues.

A Seppless world

It would be good to get rid of Mr Blatter, but that would not solve FIFA's structural problem. Though legally incorporated as a Swiss non-profit organisation, FIFA has no master. Those who might hold it to account, such as national or regional football organisations, depend on its cash. High barriers to entry make it unlikely that a rival will emerge, so FIFA has a natural monopoly over international football. An entity like this should be regulated, but FIFA answers to no government.

All the same, more could be done. The Swiss should demand a clean-up or withdraw FIFA's favourable tax status. Sponsors should also weigh in on graft and on the need to push forward with new technology: an immediate video review of every penalty and goal awarded would be a start.

The hardest bit of the puzzle is the host-selection process. One option would be to stick the World Cup in one country and leave it there; but that nation's home team would have a big advantage, and tournaments benefit from moving between different time zones. An economically rational option would be to give this year's winner, and each successive champion, the option of either hosting the tournament in eight years' time or auctioning off that right to the highest bidder. That would favour football's powerhouses. But as most of them already have the stadiums, there would be less waste—and it would provide even more of an incentive to win.

Sadly, soccer fans are romantic nationalists, not logical economists—so our proposal stands less chance of winning than England does. One small step towards sanity would be formally to rotate the tournament, so it went, say, from Europe to Africa to Asia to the Americas, which would at least stop intercontinental corruption. But very little of this will happen without change at the top in Zurich.

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21603433-football-great-sport-it-could-be-so-much-better-if-it-were-run-honestly-beautiful-game>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

The Amazon rainforest

Cutting down on cutting down

How Brazil became the world leader in reducing environmental degradation

DATA: 2014.06.07



IN THE 1990s, when an area of Brazilian rainforest the size of Belgium was felled every year, Brazil was the world's environmental villain and the Amazonian jungle the image of everything that was going wrong in green places. Now, the Amazon ought to be the image of what is going right. Government figures show that deforestation fell by 70% in the Brazilian Amazon region during the past decade, from a ten-year average of 19,500 km² (7,500 square miles) per year in 2005 to 5,800 km² in 2013. If

clearances had continued at their rate in 2005, an extra 3.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide would have been put into the atmosphere. That is an amount equal to a year's emissions from the European Union. Arguably, then, Brazil is now the world leader in tackling climate change.

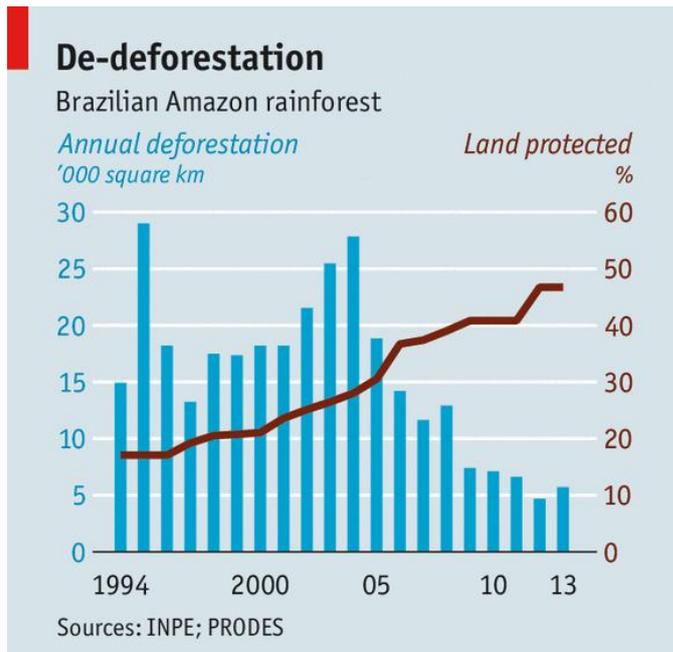
But how did it break the vicious cycle in which—it was widely expected—farmers and cattle ranchers (the main culprits in the Amazon) would make so much money from clearing the forest that they would go on cutting down trees until there were none left? After all, most other rainforest countries, such as Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have failed to stop the chainsaws. The answer, according to a paper just published in *Science* by Dan Nepstad of the Earth Innovation Institute in San Francisco, is that there was no silver bullet but instead a three-stage process in which bans, better governance in frontier areas and consumer pressure on companies worked, if fitfully and only after several false starts.

The first stage ran from the mid-1990s to 2004. This was when the government put its efforts into bans and restrictions. The Brazilian Forest Code said that, on every farm in the Amazon, 80% of the land had to be set aside as a forest reserve. As the study observes, this share was so high that the code could not be complied with—or enforced. This was the period of the worst deforestation. Soyabean prices were high and there was a vast expansion of soyabean farming and cattle ranching on the south-eastern fringe of the rainforest.

During the second stage, which ran from 2005 to 2009, the government tried to boost its ability to police the Amazon. Brazil's president, Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, made stopping deforestation a priority, which resulted in better co-operation between different bits of the government, especially the police and public prosecutors. The area in which farming was banned was increased from a sixth to nearly half of the forest.

Also, for the first time, restrictions were backed up by other things: a fall in export earnings from soyabeans because of a rise in Brazil's currency, the real; a sharp improvement in cattle breeding which meant farmers could raise more animals on fewer hectares; and a consumer boycott. After a campaign by Greenpeace and others, buyers of Brazilian soyabeans promised not to purchase crops planted on land cleared after July 2006. All of these combined to cause deforestation to plummet (see chart).

The third stage, which began in 2009, was a test of whether a regime of restrictions could survive as soyabean expansion resumed. The government shifted its focus from farms to counties (each state has scores of these). Farmers in the 36 counties with the worst deforestation rates were banned from getting cheap credit until those rates fell. The government also set up a proper land registry, requiring landowners to report their properties' boundaries to environmental regulators. There was a cattle boycott modelled on the soya one. And for the first time, there were rewards as well as punishments: an amnesty for illegal clearances before 2008 and money from a special \$1 billion Amazon Fund financed by foreign aid.



By any standards, Brazil's Amazon policy has been a triumph, made the more remarkable because it relied on restrictions rather than incentives, which might have been expected to have worked better. Over the period of the study, Brazil also turned itself into a farming superpower, so the country has shown it is possible to get a huge increase in food output without destroying the forest (though there was some deforestation at first). Still, as Dr Nepstad concedes, a policy of "thou-shalt-not" depends on political support at the top, which cannot be guaranteed. Moreover, the policies so far have been successful among commercial farmers and ranchers who care about the law and respond to market pressures; hence the effectiveness of boycotts. Most remaining deforestation is by smallholders who care rather less about these things, so the government faces the problem of persuading them to change their ways, too. Deforestation has been slowed, but not yet stopped.

[From the print edition: Science and technology](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21603409-how-brazil-became-world-leader-reducing-environmental-degradation-cutting>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Television in Brazil

Globo domination

Brazil's biggest media firm is flourishing with an old-fashioned business model

DATA: 2014.06.07



WHEN the football World Cup begins on June 12th in Brazil, tens of millions of Brazilians will watch the festivities on TV Globo, the country's largest broadcast network. But for Globo it will be just another day of vast audiences. No fewer than 91m people, just under half the population, tune in to it each day: the sort of audience that, in the United States, is to be had only once a year, and only for the one network that has won the rights that year to broadcast American football's Super Bowl championship game.

Globo is surely Brazil's most powerful company, given its reach into so many homes. Its nearest competitor in free-to-air television, Record, has an audience share of only about 13%. America's most popular broadcast network, CBS, has a mere 12% share of audience during prime time, and its main competitors have around 8%.

The company started in Rio de Janeiro with a newspaper, *O Globo*, in 1925, and was built by a visionary and long-lived media titan, Roberto Marinho, who died in 2003 at the age of 98. As it grew in the television age, Globo has arguably done as much as any politician to unite a vast and diverse country, from the Amazonian jungle to the heart of coffee-growing country, from wretched *favelas* on the urban periphery to the fancy boutiques of downtown Rio and São Paulo. Today it is controlled by Mr Marinho's three sons and towers over Brazil like Rio's Christ the Redeemer statue. It is the largest media company in Latin America, with revenues that reached 14.6 billion reais (\$6.3 billion) in 2013, having climbed impressively over the past decade. As a powerful, family-owned media firm, it looks like a local version of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, without the family drama.

Globo counts pay-TV stations, magazines, radio, film production and newspapers as part of its empire, but most of its profits come from its broadcast network, which airs salacious *telenovelas*, or soap operas, that are always the talk of Brazil. In richer countries the habit of "appointment viewing" has declined with the spread of digital video recorders, but Brazilians still tune in devoutly for the three *telenovelas* that run each evening, six days a week.

Globo airs Brazil's snazziest and freshest shows, yet its business model feels decidedly old-fashioned. Its programmes are filmed on its own vast studio lot, called Projac, nestled among forested mountains on the edge of Rio. Actors and writers are on contract, just as they were in the early days of Hollywood. Workers stitch lavish costumes and build intricate sets on site, like those of "Meu Pedacinho de Chão" ("My Little Patch of Land"), one of the current soaps, a fantastical tale about a small town seen through a child's eyes (pictured). The *telenovela* format can be adapted to audience feedback, and plots can be changed on the fly depending on what viewers like.

Globo executives obsess over the real-time audience figures streamed to their offices. "If ratings decline a tenth of a percent, you feel this building shake," one of them says. For advertisers wanting to get a message to a national audience, it is the obvious choice. Globo knows this, and is estimated to have raised its rates for prime-time spots by nearly 60% since 2010.

Setting the standard

Not everyone is comfortable with Globo's good fortune. Critics are unsettled by the firm's share of advertising and audience. It controls everything from Brazilians' access to news to the market rates for journalists' salaries. Even entertainment shows can be remarkably influential. "Salve Jorge", a recent soap set in Turkey, prompted hordes of Brazilians to take holidays there. Its programmes also shape the national culture. This year it aired what it believes was the first gay kiss on a broadcast network.

Elsewhere in Latin America big media companies are in the midst of real-life dramas. Argentina's Grupo Clarín is being carved up by the government, and Mexico is trying to make Televisa slim down. But Brazil's government is more docile towards media owners. It helps that the Marinhos tend to adapt to the political climate. Mr Marinho was a staunch supporter of the country's 1964-85 military dictatorship; today his sons live in a more liberal, democratic Brazil and stay out of the public eye. Last year they ran an apology for their father's politics in the "errors" section of *O Globo*.

Brazil does not have a tradition of sequels and prequels, and popular *telenovelas* are always killed off after a few months to make way for new ones ("Meu Pedacinho" is a rare remake). Likewise, for two decades people have predicted that Globo's heady success would come to an end as Brazilians look for entertainment elsewhere. So far it has defied them. Sir Martin Sorrell, the boss of WPP, an advertising firm, points out that, as in Japan, traditional media in Brazil are "like a fortress" and continue to hold strong in spite of the incursions of new entertainment sources.

Because Brazil has lagged media trends in rich countries, Globo has been able to watch foreign firms' mistakes "so we don't have to make them", says Roberto Irineu Marinho, the group's boss. But internet use has taken off in Brazil, and will alter consumers' viewing habits over time. Today Brazil has more mobile phones than it has people, and penetration of pay-television has slowly crept up to around 28% of households. In April Brazilians spent around 12.5 hours a week on online social networks from their desktop computers, more than double the global average, according to comScore, a research firm. For the first time in Globo's history it is facing serious competition for advertisers and audience. Increasingly, Brazil's advertising market will be a contest between the two Gs: Globo and Google.

Globo is still the biggest fish in a big pond, and can keep a hold on Brazilians' attention, even as they migrate to new platforms. For example, as more households can afford pay-TV packages, Globo may lose viewers from its free-to-air network, but should gain when they tune in to the group's paid-for

channels. It is experimenting with new online offerings, such as letting people subscribe for a monthly fee to view its content online with a time delay.

“We don’t want to jeopardise our advertising revenues by changing people’s habits, but we have to be ready,” says Jorge Nóbrega, a senior Globo executive. Netflix, an American online-video firm, has entered Brazil, but Globo-boosters argue that Brazilians prefer *telenovelas* to foreign fare. In television, as in football, they are likely to keep rooting for the home team.

[From the print edition: Business](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/business/21603472-brazils-biggest-media-firm-flourishing-old-fashioned-business-model-globo-domination>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Football and Brazil

Intersections

The making of football’s spiritual home

DATA: 2014.06.07

HOLDING the World Cup in Brazil, football’s spiritual home, sparked many fantasies of samba-infused spectacle. Those illusions were shattered last June when protests swept across the country during a warm-up tournament; a year on the discontent still simmers. The government’s slum-clearing efforts have met violent resistance. In May demonstrators incensed by the billions being spent on stadiums and security set tyres alight in a new wave of protests. The sports minister has felt compelled to reassure visiting fans that they will find Brazil safer than Iraq.

That Brazil’s World Cup has become entangled in the country’s social and political woes should come as little surprise. As David Goldblatt’s engrossing “Futebol Nation: The Story of Brazil through Soccer” shows, the sport has long reflected both the best and worst of Brazil. For a country that imported more than ten times as many slaves as the United States, football’s relative egalitarianism promised a more inclusive identity. In the 1930s prominent intellectuals like Gilberto Freyre hailed Brazilian football’s exuberant and improvisational style—a product, he argued, of the country’s “mulattoism”—as evidence of a national character superior to Europe’s more controlled qualities.

Yet the sport exposed uglier realities, too. Many Brazilians believed their black compatriots lacked the discipline and courage needed to play at the highest level. Only after Pelé and Garrincha, two black stars, inspired Brazil to its first World Cup title in 1958, Mr Goldblatt writes, was “football as eugenics” retired as an argument.

Roger Kittleson, a scholar of Latin American history, treads similar ground in his impeccably researched “The Country of Football: Soccer and the Making of Modern Brazil”. Unfortunately, his prose lacks Mr

Goldblatt's fluidity, and his descriptions of matches and players are frequently ponderous. But Mr Kittleson convincingly illustrates Brazilians' surprising ambivalence towards the game. Early last century, for example, wealthy Brazilians "found themselves in the uncomfortable position of celebrating people and practices they habitually considered primitive, in order to construct a unified, modern nation capable of competing against European powers. And the egalitarian idealism that Mr Freyre and others ascribed to football has never been fully realised—hence the unexpected backlash against the World Cup.

These social injustices are the focus of Dave Zirin's "Brazil's Dance with the Devil: The World Cup, the Olympics, and the Struggle for Democracy". Mr Zirin, a left-wing American sports commentator, blames Brazil's present crises on what he describes as its government's relentless neoliberal agenda. Mega-sporting events, he writes, have become "neoliberal Trojan horses, preying on our love of sports to enforce a series of policies that would in any other situation be roundly rejected". World Cup euphoria, he argues, has given the Brazilian government cover to pursue a radical agenda of austerity, privatisation and the mass eviction of slum-dwellers.

Mr Zirin's indictment of massive sporting events certainly has merit. The Brazilian reality, however, is not as neat as he would have it. The country's difficulties with staging global showcases long precede its supposed neoliberal turn. In 1922, when hosting an exhibition in Rio de Janeiro, the government forcibly relocated many slum-dwellers in its eagerness to present a modern face to the world. The last time Brazil hosted the World Cup, in 1950, critics objected that the money would be better spent on schools and hospitals.

Mr Zirin is too quick to find external causes for Brazil's internal problems. He rightly derides FIFA, football's international governing body, for its imperious attitude. But, according to Mr Goldblatt, this institutional culture originated in Brazil. He explains that João Havelange, a Brazilian who served as FIFA president for 24 years, "brought to the institution the unique imprimatur of Brazil's ruling elite: imperious cordiality, ruthless clientelistic politics and a self-serving blurring of the public and private realms".

In other words, whether this World Cup is remembered more for on-field brilliance or off-field chaos, it will be a distinctly Brazilian affair.

[From the print edition: Books and arts](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/books-and-arts/21603412-making-footballs-spiritual-home-intersections#sthash.gN9hX5FD.dpbs>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Art from Brazil

Tropical growth

Government intervention threatens the spread of Brazilian art

DATA: 2014.06.07



BRAZIL'S footballers can legitimately claim to have turned a sport into an art. But the country does not want for flair when it comes to other forms of artistic expression. Brazilian artists are as sought after by curators and collectors as the Canarinhos are by football-club owners.

To the cognoscenti, this isn't news. Stephen Friedman, a London gallerist who represents several big Brazilian names, points out that the country's art has enjoyed a special cachet in the art world for more than a decade. In 2003 Beatriz Milhazes, the latest in a line of Brazilian abstract painters (and represented by Mr Friedman), made a splash at the Venice Biennale. She is now regarded as one of the finest exponents of the genre working today. In 2008 a new record price of \$1m was paid for a Milhazes work. Two years ago "Meu Limão" (pictured) sold at Sotheby's in New York for \$2.1m.

Ms Milhazes is no isolated success. Works by Adriana Varejão, a prized feminist artist, also command seven figures. Auction sales of Brazilian artists' works outside Brazil soared from €6.1m (\$8m) in 2005 to nearly €22.1m in 2012, according to Art Economics, a consultancy. The share of Brazilian works by value in Latin American auctions at Christie's, Sotheby's and Phillips, grew from 5% in 2006 to 25% last year. On May 28th an abstract sculpture by Lygia Clark, who died in 1988, fetched \$1.2m, twice the high estimate, at a sale in New York.

Museums seem just as keen. In May a Clark retrospective opened at New York's Museum of Modern Art. Last year Tate Modern in London hosted a survey of works by Mira Schendel, mother of Brazil's minimalist geometric tradition, who also died in 1988. "War and Peace", arguably Brazil's most famous artwork by its modernist-in-chief, Cândido Portinari, is on display at the Grand Palais in Paris until June 9th, in a rare trip away from the United Nations headquarters in New York, where it adorns the foyer of the General Assembly.

International shows of Brazilian artists, including young ones, nowadays attract art buffs from Warsaw to Taipei, says Ana Letícia Fialho of Latitude, an outfit which promotes Brazilian art abroad. José Teixeira Coelho Netto, curator of the São Paulo Museum of Art, puts the rising popularity down to Brazil's potent mix of quality, thanks to a strong avant-garde tradition dating back to the 1950s, and novelty. This tradition was hidden from the rest of the world as the country turned inward during the military dictatorship of 1964-85. The combination makes Brazilian art seem both familiar and exotic.

When political and economic stability returned in the mid-1990s an art ecosystem began to grow again. Corporate sponsors, such as Itaú, a big bank, loosened their purse-strings. New galleries mushroomed. Of the 51 members of the Brazilian Association of Contemporary Art, who together represent about 90% of domestic sales, half have been created since 2000. Growing ranks of art consultants began courting collectors. Fairs such as SP-Arte in São Paulo and ArtRio sprang up to cater to them.

Brazilian collectors' growing clout and sophistication, combined with a natural preference for local art boosted by near-50% tariffs on imported works, in turn stoked curiosity among foreign buyers. This prompted more galleries to show off their wares abroad. In the early 1990s a handful were active internationally. Currently more than 20 are. They regularly participate in the art world's main showings, such as the Art Basel fairs or Frieze in London, which attracts more foreigners to Brazil. Only one foreign gallery took part in SP-Arte's inaugural fair ten years ago, recalls Fernanda Feitosa, its boss. In April there were 58, including Gagosian and David Zwirner. In late 2012 White Cube, an important London gallery specialising in contemporary art, opened in São Paulo.

Whereas Brazil's import tariffs helped its home-grown artists, a new law may prove a threat. Last October President Dilma Rousseff signed a decree which in effect hands the state control over any work deemed to be "of public interest". Such a piece could not be restored, loaned or even moved without permission. What counts as being "of public interest" is up to a 21-member committee, nominated by the Brazilian Institute of Museums (Ibram) and other agencies, to decide.

Having met for the first time in April it has yet to single out any pieces. Angelo Oswaldo, who heads Ibram, insists that works will not be expropriated, merely monitored. But the effects of the decree are already being felt. Alfonso Costa, a collector and dealer from Rio de Janeiro, says he has begun refusing to lend works, most recently a Schendel, to exhibitions lest Ibram's radar picks them up. It would be a shame if vague regulations nipped the blossoming of Brazilian art in the bud.

[From the print edition: Books and arts](#)

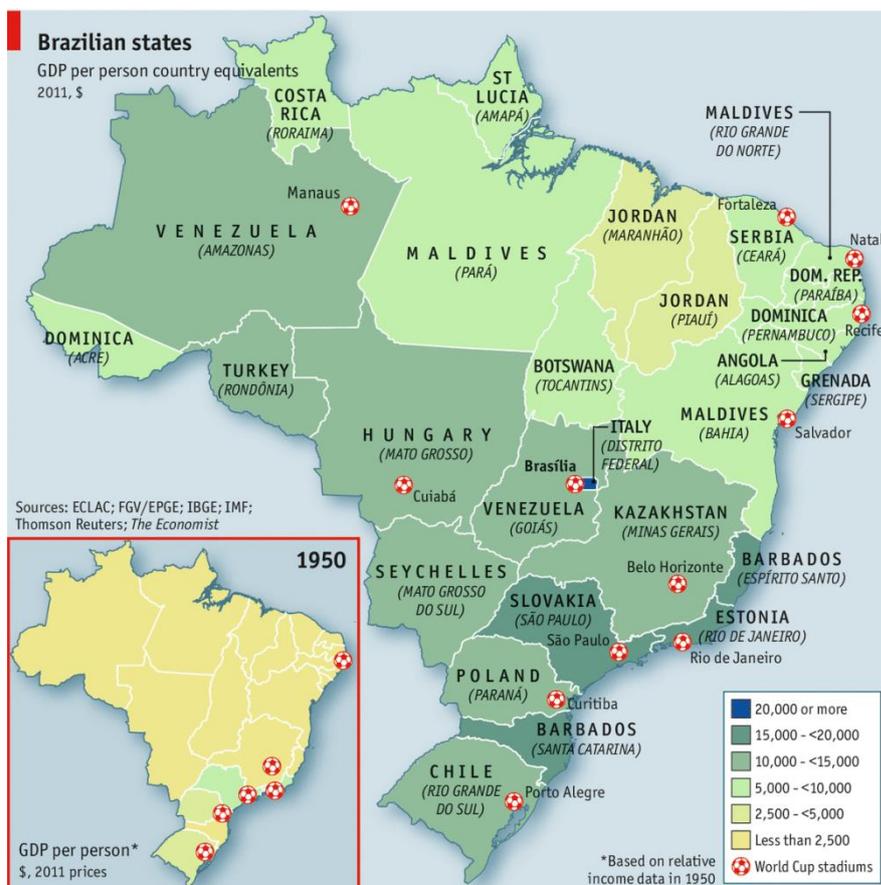
Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/books-and-arts/21603413-government-intervention-threatens-spread-brazilian-art-tropical-growth>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Comparing Brazil's states

Welcome to Italordan

Brazil's income disparities are great, but so is its progress

DATA: 2014.06.07



IN 1974, to capture the income inequality for which his country was infamous, Edmar Bacha, a Brazilian economist, coined the term “Belíndia”—a small rich Belgium surrounded by a vast poor India. Football players and fans descending on the country for the World Cup, which began this week, will still see several Brazils, if not the disparities of Belíndia.

As our map of Brazil’s states shows, the richest part of the country, around the capital, Brasília, is not quite at Belgian levels. But it is as wealthy as Italy, measured by GDP per person in 2011 (the latest available data set) at market exchange rates. India, meanwhile, is much poorer than even the most destitute Brazilian states, Maranhão and Piauí, where income per head is three times higher than on the subcontinent and roughly equal to that of Jordan.

Mr Bacha would no doubt cheer that the poorest states have made greatest headway since Brazil last hosted the World Cup in 1950. At the time they were as impoverished as benighted Benin and war-torn Afghanistan were in 2011. Maranhão’s real income per person has risen sixfold in the intervening decades; Piauí’s more than sevenfold, which puts it firmly on the podium of best-performing Brazilian states in the period (not counting the Federal District around Brasília, whose construction only began in 1956).

In all, ten states were poorer in 1950 in real terms than India in 2011; ten were better off. (Today Brazil has 27 states.) The then capital, Rio de Janeiro, was at that time only as well-heeled as Peru is now. Today it has caught up with Estonia. As for Brazil as a whole, in 1950 it barely exceeded contemporary Egyptian levels of prosperity. Today it is on a par with the West Indian island paradise of St Kitts and Nevis. In the past ten years alone 36m Brazilians were brought out of extreme poverty, although critics

point to another country, South Korea. In June 1950 it was poorer than Brazil—and on the brink of fratricidal war. Now its GDP per person is nearly double Brazil's and its income distribution far less skewed.

Some things are unchanged. Nine of the 13 sides that competed in 1950 are back (although the finals have since ballooned to incorporate 32 teams). As today, the stadiums then were late and over budget. That won't matter as long as history doesn't repeat itself on the field: in 1950 Brazil lost in the final to Uruguay.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21604202-brazils-income-disparities-are-great-so-its-progress-welcome-italordan>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

The higher-education business

A winning recipe

Two big Brazilian education firms, now in the process of merging, show how universities can do both quantity and quality

DATA: 2014.06.28



Learning online and offline

IN THE United States worries about private, for-profit universities' high cost and dubious quality abound. A congressional inquiry in 2012 acknowledged that the sector, which trebled enrolment during the previous decade, gave students who were older, poorer and often less well-prepared for further study than those at public or non-profit institutions their best chance of a degree. But it concluded that soaring fees and drop-out rates meant that a majority left with nothing more than extra debt.

Elsewhere in the Americas, though, the story is far more positive. After equally hectic expansion, Brazil's for-profit institutions have three-quarters of the country's higher-education market—and fees are low and quality is rising fast. And since a degree boosts wages by a bigger multiple in Brazil than in any other country tracked by the OECD, a club of mostly rich countries, graduates can make back their tuition fees in just a few years.

Soon Brazil will become home not only to the world's liveliest for-profit education sector, but to its biggest for-profit higher-education firm, too. Last month the antitrust regulator, CADE, approved the purchase by Kroton, the biggest such firm in Brazil, of Anhanguera, the second-biggest, to create a giant with a stockmarket value of around 18 billion reais (\$8 billion).

“Quality [in education] is easy,” says Rodrigo Galindo, Kroton's energetic young boss. “And so is quantity. What's difficult is combining the two.” The trick, he explains, is to abandon “handcrafted” teaching methods for scalable ones: online course materials and tutors; star teachers' lessons broadcast by satellite; tightly specified franchise agreements with hundreds of local teaching centres staffed by moderators. The company has invested heavily in “adaptive” learning materials—computerised courses that react to users' progress by offering further explanation and examples where answers suggest they are struggling, and moving on swiftly where they are not.

Unopar, a university in Londrina, a foggy city in the south-eastern state of Paraná, was bought by Kroton in 2011 and is one of its best-known brands. A decade ago it became the first institution in Brazil to get federal accreditation for the distance-training of teachers. It soon realised that other degrees could be offered with the same combination of high-quality online materials and weekly attendance at seminars at a local centre. It is now Brazil's biggest provider of distance higher-education, with 150,000 students registered at nearly 500 centres nationwide. The most remote, with 300 students, is in Oriximiná in the Amazonian state of Pará, accessible only by light plane or a 12-hour boat ride from Manaus, the region's main city.

“These courses aren't easy,” says Elisa Assis, Unopar's director for distance education. “What they are is flexible.” Web-only courses often have high drop-out rates, she explains. One reason for the weekly get-togethers, during which students watch a class broadcast from headquarters followed by a moderated discussion, is to keep students engaged and on track. Their questions give the university instant feedback on how each lesson went, allowing it to improve the course.

Brazil's got teaching talent

Anhanguera is better known for on-campus tuition, generally in the evenings to fit around students' work. At its campus in Vila Mariana, a middle-class district of São Paulo, it has a media centre with a dozen studios, from which hour-long lessons are broadcast to other university centres across Brazil. Teachers who could work well on screen are talent-spotted and given media training. “It's like running

a pay-TV network with 39 channels,” says Luciano Possani, the company’s chief information officer, who used to work for the Brazilian arm of America’s DirecTV.

Huge purchasing power means big discounts for learning materials. Anhanguera negotiates with publishers to provide textbooks for as little as a fifth of the standard price. Its customers, like Kroton’s, are mostly first-time buyers: from working-class families with parents who never finished, or in some cases even started, school. Monthly fees are around 400 reais for courses taught on campus; 250-300 reais for those taught at a distance.

Public institutions are constitutionally barred from charging fees; they are therefore harder to get into and largely colonised by the well-off. But in the future even those who currently turn up their noses at the private sector may turn to it, argues Mr Possani. Lecturers at Brazil’s public universities are often on strike and courses rarely have much to do with the world of work. With no need to serve the customer, quality is hit-and-miss. “Traditional lectures can be good or bad, depending on the lecturer, or the day,” he says. “It’s like the difference between live television and film.”

Though today its for-profit higher education sector is in rude health, Brazil, too, has lived through soul-searching about its quality. In the 1990s more youngsters were staying on in school and as a result demand for higher education grew. The high cost of fully funding public institutions meant that private-sector expansion was the only option. But with little government oversight and inexperienced clients, the sector’s reputation was tarnished by fly-by-night operators offering worthless degrees.

Since then, sensible rules and incentives have turned things round. Most of those studying for a degree in Brazil take a standard exam set by the federal education ministry, which publishes the average grade for each course. Good evaluations feature prominently in marketing materials. And, crucially, students are only eligible for subsidised government loans to study on courses that come out well. That gives firms a big incentive not to admit those who are likely to struggle. A separate government scheme offers tax breaks for institutions that admit around a tenth of their students on scholarships. Since only school-leavers with good grades are eligible, that pushes standards up too.

Neither Kroton nor Anhanguera is thinking about expanding abroad, at least for now. That all their teaching materials are in Portuguese is one reason; another is that the pickings at home are still so juicy. Of every 100 Brazilian children who start primary school, only 57 go on to finish secondary school—and just 14 enroll in higher education. More than 12m of those aged 25 to 34 finished secondary school but neither possess nor are studying for a higher-level qualification. With so much room left to grow, Brazil seems to have hit on for-profit education’s winning recipe.

[From the print edition: Business](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/business/21605925-two-big-brazilian-education-firms-now-process-merging-show-how-universities-can-do>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Higher education

Creative destruction

A cost crisis, changing labour markets and new technology will turn an old institution on its head

DATA: 2014.06.28



HIGHER education is one of the great successes of the welfare state. What was once the privilege of a few has become a middle-class entitlement, thanks mainly to government support. Some 3.5m Americans and 5m Europeans will graduate this summer. In the emerging world universities are booming: China has added nearly 30m places in 20 years. Yet the business has changed little since Aristotle taught at the Athenian Lyceum: young students still gather at an appointed time and place to listen to the wisdom of scholars.

Now a revolution has begun (see [article](#)), thanks to three forces: rising costs, changing demand and disruptive technology. The result will be the reinvention of the university.

Off campus, online

Higher education suffers from Baumol's disease—the tendency of costs to soar in labour-intensive sectors with stagnant productivity. Whereas the prices of cars, computers and much else have fallen dramatically, universities, protected by public-sector funding and the premium employers place on degrees, have been able to charge ever more for the same service. For two decades the cost of going to college in America has risen by 1.6 percentage points more than inflation every year.

For most students university remains a great deal; by one count the boost to lifetime income from obtaining a college degree, in net-present-value terms, is as much as \$590,000 (see [article](#)). But for an increasing number of students who have gone deep into debt—especially the 47% in America and 28% in Britain who do not complete their course—it is plainly not value for money. And the state's willingness to pick up the slack is declining. In America government funding per student fell by 27% between 2007 and 2012, while average tuition fees, adjusted for inflation, rose by 20%. In Britain tuition fees, close to zero two decades ago, can reach £9,000 (\$15,000 a year).

The second driver of change is the labour market. In the standard model of higher education, people go to university in their 20s: a degree is an entry ticket to the professional classes. But automation is

beginning to have the same effect on white-collar jobs as it has on blue-collar ones. According to a study from Oxford University, 47% of occupations are at risk of being automated in the next few decades. As innovation wipes out some jobs and changes others, people will need to top up their human capital throughout their lives.

By themselves, these two forces would be pushing change. A third—technology—ensures it. The internet, which has turned businesses from newspapers through music to book retailing upside down, will upend higher education. Now the MOOC, or “Massive Open Online Course”, is offering students the chance to listen to star lecturers and get a degree for a fraction of the cost of attending a university.

MOOCs started in 2008; and, as often happens with disruptive technologies, they have so far failed to live up to their promise. Largely because there is no formal system of accreditation, drop-out rates have been high. But this is changing as private investors and existing universities are drawn in. One provider, Coursera, claims over 8m registered users. Though its courses are free, it bagged its first \$1m in revenues last year after introducing the option to pay a fee of between \$30 and \$100 to have course results certified. Another, Udacity, has teamed up with AT&T and Georgia Tech to offer an online master’s degree in computing, at less than a third of the cost of the traditional version. Harvard Business School will soon offer an online “pre-MBA” for \$1,500. Starbucks has offered to help pay for its staff to take online degrees with Arizona State University.

MOOCs will disrupt different universities in different ways. Not all will suffer. Oxford and Harvard could benefit. Ambitious people will always want to go to the best universities to meet each other, and the digital economy tends to favour a few large operators. The big names will be able to sell their MOOCs around the world. But mediocre universities may suffer the fate of many newspapers. Were the market for higher education to perform in future as that for newspapers has done over the past decade or two, universities’ revenues would fall by more than half, employment in the industry would drop by nearly 30% and more than 700 institutions would shut their doors. The rest would need to reinvent themselves to survive.

A new term

Like all revolutions, the one taking place in higher education will have victims. Many towns and cities rely on universities. In some ways MOOCs will reinforce inequality both among students (the talented will be much more comfortable than the weaker outside the structured university environment) and among teachers (superstar lecturers will earn a fortune, to the fury of their less charismatic colleagues).

Politicians will inevitably come under pressure to halt this revolution. They should remember that state spending should benefit society as a whole, not protect tenured professors from competition. The reinvention of universities will benefit many more people than it hurts. Students in the rich world will have access to higher education at lower cost and greater convenience. MOOCs’ flexibility appeals to older people who need retraining: edX, another provider, says that the median age of its online students in America is 31. In the emerging world online courses also offer a way for countries like Brazil to leap-frog Western ones and supply higher education much more cheaply (see [article](#)). And education has now become a global market: the Massachusetts Institute of Technology discovered Battushig Myanganbayar, a remarkably talented Mongolian teenager, through an online electronics course.

Rather than propping up the old model, governments should make the new one work better. They can do so by backing common standards for accreditation. In Brazil, for instance, students completing

courses take a government-run exam. In most Western countries it would likewise make sense to have a single, independent organisation that certifies exams.

Reinventing an ancient institution will not be easy. But it does promise better education for many more people. Rarely have need and opportunity so neatly come together.

[From the print edition: Leaders](#)

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The World Cup in Brazil

The half-time verdict

Expectations were low. They have been exceeded

DATA: 2014.06.28

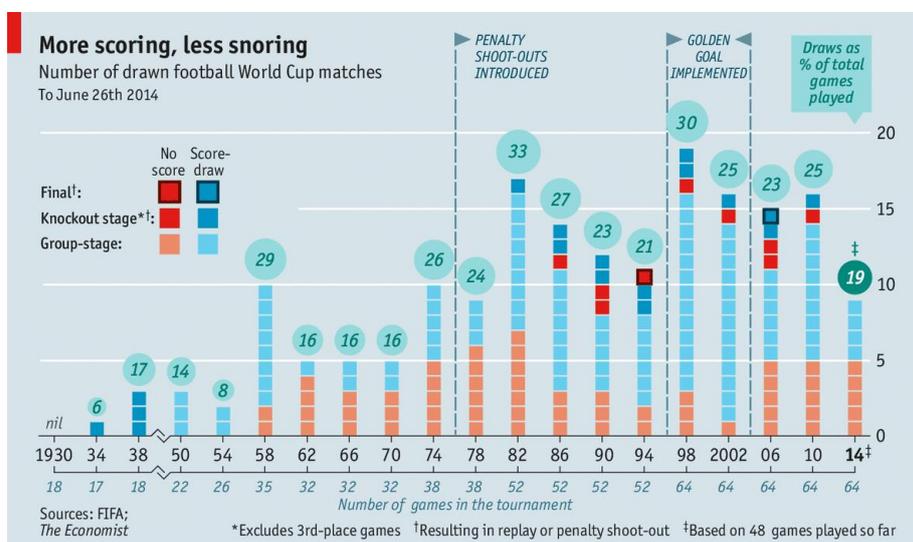


THE winners of the football World Cup will not be known until July 13th. But the tournament is already a sporting success. Draws, especially of the goalless variety, have been mercifully rare (see chart). Not since 1958 have so many goals been scored per game in the group stage of a World Cup. What about off the pitch?

Start with Brazil's economy. On the whole, economists agree, big sporting events have negligible impact on output. Money for the infrastructure bonanza beloved of politicians is not conjured from thin air; it is diverted from elsewhere. Productivity dips, too. Holidays have been decreed on some match days to ease pressure on creaking public transport. Before the Brazil-Cameroon game on June 23rd, for example,

Brasília was a ghost town; to spare fans inevitable gridlock, public institutions and private firms let workers off early.

The São Paulo Federation of Commerce reckons the output lost as a result could reach 30 billion reais (\$14 billion), about as much as all World Cup investment put together. Tourism-related earnings, which the government puts at 6.7 billion reais, will not offset this. For every football fan coming to see his team play a tourist is put off by the crowds and the prices. Business shindigs in popular destinations like São Paulo or Recife, in Pernambuco state, have been cancelled. Gelsa Lima, who runs a food stall at the bus terminal in Natal, capital of Rio Grande do Norte, complains that business is no better than usual. The state tourism secretary's expectation of a net 300,000 extra visitors this year compared with 2013 looks optimistic.



Host cities did score some new infrastructure (though many question whether it was the sort they most urgently needed). Natal got a snazzy airport. Taxi drivers in Recife say traffic has eased thanks to a new viaduct linking the north and south of the city. Brasília, Curitiba and Salvador built new motorways to their airports. Severe flooding due to unusually heavy rains which hit Natal in the past week “would have been worse had it not been for the Copa”, says Demétrio Torres, special secretary for World Cup affairs in Rio Grande do Norte. A joint operations centre created for the occasion helped police, firemen and civil defence to co-ordinate their actions. As part of its preparations, the city also began building a new drainage system.

Not all of it was ready in time, a recurrent theme in host cities. Of ten urban-mobility projects intended in Curitiba for the Cup, only the airport road has been completed, according to Olga Firkowski, who monitors such schemes at the Federal University of Paraná. In other places many were finished only in injury time. A whiff of setting cement and fresh paint pervades Natal's new terminal. The coat of asphalt on Salvador's airport road is so fresh that long stretches lack marked lanes.

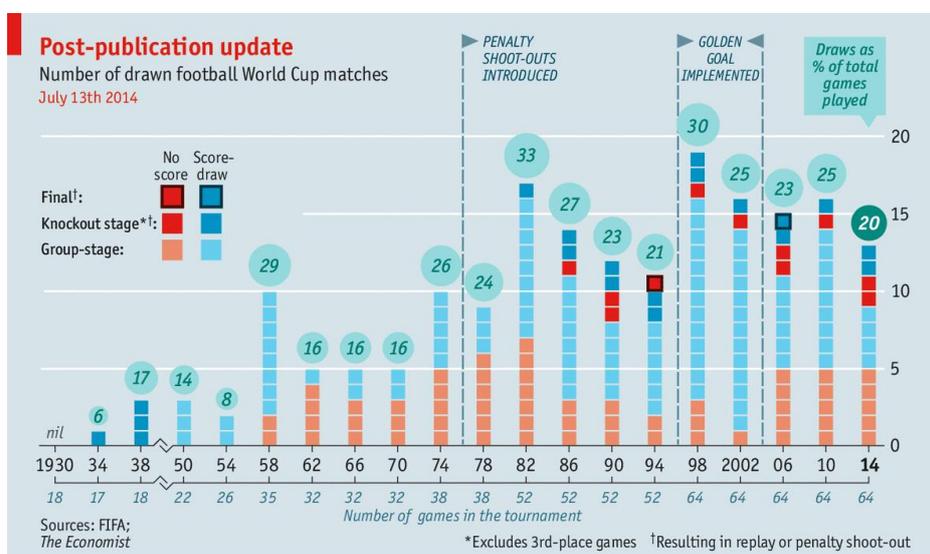
Still, supporters cannot complain. Barring the odd traffic jam in São Paulo or on Natal's dug-up streets, they have faced few hurdles. Flights run on time; buses whisk fans to venues. Adrian Richardson, a Californian fan touring the north-east to watch the United States, concedes that the roads are worse and

police presence heavier than during the last World Cup in South Africa. But, he adds, “the parties are better.”

Activists banking on organisational cock-ups to jolt their countrymen into the sort of protests that brought more than 1m of them onto the streets during a warm-up tournament last June have been disappointed. Add in 147,000 police and soldiers and it is little wonder that anti-Cup demonstrations have so far been mostly small and peaceful.

President Dilma Rousseff should not take too much comfort, however. Although serious snafus would almost certainly have dented her popularity, the smooth running of the finals has not helped it. A survey by IBOPE, a pollster, taken a few days into the competition found that for the first time more Brazilians think Ms Rousseff’s government is doing a bad job than a good one (though she enjoys higher personal ratings). Politicians from her Workers’ Party, who this week confirmed Ms Rousseff as their candidate in October’s election, had warned against politicising the Cup. They may now wish it were a bit more political.

If anyone is scoring brownie points it is local governments. Denizens of Salvador attribute their city’s infrastructural gains to Antônio Magalhães Neto, a newish mayor whose Democrats party is part of the national opposition. Recife residents credit Eduardo Campos, who stood down as governor of Pernambuco to challenge Ms Rousseff in October, for properly testing the stadiums and transport links. But the World Cup is proving to be mainly about the football. It’s a funny old game.



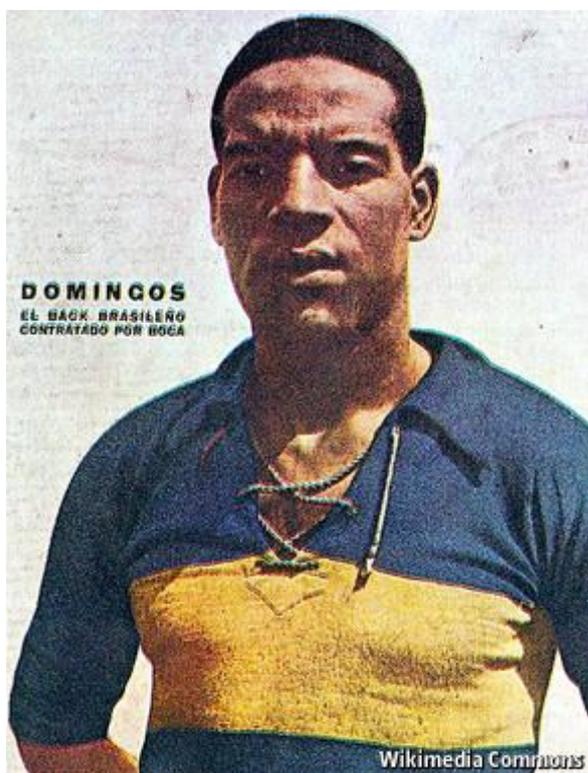
Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21605912-expectations-were-low-they-have-been-exceeded-half-time-verdict>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Jogo complicado

The beautiful game's interesting past

DATA: 2014.07.05

THERE has been perhaps no better fullback in the history of football than Domingos da Guia (pictured). The strong and elegant defender, known as the “Fortress”, guarded Brazil’s flank in the 1930s and 1940s. Yet as a boy he was afraid to play until his brother prodded him: “Aren’t you any good at dancing?” Domingos was and he brought his samba skills to the pitch, swinging his hips and evading opponents, a precursor to the *joga bonito* (“play beautifully”) style of recent Brazilian stars.



Domingos developed other evasive manoeuvres too. He kept his curly hair under a cap and then took to straightening it in order to look less black. The Fortress hoped to avoid the appalling racial abuse and discrimination suffered by his darker-skinned teammates. At that time blacks were often passed over by Latin American national teams. Officials, generally of European ancestry, were embarrassed by the image they might convey abroad.

The history of the beautiful game in Latin America can be quite ugly: ethnic divisions within countries and bitter rivalries between them played out on the pitch. Political turmoil came to be reflected in the game; violence was common. But football also imbued the region with a sense of pride and self-belief. The success of Latin America’s players stands in contrast to the failures of its political leaders. Their fluid style of play is known round the world, giving the region a positive identity.

Andreas Campomar's new book, "Golazo!" (from an expression used to describe an impressive goal), is a comprehensive recounting of this history. The author goes back to the Aztecs, who played a ball game called *Ulamaliztli* that loosely resembles football. Their pitches doubled as theatres in which humans were sacrificed; some had their hearts ripped out. Today's football fans can surely empathise. But the real history of the game in Latin America begins in the 19th century when British immigrants began arriving in search of fortune.

These intrepid merchants, who kicked the ball around at their clubs, were not keen proselytisers of football. But the locally born upper classes were "always susceptible to European values that could be worn as a badge of ascension", Mr Campomar writes. It would not take long for them to embrace the game and develop their own style of play. Dribbling took on greater importance as an "expression of *criollo* artistry", and the cult of the individual replaced the team ethic. By the time Uruguay won Olympic gold medals in both 1924 and 1928, the Latin American game had developed its own assertive character.

The region would go on to produce world-class talents like Pelé of Brazil and Diego Maradona of Argentina, who exemplified this unique style and whose personal antagonism reflected their rivalry, although they never once faced each other on the pitch. Latin America has been quite successful, winning nine of 19 World Cups, though "Golazo!" is less a celebration of this beautiful play and more a chronicle of how sport, politics and culture have intersected and influenced each other across the region.

Take Mr Maradona, whose "more objectionable traits, which came in the guise of those twins, hubris and self-pity, were a reflection of Argentina", says Mr Campomar. Had he been able to lead Argentina (the defending champion) to a World Cup victory in 1982, the country's military dictatorship might have held on a little longer—"the euphoria that came with victory [in 1978] anaesthetised the population." The generals' disastrous war with Britain over the Falkland Islands was followed by the regime's collapse, and helped define Mr Maradona's greatest achievement: winning the World Cup in 1986 while tormenting the English team.

Mr Campomar's dense history can be tedious at times, even to fans of the game. But it is useful to have all of this information in one place, especially as Latin American squads excel at this year's World Cup in Brazil. Should a regional team triumph in the Maracanã stadium on July 13th, "Golazo!" will provide a deeper sense of what all the excitement is about.

[From the print edition: Books and arts](#)

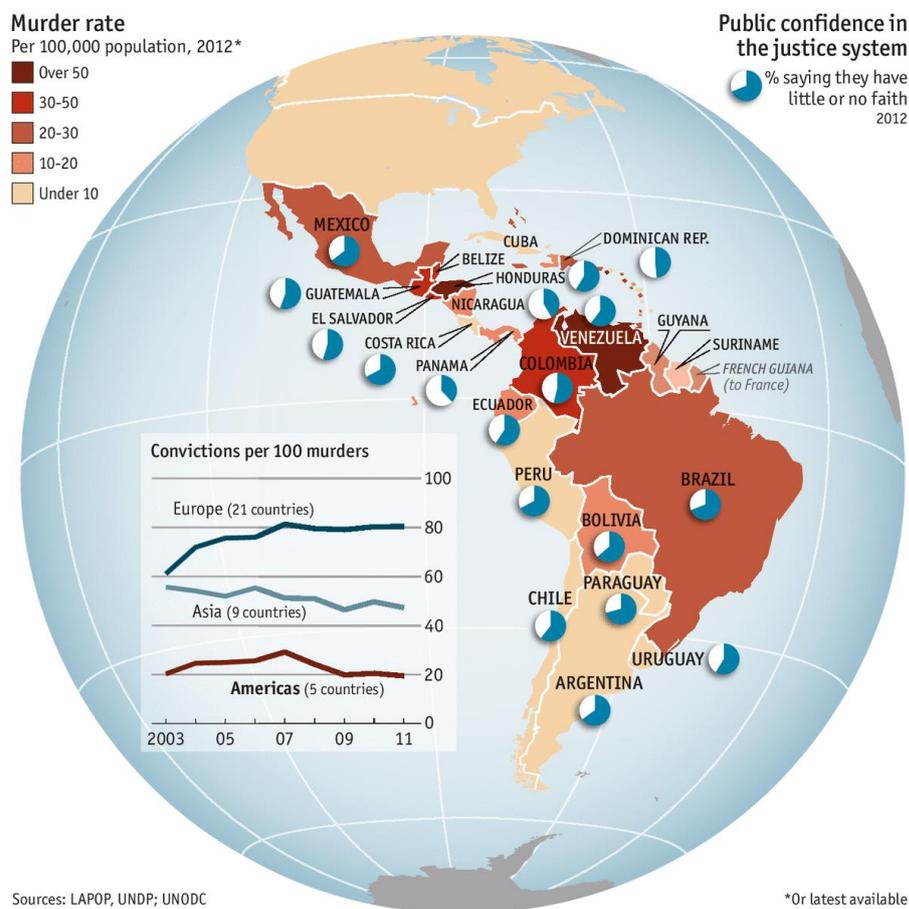
Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/books-and-arts/21606251-beautiful-games-interesting-past-jogo-complicado>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Crime in Latin America

A broken system

Citizens' security is the region's biggest problem. Time to improve criminal justice

DATA: 2014.07.12



PEDRO RODRÍGUEZ, head of Nicaragua's youth-affairs police, grabs the shoulder of 17-year-old Axel Matus and gives it a shake. "He was one of our worst cases," he says. In most of Latin America, a youth with Axel's background—gangs, drugs, knife-fights, joblessness—would cringe at such attention from a burly police commander. But Axel stands bolt upright and admits: "My life was utter chaos."

Not any more. Axel now attends the Juvenile Affairs police headquarters in Managua, where he is given free meals and tuition every day. Besides subjects like maths and English, he is learning how to be a barber (his blade skills now applied with scissors). Hundreds of troubled kids voluntarily study with him, and the police chief knows most of them by name. They are neatly dressed and ooze self-esteem.

Nicaragua's police force is in danger of giving socialism a good name. The country is one of the poorest in the hemisphere. Yet its annual murder rate, 11 per 100,000 people, is among the lowest in Latin America and eight times lower than in neighbouring Honduras (see map).

Few countries would want to reproduce the history out of which that success was born: the National Police is a product of the 1979 Sandinista revolution and civil war. But some of its best practices are easy to copy. The force requires community approval for each of its new recruits, who enjoy at least a year's obligatory training at a police academy, smart uniforms and a strong *esprit de corps* that

policemen say makes low pay easier to bear. In the continent most scarred by crime, such lessons are too important to ignore.

According to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Latin America is the only region in the world where murder rates increased in the first decade of this century. Robberies have nearly trebled over the past 25 years; extortion is growing fast. So fed up are clothing businesses in Gamarra, the centre of Lima's rag trade, with paying an average of \$3,000 a month to extortionists that they held a conference in June to publicise the problem.

Plenty of factors explain Latin America's crime disease. The external demand for cocaine, and attempts to suppress the drug trade, prompted the spread of organised criminal mafias; growth in domestic consumption of drugs has since compounded the problem. A bulge in the number of young men, many of whom are poorly educated and command low wages in the legal economy, is another factor. So is income inequality. The ubiquity of firearms means that crime is often violent.

But none of these is more important than pervasive weaknesses in the basic institutions of the rule of law—the police, the prosecutors, the courts and the prisons. Trust in the criminal-justice system remains low: majorities of the population in almost every country in the region have little or no faith in it. Criminals act with impunity. The global rate for homicide convictions is 43 for every 100 murders; in Latin America it is close to 20.



The new model: iron in fist

As ever, regional aggregates mask wide variations. Honduras is the region's most violent country: at present homicide rates, a boy born there today has a one-in-nine chance of being murdered. Peruvians feel least secure, according to a 2012 poll by the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), based at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. The police there are allowed to double as private security guards under a scheme in which they work one day on and then one day off. With the complicity of corrupt senior officers, many police work 20 to 25 days a month privately, according to Gino Costa, a former interior minister. (One of his successors, who wanted to reform the practice, was sacked last month.)

At the other end of the scale, in a 2008 poll only 11% of Chileans felt an attempt to bribe a local policeman would be successful, far fewer than in any other country. “It’s almost impossible to bribe a Chilean policeman,” says Marta Lagos, director of Latinobarómetro, a pollster. “Say what you like about them—they might be inefficient, lazy, heavy-handed, whatever—but they’re not corrupt.” Colombia’s police force has had considerable success in reducing the prevalence of armed conflict and the drug trade. Since 2009 they have been training other forces from around the region on riverine operations, managing informants, extortion investigations and the like.

But these countries still have their problems. If Colombia has become a model to learn from in major crimes, the country’s on-the-street policing has lagged behind. Every 30 seconds in Colombia someone has their mobile phone stolen; but only one out of every 65 victims of this crime ever reports it to the police. Chile’s police may not be corrupt but almost a third of its citizens say their neighbourhoods are affected by gangs, according to a LAPOP poll. Everyone has something to learn.

In the realm of policing, the lessons embodied in Nicaragua’s police force are the most valuable. Instead of *mano dura*, or the militarised iron-fist policies of its northern neighbours, it offers a “friendly hand” to prevent similar levels of gang penetration. Instead of jailing wayward youths, it offers them counselling, education and job opportunities. In one slum policemen are to be found clapping along awkwardly with baggy-clothed breakdancers.

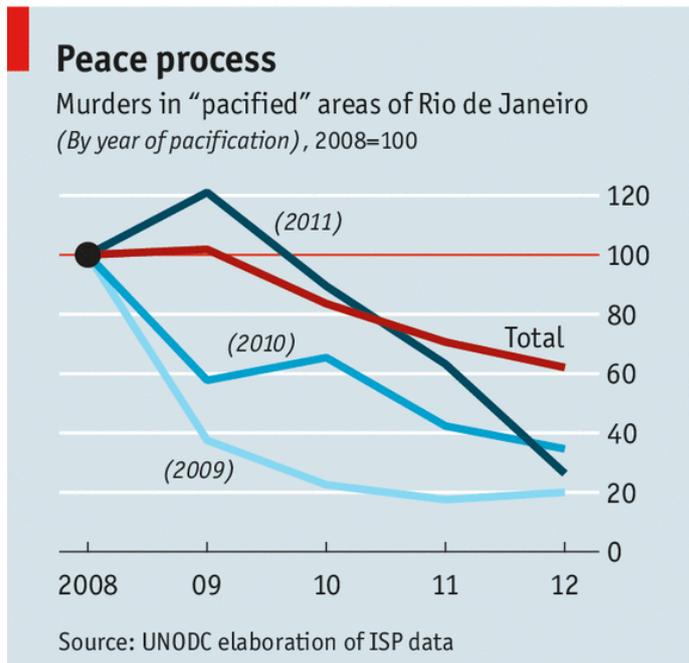
Community charge

A big focus is on violence against women, including an alarming recent rise in “femicides”, the killing of women out of sheer misogyny. The police believe violence at home starts the cycle of insecurity in society at large. Teams of female police officers working with community volunteers walk through poor neighbourhoods urging women to denounce abuse, and telling them they are backed by a new law.

Community policing has become a watchword in other parts of the region, too. In 2010 the Colombian police implemented a “Quadrant Plan” dividing urban areas into territorial beats in order to adopt a more localised approach. São Paulo created Brazil’s first community police force in the wake of the grisly 1990s. Crime mapping was introduced to focus attention and resources. *Paulista* police also invested heavily in solving homicides. The murder rate in the state capital fell from 69 per 100,000 in 1999 to 12 in 2011 (though it has since crept back up to 15).

In 2002 Belo Horizonte, capital of Minas Gerais state, also began tracking where crimes happened. It turned out that most occurred in just six of the city’s 81 *favelas* (shantytowns). Special community-police teams patrolled these areas. Social programmes lured young people there away from crime and to computer training, football and other activities.

In Rio de Janeiro the fall in crime owes much to the “pacification policy” begun in 2008. First, special forces evict gang leaders from *favelas*; then “Pacifying Police Units” (UPPs) are set up, manned by officers trained in community policing. In 2008-12 homicides fell by 75% in the pacified *favelas*, twice as fast as elsewhere in Rio.



But the UPPs also demonstrate the need for sustained effort. Critics allege that Brazil’s UPPs merely displace criminals to poorer *favelas* without such outposts. Community-policing skills often lag behind those of the initial armed incursion; drug-dealers seem to be edging back into “profitable” *favelas* where demand for their wares is high. The importance of commitment and co-ordination cannot be overstated. Sometimes there are overlaps to manage between, say, municipal and federal police forces. Often, as in Peru, police wages need to go up, which requires more money in the budget.

The police are only the first link in the criminal-justice chain. Once people are arrested, they enter into the judicial system; and given the widespread practice of pre-trial detention, often straight into the hell of Latin America’s prisons. In the courtroom itself, there is a general move in the region towards oral, adversarial trials rather than written, inquisitorial ones. Colombia made the transition during the 2000s; as part of its 2008 package of judicial reforms, Mexico is currently in the throes of the same change. That is broadly welcome. Oral trials require prosecutors to do a better job of gathering evidence and building a case. Even the criminals are impressed. A study of convicts in the State of Mexico, which uses the oral system, found that 43% of them thought their trial and sentences were unfair; in Mexico City, which is still using the old system, the figure was 67%.

Efforts are also being made to speed up the snail’s pace of justice. In Brazil the National Council of Justice (CNJ), an external auditor of the judiciary, was created in 2004. Its “justice in numbers” online database monitors courts’ performance and, the CNJ hopes, goads laggards into action. But such is the scale of the backlog that even the CNJ does not think cases opened before the end of 2010 can all be brought to a close this year.

Keeping people out of prison in the meantime is another goal for reformers. A recent paper by Rafael di Tella of Harvard University and Ernesto Schargrodsky of Universidad Torcuato di Tella looked at recidivism rates among people awaiting trial in Buenos Aires. Because the wheels of the legal system grind so slowly, meaning that evidence is lost and witnesses forget what they have seen, many of these people never end up in court. But some of them spend time in jail awaiting trial; others are luckier and are monitored using an electronic bracelet. The researchers found a significantly lower re-arrest rate

among people who were electronically tagged. Mexico's 2008 judicial overhaul set more limits to pre-trial detentions; others should follow.

Scars and bars



The last link in the chain of criminal justice, the penal system, is the least enlightened. The region's prisons are notoriously brutal and overcrowded. The homicide rate in prisons in Latin America is three times higher than it is in the general population. Prisoners are routinely beaten by staff and other inmates (see chart). Yet even in this darkness, there are chinks of light.

Pampered hotel guests at Punta Cana, a resort in the Dominican Republic (DR), may be appalled to learn that their spinach is cultivated in a local jail. But before they push aside Popeye's favourite vegetable, says Roberto Santana, an architect of prison reform, they should reconsider the jails themselves. Of the DR's 34 prisons, 18 are a new sort known as Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres, that focus on education and rehabilitation. Within six months of incarceration, the prison teaches illiterate inmates to read and write. Some go on to higher education. They learn skills, from spinach-growing to furniture- and uniform-making. Proceeds from these activities generated 39% of the prisons' income in 2012.

Most remarkable, says Mr Santana, is the effect the new jails have on prisoners' behaviour. Though it costs \$12 a day per prisoner, which is more than the old system, the burden is offset by the number of prisoners who go straight upon release. Last year the reoffending rate was a remarkable 2.6%. (This compares with 70% in parts of the United States.)

Dominicans' attitudes towards prisons have changed since the new system was introduced in 2004. Businesses and the community now accept ex-convicts as rehabilitated citizens. Staff in the new prison system go through extensive training and develop a career in the service; directors are not shunted rapidly from prison to prison, nor are they from the army or the police. Mr Santana now heads a regional academy overseeing the training of new prison staff in parts of Latin America.

The country that has most to learn from this model is Brazil, whose 550,000 inmates live mainly in squalid, overcrowded cells. Many who land behind bars for trivial offences, such as the possession of drugs, leave as hardened criminals. Recidivism rates exceed 60%. This falls below 10% for those held in Associations for the Protection and Assistance of the Condemned (APACs), not-for-profit institutions financed by private donations and staffed mostly by unpaid volunteers.

Their emphasis on Christianity and prayer have limited their spread in a nominally secular country like Brazil: it has about 41 APACs, holding 2,750 people. The regime is characterised by rigid discipline but also trust: "rehabilitees" hold the keys to their own cells. As a result, each costs only about one-third as much to house as a standard prisoner. Critics point out that laxer security and a lack of armed guards favour escapes or the abuse of prison as a centre for criminal operations. Perhaps, but persisting with a "lock 'em up" strategy that does not work is criminal, too.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21606864-citizens-security-regions-biggest-problem-time-improve-criminal-justice-broken>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Bello

Lessons of a footballing Armageddon

Brazil needs new ideas, on and off the pitch

DATA: 2014.07.12



THE only previous time that Brazil hosted the World Cup, in 1950, it famously lost the final 2-1 to Uruguay, after shipping two goals in 13 minutes late in the second half. So deflated were Brazilians that Nelson Rodrigues, a playwright and journalist, described the occasion as a “national catastrophe...our Hiroshima”.

If that is the benchmark, then the 7-1 semi-final thrashing on July 8th at the hands of Germany in Belo Horizonte’s Mineirão stadium was Brazil’s Armageddon. It was not just the scale of defeat—the worst since 1920. It was also the manner in which Germany’s fast and technically superior players cut through the home defence, as easily as a machete through cassava. To rub salt in a gaping wound, it is Argentina—Brazil’s arch-rivals—who will face Germany in the final on July 13th.

This humiliation has left Brazilians shell-shocked. No other country in the world has a closer identification with football, as Rodrigues’s hyperbole highlights. That may partly be because Brazil has no real Hiroshimas to fear: apart from brief engagement on the Allied side in Italy in 1944-45, it has not fought a war since the 1860s (against Paraguay). Through good fortune and tolerance, it faces neither military threats, nor terrorism, nor ethnic or religious tensions.

But this identification with football is also because the sport has provided a national narrative and a social glue. In a country that for long periods has failed to live up to its potential, prowess at the game provided “a confidence in ourselves that no other institution has given Brazil to the same extent”, as Roberto DaMatta, an anthropologist, wrote in the 1980s. Brazil has won five World Cups but no Brazilian has won a Nobel prize.

In winning the right to host this year’s World Cup (and the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016) Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Brazil’s then president, wanted to highlight that the country now has other reasons for confidence beyond football. The tournament would showcase the planet’s seventh-largest economy, a vibrant democracy and remarkable social progress that has seen poverty and income inequality fall steadily in this century.

But the tournament has taken place just as Brazilians are feeling less confident about their country’s course. The economy has slowed to a crawl; inflation is at 6.5%, despite a succession of interest-rate rises. The \$11 billion of publicly financed spending on stadiums helped to trigger huge protests last year over poor public services, corruption and the misplaced priorities of politicians. The last-minute rush to complete the stadiums, and the tragic collapse of a newly-built flyover in Belo Horizonte this month, have highlighted Brazil’s difficulties with infrastructure projects.

Contrary to some forecasts, the event itself has gone smoothly, without transport breakdowns or significant protests. Predictably, most fans have had a great time. Polls showed that Brazilians were warming to the idea of hosting the tournament. Despite being booed at the opening ceremony, Dilma Rousseff, Lula's successor and protégée, had felt emboldened to announce that she would attend the final.

Brazil's shattering defeat has robbed Ms Rousseff of any hope she might have nurtured that the World Cup would provide her with a boost in an election in October at which she will seek a second term. But in itself it will not help the opposition either. Things are not as simple as that. Brazilians were always going to have other matters on their mind when they vote in three months' time. The incumbent president won in 1998 when Brazil lost badly in the World Cup final, after all; and his chosen successor lost in 2002 when Brazil won.

At a deeper level, however, the humiliation of the Mineirão is likely to reinforce the country's negative mood. And that is potentially dangerous for Ms Rousseff. Though polls still make her the favourite, the campaign will only now start in earnest. Her approval rating hovers barely above 40%, and polls consistently show between 60% and 70% of Brazilians wanting change. With her centre-left Workers' Party having been in power for 12 years, can she offer it? Her appeal is in essence to past achievements—to a huge rise in employment and real wages, both of which are only just starting to move into reverse.

Similarly, the Mineirão disaster showed that Brazilian football is no longer a source of national confidence. It too needs changes that go far beyond building shiny new stadiums. Its officials are corrupt and its domestic league poorly run. Living on past glory, it is inward-looking and tactically outdated. Brazilians may end up concluding that they need new management and new ideas, both on and off the pitch.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21606868-brazil-needs-new-ideas-and-pitch-lessons-footballing-armageddon>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Latin American diplomacy

Monogamous no more

Bom dia to Mr Putin and Mr Xi

DATA: 2014.07.19

NO SOONER was the football over than the diplomacy began. Having been quick to claim credit for Brazil's generally smooth running of the World Cup, Dilma Rousseff this week hosted Russia's Vladimir Putin, a summit of the BRICS group of emerging countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and

South Africa), and then a state visit by China's Xi Jinping. For both the Russian and Chinese presidents the summit provided an excuse for a wider Latin American jaunt. Long gone are the days when the region looked only to the United States and Europe. Today it enjoys broad ties to the outside world. But do these visits amount to a slow shifting of allegiances?



For Mr Putin the trip was a welcome foray to countries whose governments are untroubled by Russia's conduct in Ukraine. In Cuba and Nicaragua he revived Soviet-era friendships. A Russian paper reported plans to re-open an intelligence base in Cuba. Mr Putin played that down, but Russia did this month write off 90% of Cuba's \$35 billion Soviet debt. Elsewhere, he sought out opportunities for the export of Russian nuclear technology (to Argentina) and arms (to Brazil, which is interested in a \$1 billion anti-aircraft missile system).

Latin America's ties with China are far more recent than those with Russia. They are also much more important (see chart). Chinese trade with the region has grown more than 20-fold in this century; China has become a big investor and lender. There are some tensions. Brazil frets that China imports only raw materials while undercutting its often-uncompetitive manufacturers in third markets. Chinese mining and oil firms are slowly adapting to social and environmental concerns.

Mr Xi's trip, his second as leader to Latin America, featured a meeting in Brasilia with the leaders of CELAC, a club of all 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries. That reflects China's preference for dealing with developing regions as a bloc, an approach that in practice is frustrated by Latin America's diversity and divisions. Some countries are due to get special treatment. In Venezuela Mr Xi will play the role of a friendly bank manager meeting an errant customer. China has given Venezuela around \$50 billion in mainly oil-backed loans. But Chinese officials "are very critical of Venezuelan accounting", says Margaret Myers at the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington think-tank.

For Brazil, the summitry furthered its pursuit of an independent foreign policy. Brazil's relations with the United States remain at a low ebb, following revelations that the NSA tapped Ms Rousseff's phone. The setting up of a BRICS bank (see [article](#)) added some flesh to a still-awkward alliance marked both by a common interest in reforming world governance and by a host of differences. Ms Rousseff stressed that the BRICS' "activism" should not be seen as a "desire for domination" or "a strategic alternative contrary to the interests of other countries". But the question facing Brazil, and Latin America more generally, is whether a wide range of superficial friendships, instead of more selective but deeper partnerships, will help or hinder its rise.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

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Weapons-makers

The case for defence

The squeeze on global arms spending is ending—but life is likely to keep getting harder for makers of military equipment

DATA: 2014.07.19

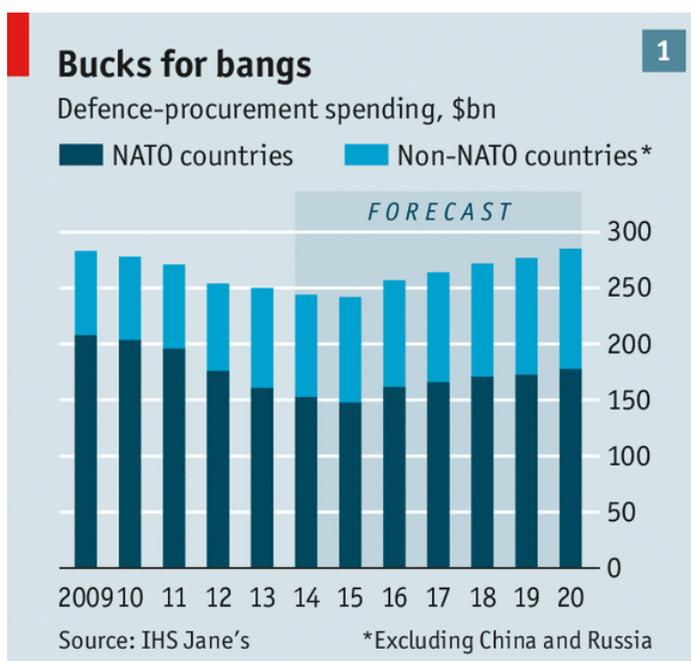


THE star of the show was missing from the skies above the Farnborough air show, Europe's biggest aerospace get-together, which began on July 14th. The F-35 fighter (pictured), which was to have made its first appearance outside America, is grounded after an engine fire. Not taking to the air when expected is a trait of Lockheed Martin's jet. It is years behind schedule and stratospherically over budget. Its absence is an embarrassment for Lockheed but, then again, its presence might have reminded the defence

officials shopping for kit at Farnborough of just the sort of complex and expensive programme that they want to avoid signing up to in future.

Arms-makers are going through a lean period. Some big contracts, such as ones to make bombers, trainer aircraft and drones, are still up for grabs in America, the world's biggest spender. But it and other rich-world governments, struggling to curb their deficits, are trying ever harder to get the most bang for the fewest bucks. The revenues of 17 of the top 20 American weapons-makers shrank in 2013. American-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan had helped to push global spending to a record \$1.7 trillion in 2008. Since then it has plunged by \$100 billion, according to IHS Jane's, a consulting firm.

The good news for arms-makers is that the worst is probably over. America's Congress has partly reversed automatic cuts it had imposed to deal with a ballooning deficit. In Europe the rate of decline is slowing. Growing wealth in emerging economies and new threats in Syria, Iraq and the South China Sea are encouraging rapid spending growth in Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. In all, the market for military kit (excluding Russia and China, mainly closed to Western firms) is set to bottom out next year (see chart 1).



Although the Pentagon's budget is as big as that of the next 15 defence ministries combined, its coffers are no longer bottomless. It wants more "make do and mend", upgrading existing equipment. The model here is Boeing's venerable B-52 bomber, which has been constantly refitted, and will fly on past its 90th birthday in 2042.

The Pentagon has moved away from conventional "cost-plus" contracts, which give contractors an incentive to overspend, since they are guaranteed a margin on top of whatever their costs turn out to be. But in the department's annual assessment of its own competence as a buyer, published last month, it noted that the alternative, fixed-price contracts, has not always proved better: indeed, contractors sometimes end up with profit margins "spectacularly" higher than in cost-plus deals. So the Pentagon is

seeking to create more sophisticated contracts that encourage arms-makers to find cost savings that are shared with the taxpayer.

America is taking an interest in moves across the Atlantic, especially in Britain, to get companies to take over the ownership and upkeep of weapons systems. A deal Britain struck with BAE Systems in 2009 provides “strike power by the hour” for the Royal Air Force’s Eurofighter Typhoon jets. The RAF’s commitment to low-cost flying was reinforced with the announcement at Farnborough that maintenance contracts for transporters would go to Flybe, a budget airline. Britain even recently contemplated outsourcing its entire military procurement, only to get cold feet about such a radical move.

An earlier squeeze in military spending, in the 1990s, prompted a spate of mergers, as weapons-makers cut costs by joining forces. This time the Pentagon has made it clear that it will not accept further consolidation that damages competition. In Europe, political opposition hinders efforts at consolidation—Airbus’s attempt in 2012 to merge with BAE Systems failed for this reason. With mergers out of the question, the big military contractors had to move quickly to prepare for the most recent round of spending cuts, by slashing costs and laying off battalions of workers. Now they are looking at what else they can do to prepare for an age in which budgets have stopped falling, but defence ministries are more demanding buyers.

One answer is to find new, civilian markets for their products. Some big suppliers to the armed forces, such as Boeing and UTC—the owner of Pratt & Whitney, a maker of aero-engines—already have even bigger civilian sides (see chart 2). But the more defence-heavy firms’ past attempts at diversification into non-military work were “unblemished by success”, in the words of Norm Augustine, a former Lockheed boss. Still, a lot of the things they make have civilian uses. Secure communications systems could help to protect banks and other businesses from hackers. Raytheon has just sold its Boomerang sniper-detection system to American power firms, after a gunman knocked out several transformers providing electricity to Silicon Valley.



As yet, though, such contracts are a small part of most arms companies' businesses: civilian cybersecurity and related activities provide only around 2% of Lockheed's revenues, for example. And although weapons-makers are "essentially tech firms", as Rami Myerson of Investec, a bank, puts it, they may struggle to compete with nimbler Silicon Valley outfits. Indeed these are beginning to invade the defence industry's territory. "Warfare is going digital," observes Tom Captain of Deloitte, a consulting firm. Tech firms have shown that they can supply robots, drones and intelligence software. SpaceX, founded by Elon Musk, a tech entrepreneur, is taking America's air force to court to reopen bidding for a satellite-launch contract awarded to Boeing and Lockheed.

If it is hard for military suppliers to make it on civvy street, it is not much easier for them to hawk their gear to new export customers. Plenty of countries, from the Middle East to East Asia, are spending more on arming themselves with jets, missiles and tanks. China's increasingly assertive territorial claims are prompting its neighbours to bolster their defences. But the market is highly fragmented: Brazil, among the bigger spenders, has a defence budget just 4% the size of America's. Not only is it costly to sell to lots of smallish customers; often they insist on some manufacturing being done locally, or on access to sensitive technology that the arms suppliers' home governments would not allow. India, the biggest prize, is a fearfully tough customer, imposing all manner of conditions in return for arms contracts.

The competition to sell to foreign powers is fiercer than at home. Asian and Latin American countries may prefer Russian or Chinese equipment that is not quite as good as Western gear, but far cheaper. Ever more countries with weapons industries of their own are encouraging their firms to seek new export markets, such as South Korea and Japan ([see article](#)).

Those arms-makers which are part of big civilian aerospace conglomerates can spread their research and development overheads across a broader base. They also have a better chance of cross-selling to the defence ministries of countries whose state airlines are already their customers. Airbus's recent

restructuring was in part aimed at achieving this. Civil aerospace is booming, giving such firms strong financial firepower. Potential buyers of their military gear will feel reassured that these companies will still be around in a decade or two, when it needs updating.

Companies that mostly make military products may find life is harder. The turn in the spending cycle may encourage them to dream that vast, money-spinning programmes like the F-35 will return, and the good times will roll again. But the evidence is that an often unreliable, inefficient and over-rewarded industry is at last being forced to change its ways to survive.

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/business/21607825-squeeze-global-arms-spending-endingbut-life-likely-keep-getting-harder>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

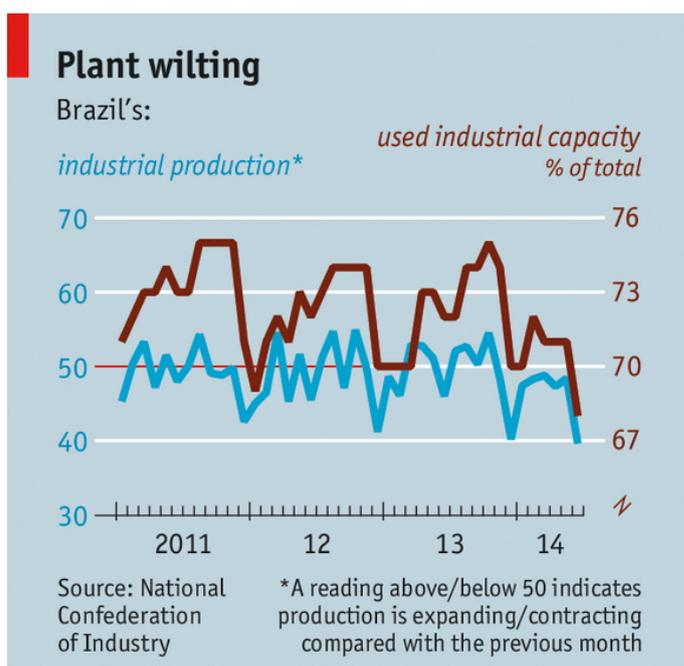
Brazil's economy

All systems slow

Confidence and growth down, public spending up

DATA: 2014.07.26

DURING the month-long football World Cup, which concluded in Brazil on July 13th, rua 25 de Março, a tatty but popular shopping street in São Paulo, was a riot of yellow and green. It was hard to buy anything that did not come in the Brazilian national colours. Now the flags and football jerseys are gone; the cheap bags and Calvin Klein knock-offs are back. Katia Maurício, who runs a stall full of T-shirts and headbands, is selling off the last of her World Cup-themed stock at a big discount. Business was good, she says. "But it will go downhill after the election."



It is already heading that way. Business confidence has sunk to levels not seen since the depths of the global recession in 2009. Inflation among items whose prices are set by the market, not the government, stands at over 7%. Economists are busy slashing growth forecasts for 2014 to 1% or below. Analysts at Morgan Stanley see echoes of another 7-1, the scoreline when Brazil was drubbed by Germany in the World Cup semi-final. The more sensitive souls at Goldman Sachs warn of “stagflation”.

In June manufacturing payrolls contracted for the third straight month, the first time this has happened in half a decade; capacity utilisation, a measure of how much of the country’s industry is busy, has tumbled (see chart). After three years of anaemic growth “industry has finally thrown in the towel”, says Arthur Carvalho of Morgan Stanley.

The unemployment rate is low. But with job prospects dimming, consumers, who have pulled the economy along in the past few years, are growing more downbeat. Last month 11.4% were more than 30 days behind on their debt payments, up from 9% a year earlier. Retail sales have flagged.

Sagging confidence poses the biggest threat to President Dilma Rousseff’s chances of a second term in an election this October. In an effort to prevent voters from feeling the pinch, Ms Rousseff has loosened the fiscal reins. In May public spending was 16% higher than a year earlier and revenues 8% lower. As a result Brazil posted its second-worst monthly primary budget deficit (ie, before interest payments) ever. “They are trying to mask the problem until after the election,” says Ms Maurício.

If so, it isn’t working. The president’s poll lead has been shrinking steadily. A survey released by Datafolha, a research firm, on July 17th showed only a four-percentage-point advantage for Ms Rousseff in the event of a second-round run-off with Aécio Neves, her principal challenger. In February, her lead over Mr Neves in a second round was 27 points.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21608643-confidence-and-growth-down-public-spending-up-all-systems-slow>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

Bello

Eyes on the classroom

To close the education gap, Latin America must produce better teachers

DATA: 2014.07.26

THE Liceo Bicentenario San Pedro is a modern secondary school in Puente Alto, a gritty district of Santiago in Chile. Opened in 2012, the school nestles amid the vestiges of a shantytown where urban sprawl meets the vineyards of the Maipo valley. Most of its pupils are drawn from families classed as “vulnerable”. Yet in national tests it ranks fourth among municipal (ie, public) schools in Chile.



The school has done well by hiring committed young teachers and by offering them more time for preparation and in-service training, according to Germán Codina, the mayor of Puente Alto. When Bello strolled around the *liceo* recently, he saw teachers who visibly commanded the attention of their pupils. Sadly, it is far more common in Latin American schools to see inattentive children talk among

themselves while a teacher writes on the blackboard. It is schooling by rote, not reasoning. And it imposes an unacceptable handicap on Latin Americans.

The region has made big strides in educational enrolment. In 1960 the average adult in Latin America and the Caribbean had just 4.3 years of schooling; in 2010 that figure was 10.2, only a couple of years less than in developed countries. The problem is that Latin Americans don't learn enough. The international test known as PISA shows that at 15 they are more than two years behind their peers in developed countries in maths and reading comprehension. It is the quality of learning, rather than mere attendance, that drives economic growth.

The main reason for Latin America's educational failure is simple. The region churns out large numbers of teachers recruited from less-bright school leavers. It trains them badly and pays them peanuts (between 10% and 50% less than other professionals). So they teach badly.

That last point is made in a groundbreaking new [study](#) by the World Bank. In the largest-ever international exercise of its kind, the bank's researchers made unannounced visits to 15,000 classrooms in more than 3,000 public schools (both primary and secondary) in several Latin American countries between 2009 and 2013. They found that the region's teachers spent less than 65% of their time in class actually teaching, compared with a benchmark of good practice in schools in the United States of 85% (see chart). The rest of the time was spent on administration or simply wasted. That is the equivalent of more than one day's schooling lost per week. The observers also found that despite abundant teaching materials and equipment (including laptops), teachers relied overwhelmingly on the blackboard.

Closing the gap in learning demands far-reaching changes in the way teachers are recruited, trained and rewarded. Reforming an entire profession is complex, especially since teachers' unions tend to be powerful in Latin America. But some countries have made a start. A *sine qua non* is national testing of students and the publication of schools' results.

The next step is to introduce in-service evaluation of teachers, and to link pay and promotion to performance instead of seniority. Half a dozen places, including Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Rio de Janeiro, have passed or proposed laws to do this. But none has yet had the courage to implement a rigorous evaluation system under which teachers who fail are ejected from the profession.

In many countries, falling school rolls—a result of demographic change—provide a matchless opportunity to pay more to good teachers by weeding out the weakest ones. Reforming their career structure can also be the best way to attract brighter recruits to the profession, according to Barbara Bruns, the report's lead author. She adds that school principals should be encouraging teachers to learn from their colleagues: the bank found big variations in teacher performance within schools as well as among them.

Not all is gloom. Chile, Peru and Brazil have all seen improvements in their PISA scores over the past decade. Nowadays education is at the top of the political agenda in the region. That is especially true in Chile. Influenced by a powerful student movement, its government is proposing an expensive reform to ban public subsidy of for-profit schools, parent co-financing and selection. It might get a bigger return by using the money to invest in world-class teachers.

[From the print edition: The Americas](#)

Disponível em: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21608640-close-education-gap-latin-america-must-produce-better-teachers-eyes-classroom>. Acesso em: 21 de ago. 2014.

THE HUFFINGTON POST (PARTE 1)

Brazil Prison Break Captured On Camera (VIDEO)

The Huffington Post | By [Amanda Scherker](#)

DATA: 2013.08.13

About 50 inmates escaped Fundacao Casa facility after a massive riot broke out at the Sao Paolo youth detention center Monday.

Helicopter cameras captured much of the [chaos in the Brazilian prison](#), which included inmates setting their mattresses aflame and leaping over the building's walls, as the video above shows.

About [29 staff members were held hostage](#) during the uprising, and a battered prison facility director was taken to the hospital in critical condition, according to APTN. Police have been scouring the surrounding residential areas for the escaped detainees.

In many countries, such an uprising might be an anomaly, but in Brazil, the recent incident is merely another chapter in a saga of prison violence. A riot in 2012 saw [470 armed inmates of the Advogado Antonio Jacinto Filho prison](#) take about 130 people hostage. And earlier this month, [25 Brazilian police officers were found guilty](#) of killing 52 prison inmates during a Sao Paolo prisoner riot in 1992.

In a 2012 report on the country's prison system, the Rio Times pointed out that the Brazilian Forum of Public Security estimates 37 percent of [inmates in the country's prisons are awaiting trial](#). "We have hell in prisons. We have 70,000 prisoners, at least, illegally detained in police stations," Supremo Tribunal Federal Minister Gilmar Mendes said in the report.

According to Amnesty International, [Brazil had 200,000 more prisoners than facilities could accommodate](#) by the end of 2012, resulting in atrocious overcrowding.

Several programs are attempting to ease that burden by providing prisoners various opportunities to shorten their sentences through [knitting, reading books](#) and even [stationary biking to generate power](#).

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/13/brazil-prison-break_n_3749280.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazil's Crack Dealers Urged To Give Up Trade (VIDEO)

DATA: 2013.08.13

In Rio's infamous favelas, one determined lawyer is waging a battle to fight the crack epidemic that plagues Brazil's second-largest city.

Flávia Pinheiro Froes frequently visits Rio's so-called Crackolandias, trying to convince drug dealers to give up the crack trade. "Crack is the lowest point of misery," she explains. "From a social standpoint, it causes more damage to society than other drugs."

According to the country's Institute of Public Policy of Drug and Alcohol, Brazil became the world's biggest crack market 2012. Pinheiro Froes explains that the street drug interests dealers so much because it generates quick profits. While cheaper and less profitable than cocaine, crack sells fast.

Some indications, however, suggest Pinheiro Froes' project may be having an effect. Independent of the lawyer's advocacy efforts, two prominent drug traffickers [have given up selling crack](#) because of the devastating effect on society, Al Jazeera reports.

"There is a lot of profit to be made on crack," Rodrigo, one of the traffickers told the network. "But crack also brought destruction in our community as well, so we're not selling it anymore. Addicts were robbing homes, killing each other for nothing inside the community. We wanted to avoid all that, so we stopped selling it."

Take a look at Flávia Pinheiro Froes' fascinating story in the video above.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/13/brazil-crack-dealers_n_3749344.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazil's Amazonian Kawahiva Tribe Caught On Tape (VIDEO)

DATA: 2013.08.14

RIO DE JANEIRO — A newly released video captures the first fleeting images of an indigenous tribe living in Brazil's Amazon jungle that is thought to have had very little contact with the outside world.

The images show several members of the Kawahiva tribe walking through dense foliage. Naked men carry bows and arrows, and a woman totes a child on her back. The woman runs away after noticing the camera, and one man briefly doubles back to investigate.

Loggers first reported the existence of the Kawahiva in 1999. A reservation was created last year in the western state of Mato Grosso, but members of the tribe still face grave threats from loggers and farmers.

The video was shot in 2011 by the government's agency overseeing indigenous matters, but was only released on Wednesday.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/14/kawahiva-tribe_n_3757241.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Samsung Sued By Brazil's Government Over Poor Labor Conditions

AP | By By YOUKYUNG LEE

DATA: 2013.08.14



SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung Electronics Co. is facing a lawsuit from Brazil's government seeking damages over poor working conditions on the company's assembly lines, prosecutors said.

Labor prosecutors in the northern Brazilian state of Amazonas said they are suing Samsung for 250 million reais (\$108 million) because its plant in the industrial center of the state capital of Manaus has been exposing employees to risks of illnesses due to intense, repetitive work.

The Manaus plant is the largest of the 25 factories the company has around the world. It has nearly 6,000 workers and supplies all of Latin America with smartphones and other electronic goods.

Samsung said Wednesday it will cooperate with Brazilian authorities.

"Once we receive the complaint in question, we will conduct a thorough review and fully cooperate with the Brazilian authorities. We take great care to provide a workplace environment that assures the highest industry standards of health, safety, and welfare for our employees across the world," it said in a statement.

Prosecutors said that Samsung came under investigation after Brazil's Labor Ministry verified that workers perform three times more movements per minute than what is considered safe by ergonomic studies. They said in a statement that many employees work up to 10 hours a day while standing, and more than 2,000 workers suffered from health problems such as back injuries in 2012 that were related to working conditions.

Samsung, the world's largest maker of smartphones, memory chips and LCD display panels, was prosecuted in Brazil in 2011 over poor working conditions and paid a settlement of about \$200,000.

It has also been accused of hiring children in China and faced a flurry of lawsuits in South Korea from workers seeking compensation for health hazards at its factories.

Associated Press writer Marco Sibaja in Brasilia, Brazil, contributed to this report.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/14/samsung-brazil_n_3752801.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Sao Paulo's Miserably Long Commutes Sparked Wave Of Protests In Brazil (PHOTOS)

DATA: 2013.08.15

SAO PAULO -- Chests squashed flat against backs, hours a day, every day. That's the daily commute for the 8 million citizens who ride the subway and bus lines in Sao Paulo, South America's largest city.

Exhausted workers often travel two or three hours each way, crammed into tightly packed buses and subways. And that's if things work as planned. Commuter train breakdowns are common, and enraged commuters have clashed at times with police after being stranded.

Such experiences helped spark the biggest revolts to hit Brazilian streets in a generation. A bloody police crackdown roused sympathy for demonstrators who were protesting a 10-cent hike in bus and subway fares. That brought millions into the streets across the country, protests that came to encompass other frustrations, such as corruption, pitiful schools and poor health care.

Officials rolled back the fare hike. But Sao Paulo workers still pay a relatively stiff \$1.30 fare for each miserable trip. That means the poorest people, who often must change buses and subway lines repeatedly to reach work from distant slums, can wind up paying 20 percent of their pay on transportation.

President Dilma Rousseff recently announced \$4 billion in public spending in Sao Paulo, much of it earmarked for new infrastructure for bus lanes and the subway.

But officials acknowledge it will take years to expand the subway, create more dedicated bus lanes and beef up public transportation fleets.

Here's a gallery of images showing some of the chaotic conditions that Brazilian commuters can expect to endure on public transit in meantime.

Associated Press photographers and photo editors on Twitter:<http://apne.ws/15Oo6jo>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/15/sao-paulo-commute_n_3762934.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Robber Thrown Out Window (VIDEO)

The Huffington Post | By [William Goodman](#)

DATA: 2013.08.23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwjSsqjNKuw>

Video of an alleged robbery out of Brazil that's been spreading online has a rather... unusual ending. Click play above and *wait for it... wait for it... wait for it...* (For any who are really impatient, the twist occurs at 29 seconds into the clip.)

The footage, more reminiscent of a Spaghetti Western than a robbery gone awry, is entitled "Tentativa de assalto a mão armada frustrada." (*Attempted armed robbery thwarted.*) and was posted online by [danossecom](#). Without more information available, we have to take its legitimacy with a grain of salt. If accurate, though, while the perspective is wild, you have to wonder what exactly went on inside!

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/23/convenience-store-robber-n_3805351.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

The Fishermen Of Brazil's Copacabana Beach (PHOTOS)

DATA: 2013.08.23

RIO DE JANEIRO -- Daybreak's glow silhouettes the rainforest-covered mountains nearby while the Atlantic's waters lap at cramped wooden fishing boats.

It's another day at sea for the men who sail out six days a week to try their luck.

But this isn't your average fishermen's port. It's Rio de Janeiro's famed Copacabana beach, its sands forming a golden crescent at the edge of a densely populated neighborhood.

For as long as anybody can remember, the humble fishing boats have left almost every morning from one end of the sands, where they share space with scantily clad tourists on land and surfers on water.

Marcelo Botafogo has spent nearly three decades heading out from Copacabana beach, picking up his boat with the help of seven other men and tossing it into the water before most people have stirred from bed.

He says the fishing isn't so good anymore. He doesn't know exactly why. He tries not to think much about the fuller nets of yesteryear: "It makes me depressed."

But Botafogo and dozens of others still head out at 5:30 a.m. and bring in their catch. It's sold right where the boats land on a beachside stand, where residents buy the freshest fish in town and tourists stroll by, pausing to take snapshots.

Here's a gallery of images of fishermen practicing their timeless tradition on Copacabana beach.

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Associated Press photographers and photo editors on Twitter: <http://apne.ws/15Oo6jo>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/23/copacabana-beach-fishermen_n_3805070.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Emerson Sheik, Brazilian Soccer Star, Kisses Another Man In Instagram Photo

DATA: 2013.08.27

A Brazilian soccer star has sparked social media controversy after posting a photo of [playfully himself kissing another man](#).

As Yahoo! Sports reported, Emerson Sheik (birth name: Márcio Passos de Albuquerque), who plays for the Brazilian team Corinthians, celebrated a recent victory by giving a male friend a kiss in a moment on Instagram:

Beneath the photo, the player included a caption written in Portuguese. According to a translation provided by Global Voices, [the caption read as follows](#):

You've got to be very brave to celebrate friendship and not be scared of what prejudiced people will say. You've got to be very free to celebrate a victory like this, openly, with a friend who is always there for you.

The snapshot quickly sparked an onslaught of anti-gay comments, despite the fact that Izac Azar, the man seen kissing Sheik in the photograph and also the head chef of the restaurant where the player was celebrating with his girlfriend at the time, is both married and a father-to-be. Last week, a group of Corinthian supporters reportedly descended upon the team's training site with banners protesting the kiss.

"Go and kiss a woman," [one sign read](#), according to ABC News. "We don't accept homosexuals."

Meanwhile, as Samba Foot noted, Sheik called the soccer world "very macho" [before firing back](#), "That was Emerson the person, not the footballer. I have enormous affection for Isaac, who is a very special friend ... I have enormous respect for the fans. That's me off the field. For me, it is so natural that I do not want to talk about it."

Interestingly, Azar offered a somewhat different take, saying the pair were aware of the fact that the photograph had the potential to stir controversy, [according to ABC News](#).

"I'm married. And Sheik was with his girlfriend. We wanted to show that you don't have to be gay to fight against homophobia," Azar is quoted as saying.

It isn't the first time that a same-sex kiss has generated a backlash in the sporting arena. After a 2-1 victory over Germany, two French national team players [embraced in a passionate lip-lock](#) that set tongues wagging in the blogosphere last year.

Similarly, [Tim Tebow shared](#) a male-on-male lip-lock with his Denver Broncos teammate Demaryius Thomas, immediately after Thomas caught a touchdown pass. The Broncos went on to defeat the Miami Dolphins 18-15.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/27/emerson-sheik-football-gay-kiss-n_3823142.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

U.S. Spied On Brazil, Mexico Presidents: Report

Reuters

DATA: 2013.09.02

SAO PAULO, Sept 2 (Reuters) - The U.S. National Security Agency spied on the communications of the presidents of Brazil and Mexico, a Brazilian news program reported, a revelation that could strain U.S. relations with the two biggest countries in Latin America.

The report late Sunday by Globo's news program "Fantastico" was based on documents that journalist Glenn Greenwald obtained from former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. Greenwald, who lives in Rio de Janeiro, was listed as a co-contributor to the report.

"Fantastico" showed what it said was an NSA document dated June 2012 displaying passages of written messages sent by Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, who was still a candidate at that time. In the messages, Pena Nieto discussed who he was considering naming as his ministers once elected.

A separate document displayed communication patterns between Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and her top advisers, "Fantastico" said, although no specific written passages were included in the report.

Both documents were part of an NSA case study showing how data could be "intelligently" filtered, Fantastico said.

Justice Minister Jose Eduardo Cardozo told O Globo newspaper that the contents of the documents, if confirmed, "should be considered very serious and constitute a clear violation of Brazilian sovereignty."

"This (spying) hits not only Brazil, but the sovereignty of several countries that could have been violated in a way totally contrary to what international law establishes," Cardozo said.

Cardozo traveled last week to Washington and met with U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden and other officials, seeking more details on a previous, seemingly less serious set of disclosures by Snowden regarding U.S. spying in Brazil.

Rousseff is scheduled to make a formal state visit in October to meet U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington, a trip intended to illustrate the warming in Brazil-U.S. relations since she took office in 2011.

A spokesman for Rousseff would not comment on the new spying allegations. Officials at Mexico's presidential palace did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Snowden, an American who worked as a contractor for the NSA before leaking the documents, currently lives in asylum in Russia. "Fantastico" said it contacted Snowden via Internet chat, and that Snowden said he could not comment on the content of the report because of his asylum agreement with Russian authorities. (Reporting by Brian Winter; editing by Jackie Frank)

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/02/us-spying-brazil-mexico-presidents_n_3855501.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazil Detains Seven People For Arms Trafficking To The U.S.

AP | By Associated Press

DATA: 2013.09.05



BRASILIA -- Brazilian police say seven people have been detained and 22 high-caliber guns and munitions have been seized in an operation targeting a band that trafficked in arms from the U.S. by hiding them inside mattresses.

Federal police in Minas Gerais state said in a statement that five suspects were arrested in Brazil and the other two in the United States, with the help of American officials.

The .762 caliber guns were accompanied by an "enormous quantity of munitions," the statement said. It said the weapons were to be resold in Brazil, mostly to gangs operating in the slums of Rio de Janeiro and other states.

Authorities say the weapons were transported with the household goods of Brazilians, without their knowledge, as they moved back after living in the United States.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/05/brazil-arms-trafficking_n_3873477.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazil Independence Day Marked By Mass Protests

DATA: 2013.09.07



Demonstrators clash with riot police during the Independence Day parade in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on September 7, 2013. (YASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP/Getty Images) | Getty

RIO DE JANEIRO — Police used tear gas and rubber bullets to scatter anti-government protesters who interrupted an independence day military parade in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday, and demonstrations in dozens of other cities led to some scuffles between marchers and police.

Authorities said they arrested at least 10 people in Rio, and at least six marchers were injured.

It was among more than 100 planned demonstrations across Brazil, with unions, student groups, anarchists and other groups calling for an end to political corruption and drastically improved public services in health, transportation, education and security.

In the capital of Brasilia, about 1,000 protesters gathered in front of Congress. While it was peaceful for the most part, police and activists clashed at times.

"We're here to remind the politicians that we'll remain vigilant," said Carolina Santos, a 24-year-old at the demonstration in Brasilia. "We don't want corruption in public institutions and we want political reform that gives more power to the people."

The actions Saturday were not nearly as large as those in June, when more than 1 million people took to the streets on a single night and violent clashes with police occurred in scores of cities.

A Saturday afternoon match in Brasilia between Brazil's national football team and Australia drew one of the protests.

Police clashed with several hundred protesters near the stadium before the game, as demonstrators expressed their ire about the money spent to refurbish stadiums for next year's World Cup.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/07/brazil-independence-day-protests_n_3886964.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

U.S., Brazil Meet To Talk Surveillance Concerns

AP | By JOSH LEDERMAN

DATA: 2013.09.11



WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's national security adviser conceded there are legitimate questions about U.S. spying on its allies, the White House said Wednesday as it sought to sooth Brazil's concerns about far-reaching surveillance by the National Security Agency.

A White House meeting between Susan Rice and Brazil's foreign minister, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo, constituted the latest attempt by the Obama administration to stem the damage to foreign relations inflicted by revelations by NSA leaker Edward Snowden. But it was not immediately clear whether that damage had been repaired.

In the meeting, Rice acknowledged that recently revealed surveillance programs have sparked tensions in an otherwise close U.S.-Brazilian relationship, said Caitlin Hayden, a spokeswoman for the White House's National Security Council. She said some of the NSA's activities have been distorted by Snowden's leaks to the news media while others "raise legitimate questions for our friends and allies about how these capabilities are employed."

"The United States is committed to working with Brazil to address these concerns, while we continue to work together on a shared agenda of bilateral, regional and global initiatives," Hayden said.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has been among the most vocal of foreign leaders expressing outrage over U.S. spying. After leaked documents showed U.S. spy agencies had monitored her communications, Rousseff threatened to cancel a planned state visit to Washington.

After discussing the issue with Obama during an economic summit last week in St. Petersburg, Russia, Rousseff asserted that spying on a friendly country is incompatible with democratic alliances. She said Obama had promised answers and told her he didn't want her to cancel her trip.

"I want to know everything that they have. Everything," Rousseff said.

The White House didn't say what specifics, if any, Rice offered Brazil on Wednesday.

But even as the two officials prepared to meet in Washington, new revelations offered further fodder for Brazilian concerns about the surveillance. A report Sunday by Globo TV, based on leaked documents from Snowden, said the NSA targeted Brazil's state-run oil company, Petrobras. It also said the NSA targeted the Belgium-based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, an organization that oversees international bank transfers thought to be secure transactions.

The NSA programs have sparked international consternation from Latin America to Asia and Europe.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, who shared his concerns during his own private meeting with Obama last week, has said reports the NSA had kept tabs on his communications, if true, would constitute an illegal act. And Obama found himself on the defensive last week during a stop in

Stockholm, where he insisted the U.S. wasn't targeting the personal communications of average Europeans but acknowledged that the programs haven't always worked as intended and said "we had to tighten them up."

—

Follow Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/11/us-brazil-surveillance_n_3910278.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

'Little Step' Dance Takes Brazil Slums By Storm

AP | By NICOLAS TANNER

DATA: 2013.09.12



RIO DE JANEIRO -- Sunlight seeps through holes in the roof, illuminating the graffiti-covered walls of an abandoned building where kids created a makeshift dance studio in Rio de Janeiro's Borel shantytown.

Beads of sweat form on the young dancers' foreheads, then plop onto a dusty concrete floor as the teens glide and pop, shake and dip in a dance form called "passinho," or "little step."

Passinho has been around for years, but it recently began spreading through social media, with dancers posting videos of their moves on YouTube and Facebook, sometimes drawing thousands of followers. The dance is most popular in Brazil's poor favelas, where many credit it with keeping young people out of trouble and away from local gangs.

In fact, the dance's popularity has benefited from a police crackdown on another late night activity, more raucous "baile funk" parties often organized by criminal gangs and marred by drug use, violence and incidents of young girls being exploited.

In passinho gatherings, participants watch as performers square off against each other in choreographed duels, while the baile funk parties tend to attract hundreds of revelers dancing in close contact, increasing the chance of violence, and shootouts between police and gang members.

Passinho is a mix of sambaesque footwork, breakdance handstands, free spins and athletic acrobatics, all set to a music heavy on funk hooks laid over snare beats.

Music is provided by mostly low-fi sound equipment, sometimes just a smartphone in a dancer's hand. It's a portable dance, with passinho "battles" popping up anywhere there's enough space to do a handstand.

The dance's new superstars include Borel slum resident Hilton Santos da Cruz Jr., known as "Hiltinho Fantastico" – Fantastic Little Hilton.

Cruz flashes a smile stretching from earring to earring when he talks about going from watching passinho videos online to being crowned a "little step" champion earlier this year on one of Brazil's most popular TV variety shows. During the competition, his rail-thin frame twisted, glided and slid over the floor.

"In the past, so many kids were involved in trafficking, or not leaving their house," said Cruz. "Today, passinho is changing everything, helping those on a dangerous path. Me, too."

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/12/brazil-slum-dance_n_3912749.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Dilma Rousseff's UN Speech: Brazilian President Calls U.S. Spying 'Meddling'

Reuters

By Daniel Trotta

DATA: 2013.09.24

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 24 (Reuters) - Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff on Tuesday criticized the United States for spying, using the opening speech at the U.N. General Assembly to announce Brazil would adopt legislation and technology to protect it from illegal interception of communications.

Rousseff last week called off a high-profile state visit to the United States scheduled for October over reports that the U.S. National Security Agency had been spying on Brazil and Rousseff's email.

After opening with diplomatic pleasantries and a condemnation of the shopping mall attack in Kenya, Rousseff launched into a blistering attack on U.S. spying, calling espionage among friendly nations "totally unacceptable."

"Meddling in such a manner in the lives and affairs of other countries is a breach of international law and, as such, it is an affront to the principles that should otherwise govern relations among countries, especially among friendly nations," Rousseff told the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations.

U.S. President Barack Obama was en route to the United Nations while Rousseff spoke. He then followed Rousseff on the podium as the first and second national leaders to address the General Assembly.

Postponing the state visit, which as to have included a dinner at the White House, was a rare and diplomatically severe snub by Brazil. No new date has been set.

The report by Brazil Globo's news program Fantastico on National Security Agency spying was based on documents that journalist Glenn Greenwald obtained from former NSA contractor Edward Snowden. Greenwald, who lives in Rio de Janeiro, was one of the journalists to first report Snowden's leaks of classified information on previously secret U.S. telephone and internet surveillance efforts.

Rousseff's state visit was conceived to highlight cooperation between the two biggest economies in the Americas and Brazil's emergence over the past decade as a regional power. Rousseff said Brazil will adopt legislation and technology to protect it from illegal interception of communications.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/24/dilma-rousseff-un-speech_n_3981952.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Huffington Post Launching Site In Brazil

The Huffington Post

DATA: 2013.09.30

HuffPost issued the following press release on Monday about its upcoming Brazilian site:

New York and Sao Paulo, September 30th, 2013 – The Huffington Post Media Group and Abril Group, one of Brazil's largest media conglomerates, today announce their partnership and plans for the creation of the Brazilian edition of The Huffington Post, a leading source of breaking news, opinion, entertainment, community and digital information.

The announcement was jointly made by Arianna Huffington, chair, president and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post Media Group and Fabio Colletti Barbosa, CEO of Abril S.A.

"I'm delighted to welcome Brazil to the HuffPost family," said Huffington. "Brazil's rapid growth, vitality and creativity have placed the country at the center of the global conversation. During my visits

to Brazil and our partners' visits here, I have come to know and deeply respect the Abril team. And I'm particularly excited about partnering with them to use all the resources and tools at our disposal to tell the stories that need to be told and give Brazil's voices and perspectives an even greater platform for expression."

"To Abril, it will be one more important step in contributing to the dissemination of information, culture and entertainment in our country," said Barbosa. "The Huffington Post's position at the vanguard of digital content along with Abril's Brazilian market knowledge made this partnership possible. This partnership allows us to accelerate our entry into new digital business models in order to reach another segment of customers in Brazil as Huffington Post has done with other partners around the world."

"With Abril Group as our partner, The Huffington Post enters the market on extremely strong footing," said Jimmy Maymann, CEO of the Huffington Post Media Group. "This edition will not only put HuffPost in its ninth country and fifth continent, but also will land us at the center of one of the highest-growth regions in the world. Brazil has more than 100 million Internet users, the 5th largest audience in the world, and is growing fast – 7.6% annually through 2016 according to e-marketer Research."

The Brazilian edition of the HuffPost will join the other 40 editorial websites and almost 30 titles available for tablets that Abril runs today. The company also has 6 million application downloads, and nine tablets and smartphone apps ranked in top ten.

"This partnership represents the beginning of a new era for our digital presence. Joining the Huffpost's technology and digital strategy with our deep understanding of the Brazilian audience in all the segments we work in, we're aiming to build an unique and very relevant digital operation." Said Manoel Lemos, Abril's Chief Digital Officer.

The growth of The Huffington Post's global profile parallels that of Brazil, which will host the next World Cup and Summer Olympics. Today's announcement precedes the upcoming launch of a German-language edition of The Huffington Post in partnership with Burda's Tomorrow Focus. The Huffington Post's current international editions include the UK, Canada, France, Spain, Italy, Maghreb, and Japan, with more than 50,000 bloggers worldwide -- from politicians, students and celebrities to academics, parents and policy experts -- who contribute in real-time on the subjects they are most passionate about.

About The Huffington Post

The Huffington Post is a Pulitzer Prize-winning source of breaking news, features, and entertainment, as well as a highly engaged community for opinion and conversation. The Huffington Post has 46 million monthly U.S. unique visitors and 78 million monthly global unique visitors (comScore, August 2013) posting over eight million comments each month. The site has over 50,000 bloggers -- from politicians, students and celebrities to academics, parents and policy experts -- who contribute in real-time on the subjects they are most passionate about. The Huffington Post has editions in the UK, Canada, France, Spain, Italy, Japan and Maghreb.

About Abril Group

Abril Group is one of the largest and most influential communication and education groups in Latin America. Founded in 1950, the group comprises Abril S.A., the company responsible for Media and

Printing business, DGB, the Logistics & Distribution holding, and Abril Educação, which began operating independently from Abril S.A. in early 2010, following a corporate restructuring process. The group also includes the Victor Civita Foundation, created in 1985 with the purpose of improving basic education in Brazil. Abril provides information, culture, education, and entertainment to virtually all audience segments, operating in an integrated manner throughout several different media channels.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/30/huffington-post-brazil-site_n_4018525.html. Acesso em: 05 de set. 2014.

Number Of Missing In Brazil's Rio De Janeiro Skyrockets

AP | By BRADLEY BROOKS

DATA: 2013.10.07



RIO DE JANEIRO — RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Anderson de Souza turned back after bounding down a dark maze of passageways in Rio de Janeiro's sprawling Rocinha slum, incandescent light illuminating his face.

It was right here, he said, pointing to a spot near his family's shack, that the police led his father away to a brutal torture and death. And it was in the same place he said he lost all hope that Rio's ambitious security program to pacify and permanently occupy slums ahead of the 2016 Olympics would make his city safer.

"We're not going to get my father back alive. All I want now is justice, that's it," Souza said. "Things have only gotten worse since the police came here. At least when the drug gangs had control, we knew the rules. Now, there is only fear. Police are snatching people up randomly, just like my dad."

Human rights activists and police watchdogs say the case of Amarildo de Souza, a 42-year-old construction worker who an internal police investigation found was tortured, killed and "disappeared" by officers in July, is emblematic of deeper problems with Rio's plan to clear slums of gangs who have held sway over most of the city's thousand shantytowns for decades.

Homicides in Rio are down, but an Associated Press analysis of official police statistics shows that since 2007, a year before the security push into the city's slums, the number of missing person cases in the city and its impoverished outskirts has shot up 33 percent, to 4,090 reports last year.

It's not clear who's behind the increase, but heavy-handed police tactics raise suspicions among those living in slums that authorities are involved. During the investigation into Souza's disappearance, more than 20 other Rocinha residents told authorities they were tortured during police interrogations.

Watchdog groups say it's reasonable to think police themselves are disappearing people as they struggle to tame slums, given the long track record of officers carrying out extrajudicial killings. Security experts, however, blame drug gangs for hiding the bodies of rival traffickers they've killed to avoid drawing police attention.

Police declined numerous requests for an official comment. But Rio Gov. Sergio Cabral insisted Sunday that the Souza case "is not the trademark" of the police pacification units, known as UPPs.

"The method used by these police was an abomination, but we have 8,600 police in UPPs and the overwhelming majority are beloved by the population," he told reporters.

Regardless of who is responsible, the disappearances are a blow to authorities trying to show the world that Rio is shedding its violent image ahead of the coming sporting events, which also include next year's World Cup soccer tournament.

"These are missing people who are never coming home," said Antonio Carlos Costa, a pastor who has worked for years in Rio's slums and runs the anti-violence group Rio de Paz. "We're talking about numbers far higher than the number killed or disappeared under Brazil's military dictatorship. These are the disappeared of democracy."

For years now, police throughout Brazil have come under withering criticism for extra-judicial "resistance" killings, or summary executions of suspects. In a 2009 report, the U.S.-based watchdog group Human Rights Watch estimated that some 11,000 people were killed by police between 2003 and 2009 in the country's two largest metropolises, Rio and Sao Paulo. A 2008 United Nations report found that that Brazilian police were responsible for a significant portion of the country's 48,000 slayings the year before.

Costa said the worry is that police, in an effort to improve those grim statistics, have taken to disappearing the bodies of the people they kill, similar to what investigators say happened in the Souza case.

Reports provided by the Rio state Public Security Institute show that the number of resistance killings by police in metropolitan Rio dropped by 71 percent since 2007, while overall homicides are down 37 percent.

"These statistics are strange," Costa said. "How can we have falling homicides and police resistance killings, presumably showing that the city is safer, yet have disappearances spiking? Something isn't right.

"So then, one has to ask the question: Could it be that some statistics are falling because the disappearances are rising? The suspicion is that they're using the tactics seen in the Amarildo case to artificially lower those numbers."

He noted, however that he didn't think police were behind all the recent disappearances.

Paulo Storani, a Rio-based security consultant who was a captain in an elite unit that used to take on gangs, said it was wrong to presume officers are to blame for the increase in missing person cases. He said the responsibility lies with drug gangs and other criminals, and with residents being more comfortable to report cases as they see a stronger police presence.

In Rocinha, residents said they didn't think the pacification units will bring security anytime soon.

"There was great hope for change when the UPP came, we thought the state was finally arriving, that its presence would improve lives," said Carlos Eduardo Duda, a community leader in Rocinha who has filed a complaint with state officials about police torturing his 16-year-old brother while questioning him about gang activity.

"But it's turned out this is just the oppressive arm of the state apparatus, it feels like little else has been done to help us," he said.

That sentiment is a blow to Jose Beltrame, the top security official for Rio de Janeiro state, who oversees police and was the creator of the slum pacification program. He said the Souza case was in the hands of the justice system, and that "what's important now is to maintain the integrity of the Rocinha UPP."

He added: "I won't peddle the illusion that that all the problems will be resolved soon. These areas have suffered from 30 years of (government) abandonment."

Last week, police investigators handed over their report on Souza to prosecutors and recommended that charges be brought against 10 officers from the slum's unit for his abduction, torture, death and disappearance. The accused officers deny hurting or killing Souza.

In interviews, Souza's family said the still missing man had no involvement with gangs and said the police picked him up because he repeatedly complained about officers roughing up his sons.

Some 20 members of the extended Souza family now live in a small house in Rocinha for fear of police reprisals against them for demanding justice.

Souza's sister, Maria Lacerda, 52, stood in her cramped kitchen and looked over her late brother's six children.

"When you're poor, you're easy to kill. It's been like that forever in our Brazil and it's going to happen to others if they stay quiet," she said. "But by God, not this time! We won't shut up. An animal doesn't deserve the end my brother had, and the guilty will pay."

Bradley Brooks on Twitter: www.twitter.com/bradleybrooks

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/07/brazil-rio-missing_n_4059580.html.
Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Brazil Can Handle World Cup Security, Says FIFA Executive

AP | By STEPHEN WADE

DATA: 2013.10.11

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian police can control any protests during next year's World Cup, a top executive for soccer's governing body said Thursday.

There were violent protests around the Confederations Cup in June, and FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke said he was satisfied with the police response.

Demonstrators took to the streets daily, reaching a million one day. They questioned why Brazil is spending billions to organize the World Cup — and the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016 — in a country with high taxes and poor public services.

Weekly protests have continued across Brazil since the Confederations Cup, the latest on Monday when police used rubber bullets and tear gas to break up protests in Rio and Sao Paulo. The protests were initially organized by striking teachers.

"What has happened at the Confederations Cup and the way the authorities reacted was definitely very good and gave confidence to all the teams, commercial partners and all of us on the capacity to control such situations," Valcke said in Rio.

Valcke was accosted by 50 protesters on Monday when he toured a stadium in Cuiaba in west-central Brazil. Protesters scribbled protests slogans on freshly poured concrete — just feet from where the field will be.

"World Cup. Why?" was one message.

Another read: "Less Cup, More Health and Education."

A banner paraded around the stadium read: "FIFA, Go Home."

Valcke defended the right of Brazilians to protest, even during the World Cup, but only if they are peaceful.

"What do you want us to do? What do you want me to say about it? It is happening. Will it happen at the World Cup? I hope not, but potentially it could happen. There could be demonstrations during the World Cup."

Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo, sitting alongside Valcke, criticized reporters for focusing on the negative and for "almost rooting things don't go right."

"They (demonstrations) might happen," Rebelo said. "Yes, it's possible. But they might not happen also. ... Brazil, even having to deal with the problems of the demonstrations — like what happened in June — I think Brazil can have a World Cup in a peaceful environment."

Former World Cup winner Ronaldo, who has been living in London for several months, said foreigners seemed more enthused about the World Cup than locals.

"What I have seen and heard abroad is a lot of enthusiasm from people," he said. "What I see abroad is very different from what I see here inside Brazil and what is being shown in the media. ... Of course, the population wants other things like education and security. But people also want to see the World Cup. This is a difficult moment with people going to the streets demanding their rights."

World Cup organizers said almost 6.2 million ticket requests had been made in the first phase of sales. Officials said 70 percent were from Brazil.

"There's a wish for the world to attend this World Cup," Valcke said.

He reiterated that he expected six stadiums being readied for the World Cup to be handed over to FIFA by a Dec. 31 deadline. Six other stadiums for the World Cup were used for the Confederations Cup and are ready to go.

He said a stadium being built in Curitiba in southern Brazil was under "permanent monitoring" by the organizing committee. He added that grass at the stadium in Brasilia had to be improved.

"The quality of the pitch in Brasilia is not what you are expecting," Valcke said. "We have more than enough time to make sure the pitches will be good."

Follow Stephen Wade at <http://twitter.com/StephenWadeAP>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/11/brazil-world-cup-security_n_4086389.html. Acesso em: 12 de set. 2014.

England Reaches 2014 World Cup With 2-0 Win Over Poland

DATA: 2013.10.15



Steven Gerrard celebrates scoring his goal with Wayne Rooney and Danny Welbeck of England during the FIFA 2014 World Cup Qualifying Group H match between England and Poland at Wembley Stadium on October 15, 2013 in London, England. (Photo by Jan Kruger - The FA/The FA via Getty Images) | Getty

By [Goal.com](#)

England [booked its place at next summer's World Cup](#) in Brazil with a 2-0 win over Poland at Wembley Stadium on Tuesday.

The Three Lions had a host of chances in the first half before [Wayne Rooney eventually opened the scoring](#) just before the break, heading the ball past the otherwise excellent Wojciech Szczesny.

Roy Hodgson's charges endured a nervy second period as they failed to kill off the match until captain Steven Gerrard burst forward, toe poked the ball over Szczesny and put the tie beyond doubt. England held off Ukraine by one point to finish atop [Group H and cement its place in Brazil](#).

Chris Smalling was given the nod to replace the suspended Kyle Walker in the England starting lineup, while Michael Carrick was preferred to Frank Lampard in the midfield.

Poland, meanwhile, backed by a huge following of around 18,000 fans, made three changes to the side beaten by Ukraine on Friday, with Szczesny replacing Artur Boruc in goal, while Piotr Celeban and Waldemar Sobota also came in.

The game started at a frantic pace, with the in-form Andros Townsend rampaging up the right flank once more, stinging the palms of Szczesny. Danny Welbeck latched onto the rebound, but could only send his header wide of the post.

Poland was dangerous on the counterattack, and Sobota should have done better when he was afforded too much space but fired wide of the near post. Then England was given another let off when Robert Lewandowski raced clear but fired wide with only Joe Hart to beat.

There was no let up in the action as the tricky Townsend rattled the crossbar with a thumping left-footed strike, before Welbeck somehow dragged a shot wide from point-blank range when it seemed easier to score.

The Manchester United striker was presented with another chance 11 minutes before halftime when Gerrard played him in with a cushioned pass, but the 22-year-old failed to get the ball out of his feet, and Szczesny came out to avert the danger.

It seemed it would be only a matter of time before the breakthrough would come, and the opening goal duly arrived five minutes before the break, when Leighton Baines picked out Rooney with a pinpoint delivery. The striker rose unmarked to head home from six yards out, his seventh goal in six Group H appearances.

Poland made a bright start to the second half, and Gary Cahill did well to get in the way of a goal-bound shot from Mateusz Klich, who came on as halftime substitute.

Cahill came close to a second England goal five minutes after the break when the busy Szczesny palmed away his downward header from a Gerrard corner. Grzegorz Krychowiak then almost put the ball into his own net when stretching to cut out Rooney's dangerous cross.

Lewandowski went 1-on-1 with Hart once again on the hour mark, but the England keeper raced out and narrowed the angle to thwart the Borussia Dortmund striker.

Rooney almost had a second after 66 minutes only for Szczesny to tip away the England striker's long-range strike that was bound for the far corner, while Sturridge was also denied by the Arsenal keeper once more.

But just as the tension in Wembley was becoming unbearable, captain Gerrard struck the decisive blow that guaranteed the three points England needed to top the group, driving into the penalty area before neatly finishing past Szczesny to seal the Three Lions' triumph.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/15/england-2014-world-cup-clinch-poland-20_n_4102566.html. Acesso em: 12 de set. 2014.

New Oil Reserves Discovered In Brazil Off Coast Of Sergipe

AP

DATA: 2013.10.23

SAO PAULO — SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's National Petroleum Agency says large reserves of oil are located off the coast of the northeastern state of Sergipe, representing a new frontier in petroleum development in Latin America's biggest country.

Agency director Magda Chambriard said Wednesday that numbers on how much oil is in the reserves would not be announced before 2016.

Most of the country's oil production is concentrated in southeastern Brazil, where over the past several years billions of barrels of oil have been discovered in offshore reserves, mostly in deep, pre-salt fields.

On Monday, a consortium including Shell, Total, two Chinese firms and Brazil's state-run petroleum company Petrobras won the right to develop a field off the coast of Rio de Janeiro that could hold up to 12 billion barrels of oil.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/23/brazil-oil-reserves-disco_n_4151657.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Sao Paulo Protests Leave Trucks Torched, 90 Arrested

Agence France Presse | By

DATA: 2013.10.29

One person was injured and 90 detained while trucks and buses were torched in Sao Paulo late Monday in renewed violence after police fatally shot a 17-year-old boy.

A police statement said some of the rioters made use of firearms during the unrest.

It added that one pedestrian was injured during the shooting and rushed to hospital by police.

The statement said 90 rioters were detained while three trucks and six buses were set ablaze and shops looted.

Earlier, a police spokeswoman told AFP that some 500 youths were involved in the latest disturbances as vandals forced the temporary closure of a local highway.

Television pictures showed hooligans climbing atop a truck after forcing the motorist to turn back while other vehicles were set on fire.

Monday's protest in Brazil's largest city began earlier in the day in response to the shooting death of the teenager in a confrontation with police Sunday.

Police said a policeman called to check on a disturbance in the northern Vila Medeiros neighborhood, accidentally discharged his weapon and hit a 17-year-old youth who was rushed to hospital but subsequently died of his wounds.

Hundreds of angry youths then went on a rampage, attacking buses and ransacking area shops, they added.

Last Friday, vandals also smashed windows and ATM machines and battled riot police here in violence blamed on the "Black Bloc" anarchist group.

Police fired tear gas and arrested 92 people during the disturbances, which began as a peaceful march to demand free public transportation for students before turning violent.

Sao Paulo's military police said a police colonel was mobbed and beaten by a group of "criminals disguised as protesters" who stole his pistol and radio.

Dressed in black, their faces masked, heads covered with a handkerchief or T-shirt, Black Bloc anarchists have been a disruptive factor in a wave of protests that have hit Brazil since June.

The social turmoil is unwelcome news for Brazilian authorities as they prepare to host the World Cup next year and the Summer Olympics in 2016.

Sao Paulo, with a sprawling metropolitan area home to 20 million people, will host the opening game of the World Cup next June 12.

More than a million Brazilians took to the streets in June, angry at substandard social services, endemic corruption and the millions being spent on the high-profile sporting events.

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Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/29/sao-paulo-protests_n_4172192.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Joao Rodrigo Silva Santos, Former Soccer Player, Beheaded

DATA: 2013.10.29

The wife of a Brazilian former professional soccer player made a horrifying discovery on Tuesday.

[According to the Mirror](#), Geisa Silva found her husband's severed head in a bag on the doorstep of their Rio de Janeiro home.

Her husband was Joao Rodrigo Silva Santos, who once played for several local clubs as [well the Swedish Östers](#).

Local media said that Santos' eyes and tongue had been cut out by his attackers, [as the Guardian pointed out](#). Authorities suspect that it may have been the work of a drug gang.

Santos had been missing since Monday, [the Daily Mail reported](#).

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/30/joao-rodrigo-silva-santos-beheaded_n_4178529.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Rio De Janeiro Faces Water Shortages

AP | By JENNY BARCHFIELD

DATA: 2013.10.30



RIO DE JANEIRO -- RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Taps were dry across a wide swath of Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, some for nearly a week straight, prompting a flurry of criticism of the state water company and forcing some desperate residents of this Olympic city to fill plastic bottles with water from streams.

Rio's Cedae water utility cut off service to nearly a dozen Rio neighborhoods Thursday as part of routine maintenance on a treatment plant on the Guandu River, the main water source for the city of 6 million.

The utility had said in a Thursday statement that it could take up to 72 hours for service to be restored. But long after that period passed, many parts of the city remained without water. Cedae later pledged that water would be restored to all households by the end of Tuesday.

The 11 neighborhoods affected include beachfront Leme, chic Santa Teresa, stately Flamengo, as well as Maracana, home to the soccer stadium where next year's World Cup final will be played.

A recent cover of O Globo newspaper showed enterprising residents of the upscale Cosme Velho neighborhood filling large plastic bottles from a fresh-water fountain. Many apartment buildings have relied on water delivery trucks to keep their storage tanks full.

Rio's consumer protection agency began investigating allegations of price gouging after O Globo reported some trucks were charging as much as 4,000 reais (\$1,833) for 20,000 liters of water. The companies, which normally charge around 900 reais (\$412) per shipment, pay Cedae around 66 reais (\$30) for the water, the report said.

Exasperated Rio residents took to Facebook and Twitter to bemoan how much time had passed since their last shower and criticize state officials.

The debacle, less than a year ahead of the World Cup and 2 ½ years before the city hosts the 2016 Olympic games, underscores its problems with basic services such as water and sewage treatment.

Residents who can avoid drinking tap water for fear of contamination and nearly half of the city's households aren't hooked up to sewage lines, meaning that tons of raw sewage flow into the city's rivers, lagoons and onto its beaches daily.

Justin Bieber Spotted At Brothel In Brazil (REPORT)

DATA: 2013.11.03

Justin Bieber was [allegedly spotted at a brothel in Brazil](#) on Friday (Nov. 1), according to the New York Post's Page Six.

[The 19-year-old and a friend reportedly spent three hours in the popular brothel Centauros](#) in Rio de Janeiro before he was spotted sneaking out, covered in a bed sheet. Sources tell Page Six he left with two women.

According to photos obtained by Page Six, Bieber was escorted out of Centauros by his bodyguards, who allegedly sprayed the paparazzi with water. He was put in the back seat of his car while the two women were taken to his hotel in another vehicle.

Page Six reports that photographers confirmed it was the singer through his security team. Sources say Bieber was also identified by his wraparound wrist tattoo, which is visible in some photos, as well as his signature sneakers.

Bieber is currently on tour in Brazil.

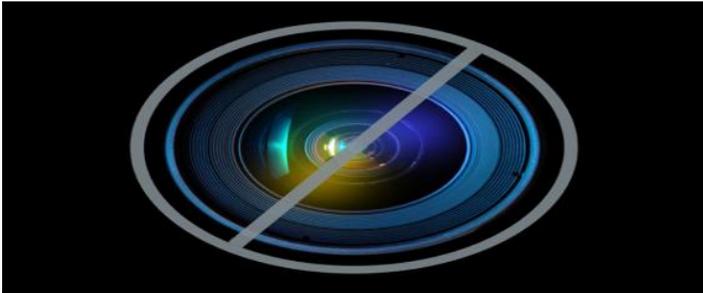
The Huffington Post has reached out to Justin Bieber's team for a comment. The story will be updated if his rep releases a statement.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/03/justin-bieber-brothel_n_4208424.html.
Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Brazil Spied On Embassy Personnel

 | By BRADLEY BROOKS

DATA: 2013.11.04



RIO DE JANEIRO -- RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The Brazilian government confirmed Monday that its intelligence service targeted U.S., Russian, Iranian and Iraqi diplomats and property during spy activities carried out about a decade ago in the capital Brasilia.

The relatively low-key surveillance was reported by the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper, based on Brazilian intelligence service documents it obtained from an undisclosed source.

It describes surveillance that pales in comparison to the massive spy programs carried out by the U.S. National Security Agency, efforts detailed in thousands of documents leaked by Edward Snowden.

But the revelation forced the Brazilian government to defend its espionage while remaining the loudest critic of the NSA programs that have aggressively targeted communications in Brazil, including the personal phone and email of President Dilma Rousseff, who cancelled a state visit to Washington in response.

Brazil's Institutional Security Cabinet, which oversees the Abin intelligence service, said in an emailed statement that all the operations cited in the Folha report "follow Brazilian law for the protection of national interests."

The statement added that Abin "develops intelligence activities for the defense" of Brazil and for "national sovereignty, in strict observance of constitutional principles and the laws that guarantee individual rights."

Rousseff has said that the NSA program, which has swept up data on billions of telephone calls and emails flowing through Brazil, is a violation of individual human rights. Brazil has been targeted in part because it serves as an important transit point for trans-Atlantic fiber optic cables carrying much of the globe's traffic.

Last week, Brazil joined Germany in asking the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution calling on all countries to protect the right to privacy guaranteed under international law. The draft emphasizes that illegal surveillance and interception of communications as well as the illegal collection of personal data "constitute a highly intrusive act that violates the right to privacy and freedom of expression and may threaten the foundations of a democratic society."

In Monday's statement, Brazil's Institutional Security Cabinet said it planned to prosecute anyone who may have leaked the documents to the Folha newspaper.

According to daily, Brazil's intelligence service monitored office space rented by the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, suspecting it of harboring spy equipment. The report said Abin had concluded that the offices held "communications equipment."

"Functioning daily with the doors closed and the lights turned off, and with nobody in the locale," is how the Abin report described the rented U.S. property, according to Folha. "The office is sporadically visited by someone from the embassy."

Dean Cheves, the spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Brazil, wouldn't comment on Abin's surveillance of the office space. But he said the office served as a relay station for walkie-talkie radios carried by embassy personnel, who carry the radios as back up communications for emergencies or in case cellphone service goes down.

The Folha report detailed at least 10 intelligence operations carried out in Brasilia in 2003-04, just as former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was settling into office.

Other targets included diplomats from the Russian, Iranian and Iraqi embassies, who were followed and photographed as they came and went from embassies and official residences.

In particular, Abin was interested in Russian officials involved in negotiating arms deals in Brazil, and followed Iran's ambassador to Cuba as he visited Brazil.

Associated Press writer Jenny Barchfield contributed to this report.

Follow Bradley Brooks on Twitter: www.twitter.com/bradleybrooks

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/04/brazil-spied-embassy-personnel_n_4214010.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazilian President Wants To Reserve 20 Percent Of Government Job For Blacks

AP

DATA: 2013.11.06



BRASILIA, BRAZIL - JUNE 27: Members of group Educafro protest in silence in front of the Presidential Palace on favor of the racial quota policies on June 27, 2012 in Brasilia, Brazil. (Photo by Peter Francia/News Free/LatinContent/Getty Images) | Getty

BRASILIA, Brazil -- BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's president says she'll ask congress to pass legislation to reserve 20 percent of the nation's government jobs for blacks.

About half of Brazil's 204 million people are black — more than in any nation except Nigeria.

Blacks face persistent socio-economic inequality in Brazil, and President Dilma Rousseff says her proposal will help reverse that. She says "affirmative action is essential" for creating equal opportunities.

There is no word on when congress might begin debating the proposal.

Rousseff also said Tuesday that by the end of next year, her government will have sent a doctor to each of Brazil's more than 3,500 "quilombos." Those are settlements founded by descendants of Brazil's slaves.

Brazil had more African slaves land on its shores than any other country in the Americas.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/06/brazil-government-job-blacks_n_4224948.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Man Buried Alive In Brazil Rises From Grave, Gives Mourner Quite The Scare (VIDEO)

DATA: 2013.11.08



It's not every day you see [someone climbing out of a grave](#). But for one woman in Brazil, who was visiting her family tomb, that's exactly what she was in for.

According to local reports, the woman, who has not been identified, was at a cemetery in Sao Paulo's Ferraz de Vasconcelos when she heard some odd noises and saw some dirt moving near a grave. That's when she spotted a [man, buried alive](#), trying to pull himself from the ground.

"I was terrified to see a man who I thought was dead, [trying to get out of the grave](#)," the woman recalled later, according to local reports.

The woman notified authorities, and emergency services arrived to dig out the rest of the man's body; he had already managed to free his head and arms from the ground. In a video broadcast on local station Record TV, the rescue team is seen [pulling the partially buried man from the grave](#).

It's not immediately clear how the man, who reportedly worked as a city hall employee, [came to be buried alive](#), but it is believed he got into a fight in another part of the city and was badly beaten up in the altercation, the Daily Mail reported.

After he was rescued from the grave, he was taken to a local hospital for treatment. Though city officials confirmed the case, they [did not disclose the condition of the man](#), Noticias R7 reports.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/08/man-buried-alive-brazil-rises-grave-cemetery_n_4240126.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Former Brazilian President's Remains Exhumed Due To Suspicions Of Murder

AP | By STAN LEHMAN

DATA: 2013.11.13



SAO PAULO (AP) — The remains of former Brazilian President Joao Goulart were being exhumed Wednesday due to suspicions that he may have been murdered on orders of the military regime that once ruled the country.

The exhumation at the cemetery of Sao Borja, Goulart's hometown in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, was partly organized by Brazil's Truth Commission, which is investigating human rights abuses committed during the nation's military dictatorship.

Goulart was toppled by a 1964 coup that installed the military regime that ruled Latin America's biggest country for 21 years.

He went into exile in Argentina, where he died in the city of Mercedes in December 1976. His body was quickly flown back to Sao Borja, where he was buried beside family members.

His death was ruled a heart attack, but an autopsy was never performed either in Argentina or in Brazil.

Brazil's Human Rights Ministry says on its website there are suspicions he was poisoned.

Those suspicions stem from statements made in 2008 by a former Uruguayan intelligence officer imprisoned in Brazil for drug smuggling. He told the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper that Goulart had been poisoned by agents of Operation Condor, under which the military dictatorships that ruled much of South America in the 1970s and 1980s secretly cooperated in the torture and disappearances of each others' citizens.

The Uruguayan agent told the newspaper that Goulart's heart medication had been swapped with poisoned pills that caused a heart attack.

"We are taking the first big step to tell the truth that for many years has been omitted," the Truth Commission's website quoted Goulart's son, Joao Vicente, as saying.

Justice Minister Jose Eduardo Cardozo said, "Families have the right to know how their loved ones died and a country's citizens have the right to know how their leaders died."

Goulart served as vice president during the governments of Juscelino Kubitschek and Janio Quadros.

In 1961, Quadros resigned and Goulart assumed the presidency. His term was marked by greater investments in education, agrarian reform and higher taxes on the wealthy.

Goulart's exhumation was authorized in 2012 by a federal court.

The Human Rights Ministry said Goulart's remains will be taken to Brasilia to be examined by Brazilian Argentine and Uruguayan forensic experts. There he will be given full state honors, which he did not receive when he was buried. His body will be returned to Sao Borja on Dec. 6

The toxicology tests needed to determine if Goulart's was poisoned will be conducted outside Brazil the Human Rights Ministry said without revealing where.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/13/brazilian-president-exhumed_n_4268473.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Dai Macedo Wins 2013 Miss Bum Bum Competition, Despite Controversy

The Huffington Post

DATA: 2013.11.14

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3658dGk2LVk>



A 25-year-old model with a 42-inch bottom has been crowned Brazil's new Miss Bum Bum.

[Dai Macedo](#), who represented the central state of Goias in the nationwide search for the woman with the most bodacious butt in all of Brazil, was chosen from among 15 finalists by the contest's grand jury in Sao Paolo this week.

"It's a lot of work, a lot of devotion," [Macedo told Agence France-Presse](#) by way of an interpreter. "I denied myself a lot of things. No nightclubs. No sweets. I went to the gym Saturdays and Sundays."

The sacrifice is well worth it. Miss Bum Bum winners become instant celebrities in Brazil, and receive a fortune in endorsements.

But the glamor comes with its share of drama. Earlier this year, a columnist for Brazilian newspaper O Dia [accused Miss Bum Bum contestants Mari Sousa and Eliana Amaral of bribing judges](#) in attempts to win.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QhiT_9RRSc

In a note published in October, well in advance of the winners being announced, the newspaper reported that Sousa had secured top honors by paying thousands of dollars to judges. It also claimed Amaral paid \$32,000 to judges and would come in second.

Those ethically suspect predictions did not pan out (although Amaral was awarded third place), but even the future bum-bum queen became embroiled in the scandal at the time. Angered by the accusations, [Macedo joined other contestants in lashing out against corruption in Miss Bum Bum via social media](#), according to News.co.au.

Macedo distanced herself from the outburst after winning the competition.

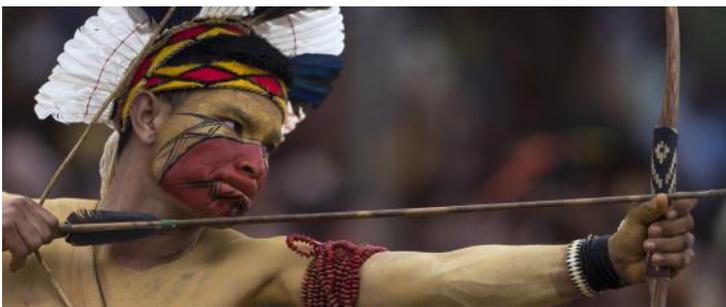
"I'm all emotional. I didn't expect to win," Macedo said, according to News.co.au. "All hell broke loose on social media sites but now I can say the contest was real."

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/14/dai-macedo-miss-bum-bum-2013_n_4276120.html. Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

Indigenous Games Begin In Brazil

AP | By FELIPE DANA

DATA: 2013.11.15



CUIABA, Brazil (AP) — Body paint in place of uniforms. Bare feet instead of high-tech shoes. And a loose notion of competition that assigns little value to winning.

Welcome to the 12th Indigenous Games being held in Brazil's Amazon region, a cultural as much as athletic event that many are calling a "holistic" alternative to the big sporting extravaganzas Brazil will host in the next few years, the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics two years later.

"We're not looking to crown champions or find great athletes," said Carlos Terena, organizer of the games, who like many indigenous Brazilians uses his tribe's name as his surname. "This isn't about competition, it's about celebration. Competition is more a thing for the Western world anyway."

More than 1,500 participants from 48 Brazilian tribes, as well as from more than a dozen other nations, descended this week on Cuiaba, the capital of Mato Grosso state, for the games that end Saturday. All participants will earn "medals" carved from wood, seeds and other natural items.

The more traditional tribal sports are carried out as exhibitions rather than competitions.

A crowd favorite is a wild tree-trunk relay race, with nine or more stout runners sprinting about 550 yards (500 meters) around a red-dirt arena, taking turns carrying a 220-pound (100-kilo) chunk of tree over their shoulders. Just getting to the finish line is considered victory.

Another sport called "xikunahity" resembles soccer, but with players crawling along the ground, only permitted to use their heads to push the ball forward. Several tribes have exhibited their own traditional forms of fighting, most resembling wrestling or judo.

Other events test the real-life skills of indigenous peoples, like archery, with bare-chested participants confidently carrying simple long bows, putting their toes along a line of long palm leaves laid down on the earth. About 40 yards away sits their target, the large drawn figure of a smiling fish leaping from the water, with most points scored for drilling the arrow right into its eye.

"This is the fourth time I'm participating in these games and for me they represent a cultural revival more than anything," said Yakari Kuikuro, who lives on the Xingu river in the Amazon and is part of his tribe's tug-of-war team. "Many of my family members stopped painting their bodies, they no longer dance in the villages. When I come here, I see pure Indians, with body paint, dancing together. It's important for others to see this and take it back to their villages."

Chief Willie Littlechild of the Cree Nation, a former member of Canada's Parliament, said attending the games was "truly a blessing, to see that such a rich culture exists with indigenous peoples around the world."

For the non-indigenous people in attendance, Littlechild said he hoped the games allowed them "to join us in a celebration of life, to join us in our holistic approach to wellness, to the physical, the mental, cultural and spiritual well-being of humans."

The games are held on a 17-acre (7-hectare) chunk of park, with large, white plastic tents dotting the land, each holding tables full of traditional crafts, like small pottery figures, wooden bowls, woven cloth and delicately carved musical instruments meant to mimic the songs of jungle birds.

Other tables hold the seeds of dozens of types of edible plants. Food security is one of the main themes of this year's event, with tribes from all corners of Brazil encouraged to trade seeds and take unknown varieties back to their villages.

Amelia Reina Montero, from the Nahua tribe of Mexico who was making her first trip to Brazil, succinctly summed up the prevailing mood of the gathering, saying it offered the rare chance for tribes from the Americas, often with limited contact to the outside world, to interact and learn from one another.

"Despite that fact that our languages are different, that our skin varies, we're uniting here with one heart," she said. "That's the Indian way."

Associated Press Television News cameraman Mario Lobao contributed to this report.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/15/indigenous-games-brazil_n_4281418.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

The Week That Was In Latin America (PHOTOS)

AP | By The Associated Press

DATA: 2013.11.5



In this Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013 photo, boys stand on the sidelines of a meeting at the 12th Indigenous Games in Cuiaba, Brazil. More than 1,500 participants from 48 Brazilian tribes, as well as from more than a dozen other nations, descended this week on Cuiaba, the capital of Mato Grosso state, for the games that end Saturday. All participants will earn "medals" carved from wood, seeds and other natural items. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro got a quick, and strong, reaction to having the military take over appliance shops and slash prices. Bargain hunters swarmed over stores across Venezuela, and Maduro had to go on TV to urge calm, telling his countrymen: "There's no need to sleep outside store doors." Campaigning wound as Chileans prepared to vote for a new president this weekend. The race's two leading candidates were childhood friends, one the daughter of a victim of the former Pinochet dictatorship and the other the daughter of an active member of that junta. In Brazil's Amazon, the 12th Indigenous Games got underway. Some 1,500 participants from 48 Brazilian tribes and more than a dozen other nations are competing in the event, which has been praised as a "holistic" alternative to sports extravaganzas coming up in Brazil — the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics. Associated Press photographer Rodrigo Abd produced a tough look at the rough edges of Lima, Peru, where dusty, chaotic neighborhoods bulge with dirt-poor people, many of them who pour in from the Andes unprepared for big city life.

Look for more of our favorite pictures every Friday, in the AP's Week That Was in Latin America-Photo Gallery.

AP photographers and photo editors on Twitter: <http://apne.ws/15Oo6jo>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/15/photos-latin-america-n_4281151.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazil's Mass Beach Robberies Return

AP | By JENNY BARCHFIELD

DATA: 2013.11.25



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — With the tropical sun blazing from a near cloudless sky and waves lapping at golden sand, it seemed like a perfect day at the beach in Rio de Janeiro.

Then dozens of marauding youths descended en masse, snatching beach bags and cellphones, ripping gold chains from necks and setting off sandy stampedes by panicked beachgoers.

Such mass beach robberies were once a hair-raisingly frequent occurrence, but they had largely disappeared in recent years as this notoriously dangerous city got markedly safer — a trend credited to a galloping economy and police operations that wrested control of more than 200 "favela" hillside slums from the drug-dealing gangs that controlled them.

But the "arrastoes," or "big drags" as they're known in Portuguese, are back, and the gang raids on Nov. 15 and 20 spread alarm through a city gearing up to host soccer's World Cup in just over six months and the Summer Olympics in 2016.

"What's happening in Rio today represents a power play," wrote Merval Pereira, a columnist for the Rio's newspaper O Globo. "Since the police's pacification program was put into place, the bandits have

been losing control over large swaths of the territory in which they used to act . and are looking to take back what was theirs."

Police initially dismissed the incidents as stampedes caused by fights, but later acknowledged they were mass robberies. Officials announced they will step up weekend beach patrols and set up mobile police posts to make it easier for victims to report crimes.

Local newspapers have reported that 15 people, most of them minors, were detained following Wednesday's incident on Arpoador beach, which saw repeated stampedes as swarms of young people swooped down on bathers and the police gave chase. Globo television network broadcast images of officers chasing shirtless youths across streets and stones being hurled at officers as they processed those detained.

"People were running all over the place, and I didn't know where to go for safety," said Luana Santos, a 24-year-old vender of bottled water. "I was really panicked and really frightened. I hope this is not going to keep on happening."

Rio state Security Secretary Jose Beltrame told CBN radio these were the first instances of mass beachside robberies in Rio in seven years and said two of those detained on Wednesday were minors.

Ezequiel Soliva de Andrade, a 39-year-old waiter at a bar on the boardwalk on Arpoador, said he holds little hope the extra policing will do much to stop the crime.

"Every time the sun comes out, there are tons of robberies," Andrade said, adding that the problem has gotten much worse over the past three months. "These guys don't care whether there are cops there are not. They just take off running and there are so many of them going in all different directions that they're rarely caught."

Andrade rattled off a long list of muggings and other attacks on beachgoers and neighborhood residents that he's witnessed over the past few months. He said the crime wave is scaring people away.

"We used to sell more than 900 coconut waters a day," he said. "Now we barely sell 200."

Rio is attempting to burnish an image tarnished by violence and police brutality during mass protests earlier this year. Some 500,000 foreigners are expected to flood into Brazil for next year's World Cup, and authorities are wary that reports of crime could scare some big-spending visitors away.

Giovanni Fiorentino, a retired restaurateur visiting from Belgium, said he was on Arpoador beach during Wednesday's mass robbery but had taken the chaotic incident in stride.

"I had been warned not to take anything of value to the beach, so when I saw them running all around I stayed calm because I didn't have anything for them to take," said Fioretino, dressed in sunglasses and a Speedo as he defied overcast skies and nippy winds Friday to enjoy one last day at Arpoador before returning to Europe. "It's going to take more than some kids snatching purses to ruin my vacation."

Rio officials hope so.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/25/brazil-beach-robbery_n_4337401.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Where to Go in Brazil for the World Cup [Infographic]

DATA: 2013.11.25

Sure everyone's excited about the World Cup in 2014, but here in Australia, we're bloody excited. We're so bloody excited, we created this [infographic and info page](#) to show where all the action will be in Brazil next summer, who will be involved, and all the insider tips you need to get excited for the Socceroos (or whoever you'll be barracking for) in the upcoming World Cup.

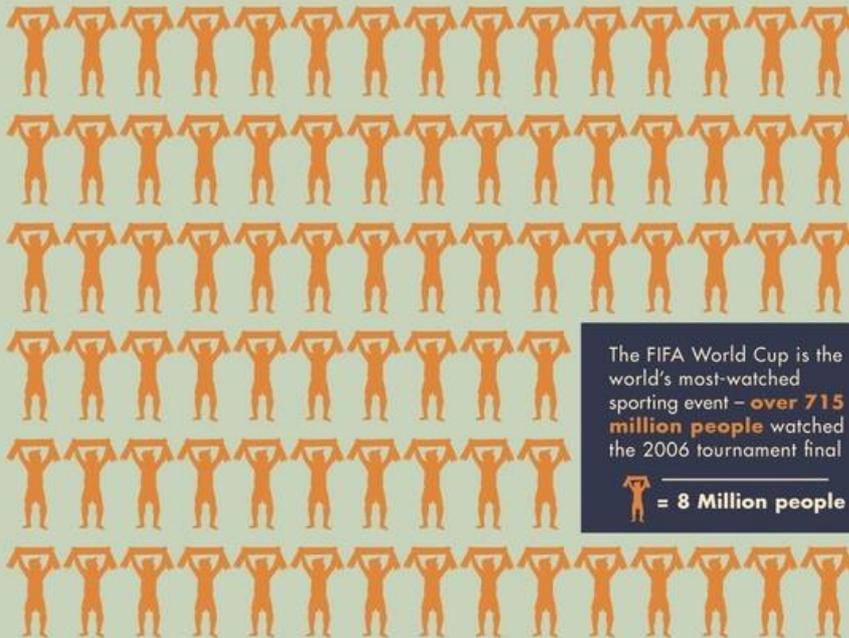
- The [HomeAway Australia](#) team

2014

FIFA WORLD CUP IN BRAZIL

Held every 4 years, the World Cup is the pinnacle of men's football. The best footballing nations come together for about a month in a battle to be the best national team in the world. In 2014, the World Cup will be held for the 20th time, hosted across Brazil. Get all the details on the event and the Soccerroos World Cup hopes — then start your plans to see the game in person this year.

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FAST FACTS ABOUT THE 2014 FIFA WORLD CUP

JUNE 12 - JULY 13, 2014

12 cities

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|--------------|
| 1 | Rio de Janeiro | 7 | Cuiaba |
| 2 | Sao Paulo | 8 | Porto Alegre |
| 3 | Belo Horizonte | 9 | Natal |
| 4 | Brasilia | 10 | Manaus |
| 5 | Fortaleza | 11 | Curitiba |
| 6 | Salvador | 12 | Recife |



AUSSIES AND THE WORLD CUP

Australia has qualified for the World Cup 4 times



THEIR FIRST GOAL IN A QUALIFIER?
1965
LES SCHEINFLUG

Les Scheinflug, with a penalty kick in the 70th minute

THEIR FIRST GOAL AT A WORLD CUP?
2006
TIM CAHILL

Tim Cahill, with a goal in the 89th minute to tie the game 1-1

Tim Cahill has scored the most World Cup goals for Australia – as of 2013, the count is 3



AUSTRALIA'S BEST WORLD CUP PERFORMANCE WAS IN 2006, WHERE THE 'SOCCEROOS' QUALIFIED FOR THE SECOND ROUND

THEY EVENTUALLY LOST TO ITALY 1-0, FINISHING 16TH OVERALL

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THE 2014 WORLD CUP?

The host nation, Brazil, is the most successful team in World Cup history

5 WORLD CUP TROPHIES



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CUP TOURNAMENT



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LIONEL MESSI
Argentina

&

WILL ALL BE PLAYING



THIS YEAR'S BALL IS THE BRAZUCA!
THE NAME EARNED 70% OF FANS' VOTES

Beat out "Bossa Nova" and
"Carnavalesca" in the poll

It stands for national pride in how Brazilians live — **emotion, pride, and goodwill**

As of Sept. 2013, pictures have been "leaked" but no official image has been released

WHILE IN BRAZIL FOR THE WORLD CUP,
YOU COULD ALSO CHECK OUT:



PARINTINS FOLKLORE
FESTIVAL

São Luis

3 days at the end of June

Focused on folklore surrounding a resurrected ox, this is Brazil's second largest festival, behind Carnival. Two teams compete (with floats, dancing, and singing) to be the best retellers of the ox story.



FESTAS JUNINAS

June 13 - June 14

Honors saints Anthony, John, and Peter; celebrated throughout Brazil. Experience country music, bonfires, hot air balloons, and fairs.



BAUERNFEST

Petrópolis

Last weekend of June;
first week of July

The area's settlers were German, and the festival celebrates this heritage with a week of German food, folklore, and music.



FLIP

Paraty

First week of July

Festa Literária Internacional de Paraty (The Paraty International Literary Festival) brings visitors to this colonial town.



BEACHES

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Don't miss the famed Ipanema, where mountain scenery and refreshments abound. Other locales nationwide offer scenery from wetlands to white sand, crashing waves to serene lagoons. Take your pick!



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MUSIC, AND ART

All across the country

Give feijoada, a traditional Brazilian stew of black beans and pork, a try while in Brazil. Indulge in a caipirinha cocktail, too, while enjoying some samba or bossa nova music!

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE WORLD CUP — AND ALL THAT
BRAZIL HAS TO OFFER — IN 2014.

SOURCES

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Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/homeaway/a-bloodygood-guide-to-the_b_4312851.html. Acesso em: 12 de set. 2014.

Brazil Unveils New World Cup Ball 'Brazuca'

DATA: 2013.12.03



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The new ball for next year's World Cup — called the "Brazuca," in honor of Brazil, of course — was unveiled at a ceremony Tuesday in Rio de Janeiro.

"Brazuca" has a double meaning, used as a term for Brazilians living abroad, but also as slang to describe national pride.

Manufacturer Adidas says the ball offers "breakthrough innovation" featuring what it calls a "revolutionary six-panel design."

The ball is decorated with a ribbon design in shades of blue, gold and green, which Adidas says symbolizes the traditional "wish bracelets" worn in Brazil.

The ball makes its debut on June 12 in the opening game in Sao Paulo, and the tour ends July 13 at the final in Rio de Janeiro.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/03/world-cup-ball-brazil-2014_n_4380486.html. Acesso em: 12 de set. 2014.

Caxirola Replaces Vuvuzela As World Cup Noisemakers (VIDEO)

AP | By HAVEN DALEY

DATA: 2013.12.06

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The official noisemakers for next year's World Cup soccer tournament in Brazil will be significantly quieter than the vuvuzela (voo-voo-ZEHL'-uh) horns that caused so many headaches in 2010.

The new instrument, a rattle called the caxirola (ka-SHE'-rah-luh), creates sound pressure levels similar to normal conversation, according to researchers from the Federal University of Santa Maria in Brazil.

Presenting their findings to the Acoustic Society of America in San Francisco on Thursday, the experts said it would take about 2,000 of the maracalike caxirolas to emit the same noise as one vuvuzela.

"The caxirola is not so dangerous as the vuvuzela for the people who are going to be in the stadiums," said Bernardo Murta, one of the researchers.

In South Africa, throngs of fans playing vuvuzelas created a deafening roar during matches.

The incessant buzzing from the long, skinny horns was so loud that players had a hard time communicating, and many TV viewers initially thought there were reception problems.

There may, however, be another problem with the caxirola that has nothing to do with volume.

After it was introduced at a match in Brazil this year, hundreds of disgruntled fans hurled the plastic instruments onto the field when the game became a blowout.

"So it's not dangerous to our hearing but for our safety," Murta said.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/06/caxirola-2014-world-cup-brazil-noisemaker_n_4401456.html. Acesso em: 12 de set. 2014.

The World Cup Effect

DATA: 2013.12.06

In June 2013, we saw Brazilians taking to the streets nationwide to protest the high cost of preparations for the upcoming FIFA World Cup in Brazil. The demonstrations captured in real time the Brazilians' frustrations finally bubbling over. But it also showed more vividly than ever the potential of the world's largest football event to be used as a platform for action.

The demonstrations are not a threat, but rather a stark milestone in World Cup history. It is the first time we have seen a reaction of this magnitude, where a host country has spoken up with such passion and used football to draw attention to some of its most pressing social concerns.

It's also a wake up call. The demonstrations in Brazil have alerted us that football is losing touch with society and, ultimately, its real shareholders: the fans, who live in favelas and crowded cities and other communities with real challenges that remain after the matches end. The protestors forced us to rethink the role of mega sporting events and reconsider what they should be leaving behind: in other words, their "social legacy."

streetfootballworld has long been part of this debate. We are a global network of close to 100 independent organizations that use football as a core element in local development programs. From our experience and from the work of our network members, we know first-hand that nothing can compare to football -- no product, no service, no social movement, and no other sport -- in its popularity and its potential to stimulate change. Football offers an important opportunity for development -- not just for those in need, but also those who have the resources and skills to help. The power of the sport is in its universal appeal, which can bring us together to tackle common challenges.

The 2006 World Cup in Germany was the first time we saw football's potential for social impact enter the public consciousness, taking shape in the form of a global football festival that we organized in Berlin. We took the idea to the next level at a second festival coinciding with the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. There, a commitment to social change became an official part of FIFA's work, with streetfootballworld coordinating the federation's CSR strategy.

Now, the 2014 World Cup will be the next step in our quest to increase international awareness of football's potential to affect positive change. With two of the world's largest sporting events slated to take place in Brazil, they will have a huge impact on its society -- and Brazilians have already shown us their concerns. To ensure that the costs of these events do not outweigh their social and economic benefits, we need a strong commitment to a sustainable social legacy.

This is why streetfootballworld and Ashoka are teaming up to establish the first social legacy fund whose sole purpose is to benefit the sport for development sector.

Created through the Clinton Global Initiative as a Commitment to Action, the Team Brazil Social Legacy Fund (Somos tod@s titulares) will draw on the power of both the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games to pool financial resources from funders all over the world in order to provide sustainable support for local, football-based development projects.

We believe that citizens should benefit from the social legacy of mega events -- but also that they should have a part in designing what that legacy will be. To this end, the fund will have an inherent bottom-up approach, as we work with member organizations in the streetfootballworld network to create an inclusive portfolio of projects for which the fund can be used.

By taking to the street, Brazilians have called on the football world -- clubs, federations, unions, sponsors, broadcasters, players and fans -- to bridge the gap between the industry and the community and to explore the sport's power to ignite social change on a global scale. Mega events have a lasting impact whether we recognize it or not -- it's time to make sure that everyone wins.

This post is part of a series produced by The Huffington Post and the Clinton Global Initiative, in conjunction with the latter's 2013 meeting of CGI Latin America (Dec. 8-10 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). At the CGI Latin America meeting, international leaders from business, government and NGOs join

President Bill Clinton to explore how to carry the region's social and economic progress into the future. CGI members worldwide have already made more than 250 Commitments to Action specifically designed to improve lives in Brazil and across Latin America. To read all the posts in this series, click [here](#), and visit CGI's blog [here](#).

Follow Jürgen Griesbeck on Twitter: www.twitter.com/juergen_sfw

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jurgen-griesbeck/the-world-cup-effect_b_4400005.html. Acesso em: 12 de set. 2014.

U.S. Soccer Lands In 'Group Of Death' At 2014 World Cup With Germany, Ghana And Portugal

The Huffington Post | By [Chris Greenberg](#)

DATA: 2013.12.06



Welcome to the "Group Of Death."

When the [draw for the 2014 World Cup](#) took place on Friday in Brazil, the U.S. men's national soccer team landed in the formidable Group G with Germany, Portugal and Ghana. That group includes the two teams who handed the U.S. tournament-ending losses in the last three World Cups and a third squad that includes Cristiano Ronaldo.

"Well, I kind of had it in my stomach that we were going to get Germany," U.S. national team coach Jurgen Klinsmann told Jeremy Schaap of ESPN after the draw. "I wanted actually Brazil in the opening game but obviously it's one of the most difficult groups in the whole draw. Having Portugal with Cristiano Ronaldo and Ghana who has a history with the United States, it couldn't get any more difficult or any bigger. But that's what a World Cup is about. It's a real challenge and we'll take it. We'll take it on and hopefully we're going to surprise some people."

With Germany holding the No. 2 spot in the [FIFA rankings](#) and Portugal rated as the world's fifth best team, Group G is the only quartet containing two teams in the FIFA Top 5. Only two other groups (B, D) even have two teams ranked in the FIFA Top 10 when the draw took place. The United States was slotted at No. 14 and Ghana at No. 24 in the rankings released on Nov. 28.

Before the draw, U.S. goalkeeper [Brad Guzan had a message](#) for possible opponents: Beware.

By the time the draw was complete on Friday, it was the United States players and fans who had reason to be weary. As U.S. midfielder Sacha Kljestan surmised, the U.S. men's national team landed in a "Group Of Death."

Guzan directed that pre-draw Twitter message at Christian Benteke of Belgium and Ron Vlaar of the Netherlands, both club teammates at Aston Villa. Apparently it should have been sent to Ronaldo, Mesut Ozil and Kevin-Prince Boateng. Following the draw, Guzan seemed to strike a more measured tone.

Not only will the United States side face a dangerous trio of opponents in the Group Stage but it will also have to cope with the most grueling travel schedule. The travel ahead of the Klinsmann's team [tallies 9,000 miles](#), according to The Associated Press.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/06/us-soccer-world-cup-group-of-death_n_4398907.html. Acesso em: 12 de set. 2014.

World Cup Draw LIVE UPDATES: 32 Teams Hoping For Favorable Matchups, Locations

AP/The Huffington Post

DATA: 2013.12.06



COSTA DO SAUIPE, Brazil (AP) — The eyes of soccer focused nervously Friday on the draw to determine where, when and, most important, who the 32 teams will play at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

The ceremony is being televised live to more than 190 countries from the Atlantic beach resort of Costa do Sauipe, with a security lockdown for the 1,300 guests and 2,000 reporters.

The draw will divide the 32 teams into eight groups — labeled A to H — of four teams each. The principle of pulling names from hats has been used by the governing body FIFA for decades and was first televised in 1966.

The 90-minute show will be part showbiz, with musical performances, and part World Cup practicality. The draw itself will take about 35 minutes.

The buzz of anticipation touched even Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff. She sent tweets to Neymar, asking the star of Brazil's national team if he wanted weak or strong opponents from the outset of the monthlong tournament next June. He replied that there are no weak teams at soccer's showcase competition.

The field is tougher than at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Of the top 25 teams in FIFA's rankings, all but two (Ukraine and Denmark) qualified for Brazil. All eight previous world champions will take part, with five-time winner Brazil desperate to lift the trophy at home for the first time.

With the world title at stake and because of soccer's rich and deep sporting, historical and political rivalries, the transparent bowls holding the teams' names were bound to produce alluring matchups.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/06/world-cup-draw-live-updates-results_n_4398310.html. Acesso em: 12 de set. 2014.

World Cup Schedule 2014: Dates, Times And Teams Set For All First-Round Games After Draw

DATA: 2013.12.06

Mark your calendars! The dates, times and teams for [all matches in the first round](#) of the 2014 World Cup are set. The 32 national teams heading to Brazil in June 2014 were [drawn into eight groups](#) during a ceremony on Friday.

The hosts landed in Group A and will face Croatia in the opening match of the tournament on Friday, June 13th in Natal. Perhaps the most high-profile game in the opening days of the tournament is a rematch between 2010 finalists Spain and the Netherlands. Prominent among the other early matches both pairings in Group G, otherwise known as the "Group Of Death." The action in that group will get underway with a USA-Ghana grudge match and a confrontation between Portugal and Germany on June 16.

Here is a look at the groups and schedule for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, via The Associated Press:

All Times EDT

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cameroon	0	0	0	0	0	0

Thursday, June 12

At Sao Paulo

Brazil vs. Croatia, 4 p.m.

Friday, June 13

At Natal, Brazil

Mexico vs. Cameroon, Noon

Tuesday, June 17

At Fortaleza, Brazil

Brazil vs. Mexico, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, June 18

At Manaus, Brazil

Croatia vs. Cameroon, 3 p.m.

Monday, June 23**At Brasilia, Brazil**

Brazil vs. Cameroon, 4 p.m.

At Recife, Brazil

Croatia vs. Mexico, 4 p.m.

GROUP B

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0

Friday, June 13**At Salvador, Brazil**

Spain vs. Netherlands, 3 p.m.

At Cuiaba, Brazil

Chile vs. Australia, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 18**At Rio de Janeiro**

Spain vs. Chile, 6 p.m.

At Porto Alegre, Brazil

Netherlands vs. Australia, Noon

Monday, June 23

At Curitiba, Brazil

Spain vs. Australia, Noon

At Sao Paulo

Netherlands vs. Chile, Noon

GROUP C

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0

Saturday, June 14

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Colombia vs. Greece, Noon

At Recife, Brazil

Ivory Coast vs. Japan, 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 19

At Brasilia, Brazil

Colombia vs. Ivory Coast, Noon

At Natal, Brazil

Greece vs. Japan, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 24

At Cuiaba, Brazil

Colombia vs. Japan, 4 p.m.

At Fortaleza, Brazil

Greece vs. Ivory Coast, 4 p.m.

GROUP D

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0

Saturday, June 14

At Fortaleza, Brazil

Uruguay vs. Costa Rica, 3 p.m.

At Manaus, Brazil

England vs. Italy, 9 p.m.

Thursday, June 19

At Sao Paulo

Uruguay vs. England, 3 p.m.

Friday, June 20**At Recife, Brazil**

Costa Rica vs. Italy, Noon

Tuesday, June 24**At Natal, Brazil**

Uruguay vs. Italy, Noon

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Costa Rica vs. England, Noon

GROUP E

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	0	0	0
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, June 15**At Brasilia, Brazil**

Switzerland vs. Ecuador, Noon

At Porto Alegre, Brazil

France vs. Honduras, 3 p.m.

Friday, June 20

At Salvador, Brazil

Switzerland vs. France, 3 p.m.

At Curitiba, Brazil

Ecuador vs. Honduras, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25

At Manaus, Brazil

Switzerland vs. Honduras, 4 p.m.

At Rio de Janeiro

Ecuador vs. France, 4 p.m.

GROUP F

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bosnia-Herzegovina	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, June 15

At Rio de Janeiro

Argentina vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina, 6 p.m.

Monday, June 16**At Curitiba, Brazil**

Iran vs. Nigeria, 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 21**At Belo Horizonte, Brazil**

Argentina vs. Iran, Noon

At Cuiaba, Brazil

Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Nigeria, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25**At Porto Alegre, Brazil**

Argentina vs. Nigeria, Noon

At Salvador, Brazil

Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Iran, Noon

GROUP G

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ghana	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0

Monday, June 16

At Salvador, Brazil

Germany vs. Portugal, Noon

At Natal, Brazil

Ghana vs. United States, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 21**At Fortaleza, Brazil**

Germany vs. Ghana, 3 p.m.

Sunday, June 22**At Manaus, Brazil**

Portugal vs. United States, 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 26**At Recife, Brazil**

Germany vs. United States, Noon

At Brasilia, Brazil

Portugal vs. Ghana, Noon

GROUP H

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0
Algeria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0

South Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Tuesday, June 17

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Belgium vs. Algeria, Noon

At Cuiaba, Brazil

Russia vs. South Korea, 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 22

At Rio de Janeiro

Belgium vs. Russia, 6 p.m.

At Porto Alegre, Brazil

Algeria vs. South Korea, Noon

Thursday, June 26

At Sao Paulo

Belgium vs. South Korea, 4 p.m.

At Curitiba, Brazil

Algeria vs. Russia, 4 p.m.

SECOND ROUND

Saturday, June 28

Game 49

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Group A winner vs. Group B second place, Noon

Game 50

At Rio de Janeiro

Group C winner vs. Group D second place, 4 p.m.

Sunday, June 29

Game 51

At Fortaleza, Brazil

Group B winner vs. Group A second place, Noon

Game 52

At Recife, Brazil

Group D winner vs. Group C second place, 4 p.m.

Monday, June 30

Game 53

At Brasilia, Brazil

Group E winner vs. Group F second place, Noon

Game 54

At Porto Alegre, Brazil

Group G winner vs. Group H second place, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, July 1

Game 55

At Sao Paulo

Group F winner vs. Group E second place, Noon

Game 56

At Salvador, Brazil

Group H winner vs. Group G second place, 4 p.m.

QUARTERFINALS

Friday, July 4

Game 57

At Fortaleza, Brazil

Game 49 winner vs. Game 50 winner, 4 p.m.

Game 58

At Rio de Janeiro

Game 53 winner vs. Game 54 winner, Noon

Saturday, July 5

Game 59

At Salvador, Brazil

Game 51 winner vs. Game 52 winner, 4 p.m.

Game 60

At Brasilia, Brazil

Game 55 winner vs. Game 56 winner, Noon

SEMIFINALS

Tuesday, July 8

At Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Game 57 winner vs. Game 58 winner, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 9

At Sao Paulo

Game 59 winner vs. Game 60 winner, 4 p.m.

THIRD PLACE

Saturday, July 12

At Brasilia, Brazil

Semifinal losers, 4 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, July 13

At Rio de Janeiro

Semifinal winners, 3 p.m.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/06/world-cup-schedule-2014-brazil_n_4400118.html. Acesso em: 12 de set. 2014.

World Cup Stadium Worker Dies After Fall In Manaus Stadium In Amazon: REPORT

Reuters

DATA: 2013.12.14



MANAUS, BRAZIL, Dec 14 (Reuters) - A construction worker died in Brazil early on Saturday after falling off the roof of a stadium in the Amazon jungle, adding to safety concerns as the country races to finish building in time to host the 2014 World Cup of soccer. Marcleudo de Melo Ferreira, 22, died in a hospital in Manaus around 4 a.m., according to the local forensic center. He fell nearly 35 meters (115 feet) after a cable broke.

Workers had already been killed at three of Brazil's 12 World Cup stadiums. Fatal accidents have occurred in Manaus, Brasilia and most recently in Sao Paulo, where two people died on Nov. 27 after a crane collapsed in the arena that is to host the opening game on June 12.

Preparations for the World Cup have also been plagued by delays, accidents, cost overruns, and public anger over government waste that contributed to massive nationwide street protests last year.

Andrade Gutierrez, the Brazilian firm building the Amazon stadium, said in a statement that Ferreira worked for a company that had been contracted to build the arena's cover and an internal investigation of the incident would be conducted.

Manaus will host four games, including high-profile encounters involving teams from England, Italy, the United States and Portugal. (Reporting by Bruno Kelly; Writing by Caroline Stauffer; Editing by Doina Chiacu)

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/14/world-cup-stadium-worker-dies-fall-manaus_n_4445339.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Brazil Chooses Saab Jet Deal For Air Force After NSA Spying Sours Boeing Bid

Reuters

DATA: 2013.12.18

By Alonso Soto and Brian Winter

BRASILIA/SAO PAULO, Dec 18 (Reuters) - Brazil awarded a \$4.5 billion contract to Saab AB on Wednesday to replace its aging fleet of fighter jets, a surprise coup for the Swedish company after news of U.S. spying on Brazilians helped derail Boeing's chances for the deal.

The contract, negotiated over the course of three presidencies, will supply Brazil's air force with 36 new Gripen NG fighters by 2020. Aside from the cost of the jets themselves, the agreement is expected to generate billions of additional dollars in future supply and service contracts. Saab did not immediately comment on the purchase. In addition to Chicago-based Boeing Co, France's Dassault Aviation SA was a contender for the contract.

The timing of the announcement, after more than a decade of off-and-on negotiations, appeared to catch the companies involved by surprise. Even Juniti Saito, Brazil's top air force commander, said on Wednesday that he only heard of the decision a day earlier in a meeting with President Dilma Rousseff.

Brazilian officials said the deal, one of the most coveted emerging-market defense contracts, went to Saab because it provided the most affordable option for the new jets, as well as the best conditions for technology transfer to local partners.

The choice, Defense Minister Celso Amorim said, "took into account performance, the effective transfer of technology and costs - not just of acquisition but of maintenance."

Until earlier this year, Boeing's F/A-18 Super Hornet had been considered the front runner. But revelations of spying by the U.S. National Security Agency in Brazil, including personal communication by Rousseff, led Brazil to believe it could not trust a U.S. company.

"The NSA problem ruined it for the Americans," a Brazilian government source said on condition of anonymity.

A U.S. source close to the negotiations said that whatever intelligence the spying had delivered for the American government was unlikely to outweigh the commercial cost of the revelations.

"Was that worth 4 billion dollars?" the source asked.

The lament echoes recent complaints by Cisco Systems Inc , which said in November that a backlash against U.S. government spying contributed to lower demand for its products in China.

In a statement, Boeing called Brazil's decision a "disappointment," but added that it would continue to work with Brazil to meet its defense requirements.

Dassault, for its part, said it regrets Brazil's decision and called Saab's fighter an aircraft that was inferior to its Rafale jet.

"The Gripen is a lighter, single engine aircraft that does not match the Rafale in terms of performance and therefore does not carry the same price tag," it said.

Saab says the Gripen NG has the lowest logistical and operational costs of all fighters currently in service.

Brazil coexists peacefully with all of its South American neighbors and has no enemies elsewhere. The country, however, is eager to fortify its military as it considers the long-term defense of its vast borders and abundant natural resources, including the Amazon rainforest and offshore oil discoveries.

"We are a peaceful country, but we won't be defenseless," Rousseff said on Wednesday at a lunch with senior officials from Brazil's military, where she said the announcement was forthcoming. "A country the size of Brazil must always be ready to protect its citizens, patrimony and sovereignty."

Sweden's defense minister, Karin Enstrom, said in an interview that the contract, "is a sign that the Gripen is a well-functioning system which is cost efficient."

Under the terms of their agreement, Brazil and Saab will now finalize contract details within a year. The first jet is expected to be delivered two years later, with about 12 of the aircraft expected annually after that.

Brazil's decision unexpectedly wraps up a tortuous and prolonged decision-making process that had made the negotiations the object of ridicule in some defense circles.

However, the deal was taken very seriously by the competitors.

French President François Hollande personally lobbied for Dassault last week during a state visit. Boeing, for its part, was so committed to winning the contract that it opened a big corporate office in Brazil and named Donna Hrinak, a former U.S. ambassador to the country, as its top executive there.

The timing of the announcement surprised many analysts, who believed that the slowdown in Latin America's biggest economy, coupled with Rousseff's expected bid for re-election next year, would delay the purchase until 2015.

Indeed, the decision coincides with pressure on Rousseff from economists, the private sector and political opponents to curb public spending. Having initially increased government spending in efforts to spur growth, the president now faces growing criticism because of stubborn inflation and a worsening outlook for the country's budgetary targets.

Still, the country's current fleet of Mirage fighters, which the new jets will replace, is so old that the air force this week is taking them out of service. And Brazil's government said the money to pay for the jets would not come out of the budget until 2015, after the contract is finalized.

Analysts said the Gripen's cost advantage stems from its relative simplicity compared with the other jets.

"The Gripen is more accessible in terms of technology," said Richard Aboulafia, an analyst at the Teal Group, a Virginia-based research company for aerospace and defense. "It's something Brazil could conceivably build itself."

At the briefing in which they announced their decision, government officials said Brazilian aircraft maker Embraer SA would be Saab's principal partner. The transfer of technology is crucial to help Brazil develop future generations of fighter aircraft.

"There isn't necessarily a need to produce all the parts in Brazil," Amorim, the defense minister said. "What's important is that specific aviation technology is transferred to Brazil so we can develop it."

The delta-winged Gripen, Swedish for Griffin, was first introduced into service in the late 90's and is currently flown by the Swedish, Hungarian, South African, Thai and Czech air forces, according to the company's website.

Saab shares rose 1.84 percent to 133 krona on Wednesday, their highest close in 10 days. Earlier in the day, they rose as much as 5.7 percent to 138 krona, the highest in five months.

Boeing shares fell 0.13 percent to \$135.70 in New York, while Dassault Aviation shares fell 0.4 percent to 920 euros in Paris.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/18/brazil-saab-jet-deal_n_4469386.html.
Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

'Topless' Protest Falls Flat In On Brazil Beach (NSFW PHOTOS)

AP | By JENNY BARCHFIELD

DATA: 2013.12.21



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A much-hyped protest for the right to go topless on Rio de Janeiro's beaches fell flat Saturday when only a handful of women bared their chests for the movement.

More than 100 photojournalists stampeded across the golden sands of Ipanema beach when the first woman took off her bikini top to flout Brazilian law. Just three or four other women joined in.

"A breast isn't dangerous!" said Olga Salon, a 73-year-old Rio native, as she stripped off her black tank top. "It's a false-Puritanism and indicative of our macho culture that we have a law forbidding that a woman can go topless."

Internationally, Brazil has a reputation as a nation of liberal sexual mores, where nudity is not only tolerated but enthusiastically embraced during Carnival parades.

The hundreds of thousands of foreigners who'll descend on Brazil for next year's World Cup and the Olympics two years later will indeed see the famed "dental floss" bikinis that expose the wearer's rear end.

But under Brazil's penal code, which dates back to the 1940s, female toplessness is an "obscene act," punishable by three months to a year in prison, or fines. Even the law's critics admit few are prosecuted.

Women going topless on any of the city's beaches are almost guaranteed to a quick response, both from the patrolling municipal guards and fellow beachgoers.

Saturday's protest is the latest chapter in a debate over just how much skin is too much on Rio's beaches. Protest organizers told media they were responding to a November incident in which actress Cristina Flores was set upon by municipal guards after she removed her shirt during a photo shoot on Ipanema beach.

"They came at me immediately and there were three of them, more than one per breast," the 37-year-old Flores told The Associated Press with a laugh earlier this week. "They were shouting, 'put your shirt on, put your shirt on' as if a bomb were going off if I didn't."

Flores immediately complied but said she was shocked by the violent reaction and threat of jail time.

"I didn't even know it was illegal when I did it," she said. "But if the Brazilian constitution guarantees gender equality, why should men be able to walk around without a shirt, while when we do it it's seen as an act of provocation?"

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/21/topless-protest-rio-de-janeiro_n_4485846.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Instagram Local Lens Series Features Insider's Look At Rio De Janeiro

DATA: 2013.12.30

Instagram's [Local Lens series](#) is the perfect way to get an insider's view of some of the most beautiful destinations on Earth.

Carioca Instagrammer Paulo del Valle (@[paulodelvalle](#)) captures his home city of Rio de Janeiro, with an eye toward hidden locations tourists often miss.

For more information on del Valle check out the [Instagram Blog](#) and see a sampling of his photos below!

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/30/instagram-local-lens-rio-de-janeiro_n_4518736.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazil Begins Eviction Of Illegal Settlers On Awá Tribal Land

DATA: 2014.01.07



The New Year has brought some good tidings for the Awá people of Brazil.

It has been over 10 years since Brazil's government formally demarcated Awá territory in the state of Maranhão, but the country has done little to enforce the boundaries. This week, however, the government launched an operation to evict illegal settlers from Awá land. According to the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), [squatters have 40 days](#) to pack up their goods and get off the land.

The Awá are an indigenous, nomadic tribe in Brazil who [subsist largely on hunting and gathering](#). For years they persisted apart from the rest of humanity until agricultural developments brought rail lines and logging roads through their lands. Today, [100 of their roughly 450-member population](#) are believed to still be uncontacted.

Settlers illegally occupying the Awá land include loggers and landless farmer who have held the land long enough to construct nearly 300 buildings, some of them sawmills used for logging purposes.

The Guardian notes that Brazil's reluctance to intervene until now may be related to the government's strong ties to [agro-business lobbying groups](#). Developing agricultural land, on the one hand, has [helped boost Brazil's economy](#). But the country also faces pressure from [international media](#), celebrities and [human rights groups](#) to address the encroachment on tribal land, which threatens the members of the Awá tribe.

Survival International, a tribal rights organization, celebrated the government's announcement as the successful culmination of campaigning efforts. As [Director Stephen Corry said](#) in a January 6 release: "This is a momentous and potentially life-saving occasion for the Awá. Their many thousands of supporters worldwide can be proud of the change they have helped the tribe bring about."

The news of the evictions comes weeks after a leader of the Tenharim tribe, another of Brazil's indigenous groups, was [found dead along the Trans-Amazonian Highway](#).

Tensions among farmers, loggers, the government and indigenous peoples in Brazil are longstanding and delicate. Brazilian authorities have [reportedly promised to assist the illegal settlers](#) in relocating and getting access to social services.

As Survival International's Corry notes: "All eyes are now on Brazil to ensure it completes the operation before the World Cup kicks off in June, and protects Awá land once and for all."

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/07/brazil-awa-land- eviction_n_4555336.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

UN Calls For Investigation Into Brazil's Prison Violence

AP | By STAN LEHMAN

DATA: 2014.01.09



SAO PAULO (AP) — The United Nation's human rights agency called Wednesday for an "immediate, impartial and effective investigation" into the violence that has swept through a penitentiary in northeastern Brazil where at least 60 inmates were killed in 2013 in clashes between rival gangs.

Violence from the prisons has spilled onto the streets of Sao Luis, the capital of Maranhao state where the prison is located. Police say imprisoned gang leaders angered by authorities attempted crackdowns inside the prison ordered their members to spark terror by setting buses ablaze and shooting up the outside of police stations.

A 6-year-old girl died this week after being severely burned during one bus attack. Gas stations in the city largely complied with a police request to halt the sale of fuel to anyone wanting to fill-up a gas canister, hoping to squeeze off gangs' ability to buy flammable liquids used to torch buses.

The U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a statement that it was concerned with the "dire state of prisons in Brazil" and asked authorities to move immediately to restore order at the Pedrinhas penitentiary in Maranhao state.

The violence in the penitentiary was highlighted Tuesday when a gruesome video purporting to show the decapitated bodies of three inmates was posted on the website of the Folha de S.Paulo newspaper. It said inmates recorded the images on Dec. 17.

"The grisly crimes caught on camera are part of a broader problem of uncontrolled violence in Maranhao's prisons," Maria Laura Canineu, Brazil director of the non-governmental organization Human Rights Watch said in a statement. "The state urgently needs to investigate these crimes, restore order in the prisons, and ensure the inmates' safety."

Judge Douglas Martins recently issued a report saying that state authorities have been unable to control the situation at Pedrinhas that stem from its overcrowded conditions, gang fights and the orders given by gang leaders to rape women who are visiting husbands, sons and brothers.

Pedrinhas was built to hold 1,770 inmates but has a current prison population of nearly 2,200.

The Maranhao state government said in a statement that Martins' findings were based on "untruths aimed at worsening the situation inside the state's prison system."

Requests for further comment from the offices of Gov. Roseana Sarney, the daughter of Brazil's former president and current Sen. Jose Sarney, were not returned. The Sarney family has held sway over politics in Maranhao state for decades.

The rights group Amnesty International also expressed concern Wednesday with the "increasing violence and lack of concrete solutions" in the Maranhao state prison system.

About 500,000 inmates are locked up in Brazil's more than 1,200 prisons, and prison breaks and uprising are common.

Justice Minister Jose Eduardo Cardozo has said that Brazil had "a medieval prison system that violates human rights."

Similar prison conditions exist elsewhere around Latin America.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/09/brazil-prison-violence_n_4567637.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Zoo Animals Chomp On Popsicles As Extreme Heat Wave Roasts Brazil (PHOTOS)

AP | By Jenny Barchfield

DATA: 2014.01.09

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Sure, it's mind-bogglingly cold in the Northern Hemisphere. But the sweltering weather on the opposite end of the Earth has man and beast alike dreaming of ice.

Brazil is sizzling, and with the heat index sometimes soaring above 120 F, keepers at the Rio de Janeiro zoo are giving the animals ice pops to beat the heat.

The homemade treats come in various flavors. For the big cats, there are bloody, 66-pound (30-kilo) blocks of ice and raw meat. There are bucket-sized cornucopias of iced fruit for Ze Comeia, a brown bear rescued from a circus, and a supply of chilled bananas for Karla the elephant.



A bear named Ze Comeia eats frozen fruit at the city zoo in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

The simians' treats, strawberry or mango-flavored frozen yogurt pops on sticks, looked the most appealing to the crowds of human visitors who stood Wednesday in the blazing sun and 94-degree weather to gape at the apes.

"When I saw them eating their ice creams, I asked my parents to get me one, too," said Damaris Pereira Dias, 11, as she licked a rapidly melting treat in Brazil's adored green corn flavor. "It made me really hungry to watch them."



A chimpanzee named Paulinho eats a fruit popsicle at the city zoo in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

The apes couldn't get enough. Paulinho the chimpanzee reached long, leathery fingers through the bars to snatch a strawberry-flavored treat from zookeeper Karla Cunha's hand, then gobbled it down. He then delicately handed the stick back through the bars — a trick he's learned wins another ice pop.

The felines were less polite. Simba the 14-year-old lion and Neto, a 10-year-old Siberian tiger, put sandpaper tongues and pointy canines to work on giant bloodsicles, using oversized paws to hold the slick blocks of iced meat in place. Simba growled as a photographer got too close, and the crowd of cellphone photo-snapping visitors recoiled.



Simba the lion licks frozen meat at the city zoo in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

Ze Comeia the bear used his back paws to grasp a giant tutti-frutti ice block that he licked while bobbing on his back in a wading pool. While one zookeeper sprayed Koala the 45-year-old female elephant with a garden hose, another placed banana after banana into her mouth.

"This is their favorite time of day," said Cunha, the zoo's dietitian. "In addition to cooling the animals down on days like this where the heat is downright unbearable, it's also fun and keeps them active."

With just weak water misters and wading pools to provide the animals with relief, icy treats are added to the zoo's menu when temperatures hit the mid-80s, Cunha said.

Zookeepers have been handing out nearly 100 of the frozen snacks daily during the heat wave that has seen temperatures soar above the mid-90s for about 10 straight days. The apes alone consume around 70 of the snacks per day, with the fruit and yogurt-blends in highest demand.

"Frozen yogurt is very popular this year," said Cunha. "They just go crazy for it."

Even amid the nation's heat wave, Brazilian media has focused on the extreme cold in the north.

The Folha de S.Paulo newspaper reported Wednesday on how sun-worshipping Brazilians were surviving the U.S. freeze, including 27-year-old Renato Volpi, who used a hair dryer to thaw frozen water pipes in Chicago. Folha's New York-based columnist Marcos Goncalves described the clothes he was wearing for the cold, including the exotic item of long underwear. "I've never experienced temperatures so low," Goncalves wrote.

The heat wave extended to neighboring Argentina, where hundreds of dead fish floated in a lake in the capital of Buenos Aires. Catfish and shad were the most affected. Alejandro Perez, director of the 3 de Febrero Park where the dead fish were found floating, said the high temperatures had stolen oxygen from the water life.

Temperatures that have risen to more than 90 F in the Southern Hemisphere summer have also sparked street protests in Argentina over electricity outages.

Meteorologist Fabio Rocha of Brazil's federal weather service said the heat wave was not a mirror opposite and in no way related to the polar vortex punishing the U.S. and other northern nations.

"There has been a lack of cloud cover, especially in the southeastern parts of Brazil, exposing the area to more of the sun's rays and driving up maximum temperatures," Rocha said. "It's going to remain like this, probably until the weekend when there may be some rains."

Ze Comeia and the other zoo animals, as well as their human fans, would certainly welcome some rain.

"I'm sweating so much out here, and I don't even have fur," zoo visitor Karla Nunes, a 55-year-old retiree said, as she mopped her brow. "Imagine them, poor things!"

—

Associated Press writer Bradley Brooks in Rio de Janeiro, and Almudena Calatrava and Natacha Pisarenko in Buenos Aires, Argentina, contributed to this report.

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Follow Jenny Barchfield on Twitter: www.twitter.com/jennybarchfield

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/09/animals-popsicles-brazil-heat-wave_n_4571333.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazil's Kayapo Indigenous Tribe Juggles Tradition With Modernity (PHOTOS)

DATA: 2014.01.13

The Kayapo of Brazil challenge every stereotypical image of the indigenous people of the Americas.

[A powerful and rapidly growing group among Brazil's 240 indigenous tribes](#), the Kayapo consists of roughly 9,000 people. While some cannot read or write, others have started Facebook pages and shop in supermarkets.

According to National Geographic reporter Chip Brown, the group's particular success and relative wealth seems to stem precisely from its fierce assertion of tradition paired with an openness to new technologies and modes of communication. That said, the road has been difficult and paved with opposition along the way.

In the [January issue of National Geographic](#), Brown writes:

At first glance, Kendjam seems a kind of Eden. And perhaps it is. But that's hardly to say the history of the Kayapo people is a pastoral idyll exempt from the persecution and disease that have ravaged nearly every indigenous tribe in North and South America. In 1900, 11 years after the founding of the Brazilian Republic, the Kayapo population was about 4,000. As miners, loggers, rubber tappers, and ranchers poured into the Brazilian frontier, missionary organizations and government agencies launched efforts to "pacify" aboriginal tribes, wooing them with trade goods such as cloth, metal pots, machetes, and axes. Contact often had the unintended effect of introducing measles and other diseases to people who had no natural immunity. By the late 1970s, following the construction of the Trans-Amazon Highway, the population had dwindled to about 1,300.

But if they were battered, they were never broken. In the 1980s and '90s the Kayapo rallied, led by a legendary generation of chiefs who harnessed their warrior culture to achieve their political goals. Leaders like Ropni and Mekaron-Ti organized protests with military precision, began to apply pressure, and, as I learned from Zimmerman, who has been working with the Kayapo for more than 20 years, would even kill people caught trespassing on their land. Kayapo war parties evicted illegal ranchers and gold miners, sometimes offering them the choice of leaving Indian land in two hours or being killed on the spot. Warriors took control of strategic river crossings and patrolled borders; they seized hostages; they sent captured trespassers back to town without their clothes.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/13/brazil-kayapo-indigenous-tribe_n_4568156.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Surfer Dogs Hit The Waves In Brazil

AP | By RENATA BRITO

DATA: 2014.01.17



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Selva the surfer wore a lime-green life vest, but her colleagues braved the waters Thursday without protection. All could at least doggie paddle if they fell off their boards.

About a dozen four-legged practitioners of stand-up paddle boarding took to the waves with their human owners off Rio de Janeiro's Barra Beach, practicing for a second annual competition next month in which canine-human teams race around buoys. Competitors are disqualified if the dog falls into the water.

"The idea started when I was on my board and my dog was tied up on the beach. I said to myself, 'Man he wants to come to the water!' so I put him on the board and he loved it," said Marco Sarnelli, the event organizer.

The race on Feb. 16 is expected to draw as many as 50 dogs and their owners, from border collies to golden retrievers to mutts.

Iracema Braun, a stand-up paddle teacher who charges just over \$100 a month to take dog lovers and their canines out on the waters twice a week, said that it's "a sport everybody can do. You don't have to be an athlete to do it ... any dog can do it."

Brazilian paddle board enthusiasts aren't the first to take their pets out on the water.

Canine paddle board races in California have served as fundraisers for local shelters, and several websites dedicated to the sport include forum sections with readers trading tricks on how to get their dogs hooked on the sport.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/17/surfer-dogs-brazil_n_4618383.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Rio's Slums Plagued By Violence Ahead Of World Cup

Reuters

DATA: 2014.01.21



By Paulo Prada

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 21 (Reuters) - Daily shootouts are rattling two of Rio de Janeiro's slums, communities that until recently showcased attempts to pacify the historically violent shantytowns.

Just five months before Rio welcomes visitors for the soccer World Cup, and two years before it hosts the Olympics, the communities of Pavão-Pavãozinho and Cantagalo are bracing for what residents fear is the return of a decades-old turf war involving armed drug gangs, cops and robbers.

The communities, sprawls of bare brick on hills near the prosperous beachside districts of Ipanema and Copacabana, are among the most emblematic of Rio's favelas, as the slums are known. The two favelas were hailed by authorities as triumphs in a campaign to expel crooks using a strong police presence.

Lately, though, violence in both favelas is rekindling.

"We really thought things had gotten better here," said Alzira Amaral, president of the neighborhood association of Pavão-Pavãozinho, a dense wall of jerry-built homes that climb up a steep outcropping near the Atlantic shoreline.

"Now," she added, lamenting the return of regular gunfire, "we don't know what to think." The pacifications were supposed to pave the way for development of long-neglected areas of Rio, Brazil's second-biggest city and a metropolitan area home to 11 million people. Local authorities, cocksure during a decade-long boom that fizzled just as the pacifications took root, promised to free the favelas from criminals and reverse decades of neglect.

CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

To date, 36 areas have been "pacified." Over 9,000 police patrol favelas home to 1.5 million. Initial success in evicting the gangs was applauded but the pacifications have also been criticized for merely displacing crime to other neighborhoods.

And recently, the crime, along with growing unease, is creeping back into pacified zones. Residents who once welcomed the cops are increasingly disappointed by what they see as a lack of crucial public investment that was supposed to follow.

Meanwhile, police face a backlash in occupied favelas because of oppression, violence and other alleged human rights abuses. Corrupt officers in Rocinha, another well-known slum, were arrested last year for the torture and disappearance of a local bricklayer they claimed had ties to drug rings.

Sensing the growing discontent, drug traffickers have ordered gangs to reconquer territory. "The criminals believe now is the time to strike back," said Alba Zaluar, an anthropologist at the State University of Rio de Janeiro. "With tension and anger in these communities it's easier for gangs to go back and impose themselves through a tried and true culture of violence."

Pavão-Pavãozinho and Cantagalo, home to more than 10,000 residents between them, were "pacified" in 2009. Residents awoke one morning to the arrival of hundreds of armed police who set up a base in the area and have patrolled it ever since.

For three years, their presence raised hopes that the communities were indeed ripe for transformation - despite the open sewers and intermittent water and power supplies.

Last October, an armed gang confronted police on patrol in Vietnã, a restive cluster of shacks among trees near the Pavão-Pavãozinho hilltop. In a shootout, police killed one suspect and injured another, the alleged leader of the resurgent drug faction. The leader, known locally as "Pit Bull," is believed to be recovering there but police don't know for sure.

Sporadic firefights followed the October shootout until earlier this month, when gang members and police began clashing daily. In addition to gunfire, the neighborhoods now ring regularly with blasts from homemade pipe bombs and grenades.

On Friday police killed a suspect they said was a Cantagalo drug kingpin. Gang members, using a routine tactic from the bad old days, the next morning descended upon Ipanema and ordered shops to shut in tribute to their fallen comrade.

Lt. Fabio Azevedo, subcommander of the pacification unit in the two communities, said the flare-up is a function of supply and demand. With few hideouts remaining near tourist haunts, gangs are re-establishing footholds from which to sell drugs.

"They are trying to come back, but we are not going to let them," he told Reuters. (Editing by Todd Benson and Stephen Powell)

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/21/slum-violence-rio-world-cup_n_4636933.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Trouble for the 'Brazilian Miracle'

DATA: 2014.01.21

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a leading sociologist, was President of Brazil from 1995 to 2000. WorldPost asked him examine the eruption of middle class discontent in Brazil.

On the causes of social unrest. The slowing down of the Brazilian economy is not due only to external factors, such as the reduction of demand from China and Europe.

Internal factors also do play a role. After a positive initial reaction to anti-cyclical governmental policies with the expansion of credit and consumption, there was an overreliance on the capacity of these policies to promote growth coupled with a lack of timely investments in infrastructure.

There was also an excessive propaganda about the emergence of the 'new middle classes' and too much public fiscal incentives to promote consumption. The small but persistent inflation at the annual rate of 6% and the ensuing restrictions on credit with the rise of interest rates produced a shift in the overall economic climate from unbridled optimism to concern with low growth and increasing cost of living.

Linked to and prompted by the strong public reaction against widespread corruption, this change in people's expectations explains how quickly the wave of protests spread virally through the Internet and led to massive protests in the streets.

World Cup as a symbol of waste. The wave of protests was sparked by the waste of public funds in preparation for the 2014 World Cup. But they express a more profound feeling of discontent. People are fed up with corruption and impunity. They want better public services, especially in health, education and public transportation. They also want to participate and are calling for institutional reforms. The vast majority of the protesters were peaceful. However a small but vocal and aggressive minority of radical groups, as the so-called Black Block with its anarchist symbols and destructive behavior, have resorted to the systematic use of violence as the means to discredit any and all public institutions.

Rising middle class wants accountability. There is certainly a cognitive dissonance between the rosy reality proclaimed by government and daily life as experienced by the groups whose income has

increased. As a consequence people are asking for more participation and better quality of life. It is true that this gives rise to a crisis of legitimacy of the political institutions but democracy is not at all in question or at risk. Quite the opposite. People are calling for more freedom and equality, all essential democratic values.

Brazil indeed has democratic institutions and fair elections but we can hardly say that public institutions are really accountable. Besides pervasive corruption the proportional system for electing Congress is unfit to the reality of contemporary urban Brazil and actually widens the gap between voters and representatives.

Between demos and res publica. Our challenge is to bridge the gap between **demos** and **res publica**, between people and the public interest. Either the democratic institutions allow for more substantive participation in the deliberative process, enabling the political representation to regain legitimacy by listening to and interacting with citizens and voters, or the crisis will persist and institutions will lose legitimacy and efficiency. Hence the challenge to all of us, political leaders, artists, innovators, scientists, ordinary citizens who care for freedom, to reweave the institutional threads that may reconnect the political system with the demands of an informed and participatory society.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/fernando-henrique-cardoso/trouble-for-the-brazilian_b_4603105.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

New Species Of River Dolphin Discovered In Brazil (PHOTOS)

The Huffington Post | By [Sara Gates](#)

DATA: 2014.01.23

It seems Mother Nature still has a few secrets up her sleeve.

In a study published in PLOS ONE this week, researchers announced the discovery of a new species of [river dolphin in Brazil](#). The marine mammal is the first river dolphin to be described since 1918, the authors noted in the research.

Discovered in the Araguaia River basin, *Inia araguaiaensis* is believed to have diverged from river dolphins in the Amazon more than 2 million years ago due to a shift in the landscape. Unlike other river dolphins in Brazil, the newly discovered species has only 24 teeth per jaw, instead of the typical 25 to 29.

"[It was something that was very unexpected](#), it is an area where people see them all the time, they are a large mammal, the thing is nobody really looked. It is very exciting," lead author Dr. Tomas Hrbek of the Federal University of Amazonas said, according to BBC News.

(Story continues below.)



However, despite the excitement behind the new discovery, it seems the river dolphins are already under threat of extinction.

"Its future is pretty bleak," Hrbek told the New Scientist. "The Araguaia-Tocantins basin suffers huge human disturbance and there are probably [less than 1,000 I. araguaiaensis in existence](#)."

Because of the small number remaining, the team is urging the International Union for Conservation of Nature to classify the species as vulnerable.



River dolphins are relatively rare. Of the four river dolphin species currently recognized, three are classified from [vulnerable](#) to [critically endangered](#) by IUCN. (There is [not enough data to classify the fourth](#).)

The World Wildlife Fund attributes the [decline in dolphin populations](#) over the last several decades to human interference in their habitats, such as dam-building and fishing nets. The Yangtze River dolphin, or baiji, is believed to have gone extinct between 2004 and 2006, making it the [first dolphin humans drove to extinction](#), LiveScience notes.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/23/river-dolphin-brazil-new-species_n_4652652.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Brazilians Protest World Cup In Sao Paulo

AP | By STAN LEHMAN

DATA: 2014.01.26

SAO PAULO (AP) — Waving flags, carrying banners and chanting "there will be no Cup" at least 1,000 demonstrators protested in Sao Paulo on Saturday against the World Cup that Brazil will host later this year in a demonstration that devolved into violence late in the night.

On its Facebook page, the Anonymous Rio protest group billed "Operation Stop the World Cup" as this year's first act against the football tournament. Protests were expected in more than 30 cities, but all except that carried out in Sao Paulo fell far flat of organizers' expectations.

Demonstrators gathered in front of the Sao Paulo Art Museum for about one hour before heading out to another part of the city chanting slogans against the tournament.

As they approached the downtown area, some "Black Block" anarchist demonstrators attacked an empty police car and tried to overturn it, while others torched a small car and smashed the windows of banks, as they have in previous protests since last year. Police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets, dispersing the crowd. More than 100 demonstrators were detained.

Earlier during the demonstration several protesters chanted "If we have no rights, there will be no Cup."

"By rights we mean the people's right to decent public services," said university student Leonardo Pelegrini dos Santos. "We are against the millions and millions of dollars being spent for the Cup. It is money that should be invested in better health and education services and better transportation and housing."

Fellow student Juliana Turno said "this is a small sample of the protests that will happen when the World Cup begins."

Last year, millions of people took to the streets across Brazil complaining of higher bus fares, poor public services and corruption while the country spends billions on the World Cup, which is scheduled to start in June.

Those demonstrations coincided with the Confederations Cup soccer tournament, a warm-up tournament for the World Cup

In Rio de Janeiro, about 50 protesters gathered in front of the Copacabana Palace hotel, holding signs blasting the World Cup. After about an hour, the crowd moved onto a main street that runs along Copacabana beach, halting traffic as police watched from the side.

Small demonstrations were also held in several other cities.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/26/world-cup-protest-brazil_n_4670393.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brasilia: An Architectural Tourist's Playground in the Brazilian Savanna

DATA: 2014.01.27



Brasilia at night

In Terry Gilliam's dystopian black comedy *Brazil*, Jonathan Pryce plays a lonely clerk longing to escape a cold Brave New World overrun by inefficient and terrifying bureaucrats. As he hears and hums Ary Barroso's 1939 "Aquarela do Brasil," he dreams of flying away to a more sensuous coastal city that embodies the spirit of samba.

You might hear echoes of Pryce's pining in the real Brazilian capital city of Brasilia, one of the most divisive and curious cities in the world.

For a country known for its spectacular beaches, rainforests, and waterfalls, Brazil's capital is a surprising anomaly. Located in the central-west Brazilian Highlands, Brasilia is a sprawling, sterile, futuristic city filled with imposing black glass and smooth, white, curving concrete. When President Juscelino Kubitschek decided to move the capital from Rio in 1956, he hired urban planner Lucio Costa and visionary architect Oscar Niemeyer to build Brasilia in the uninhabited interior region in 1,000 days. The result is a *Jetsons*-like futuristic city rising out of the South American savanna with some of the most striking modernist architecture in the world.

As the country prepares for a major tourism boom due to the World Cup this summer, many travelers - particularly those with a passion for architecture and design -- should consider putting this *cidade futura* on their itineraries.

While its critics see a failed utopian experiment that further separates the haves and have-nots, its admirers point to the inspiring genius of Niemeyer, who designed over 25 of the city's major buildings. As an ardent communist until his death at the age of 104 (just over a year ago), Niemeyer believed that his bold structures could provide hope for a struggling population; "It is strange how the power of beauty makes us forget so much injustice," Niemeyer once said in a piece for *Módulo Magazine*.

Inspired by the curves of Rio's Sugar Loaf Mountain -- along with the tanned women sunbathing on the shore Copacabana Beach -- Niemeyer's designs consistently reject hard right angles in favor of more sensuous contours. According to Niemeyer, form doesn't follow function; "it follows female beauty."

Quite simply, this is a city that can't even think straight; no, really, there's not a single right angle on Costa's curvy plan. The layout of the city resembles an airplane with a "monumental axis" (featuring most of the key buildings and attractions) running vertically down the center, flanked by two residential "wings." Its design requires that you have a car or taxi for transportation; you won't find many pedestrians strolling around.



Bear in mind that many of the streets have no names, and Brasilia's sector-oriented complicated address system may baffle you at first. Costa's layout of the city divides its neighborhoods based on the functions of their buildings. For example, most of the hotels are located in the hotel sector, which is separate from the residential and commercial sectors. While there is a thriving nightlife scene in the club sector, you'll also occasionally find pop-up parties or clubs in the "garage" or banking sectors.

You'll really need two days to fully explore all of Niemeyer's masterpieces; or, you can cram some of the cultural highlights into one busy day.

Start your morning at the **Digital TV Tower**, also known as the Cerrado Flower, which is Niemeyer's last building erected in the city (in 2012). The observation deck on top features a 360-degree panorama of the city, with an uninterrupted view of the horizon (as mandated by Costa's plan).



Palácio do Planalto, housing the Office of the President, in Three Powers Square

Then visit the **Three Powers Square**, a plaza where the three branches of Brazil's Federal government meet (the National Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Presidential Office).



The Brazilian National Congress

Niemeyer was an outspoken atheist, and it's no coincidence that his National Cathedral is far away from the seat of government, emphasizing the separation between church and state.



The Metropolitan Cathedral of Our Lady of Aparecida is widely considered Niemeyer's masterpiece. Its exterior resembles a crown of thorns; inside, angels hang from a spectacular stained-glass ceiling.



Interior of the the Metropolitan Cathedral of Our Lady of Aparecida

The Dom Bosco Sanctuary (The Blue Church), built in honor of the Italian Saint who predicted a futuristic city would appear in Brasilia's location, offers another breathtaking stained-glass interior, inspired by Niemeyer's designs.



Dom Bosco Sanctuary (The Blue Church)

At the **Memorial for Juscelino Kubitschek**, Niemeyer honors the Communist party by placing the former president on top of a sickle. Inside, a granite tomb underneath a skylight holds his remains.



JK Memorial



For more of Niemeyer's spectacular interior design, visit **Itamaraty's Palace**, headquarters for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which features impressive works by leading Brazilian sculptors Maria Martins and Franz Weissmann.

At sunset, spend some time at the **Ermida Dom Bosco**, where Brasilia's first small chapel sits, overlooking a park and a view of Paranoa Lake.

Then head over to [Pontão do Lago Sul](#), the city's largest lakeside leisure and entertainment complex, where you'll find several bars, shops, and restaurants for Happy Hour.

For comfort cuisine with a young, hip crowd and spirited atmosphere, book a table at [Universal Diner](#), owned by chef Mara Alcamim (who worked for many years in New York). Alcamim's delectable "Sexy Shrimp" (cooked in brie, champagne, red roe, and exotic strawberries served on sage risotto) is said to have aphrodisiac qualities. Though it might accentuate the curve of your waistline, Niemeyer would certainly approve.

All Photographs by Zach Udko

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/zach-udko/brasilian-architectural_b_4648374.html.
Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Brazil Sees Little Improvement In Fire Safety A Year After Deadly Blaze

AP | By BRADLEY BROOKS and MARCO SIBAJA

DATA: 2014.01.27



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Never again, officials vowed a year ago, would Brazil see a horror like the nightclub fire that killed 242 young men and women, all suffocated by toxic smoke that filled a windowless bunker of a building with no emergency exits.

Yet as Brazil marks the anniversary Monday of the deadly blaze at the Kiss nightclub, almost nothing concrete has been done at any level of government to improve fire safety or improve enforcement of existing fire codes across the country.

That's stoking fears that another tragedy awaits, especially as tourists and locals pack clubs during the World Cup football tournament starting in June, a tournament being held in 12 far-flung cities.

"What killed those kids at that nightclub was our culture, a culture of not liking to obey laws," said Luciano Favero, a fire prevention specialist based in Rio Grande do Sul state, where the Kiss fire occurred. "Brazil is a country that reacts; it does not prevent."

It was about 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 27, 2013, when soundproofing foam on the ceiling caught fire in the overcrowded nightclub in the university town of Santa Maria. The lead singer of a country band onstage had lit a flare as part of an illegal indoor pyrotechnics show, sparking the blaze.

Investigators said the burning foam released cyanide, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide that quickly killed those attending a university party. Scores of bodies were piled in twisted knots inside the club as hundreds stampeded through darkness, trying to reach a single row of four doors that served as both entry and exit. Aside from the dead, 630 people were injured, and about 90 of them still face grave health problems from smoke inhalation.

Despite an investigation that said the fumes from the flammable soundproofing foam caused the deaths, officials say that even it remains legal.

A day after the fire, President Dilma Rousseff presided over a previously scheduled meeting of new mayors from across Brazil, where she told them about the "indescribable pain" she witnessed upon visiting with victims' families just hours after the blaze.

"I speak of that pain to remind all of us with executive powers of the responsibilities we have toward our population," Rousseff said. "In the face of this tragedy, we have the duty to make the commitment, to ensure that this will never happen again."

The president's words resulted in nothing, said Rodrigo Tavares, a private engineer and fire-safety consultant in Brazil.

"At first, we had this national uproar and many plans to make changes," Tavares said. "However, in practical terms, the situation of security and fire protection remains the same."

What Tavares and other experts agree is the single most important step needed is the passage of a national fire safety code to impose and enforce the same standards across Brazil. The Santa Maria blaze exposed deep flaws in Brazil's system, which gives states the right to determine their own fire codes and cities the power to enforce them and hand out operating permits.

That leaves the much of country at the mercy of poorly trained and overtaxed inspectors working in a system with widespread corruption, where a bribe is an easy way around inspections and enforcement of existing codes is haphazard.

Congressman Paulo Pimenta, a member of the governing Workers Party who is from Santa Maria, has tried unsuccessfully to push a national fire safety code through Congress during the past year. He says a bill hasn't passed because leaders quickly forgot about the blaze and turned to other matters as the sting of the tragedy faded.

Pimenta's bill would force buildings to install more emergency exits, which are rarely used in many parts of Brazil, and ensure that materials like the soundproofing in the Kiss club are non-flammable and approved by government regulators. His bill would also make it easier to hold local officials accountable for approving inadequate fire plans for clubs, hotels and other establishments.

Both the Santa Maria mayor's office and fire department say they've stepped up inspections in the city, but that they're waiting on the state legislature or national congress to put into action any stiffer safety demands.

Since the Kiss nightclub fire, its two owners and two band members blamed for starting the fire face homicide charges, but are free pending trial. A guilty verdict could bring a prison sentence of up to 30 years, although the complexity of Brazil's legal system and the ability to present numerous appeals means several years can elapse before someone convicted of a crime is put behind bars.

State prosecutors say four other people face lesser charges related to false testimony and falsified documents. Five firefighters face trial in a military court on negligence charges, while three are accused of falsifying public documents related to the club's fire permit.

Despite the charges, many in Santa Maria fear nobody will be held accountable.

"Justice hasn't been done, and until it is this culture of impunity will win out. Nobody will have learned any lessons because nobody will be punished," said Douglas Medeiros, a university student whose 18-year-old girlfriend, Thanise Correa Garcia, died in the fire. "Here in Santa Maria, there have been no changes to the law, nothing that would force officials to feel compelled to really take action."

Associated Press writer Stan Lehman in Sao Paulo contributed to this report.

Bradley Brooks on Twitter: www.twitter.com/bradleybrooks

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/27/brazil-fire-safety_n_4676054.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazilian Advocates Raise A Stink Over Poor Sanitation At Ipanema Beach (PHOTOS, VIDEO)

The Huffington Post | By [Eleanor Goldberg](#)

DATA: 2014.01.27

Brazilian activists are making a big stink over the fact that Rio de Janeiro still hasn't cleaned up its sanitation act.

[Advocates from the group Meu Rio](#) (My Rio) staged a sit-in at Ipanema Beach on Saturday where they perched on toilets to highlight the sewage and water pollution issues plaguing the city, the BBC reported.



Protesters say this is an opportune time to raise awareness as Rio de Janeiro will be one of the host cities for the World Cup in June and will host the Summer Olympics in 2016.

"We want to take advantage of the movement -- the Olympics are coming, the World Cup is coming. It's a chance to draw attention, maybe the world can talk about what's happening here in Rio," [Leona Deckelbaum, a campaign coordinator](#), told the BBC. "It's unbelievable that there's not basic sanitation in a city like Rio."



Though Rio's Olympic committee has pledged to clean up its pollution problems before the games, experts and advocates remain concerned.

In the waters surrounding the site of the future Olympic Park, [the average fecal pollution rate](#) is 78 times that of the Brazilian government's "satisfactory" level, the Associated Press reported in November.



One of Rio's most polluted bodies of water, [Guanabara Bay](#), is surrounded by 15 cities -- many of which are home to struggling people with poor housing and no sanitation or garbage collection, the BBC reported earlier this month.

Additionally, nearly 70 percent of Rio's sewage goes untreated, leading to concerns about potential health risks to the athletes participating in the World Cup and the Olympics.



"The high concentrations of untreated human waste means there are pathogens and disease-causing organisms in the water," [Dr. Casey Brown, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, told the AP.](#) "If I were going to take part, I would make sure all my shots were up to date."

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/27/brazil-toilet-protest_n_4674392.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

Brazil Bridge Collapse: Truck Crashes Into Rio De Janeiro Walkway, At Least 4 Killed

AP

DATA: 2014.01.28



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A dump truck smashed into a pedestrian bridge on a busy highway in northern Rio de Janeiro Tuesday, causing the walkway to collapse onto three cars and a motorcycle below. At least four people were killed in the accident, authorities said.

Another four people were injured, according to Lamsa, a private company that administers the toll road.

Witnesses said that there were only two people on the yellow metal pedestrian bridge when the accident occurred just after 9 a.m. Normally it would be crowded at that hour, but is in less use because of Brazil's summer holidays.

Mayor Eduardo Paes told reporters at the scene that the trailer of the truck was clearly above the 4.5 meters (14 ½ feet) permitted for use on the highway, known as the Yellow Line road, which cuts through gritty northern and western portions of Rio.

Paes said authorities were trying to confirm if the truck's bed was raised when it hit the walkway. Regardless, "an infraction was being committed because trucks aren't allowed on the Yellow Line at that time of day."

Valeria da Paixao, the director of a daycare center near the site of the accident, told Globo TV that she "heard a loud noise, like an explosion."

"The walkway is used by many mothers who bring their children to our school," she said. "Thank God it's vacation time and we're closed. If it happened when the school was open we would have had a major tragedy."

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/28/brazil-bridge-collapse-rio-de-janeiro_n_4680127.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

What Brazil Can Teach The World About Living Well

DATA: 2014.01.28



Our [*Living Well, On Location*](#) series explores cities and countries from around the world. How do other people pursue health and happiness? We're going coast to coast, country to country to find out.

Brazil holds a charmed place in the public imagination, thanks to its unparalleled physical beauty, its rich arts and culture and the incredible warmth with which Brazilians receive visitors to the country. The natural wealth of the country is staggering: It is home to much of the Amazon rainforest, the equally majestic, but lesser known Mata Atlantica, the Pantanal and the largest coastline of any country in South America.

Ever since FIFA and the Olympic Committee announced their selection of the country and its city Rio de Janeiro as hosts for the impending World Cup and Summer Olympics, Brazil has been having a bit of a moment on the world stage. While the news hasn't always been positive -- recently, [reports of delays in stadium construction](#) have raised some eyebrows -- the truth is that the exuberance, natural beauty and innovative business of South America's biggest country have captured the public imagination.

Now, in honor of [the launch of the Brasil Post](#), we've compiled some of the biggest lessons the country can teach the world about living happily, healthfully and well.

Happiness is a priority -- and a policy



The intrinsic, infectious nature of Brazil's *alegria* is not to be understated -- affecting culture and policy in equal measure.

Just this month, [the organization Fundação Getúlio Vargas](#) announced the creation of the [Well Being Brazil Index](#) -- a measure of happiness and wellness to be implemented in various cities in Brazil to help public officials implement policies that support and improve well-being.

"They have a joy for life in Brazil unlike any country I've ever seen," the Brazilian-born, American-raised actress Morena Baccarin [told the Wall Street Journal in 2009](#).

That attention has a real impact on its citizens: Brazilian women scored as the happiest women in the world on a happiness index survey [conducted by FGV](#). In the same survey, Brazil rated as the happiest of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) -- meaning, the happiest of the

countries contending with massive inequalities and fast-shifting economic and socio-political circumstances.

Celebration is a way of life



Brazilians are world famous for their celebration of *carnaval* -- the annual festival that precedes Lent. Between the larger than life costumes, infectious dance-friendly music and joyful processions, it would be easy to think that the holiday is the best celebration of the year in Brazil. But that would be wrong: Brazilians turn all occasions -- from the Northeast harvest festival of São Joao to the raucous New Year's Eve celebration of *réveillon* -- into demonstrations of joyfulness, community togetherness and artistic expression.

Brazilians get in their exercise



Exercise is an important part of life in Brazil. In fact, the country has [the second biggest fitness industry](#) in the world after the U.S.

Even outside of the gym, popular sports like soccer, volleyball, [futevolei](#), [Capoeira](#), jiu-jitsu and polo are apt to help people get their sweat on.

The result? Dramatically lower average weight and BMI than in the U.S. According to government data, the [average weight of a 30-something Brazilian man](#) is 5'6" and 163.5 pounds (a BMI of 26.3) and a woman, 5'2" and 137 pounds (25.1 BMI), compared to the U.S., [where a comparable man](#) is 5'9" and 199.5 pounds (29.5 BMI) and woman is 5'4" and 169 pounds (29 BMI).

Brazilians dão um jeito

There is always, always a way to accomplish something. That message of resilience and resourcefulness is central to Brazilian culture, where the concept of the *jeitinho brasileiro*, an alternative "way" or shortcut to get what you need is central to daily life. The "jeitinho" is a diminutive form of the word *jeito*, meaning one's way or manner, and refers to the way in which one can circumvent an inefficient and sometimes corrupt Brazilian bureaucratic entanglement.

They juiced before juicing was a thing



There's a reason every fancy SoHo juice bar is stocked with Brazilian staples like açai, acerola and passion fruit: Brazilians have been consuming fresh-pressed fruit juices for decades. *Casas de sucos* aren't just for skeletal stylists on a diet, in Brazil they're for everyone -- and [about as ubiquitous as bodegas](#) or, as New York Times' travel writer Seth Kugel said, diners:

Here's the key [to eating cheap]: the city's freewheeling, fast-moving corner juice bars, where counter men take your order and appear to yell it -- "orange with papaya, no sugar!" -- into a wall of

pineapples, guavas, apples and mangoes. A minute or two later, a glass appears from an opening in the wall, filled with ice-cold, frothy, delicious juice.

Sure, these bars carry fried *lanches* and some sweets, but the nutritious juices, smoothies and fruit salads are the central attractions. That has a lot to do with Brazil's natural bounty: Between the Amazon's incredible biodiversity and the fertile farmland of much of the country's interior, the number of nutrient-dense fruits indigenous to Brazil are unparalleled.

The result? Fresh, natural, local and nutritious food is also some of the cheapest and most readily available.

Brazilians surround themselves with architectural beauty



You could excuse Brazilians for being satisfied with the natural beauty that surrounds them -- with views like the one from [the top of Corcovado](#), Iguazu Falls and [Itaquai River in the Amazon](#). Even the more banal coastal vistas look [like this](#).

But that hasn't stopped a rich tradition of architecture, most popularized by the famous Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, who is responsible for some of the most sublime buildings in the country - [as well as the entire architectural plan for Brasilia](#).

"Curves are the essence of my work because they are the essence of Brazil, pure and simple," [said Niemeyer](#) of his architectural style. "I am a Brazilian before I am an architect. I cannot separate the two."

Diversity is a way of life



The ethnic and racial melting pot that is Brazil has led Henry Louis Gates Jr. [to call the country](#) "the second blackest nation in the world."

"Brazil has the second largest black population -- black being defined by people of African descent in the way that we would define them in this country. It's second only to Nigeria," said Gates. "But no one knows this."

Indigenous, Nigerian, Portuguese, Italian, German, Japanese and Korean ancestry are all common, making Brazilians a truly unique mix.

But just because it is a melting pot, does not mean it isn't also a mosaic that respects distinct cultures and traditions: In Salvador da Bahia, the largest city in the Northeast region, [Yoruba culture of the 19th century](#) is so well-preserved (due to the city's sad history as a hub of the international slave trade) that scholars of Nigerian culture and history visit the community to learn.

Cafezinho all.day.



If you've lived or worked in Brazil, you know that time can be measured in the tiny, espresso-sized cups of cafezinho, a sweet, strong shot of coffee that is consumed by businessmen and students alike. In total, Brazilians drink an average of [5.8 kg of coffee per person, per year](#), which may help improve heart health, prevent diabetes and some cancers and [even stave off depression](#).

They're working on the inequality problem

Historically, the vast distance between the poor and the rich has been a source of injustice, poor health and a lack of mobility. But that's beginning to change. Income inequality is [dropping at a rate of 2.2 percent each year](#), according to a report from the Center for Social Policies at Universidade de São Paulo. Meanwhile, the poverty rate drops 7.9 percent each year -- three times the pace set by the UN's Millennium Development Goals task force. And educational attainment is on the rise, thanks to a 60 percent increase in public [spending on secondary schools between 2000 and 2009](#).

Everyone participates in the mood-boosting practice of making music

Brazilian music is virtually unparalleled in the world for diversity of style and prolific creation: from samba to pagode, axé, forró and brega in the Northeast to MPB, rap and Carioca funk in the big cities to the choro, tropicalia and bossa nova of the 1960s (and its revival today).

What's more, music is a crowd-sourcing event: Not only do people sing along at concerts, making music and dancing conventions that follow music are major focal points of festivals and celebrations.

And that can only be a good thing: [making and listening to music](#) improves cognition, relieves stress and even improves immune functioning.

Access to the beach is a civil right



One of Brazil's greatest resources is also, perhaps its most democratic: beaches. In Brazil, the beach is seen as [a public space](#), full of diversity and accessible to all. That's important because Brazil is also home to the largest stretch of coastline in South America (and the 16th largest in the world).

And access to that water is a positive thing: Living near and visiting a body of water -- or "blue space" -- is linked to [several measures of well-being](#), including improved mood, lower blood pressure and slower heart rate. There's even some evidence that [living near an ocean](#), in particular, correlates to a higher level of health.

Brazilian families stay connected



Most Brazilians would tell you that the era of *parentela* -- a Northeast Brazilian concept in which tight-knit family structures extended to cousins, family friends and even servants -- [has long disappeared](#). Naturally, as is true in contemporary cultures the world over, families are growing smaller and more spread out due to progressive forces like increased urbanization and more women in the workforce, but there remains a strong sense of family unity and connection in Brazilian culture.

Tight family ties and intimate relationships with lifelong friends are one of the highest indicators for longevity and happiness in life. The *parentela*, it turns out, is so vital to good health, that it [became the central theme](#) of a 75-year study at Harvard.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/28/what-brazil-can-teach-the-world_n_4662253.html. Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

27 Breathtaking Places That Will Make You Want To Book A Flight To Brazil, Right Now

The Huffington Post | By [Gabriela Kruschewsky](#)

DATA: 2014.01.30

It has crossed your mind at least once ... You, Brazil, a beach, sipping on some fresh coconut water that an endearing elderly man probably just chopped open for you with a machete -- sun, relaxation, beauty.

Whether you're [planning to attend the World Cup](#) along with millions of fans come June, have been dreaming of experiencing Carnival in the South American paradise for years, or have recently been inspired by the [launch of BrasilPost this week](#) ... Face it, this country has most likely crept its way onto your travel bucket list.

Yes, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo are both beautiful; but what other places should you visit when in Brazil? *Voila* -- here are some gem destinations that you'll want on your radar for your next trip down. Ready. Set. Brazil.

1. Morro de São Paulo, Bahia



Get ready to ditch the shoes; the only thing you'll be walking on in this place is sand. No cars are allowed on the island, only bikes and bare feet.

2. Fernando de Noronha, Pernambuco



In the northern state of Pernambuco lies an archipelago of 21 islets nestled in the Atlantic Ocean. Expect sea turtles, dolphins and the most killer Instagram pictures you'll ever take. You're welcome.

3. Armação dos Búzios, Rio de Janeiro



Just a couple of hours away from busy Rio stands this charming little resort town you'll want to retreat to over and over again. It's commonly referred to as just "Búzios." Forget the big city, come unwind here.

4. Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais



Dust off the sand and take in a little culture in this old colonial mining town not far from big city of Belo Horizonte. The name of the town translates to "black gold," and bonus: it's a World Heritage Site.

5. Campos do Jordão, São Paulo



A romantic Swedish-style getaway is calling your name in the state of São Paulo. Prepare to fall in love with the quaint inns and chalets scattered throughout the irresistible small town.

6. Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná



At the very tip of Brazil lies the widest waterfall range in perhaps all the world. It touches the borders of three countries: Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. You might [must] want to check it out, just saying [no, you need to].

7. Porto de Galinhas, Pernambuco



Who's ready to get dropped into this waterhole and get their picture taken with the fishies? You are! They're harmless, I promise. Plus, who cares? Nothing you experience will ever be this epic.

8. "Pelourinho" in Salvador, Bahia



Although a big city and familiar to many, Salvador is still less of a tourist destination than Rio or São Paulo. The city is beautifully rich in Afro-Brazilian culture, and you won't want to miss out on the sounds and sights of their historic neighborhood, *Pelourinho*.

9. Arquipélago de Anavilhanas, Amazonas



This is a fresh water archipelago of river islands located in the Amazon. Time to be one with nature, let the flora/fauna renew your soul, and maybe even do a little piranha fishing.

10. Jijoca de Jericoacoara, Ceará



How far would you go for the perfect beach? Would you face a few sand dunes? Just to note, the ocean is crystal clear on the other side, and hammocks are a plenty ... Yeah, I thought so.

11. Balneário Camboriú, Santa Catarina



For all the Rio lovers out there, this place *also* has an Avenida Atlântica and a statue of Christ, known here as Cristo Luz. Upsides: less traffic, less noise and more relaxation. REJOICE.

12. Olinda, Pernambuco



Charisma. That's how I would describe the historic city of Olinda. Colorful colonial buildings and cobblestone streets -- and they're famous for their traditional carnival style, which is similar to that of the Portuguese.

13. Itacaré, Bahia



A little beach town in the southern part of Bahia that will trump all other little beach towns you have ever been to. Be on the lookout for secret beaches and waterfalls around these parts.

14. São Miguel das Missões, Rio Grande do Sul



Break from the beach to take in the ruins of this old Spanish mission in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul. Pro tip: Make a pit stop here on your way down to see the waterfalls of Iguçu. They're pretty close to each other.

15. Pantanal, Mato Grosso do Sul



Make your way down to these beautiful tropical wetlands, because the wildlife here is truly unparalleled to that of any other place on the planet. One word: jaguars.

16. Natal, Rio Grande do Norte



This capital city in the northern part of the country will give you a nice balance between busy and beach. Two vibes, one beautiful place -- plus, it will most certainly be less crowded than Rio.

17. Cascata do Caracol, Rio Grande Do Sul



You never get tired of batting your eyes at gorgeous waterfalls, right? Good, me neither. And here you'll get to catch all the glory whilst zipping by in a cable car.

18. Bonito, Mato Grosso do Sul



They call this place "the Caribbean of the Central West." That can only mean one thing: Yup, waters as clear as glass and a diving experience that will leave your senses in a blissful state of awe.

19. Parati, Rio de Janeiro



This well-preserved colonial town will make you feel like you've just stepped out of the tropics and into Western Europe. Parati is located on Brazil's Costa Verde, meaning "green coast." It's known for its emerald-hued waters.

20. Caldas Novas, Goiás



Natural. Hot. Springs. As in everywhere. As in you can soak in fresh water hot tubs for the end of all your days if you so desire. Also, the water doesn't drop below 80°F. Enjoy.

21. Barra Grande, Bahia



This small beach village on the south coast of Bahia will relax you to your very core. Pro-tip: feel free to pitch a tent and camp right there under the stars, you won't be the only one.

22. Tiradentes, Minas Gerais



Take a walk through the streets of this colonial town in the *minerio* state of Minas Gerais. Let me paint you a picture: gold-encrusted buildings, grassy hill lands and a famed church by the name of Igreja de Matriz de Santo Antônio.

23. Praia de Águas Belas, Ceará



Relax beachside on this uncrowded coast not far from the big city of Fortaleza. The name of the beach translates to "beautiful waters," and the tides are usually calm and shallow.

24. Praia da Pipa, Rio Grande do Norte



This beach shares a name with the famous Algarve beach in Portugal, and that's not all they have in common... Jaw-dropping cliffs and bungalows, it's all here.

25. Ilha Grande, Rio de Janeiro



Just across from Rio lies a scarcely populated island ready to take you in and introduce you to the quaint *pousada* lifestyle. Just go ahead and plant your flag in the ground and call it what it's going to be: your new home.

26. Alter do Chao, Pará



The only thing better than a beach is this beach sans the salt, located on the Rio Tapajos, a major tributary just a few miles off the Amazon River. The cruises and other tourism based out of Alter de Chao will allow you to frolic in the Amazon River, and then rush home to tell friends that you've "frolicked in the Amazon River" ... Because wow, what a line.

27. Lagoinha do Leste, Santa Catarina



You're going to have to work for this one: This untouched beach is only accessible via a luscious hike. Once there however, you'll quickly come to. This view is worth one thousand hikes.

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated that Itacaré is located in the northern part of Bahia. It is in the southern part of that state. Language has also been added to more accurately describe the location of Alter do Chao relative to the Amazon River.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/30/brazil-destinations_n_4682383.html.
Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

The Hashtag War In Brazil

DATA: 2014.02.19

The massive protests that took the streets of Brazil last June were sparked by a raise in bus fares, but soon other issues -- such as the high investments in the World Cup -- were included in the outraged signs carried by protesters. Since then, the World Cup has slowly become an incredibly hot issue for the federal government. According to newspaper Folha de S Paulo, Dilma Rousseff's government commissioned a 428-page survey about the relationship between protests and the World Cup, and the popular rejection against it. The result was clear: the population did not buy the promised "legacy" that the World Cup would supposedly bring to Brazil, such as economic development and long-term infrastructure -- especially after media such as Agencia Publica proved that most of the mobility projects had been abandoned while investments in stadia doubled in some cases.

The solution came from the government trusted propaganda strategists: instead of focusing on the legacy, the government should focus its message on nationalism, and the Brazilian pride for our football. The main arena in which the propaganda is being rolled out is the internet. Dilma Rousseff's official twitter account soon adopted the hashtag "The World Cup of the World Cups" (#CopaDasCopas).

Since 2011, the popular committees -- citizen organizations of those affected by infrastructure works -- have used the slogan "World Cup for Whom?". But after July, a more extreme anti-World Cup hashtag, championed by smaller and more radical groups like Anonymous is becoming popular on the web: #NãoVaiTerCopa, or "There Will Be no World Cup". The intentions behind those using this hashtag are diverse - many groups are but traditional leftists, tired of the institutional party line of the Workers Party -- but the government sees it as a serious threat pointing towards a boycott of the games, or worse, calling violent protest to try to halt it. The official president Facebook page rebuffed by using an all-too proud hashtag, "There Will be World Cup!" (#VaiTerCopa), while her supporters aggressively attacked anyone who criticized the mega-event.

Heated debates followed in Brazil's vibrant social media -- Brazil has over 65 million Facebook users - with both sides accusing the other of authoritarianism. At the moment, the internet *débâcle* is still going on. We are left to see who will win the hashtag wars -- and how this virtual rhetoric will affect the inclination of Brazilians in the streets during the World Cup.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natalia-viana/the-hashtag-war_b_4816060.html.
Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Adidas Sexualized T-Shirts Are Just Plain Wrong

The Huffington Post

DATA: 2014.02.24

The head of the Brazilian tourism board is slamming Adidas for marketing a pair of tee shirts that play off stereotypes of oversexed Brazilians.

In advance of the World Cup, [Adidas has released a pair of tee shirts inspired by Brazil's reputation for sexiness](#). One shirt features an image of heart that appears to double as a woman's behind with a thong, while another depicts a thin-waisted woman with a giant rear against a Rio de Janeiro backdrop and the words "Looking to Score."



Adidas



Adidas

The "Looking to Score" message presumably refers to both soccer goals and having sex with Brazilian women.

The head of the Brazilian Tourism Board Flávio Dino blasted the shirts in comments to the local press, saying they would encourage illegal activity.

"We don't accept that the World Cup be used for illegal practices, like so-called sexual tourism," [Dino told Brazilian news agency O Globo](#). "We ask that Adidas put a stop to the sale of these products... Brazil has harsh laws to deal with sexual abuse and the police will act on these cases in the national territory."

Adidas did not immediately return a request for comment.

We first heard about the controversy from [blogger Rio Gringa](#), who tweeted:

RioGringa @Riogringa

[Follow](#)

Adidas is selling Brazil tees that promote sexual stereotypes. Gross, but unsurprising.
<http://glo.bo/1c1NpWn> <http://bit.ly/1c1Nnhb>

[3:53 PM - 24 Feb 2014](#)

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/24/adidas-brazil-shirts_n_4849608.html.
 Acesso em: 05 de set. 2014.

Brazil Carnival 2014: Rio Keeps Up The Pace With Parties And Parades

AP | By BRADLEY BROOKS

DATA: 2014.03.04

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Extraterrestrial toucan birds, neon green spacemen waving Brazilian flags and legions of scantily clad women and men dancing a furious samba opened the final round of Rio de Janeiro's extravagant Carnival parades that ran to dawn Tuesday.

The annual spectacle pits the city's 12 best samba schools against one another in ornate parades that include over 2,500 participants each and cost more than \$3 million to produce. The efforts are judged in 10 categories, with a winner announced later in the week, laying claim to nothing more than a year's worth of bragging rights.

The enormous effort is largely made by Rio's poorest citizens — the samba schools are mostly located in impoverished neighborhoods, and armies of volunteers from nearby slums spend nine months or more sewing, sweating practicing the samba songs and dance moves, all for an 80-minute presentation before well-imbibed spectators.

"Samba is the root that binds Brazilian culture," said Nanny Kammura, a 35-year-old kindergarten teacher and mother who transforms into a "passista" samba dance specialist for the Mocidade school when the big party rolls around each year.

"We're here honoring that culture, our roots. It's ours, it's Brazilian," she said just before her school began its parade, during which she wore an enormous green feather headdress and minuscule sequined

silver top and bikini bottom. "Yes, it's a party. But it's also us honoring our history and ensuring that samba will never die."

Zelma Freitas, a 48-year-old office secretary, sat in the front row of the cheap seats section at the Sambadrome, the 700-meter-long (nearly half mile) avenue lined with grandstands. She didn't hesitate to say how she would explain to outsiders why Brazilians go through such effort and cost for the spectacle.

"It's pure joy, mostly for those of us from humble backgrounds, who take pride in and root for our favorite (samba) schools," she said as the municipal band struck up Rio's beloved anthem song, "Cidade Maravilhosa," or Marvelous City, to open the parading. "Perhaps it's inexplicable to outsiders, but this means so much to the poor, who for the rest of the year have to face our daily reality. Today, I leave that behind and embrace this fantasy."

Carnival wraps up Tuesday as Rio collapses in exhaustion ahead of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Aside from the parades, since Friday nearly 500 street parties have taken over the city, with tourism officials forecasting an influx of more than 900,000 tourists. It's the last big event that Brazil hosts before the World Cup, international football's showcase tournament that opens in 12 cities across the nation in June.

Bradley Brooks on Twitter: www.twitter.com/bradleybrooks

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/04/brazil-carnival-2014-rio-n_4895672.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

In The Amazon, A New Mining Frontier For Iron Ore

Agencia Publica | By Marina Amaral

DATA: 2014.03.04



Meet Canaã dos Carajás, the new frontier of iron ore mining. It's in the South of Brazil's Para, where jobs and mining royalties did not bring as much progress as expected.

Between 1982 and 1985, Brazil's last military ruler, João Figueiredo, settled 1,551 families through colonization projects around the mining area of the Carajás Forest, in the south of Para state in the Amazon. The project to exploit the world's biggest high-grade iron ore, discovered in 1967, started to get momentum after the first mine in Serra de Carajás (Carajas Hills) was opened. Today it is a complex that produces about \$13 billion worth of iron ore per year, most of which is exported.

The early settlers, however, had no idea that they were going to live on top of the "biggest project ever" of Vale -- the world's second mining corporation.

The goal of the military government was to reduce land conflicts in the Bico de Papagaio ("Parrot's Beak") region. The region was the center of the Araguaia guerrilla in the 1970s and is mainly situated around reserves holding an estimated 18 billion tons of iron ore, as well as deposits of manganese, copper, nickel, and gold.

Today, Vale digs 110 million tons of iron ore from the North Hills of Carajás. With the new project, called S11D, the company aims to double the production by exploring the South Hills of Serra dos Carajás until 2016. In June 2012, Ibama, the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, granted a provisory license for the enterprise, which is set to receive a \$19.4 billion investment. A year later, in July 2013, the definitive license was granted.

When settlers first arrived there however, there were no astronomic values at stake.

"They put us here as watchmen. This wasn't inhabited by people. When I got here, it was just woods, just the forest. 'Anyone who gets the land and doesn't clear it will have to leave', they would say," recalls the Maranhão-born worker José Ribamar Silva Costa, known as Pixilinga, waiving away the cloud of mosquitoes invading the balcony of his home in Vila Planalto, 12 kilometers from Canaã dos Carajás.

Like Pixilinga, many people moved to the region and settled in one of the three Centers of Regional Development (CEDERE). One of them, CEDERE II, would become the city of Canaã dos Carajás in 1994. The 30,000-people town is currently going through its second growth cycle. The first one happened with the opening of the mine "Sossego" in 2000. Vale started copper extraction at Sossego in 2004. Between 2000 and 2010, the population tripled.

In the 1980s the Brazilian military already knew that the iron ore reserves in the South Hills of Carajás – where the town of Canaã is located – were even bigger than the ones at the North Hills, whose exploitation started in 1984. So the military leaders tried at once to expel the rural workers who lived off their own land and cattle nearby.

"In these woods, there is a lot of animals to hunt, and also Brazil nuts, mango, banana, jackfruit, cupuaçu, açai, lime," says Antonio Maurício Gustavo, from Goiás, who's known as Tonhão.

In 1979, Tonhão took a three day trip and came walking from Xinguara, in Araguaia.

"Then everyone pitched in, giving a piece of land to build a village, a collective farm, and an orchard," he says, seated under the shade of a mango tree.

“When we were farming the land, a helicopter came from Vale, and down came the military officers to put up signs: ‘deforestation, selling the wood and fishing are prohibited.’ Then we thought: If Vale wants this area, so do we. And we arrived first. So we broke the signs, hence the name of our city.”

The town of Racha-Placa (broken sign, in Portuguese) is about 80 kilometers from the town of Canaã. The episode that named the town happened in 1984.

The residents ended up making a deal with the military. They gave away an area for official research on the presence of mineral ore, while they went on with their project of building a village. At its peak, the town had 100 families, 2 schools, a health center, churches and even an ice cream shop – a big deal for such a remote area. “But 10 years ago, the people of Vale came back and said: ‘You guys are on top of the largest deposit of iron ore in the world, and we’re going to open the mine. If Canaã is the body, here is the heart of the project,’” Tonhão recalls.

The community decided to resist. Some of the families, however, gave in when Vale went on to pay exorbitant prices for the farmers' land, and the workers were out of jobs. “Those with more land, like me, who have five children, could live off the farm, but most people depended on other farms for work, so they ended up selling their land to Vale,” shares Tonhão. “They killed us slowly.”

Around him, the scenery is heartbreaking – most houses, the school and stores were demolished and the remains make the tropical landscape ghostlike. “They call us settlers, but all this is federal land, which they occupy too,” points out Tonhão.

The 49 families who resisted Vale's siege decided to fight. With the help of lawyers of the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), they managed to make the company buy an area of 340 bushels to house the families and pay a guaranteed monthly minimum compensation for two years to the families who lost their plantations and who are waiting to move to the new area. “It was a loss for the entire region. The kids now have to walk 14 kilometers to go to school, the rural workers have nowhere to buy what they need,” Tonhão laments. “They say we’re stopping the progress. We’ll see...”

In addition to denying any irregularities in the process of land acquisition, Vale argues that “the project Carajás Iron S11D will boost the economy with 40 billion reais in investments, besides generating more than 30,000 direct jobs during the deployment phase and approximately 15,000 jobs (direct and indirect) during the operational phase.”

But the people from Racha-Placa are not only worried about jobs. Their entire way of life is at stake.

At The Forests’ Gate

Vale’s mining sites are located within the Carajás National Forest. Those that are operating since the 1990s are located in the north, in the area within the limits of the municipality of Parauapebas. The new ones, to the south, are on the municipality of Canaã de Carajás. The Carajás Forest is a 411 hectares conservation unit that was created in 1998, after the privatization of the once state-owned company. A quarter of the area (104 mil hectares) is considered mining area, according to the management plan. The forest is administered by Vale in a partnership with Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade (ICMBio), responsible for the management of the environmental reserves in Brazil.

The entrance sits within the town of Parauapebas and showcases the green and yellow logo of the company. It is often closed by protesters – from teachers to factory workers. Vale’s corporate security works as the de facto Police of the Carajás Forest. There is also a residential area on the hills to house the technicians and engineers. Those who travel to the idyllic residential center of Carajás, which houses 1,300 “outside” families that came to work for Vale, must get permission from the company a day before the visit.

Publica went inside the forest in a Vale SUV, driven by the company's press officer, for a visit scheduled a month before. However, we ended up having the same destination as the tourists who visit the site: Instead of taking us to get to know the mines, the officer drove us to the so-called “Zoo,” a park for rescued animals. He argued that it would not be possible for us to access the area of operations due to a lack of “security escort.”

We returned the next day together with the staff of ICMBio, which administers the forest jointly with Vale. They took us to the area of operations – with the exception of the interior of the mines and other areas that truly require a security escort.

From the viewpoints above the 300 meters deep excavations of Serra Norte, the 80 ton excavator trucks extracting the ore from the chocolate colored pits look like toys. So do the “off-road” trucks that carry 400 tons of dirt, bringing back what’s left after washing and sorting through the sterile ore to be stacked in piles around the mines.

Vale's activities currently take 4 percent of the forest reserve. Between 2003 and 2012, Ibama fined the company nine times for environmental infractions. The most threatened ecosystem – the savanna metalófila or “canga” – covers 5 percent of the territory. It grows only on the top of the hills and often “hints” at the presence of ore, according to the biologist Frederico Martins, the Manager of Carajás National Forest. “This vegetation is exclusive to this equatorial environmental and was never properly studied,” Martins says.

Martins took Publica’s reporters to the area of the S11D project, the first one that will occupy the unexplored south hills of the Forest with its dozens of caves, endemic animal and vegetal species and natural lakes. Locals call one of the lakes “Dina Lagoon,” in honor of the mythical guerrilla soldier and geologist of Araguaia, Dinalva Teixeira. Legends tell that she was able to transmute into a butterfly when she got into the woods, running away from the army. Dina disappeared in 1974 at the age of 29, after being arrested by the military.

The environmental licensing of Vale’s most ambitious project took eight years, and the company had to change the plan several times to obtain the installation license in 2013. A million dollar loan the by Brazilian National Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES) has been partially approved and is being closely watched by economic technicians at the Brazilian government. Cinc iron ore is the main item in Brazilian exports and is responsible for the nation’s positive commercial balance. Vale is responsible for 96 percent of the iron ore exports – which make 10 percent of Brazil's total exports.

The production of the Brazilian multinational is still larger in the state of Minas Gerais, where the company was founded, than in the state of Pará. However Carajás, in Pará, is the most expanding center because it has greater reserve potential and the ore holds an iron level above 66 percent. (Minas Gerais ores’ purity level is around 53 percent). “There will always be a market for Carajás. Our competitive advantage is the quality of the ore,” says Jamil Sebe, the Director of Vale’s Ferrosos Norte Project.

Besides investments in the mining itself, the project involves a \$11.4 billion investment in logistics to drain the new production. Vale plans to duplicate the Carajás railroad, which is 892 kilometers long and leads to the company's export terminal in the Atlantic port in the state of Maranhão. The duplication has been severely criticized by social movements throughout the region.

Between July and September 2012, a public lawsuit was started by the organizations Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI), the African Culture Center in Maranhão and the Maranhão Society of Human Rights, and an injunction against the duplication was granted. But in September that year, a superior court allowed the construction to go on. The organizations complain that the project was authorized before Environmental Impact Assessment/Environmental Impact Report (EIA-Rima) was completed and that indigenous communities and quilombolas were not previously consulted, as determined by Convention No. 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Vale obtained the license from Ibama on Nov. 20, 2012, but the court case is still ongoing, and could change the future of the railway.

According to data in the judicial papers, the duplication of the railway will affect 27 municipalities, besides the Awá-Guajá indians and 86 quilombola communities, according to NGO Fundação Palmares. Overall, there are 28 conservation units in the area.

In Oct. 2012, amid the conflict between the company and the social movements, some organizations gave the CEO of Vale, Murilo Ferreira, Public Eye's trophy of "worst company in the world." The nomination was the result of a public vote conducted by international NGOs. The company's name was suggested by the popular network Justiça nos Trilhos.

On the award's website, a photo montage explains its motivations. "We turn forests into mines and water reservoirs – no matter how," reads a fake advert under a picture portraying trees falling down a broken dam, besides the face of a crying indian. It alludes to Vale's participation in the construction of Belo Monte, which sparked international outcry, and helps to explain how the company gathered 25,000 votes among the 88,000 that it got in total. Vale has a 9% percent participation in the Consortium Norte Energia, responsible for the construction.

Peba

At the core of the dispute between social organizations and Vale is a small territory, occupied according to the company's plans since it was a state-owned enterprise. Despite a Vale campaign called "campaign against the theft of our minerals," when visiting the area, one can't help but feel that the company digs the natural resources, leaving very little in return.

Huge holes on the precarious roads require the attention of the driver. The cars compete for space with trucks loaded with cattle, fuel, machinery parts, tractors, metal scraps and coal. Many trucks feature logos of supermarkets and retail stores, which supply a 153,000 people city called Parauapebas, or "Peba." The city's residents come from many different regions and they leave home early in the morning wearing their uniforms. It appears as if the entire population hopping on the vans (the only collective public transport) wears badges from construction and cleaning companies.

In Parauapebas, it is easy to see what it means to have to face this reality. No visitor would think that this is the municipality with the second biggest Gross Domestic Product from the state of Para (R\$ 15,9 bilhões) behind the state capital, Belem.

Hotels charge R\$ 200 per room and offer everything – however almost everything is lacking. “We have it, just not right now,” is the answer you hear everywhere when trying to buy almost anything. Except for cigarettes and beer. There is also a shortage of water, even with the abundant waters in the region that are easily seen in the curves of the river Parauapebas, known as “Sebosinho.” Until October 2012, more than 87 percent of households had no sanitation, and sewage ran through the streets.

“Pioneer” Maria Aparecida Alves de Oliveira, a 39-year-old maid in a hotel known as “Cida,” does not get easily scared.

At the age of 7, Cida came with her mother and siblings from the state of Goiás following her father, who was a “garimpeiro”. He was working in the mining trenches (“garimpos”) of Curionópolis. While the “Peba” was still being formed, Cida got pregnant at the age of 13 of the first of her five children. Today, her boys are young men who work in construction and her girls are hired by outsourced companies as housekeepers, except the youngest daughter, who was accepted by Vale’s junior training program.

The program, a partnership with the National Industrial Apprenticeship Service (SENAI), is the first step for anyone to get the much-desired “forest-green shirt,” which guarantees a registered job with the company. “She is now closer to having a future,” says Cida. “The building jobs come and go. One of my sons is now at the Belo Monte Dam, struggling through the mess going on out there,” she says, referring to the riots by workers of the consortium responsible for the construction project in Altamira, 650 kilometers from there.

One figure is enough to explain why Cida is overjoyed by with the success of her youngest daughter: In 2012, Vale had 31,000 employees in the states of Pará and Maranhão, including the outsourced ones, according to the company’s press office. Other people interested in working for Vale have no option but to join the outsourced companies or to work within the service providing sector. That’s what a guy called Ivo did, when he “got tired of washing mining tools for outsourced companies.” He now has an internet café called Matrix, but business has been very slow.

Why Such Deprivation?

The mining royalties (called Financial Compensation for the Exploitation of Mineral Resources or CFEM) and a quota of the Taxes on Goods and Services over the pelletizing and commercialization of ore totaled 75.09 percent of the 2010 income of the city of Parauapebas, a total of 505 million reais. According to the law, 65 percent of the CFEM (representing on average 2 percent of revenues obtained from the ore extraction) stay with the City Hall, 23 percent go to the state government and 12 percent goes to the federal government.

City Hall claims that the influx of migrants and rural workers over the last years made its work more difficult. Between 2000 and 2010 the urban population grew 115 percent. “We decided to invest mostly in health and education in order to leave a legacy,” says Darci Lermen, of PT, the Workers’ Party, who finished its second term as a mayor in 2012. His main concern was preparing the town for the “emptiness” that the end of the production of the iron ore mines of Parauapebas’ Serra Norte, will bring in 2037.

In search of more revenue for the city, Lermen hired a law firm and signed an agreement with the National Department of Mineral Production (DNPM) to audit Vale’s receipts. “Vale had already been

fined by DNPM for discounting the cost of transportation by trucks from the roads to the mine, which is insane,” he cries.

The former president of Vale, Roger Agnelli, sent a letter to Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff to complain about the then mayor Lermen, accusing him of “embezzling public funds” by hiring private lawyers.

This happened in 2011, just before Agnelli was dismissed by the company's Board of Directors, currently chaired by Previ, the Pension Fund of the employees of Banco do Brasil (“Bank of Brazil”), which is the major shareholder of the privatized company. Agnelli was considered too aligned to Bradesco Bank the largest shareholder from the “private” sector, followed by the Japanese trading company Mitsui – he had been an employee there.

Our reporters had access to one of the lawsuits concerning the CFEM, a tax enforcement lawsuit filed with the Federal Court of Marabá. They had infraction notes from the DNPM that corroborated the version of the mayor. Lawsuits of this nature amounted fines of 4 billion reais to be paid by Vale to the DNPM. But Vale appealed it.

The candidate supported by Lermen lost the election in most part due to an obscure episode: The discovery of R\$ 1.1 million cash inside the jet of a local businessman. The local press claimed that the money was linked to PT by the federal police, then took the words back – and nobody knows who the money was for.

The apprehension was reported by newspapers from the developed southeast of Brazil as being triggered by a unanimous call made from the “Parauapebas airport”. But Parauapebas has no airport. The nearest one is located, as everything else, in Carajás. The airport is inside the Carajás National Forest, beside the residential houses for Vale's senior employees.

Unshared Wealth

Around 160 kilometers to the north of Parauapebas sits Marabá. The city is located besides one of the few asphalted stretches of the 4,977 kilometers long Transamazônica highway.

Located at the confluence of three rivers (Araguaia, Tocantins, and Itacaúnas) the road complex of Marabá stands on the remains of old Brazil nut farms, occupied in the 1950s. The city thrived with the gold rush in Serra Pelada. Encouraged by the dictatorial government, the miners (“garimpeiros”) took 30 tons of the metal from Serra Pelada, south of Marabá, according to official figures.

Today the treasure is in the hands of a Canadian mining company, in the town of Curionópolis.

But since then Maraba received thousands of migrants who came in search of the mining money. Between the 1980 and 1990s, however, the municipality lost most of the forest reservation areas after its limits were chopped up.

In 1985, the first load of iron ore from a mine excavated in Carajás was shipped through the Carajás railroad to the Ponta da Madeira Terminal in São Luís Island, in the northeastern state of Maranhão. Two years later, Vale's territory in Carajás was renamed Parauapebas.

Besides the precarious infrastructure and bad social indicators, Marabá is the second most violent city in Pará, with 86.1 homicides per 100,000 people, four times more than the national average according to the study Map of Violence 2013.

The city was left to watch the 330 train wagons, loaded with iron ore, that cross Marabá everyday on the way to the port and the pig iron factories nearby. They have the worst jobs in the region.

In order to produce pig iron, local companies mix the iron ore they buy from Vale with charcoal allegedly coming from reforestation projects. According to Ibama, that comes, however, from illegal deforestation in 60 percent of the cases.

Marabá lives with a precarious rural area and is constantly present in national and international reports about slave work in precarious charcoal factories. Quite often these are installed within rural settlements that should grant life quality to the peasants who suffer from lacking credit and the abandonment of extractivism projects.

The most recent dream of progress in Marabá came when a steel mill, Aços Laminados do Pará (ALPA), was close to being opened to verticalize the production of iron ore and create 5,000 jobs. Then President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva pompously inaugurated the construction site of the “Vale Steel Mill”. But the mining company abandoned the project.

“After 30 years of having iron ore extracted from its soil, Marabá doesn’t have a knife factory for a guy to kill himself,” says the merchant Eliomar Freitas, who transferred his fish market from Belém to Marabá, expecting the development of the community.

If the project S11D starts operating in 2016, the town of Canaã dos Carajás will face the challenge to invent its own destiny, different from Parauapebas and Marabá.



mina de ferro em Carajás. Foto de Jeremy Bitwood

Agência Pública www.apublica.org – Full Book: [Public Amazon, an investigation](#).

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/04/amazon-mining_n_4892983.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 10 de set. 2014.

'Catadores' Give Carnival Costumes New Life

AP | By JENNY BARCHFIELD

DATA: 2014.03.05



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Elaine da Silva Moraes clammers up mounds of abandoned fabric, foam and feathers that minutes earlier were the essence of Rio de Janeiro's glitzy, multi-million dollar Carnival parades.

The creative costumes on display at the all-night Sambadrome parades that ended early Tuesday have made Rio's Carnival celebration the most famous in the world. But the handmade confections often have a short shelf life.

As the tens of thousands of revelers stream out of the Sambadrome, a surprising number of them immediately abandon their costumes, leaving them strewn on the ground amid a sea of empty beer cans, crushed water bottles and other ordinary trash.

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Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/05/catadores-carnival_n_4906530.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Several U.S. Soccer Team Players Fail World Cup Audition In Loss To Ukraine (VIDEO)

DATA: 2014.03.06



By Ives Galarcep, Goal.com

There was plenty for Jurgen Klinsmann to ponder after [Wednesday's U.S. national team loss to Ukraine](#). From Fabian Johnson's ineffectiveness on the wing, to Clint Dempsey's uninspiring outing in a playmaking role, to Jozy Altidore's quiet showing, Klinsmann has far more negatives to digest than positives, of which there were few.

What Klinsmann did get were answers. Loud and clear answers on some players who he obviously still had questions about. Players he still held out hope could potentially make the U.S. World Cup team. Players who left little doubt that the 2014 World Cup is better left to other options.

If nothing, Klinsmann is thorough, and he gives his players plenty of rope to save themselves or hang themselves, On Wednesday, [several players on the World Cup roster fringes saw their dreams of a trip to Brazil fade](#).

You can start with Edgar Castillo, who has shown an inability defend well against top competition. On Wednesday, [Castillo was hopeless, caught out of position repeatedly](#) as he kept looking for opportunities to bomb forward and show off the one trait he does bring to the table. The problem for Castillo is that he had better have the attacking qualities of Roberto Carlos if he's going to be as big a defensive liability as he has repeatedly proven to be.

Castillo's inclusion in the starting lineup was a chance for him to prove he belonged, but also a chance to let Fabian Johnson show what he could do in a wing midfield role. Johnson was largely ineffective on the flank, but Castillo's latest defensive disaster means Klinsmann doesn't have a viable left-back option to backup DaMarcus Beasley besides Fabian Johnson. That is unless Tim Chandler recovers from his torn meniscus, plays well in the final weeks of the Bundesliga season and earns an invitation to the May pre-World Cup training camp.

You know Castillo played poorly when the alternative of considering players who are coming off knee surgery is preferred to seeing Castillo again. His World Cup chances have to be over, though with Klinsmann, you can never be too sure.

Sacha [Kljestan also did significant damage to his chances at a World Cup place](#) with what was a lackluster showing in central midfield. His partnership with Jermaine Jones was supposed to allow him to show off the attacking side of his game, but he not only failed to produce much in the way of dangerous attacking passes, he also failed to close down Ukrainian midfielders, who had all sorts of time to deliver dangerous long passes from deep while their wing compatriots timed their runs perfectly against a weak U.S. offside trap.

Kljestan has had chances before under Klinsmann, though only a few as a starter. He has never taken one of those chances and made the most of it. Each time he has left plenty to be desired and struggled to make his mark. He showed more energy in the second half, as did several of his teammates, but by then the damage was done. And he didn't show enough before being subbed out to suggest he will ever get another look in a position where the likes of Mix Diskerud and Benny Feilhaber are competing to be Michael Bradley's understudy.

Even more troubling for Klinsmann than the flameouts by Kljestan and Castillo was [the awful performance by the tandem of John Brooks and Oguchi Onyewu in central defense](#). The two towering defenders struggled all match to communicate with each other and position themselves and read off each other. Perhaps this shouldn't have come as a surprise for two defenders who have long worked better playing along quicker and more organized central defender partners.

Onyewu's best years saw him partnered with Carlos Bocanegra in defense. The former U.S. captain played the organizer while Onyewu played the destroyer. Brooks' early success with Hertha Berlin has seen him in a similar partnership. When the two were paired together it was almost destined to be disastrous. Especially given their lack of familiarity.

Their timing was off, their line beaten repeatedly by Ukrainian runs. On both goals, the tandem were at fault for not being in good positions, with the second Ukraine goal looking particularly ugly as both central defenders got caught way too far forward.

Of the two, Brooks struggled the most, which shouldn't have been a surprise given the fact he has played exactly five minutes for Hertha Berlin in 2014. Injuries, and prior to that a dip in form, cost him his starting place, and the rust showed along with the inexperience. It's easy to forget he's only 21, with plenty of time to learn. As promising a prospect as he may be, he has yet to really look like a viable option for Klinsmann in Brazil.

Onyewu could still get another shot. If he continues to play, and play well, for Sheffield Wednesday, a look in the May camp isn't out of the realm of possibility. He remains the only central defender in the active U.S. player pool with World Cup experience (since Carlos Bocanegra has been effectively put out to pasture by Klinsmann). That experience Onyewu possesses makes him an intriguing option for Klinsmann, who couldn't be blamed for wondering how Onyewu might fare if partnered with Matt Besler.

They weren't the only four players to struggle, but Castillo, Kljestan, Brooks and Onyewu hurt their World Cup chances on Wednesday, and if we never see them again before this summer's tournament, we'll look back on the Ukraine loss as the final audition they had, and the final audition they failed.

Drone Drops Alleged Cocaine Package Onto São Paulo Prison Grounds

The Huffington Post | By [Gabriela Kruschewsky](#)

DATA: 2014.03.10



Smuggling contraband into prisons goes back just about as far as prisons themselves, but inmates found a 21st-century way in Brazil: Via drone.

According to local reports, a mini-helicopter drone dropped about a half pound (250 grams) of cocaine onto a local prison on the outskirts of São Paulo, Brazil last week. The facility, Centro de Detenção Provisória 1, sits just under 60 miles northeast of São Paulo in the town of São José dos Campos and [currently detains 1,605 prisoners](#), according to Brazilian news source Globo.

The drone was seen hovering above prison grounds at about 10 a.m. on March 7. São Paulo's Secretary of Corrections said that once the drone dropped its cargo on the prison patio, [inmates swarmed the package and prevented guards from reaching it](#), Brazilian newspaper Estadão reported. The guards had to conduct a cell-by-cell search to locate the bag of white powder, thought to be cocaine.

Once confiscated, the package was sent to a regional authority station. São Paulo's civil police are currently conducting an analysis to verify the type of drug and its origin. So far, no leads have been found, [although Brazilian news sources suspect the involvement of local drug traffickers](#).

São Paulo newspaper Folha reported [prisoner visitations were suspended Saturday until further notice](#). The wing of the prison where the package was found remains on temporary lockdown, though daily routines have otherwise resumed as usual.

Centro de Detenção Provisória 1 opened in 2002 and is one of [41 provisional detention centers operating within Brazil](#).

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/10/drone-drops-cocaine-prison_n_4935332.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Best Places To Go Barefoot

The Huffington Post | By [Carly Ledbetter](#)

DATA: 2014.03.11

Over winter and ready to hit the beach? Us too.

As a coping mechanism, we've compiled a list of the best places to beat the heat. Here are a few spots where shirts and shoes are definitely not required:

Anse Source d'Argent, Seychelles, Africa



With its ideal snorkling conditions and shallow waters, this secluded beach is a great place to [bring the kids](#).

Black Sand Beach, Jokulsarlon, Iceland



While Iceland might not be the first beach destination you think of, forget perfectly white, sandy beaches and dig your toes into the black sand of Jokulsarlon.

Seven Mile Beach, Negril, Jamaica



Sheltered by a Caribbean reef, [Seven Mile Beach](#) is known for its tranquil waters, cliff jumping and lack of surrounding development, making it one peaceful slice of paradise.

Pfeiffer Beach, Big Sur, California



While it isn't wise to swim here, this beautiful beach located on [Los Padres National Forest land](#) is perfect for a day trip and the chance to spot some patches of purple sand.

Fraser Island, Queensland, Australia



Thought to be the [world's largest sand island](#), Fraser Island has been inhabited for over 5,000 years by humans and a variety of wildlife ([swamp wallabies](#), [bandicoots](#), [potoroos](#), and [dingoes](#) to name a few).

Belle Mare Beach, Mauritius, Africa



Even though you're in town for the beach, make sure to wake up early to catch a [picturesque Belle Mare sunrise](#).

Matira Beach, Bora Bora, Tahiti



Nicknamed "[the Romantic Island](#)," Matira beach on Bora Bora is the perfect honeymoon destination to sink your feet into the sand.

Nai Harn Beach, Phuket, Thailand



This dream destination is also home to two perfect spots for avid snorkelers -- a small cove called [Ya Nui](#), and a little beach called [Ao Sane](#).

Ipanema Beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



You might've heard "[The Girl From Ipanema](#)" a few times, but did you know that at the [world's sexiest beach](#), beachgoers [clap every day](#) when the sun sets?

Canggu Beach, Bali, Indonesia



If you're in Canggu to see the sand and catch some surf, you can join one of the local surf camps (we hear [The Chillhouse](#) is the place to be).

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/11/10-best-places-to-go-barefoot_n_4921041.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Race In Brazil: Majority-Minority Nation Offers Lesson To U.S.

AP | By JENNY BARCHFIELD

DATA: 2014.03.17

RIO DE JANEIRO — Many Brazilians cast their country as racial democracy where people of different groups long have intermarried, resulting in a large mixed-race population. But you need only turn on the TV, open the newspaper or stroll down the street to see clear evidence of segregation.

In Brazil, whites are at the top of the social pyramid, dominating professions of wealth, prestige and power. Dark-skinned people are at the bottom of the heap, left to clean up after others and take care of their children and the elderly.

The 2010 census marked the first time in which black and mixed-race people officially outnumbered whites, weighing in at just over 50 percent, compared with 47 percent for whites. Researchers suggest that Brazil actually may have been a majority-nonwhite country for some time, with the latest statistics reflecting a decreased social stigma that makes it easier for nonwhites to report their actual race.

It is a mix of anomalies in Brazil that offers lessons to a United States now in transition to a "majority-minority" nation: how racial integration in social life does not always translate to economic equality, and how centuries of racial mixing are no guaranteed route to a colorblind society.

Nearly all TV news anchors in Brazil are white, as are the vast majority of doctors, dentists, fashion models and lawyers. Most maids and doormen, street cleaners and garbage collectors are black. There is only one black senator and there never has been a black president, though a woman, Dilma Rousseff, leads the country now.

A decade of booming economic growth and wealth-redistribution schemes has narrowed the income gap between blacks and whites, but it remains pronounced. In 2011, the average black or mixed-race worker earned just 60 percent what the average white worker made. That was up from 2001, when black workers earned 50.5 percent what white workers made, according to Brazil's national statistics agency.

Brazil recently instituted affirmative action programs to help boost the numbers of black and mixed-race college students, though both groups continue to be proportionally underrepresented at the nation's universities. They made up just 10 percent of college students in 2001, and now account for 35 percent. Those numbers probably will continue to rise because of a new law that reserves half the spots in federal universities for high school graduates of public schools and distributes them according to states' racial makeup.

Still, black faces remain the exception at elite colleges.

Nubia de Lima, a 29-year-old black producer for Globo television network, said she experiences racism on a daily basis, in the reactions and comments of strangers who are constantly taking her for a maid, a nanny or a cook, despite her flair for fashion and pricey wardrobe.

"People aren't used to seeing black people in positions of power," she said. "It doesn't exist. They see you are black and naturally assume that you live in a favela (hillside slum) and you work as a housekeeper."

She said upper middle-class black people like her are in a kind of limbo, too affluent and educated to live in favelas but still largely excluded from high-rent white neighborhoods.

"Here it's a racism of exclusion," de Lima said.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/17/race-in-brazil-offers-lesson-to-us_n_2895325.html. Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

In The Amazon, This River Is The Next Big Thing In Frontier Expansion

Agência Pública | By Carlos Juliano Barros

DATA: 2014.03.20

Hydroelectric plants, agrobusiness and mining: in the game of development, these are the leading threats to the Tapajós, one of the most pristine rivers in the Amazon

Agência Pública www.apublica.org – Full Book: [Public Amazon, an investigation.](#)

Whoever takes the boat down the 851 kilometers of the green waters of the Tapajós River, which crosses the entire territory of the Northern state of Pará in the Brazilian Amazon, often sees dolphins and diving birds on a breathtaking landscape, protected by a mosaic of forest reserves and indigenous lands. However, a wide range of new projects — from hydroelectric dams to roads, hydroways, river ports and a mining project — may re-design the features of one of the most beautiful rivers in the Amazon forest in a short time-span.

Even by the rich standards of the Amazon Basin, the Tapajós River valley is an area of extreme biological diversity. Of the 1,837 bird species found in Brazil, 613 come from the Tapajós. One of them, the tiny hummingbird Tapajós Hermit (*Phaethornis aethopyga*), nicknamed “whitened-bottom darkened-throat” was registered only in 2009. Many of the bird species have a low population density, which makes them vulnerable to environmental changes. The river is one of the main reasons for such diversity. According to biologists, it serves as a barrier against dispersion. This also explains the richness of mammals: 161 species are found in the region (the total in Europe is 222).

“The Tapajós area, in the West of Pará, is a true El Dorado,” said father Edilberto Sena, leader of the Tapajós Vivo (Tapajós Alive, in Portuguese) movement that brings together several organizations for the protection of the environment and the rights of the local population. “We have a lot of water, wood and many types of minerals. Such richness has caught the attention of many companies. But it’s the federal government that leads the destruction.”

The project with the potential of causing the greatest impact is the hydroelectric complex on the Tapajós River, which comprises seven power plants capable of producing a total of about 14,000 megawatts, equivalent to the bi-national Itaipu Dam that Brazil shares with Paraguay.

State-run energy company Eletrobras is already conducting viability studies to request environmental licenses for two of the dams, called Jatobá and São Luiz do Tapajós. As of now, the cost for building the dams is estimated at R\$ 23 billion [CB1]. And the federal government does not hide it is in a hurry: it hopes to bid at least the construction of São Luiz do Tapajós in 2014, with both power plants fully operating until 2019.

At least 2.3 thousand people from 32 riverside communities will be directly affected if the seven dams are actually built. Another 16 Munduriku indigenous tribes will see part of their territories flooded by the water reservoirs that will be formed, according to data from Eletronorte, a subsidiary of Eletrobras. The studies for the construction are being conducted on and off without consulting the affected communities, which led to a long and ongoing judicial fight.

The energy of these new hydroelectric plants has at least one certain beneficiary: the big mining projects in Pará, especially on gold and bauxite, the prime material for aluminium. The American company Alcoa, for instance, started to operate a bauxite mine only three years ago in the municipality of Juruti, in the extreme West of Pará, and already has plans to build a processing plant that will demand a lot of electricity. The Votorantim group, a Brazilian company that operates in the zinc, nickel and aluminum markets, will implement a similar factory in the municipality of Rondon do Pará. The Norwegian company Hydro is also mining bauxite in the State’s West.

Besides being considered the last big energetic and mineral frontier in the Amazon, the region alongside the Tapajós river has another considerable economic attraction: it is a strategic corridor for the distribution of the soy production in Mato Grosso, Brazil's largest grain producing state.

Until 2014 the federal government aims to spend R\$ 1.48 billion in asphaltting the 1,739 kilometers of the highway BR-163 connecting Cuiabá, in the Central-Western state of Mato Grosso Santarém, the biggest city in the West of the Pará, state, located at the mouth of the Tapajós River.

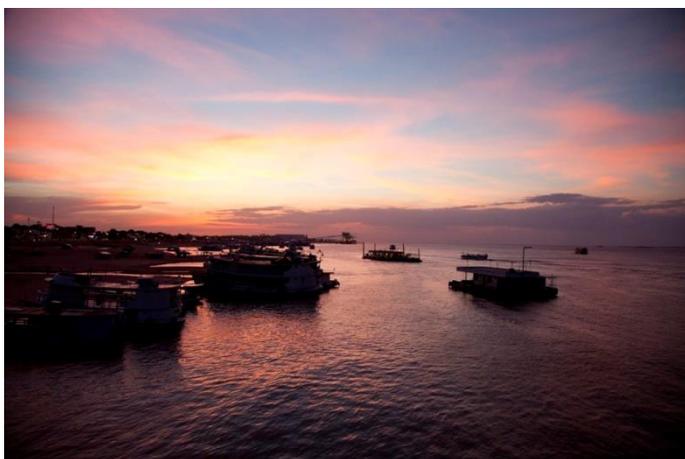
While the Belo Monte dam was built in a region inhabited by many indigenous groups, the hydroelectric dams in Tapajós will exclusively affect the Munduruku lands. Known for being skillful warriors, the Munduruku dominate lands along the riverbanks.

The construction of the dams is such a sensitive issue that the public ministry requested the suspension of the environmental licensing of the São Luiz do Tapajós dam, which was granted by the federal justice in Nov. 2012. The justice argued that the Munduruku tribes will be directly affected, and therefore the issue needs to be treated according to the Brazilian Constitution and the 169 Convention of the International Labour Organization, which Brazil ratified in 2003.

The federal justice injunction did not only take social aspects into account to suspend the licensing; it also demanded that an integrated environmental impact study will be conducted to assess the impact of all seven hydroelectric dams on the Tapajós water basin.

But the injunction did not refrain the federal government from seeking support from justice to proceed with the environmental studies in the area. New provisional decisions of the federal court in Santarém, the Federal Regional Court of the 1st Region and of the Superior Court of Justice (STJ) in Brasília, allowed the researchers to continue making assessments until the ruling. The federal prosecutors appealed and the fight is far from being resolved.

“When a complex with many hydroelectric plants is built, there are several barriers for the circulation of animals. And this is being constructed within biodiversity hot spots,” explains the geologist Juan Doblas, from environmental NGO Instituto Socioambiental. “This is a very serious issue. However, it is hard to quantify the environmental impact. This region has a very rich biodiversity, but most of it is still unknown and under-researched.”



View of the Tapajós river (Fernanda Ligabue - Agência Pública)

The City Explodes

The construction of the plants will also severely impact the urban area of Itaituba, the largest municipality in the region. According to Eletronorte projections, the São Luiz do Tapajós Dam alone will attract at least 50,000 people looking for work. “Itaituba is not even ready to meet the demands of the people who already live here,” admits Mayor Eliene Nunes, elected in 2012.

Even without a sanitation sewage system and the precarious electricity services, real estate prices have soared. A real estate bubble is already felt, even though the construction is far from beginning. Over the last years, at least four new real estate agencies were founded. The rent of a house by the Tapajós river almost doubled: by the end of 2012, it would cost at least R\$ 2,000. Companies like Sotreq, a dealer of imported Caterpillar tractors and heavy machinery, are looking for land close to the Transamazônica highway, which cuts through the town.

Mayor Eliene also complains about the lack of precise information about the projects and the lack of a dialogue with Eletrobras, the state-run electric company, and with the federal government. “We know what everyone knows, which is what is published by the press,” she says. When asked about the future of Itaituba, she laughs in surprise: she knows it’s just like a time-bomb.

Illegal Mining

When the gold potential of the infamous mines of Serra Pelada, in South-East Pará, started to decline in the 1980s, adventurers bet that the new El Dorado was in the Tapajós River. They were right. Three decades later, there are about 2,000 mining spots along the river.

To reach the so-called “currutelas,” headquarter villages for the almost 50,000 men determined to challenge the forest in search of gold, one has to charter a small plane or face days riding a speedboat from Itaituba.

“About 98 percent of the region’s gold mines are irregular,” says Oldair Lamarque, an engineer, head of the office of the National Department of Mineral Production in Itaituba. It’s not so hard to understand why the vast majority is clandestine. To have an environmental license for a small mine, the size of 50 soccer fields, one must travel to the state capital, Belém, pay about R\$ 16,000 in fees and pay for the transport of the Pará Secretariat of Environment technicians.

Without any supervision, the mines are one of the main forces of environmental degradation in the Tapajós River basin. The problems are not limited to water contamination due to the use of toxic substances to recover the gold, like mercury -- and more recently cyanide. New technologies have increased productivity and impacts on the forest. The use of backhoes, called PCs, to revolve the soil, is one of them. With them, the work that used to take almost a month to be done is now accomplished in just ten days.

In addition, the number of boats that illegally mine the riverbed is rising significantly. Officials at the Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade, an institute responsible for the management of environmental reserves in Brazil, believe that the government’s 2012 decision to reduce the areas of five forest reserves in order to legally allow the construction of the hydroelectric plants of Jatobá and

São Luiz do Tapajós only made the problem worse. Since the protected areas were reduced, the number of boats surged in a worrisome way, jumping from 5 to 35 in the 400 kilometers that separate the municipalities of Itaituba and Jacareacanga. “To supervise larger mines, like the ones in Itaituba, we need to virtually set up a war operation,” said Nilton Rascon, ICMBio environmental analyst.



Children playing in the sunset near the Tapajós river. (Fernanda Ligabue - Agência Pública.)

Mining Companies

If Tapajós is one of world’s largest gold provinces, why are there still no big miners in the region? There are two explanations. The first one is geological. “There are no large deposits, as in Goiás or in Minas Gerais. The deposits are small and scattered. This favors the manual gold panning and not the large mining companies,” explains Lamarque, from DNPM. The second reason is strictly economic. “The lack of roads and energy sources make great gold-mining projects unfeasible,” he adds.

But the construction of the dams and the paving of BR-163 are already getting the mining companies excited. For now, the gold of Tapajós has not yet been targeted by the world’s major companies. But at least five companies identified as juniors are already doing local research. A project in its later stages is the Tocantinzinho, in Itaituba, already requiring environmental licensing. It should start operating in 2016. The venture is embraced by a subsidiary of the Canadian Eldorado Gold, which already operates a mine in Northern state of Amapá.

But gold is not the only “attraction” in Tapajós. The giant Anglo American, one of the world’s 10 largest mining companies, is researching a copper deposit in the Jamanxim National Forest, the second largest in the country, with an area of 1.3 million hectares, nearly 10 times greater than Brazil’s largest city, São Paulo.

The area to be researched under a 2011 requirement to the DNPM covers more than half of the forest. In theory, that’s not illegal: environmental laws allow mining in a forest reserve — if it is licensed and has an adequate management plan.

However, according an interview with the manager of the Jamanxim National Forest, Haroldo Marques, in 2012, Anglo American had been using survey machines in the area since at least July that year without any authorization.

“Such a request to surveying the area has to be formalized. I am responsible for authorizing searches and perforations, but so far nothing came to me,” explains the ICMBio staff. “I saw people in pickup trucks with the logo of Anglo American, wearing uniforms, totally unconcerned about showing the name of the company.”

The head of the Jamanxim National Forest works from the Itaituba ICMBio office and needs permission of his superiors in Brasilia to go into the field to track compliance with environmental legislation. “I was doing monitoring and fighting deforestation. Then I asked for my ‘per diems’ to be renewed but it wasn’t granted,” explains Marques. “I was taken from surveilling the area, and had to stop the work. Very weird, huh?” Questioned by *Publica*, Anglo American’s Press Office confirmed “that the company required areas from the DNPM” and it is “awaiting the publication of the respective research permits, to then request the authorization from ICMBio, which manages the Conservation Units in the Country”.

The company denies surveying the area. “The field team solely promoted contact with surface owners, aiming the future conclusion of terms of agreement, as defined by the Mining Code.”

The “surface owners” cited in the Anglo American’s note are people claiming ownership of land within the Jamanxim National Forest. When it was created in 2006, the conservation area which bears the name of this tributary of the Tapajós was already occupied by several farms. Throughout 2012, this was the area that most lost its native forest due to livestock, gold-mining and the illegal extraction of wood.

Curiously, the devastation spreads at the same pace that the government intends to reduce the area of the Jamanxim National Forest. A working group within the ICMBio office in Brasilia is currently assessing the possibility of reducing at least 200,000 hectares from the protected area.

According to satellite data from the National Institute for Space Research (Inpe) displaced in the website PRODES, the forest lost 30.7 square kilometers in 2012. In 2011, the number was considerably lower: 12.9 square kilometers. “The area where Anglo American is doing the research is one of the most preserved of the National Forest,” says Marques.

There is no denial that Tapajós is now the next big thing in the expansion of the Amazon frontier — a process that has historically left open wounds due to its predatory consequences. It’s a sad story that can repeat itself once again in the pristine waters of the west of Pará.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/20/amazon-river-expansion_n_4995894.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Black Blocs In São Paulo: A Criminal Gang?

DATA: 2014.03.21

Over the past 5 months, the São Paulo civil police has been conducting an extensive investigation to look for evidence to prove the Black Blocs -- groups of masked youngsters, many of Anarchist background, who damage banks, the government or car sales shops to protest against capitalism -- can be framed as a "criminal association".

Groups of Black Blocs have been present in the Brazilian protests since June 2013, and their presence is seen as a threat for social order by the federal and state governments.

In order to tackle what is seen as a major problem that could hinder the World Cup, São Paulo's State Department of Criminal Investigations started this investigation on October 9 2013, after a police car was turned upside down during a protest in the capital. A couple was arrested and charged under the Law of National Security, which dates back to the military era. The Minister of Human Rights Maria do Rosário protested against the use of dictatorial legislation in our current democracy, but the case is still up and running. And it was presented as the main reason for a police enquiry which has already questioned 300 people.

Very little is known about the investigation, as our reporters at Agencia Publica found out. The inquiry is under secrecy, and so is the very document that explains the basis for it to be opened.

Even more disturbing is the fact that the interrogations are being admittedly used as a "strategy" by the São Paulo Police. On February 22, 40 people were summoned to be questioned right at the time that an anti-World Cup march was scheduled to happen in the center of São Paulo, thus preventing these youngsters from attending the protest. In the headquarters of DEIC they heard questions such as "have you visited the Black Bloc Facebook page?", "are you affiliated with a party?", "why do you go to protests?" and "who did you vote for in the last elections?". Of course, vote in Brazil is secret, and none of these questions are reasonable in a democracy. But the strangest question asked during interrogatories takes us straight back to the Cold War (which apparently is very much in fashion these days): "have you ever trained in a guerrilla training camp?". Either the São Paulo Police are making a huge effort to waste the time of all the 300 people who were questioned, or their concept of political organization has been frozen since the 60s.

The defense of those who were interrogated claim that the investigation is only a way to intimidate the protesters. "A police investigation should investigate a crime, and not people. All questions were of a political nature, instead of a criminal one", says Alexandre Pacheco Martins, a lawyer at the Human Rights Commission at the Lawyers Union in the state of São Paulo.

Ariel Castro, a well-known human rights lawyer, adds that "in such an investigation the Police needs to identify who broke what, in which day, or when they threw molotov cocktails. There needs to be very specific facts. You can't incriminate someone based on their ideological beliefs".

It remains to be seen if our civil police can manage to bring forward a consistent accusation of "criminal association" against these anarchist kids. So far, the enquiry has been extended 3 times -- a Police enquiry should last for 30 days, according to Brazilian law -- but no hard evidence was produced and no case was brought before justice.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natalia-viana/black-blocs-in-sao-paulo-b_5006396.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Rio Officials Ask For Federal Help After Slum Attacks

AP | By BRADLEY BROOKS

DATA: 2013.03.22



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Top officials from Rio de Janeiro said Friday they want elite federal police and possibly army troops sent to the city to help quell a wave of violence in so-called "pacified" slums.

The announcement came hours after suspected drug gang members attacked three police shantytown outposts, injuring three officers and burning one of the metal shipping containers they use as offices in slums. The violence hit an area near the slum that Pope Francis visited during his visit to Brazil last year.

The attacks raise concerns about an ambitious security program that began in 2008, in part to secure the city ahead of this year's World Cup and the 2016 Olympics. The effort sees police and at times army troops invade slums, push out drug gangs and set up permanent posts in areas where traffickers held sway for decades.

"It's the criminals who want this war," Rio Gov. Sergio Cabral said after he met with President Dilma Rousseff for two hours Friday. "We want peace in our communities. This is a time that the pacification units are being checked, being provoked. It's a clear attempt to demoralize the pacification units."

Cabral provided no details about what the increased security arrangement with the federal government would entail, but he indicated that a mixture of federal police and army soldiers could soon be sent to Rio to help patrol slums.

The army helped in the past as Rio's police took the Alemao complex of slums that straddle the road leading to the international airport, an area where police have recently come under multiple attacks.

Jose Beltrame, Rio's top security official and the architect of the pacification program, said the recent attacks on police were ordered by imprisoned drug gang leaders in an effort to disrupt expansion of the program, which would further restrict the area held by the gangs.

Since the inception of the security program, police have created 37 permanent "pacification units" that they say covers an area with a population of 1.5 million. Murders are down in those areas and the number of shootouts has dropped.

Yet residents of those slums often have accused police of heavy-handed tactics.

More than 20 police who patrolled Rio's largest slum, Rocinha, are facing charges for the disappearance last year of 42-year-old construction worker Amarildo de Souza. Police investigators say he died while being tortured by officers who were seeking information about where a gang was hiding drugs and guns. His body has yet to be found.

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Follow Bradley Brooks on Twitter: www.twitter.com/bradleybrooks

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/22/brazil-slum-attacks_n_5013068.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

'I Died In The Mare': Mare Favela Children Speak About Brazil's Slums In Documentary VIDEO)

DATA: 2014.03.23

Children growing up in Mare favela, one of the most dangerous slums in Brazil's Rio, have seen appalling violence. The cluster of 16 neighborhoods that is home to some 130,000 people is notoriously dangerous, a center of gang gang rivalries and repeated invasions by military and civil police.

"I died in the Mare," a new documentary by Marie Naudascher and Patrick Vanier, follows the children of the Mare favela as they struggle to cope with events that are often too harsh to relay in words.

The scars are internal, invisible," Yvonne Bezerra de Mello, who founded a community project for children affected by the violence, tells the filmmakers. "These scars will be visible a little bit later."

After Brazil won its bid to host the World Cup in 2014, the government initiated a ["pacification" program](#) across the favelas to drive out the drug gangs. Agence France Press reports that Mare became a [refuge for criminals fleeing surrounding slums](#) targeted under the program. Mare was next on the list, but the program [was postponed](#) and police are retreating from the neighborhood, according to The Washington Post.

Meanwhile, the children of Mare favela struggle to cope with the brutality on their doorsteps. "

Watch the full documentary "I died in the Mare" below, and visit [Agencia Pública](#) to learn more.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/23/i-died-in-the-mare_n_5009708.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Brazilian Women Bare All To Remind Nation They Don't 'Deserve To Be Raped' (NSFW)

The Huffington Post | By [Gabriela Kruschewsky](#)

DATA: 2014.03.29

UPDATE: April 4 -- After releasing a study last week that claimed 65 percent of Brazilians believe that women who dress provocatively "deserve to be attacked and raped," the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) has [admitted an error in the study's results](#). The IPEA now claims that the true results showed a 26% complacency with this statement. The 'mix-up,' which prompted a massive online protest and [a tweet from President Dilma Rousseff to journalist Nana Queiroz](#), is allegedly due to a swapping of results between two statements featured on the questionnaire.

Previously:

Earlier this week, a study was released that [said a startling 65.1 percent of Brazilians](#) either partially or wholly believe that "if dressed provocatively, women deserve to be attacked and raped." In addition, the study revealed a 58.5 percent complacency with the belief that "if women knew how to behave, there would be less rape."

The study, conducted by Brazil's [Institute for Applied Economic Research \(IPEA\)](#), showed that 66.5 percent of the surveyed pool were in fact, women. The institute interviewed a reflective sample of 3,810 Brazilians via questionnaire across 212 cities between May and June of 2013.

Brazilian women instantly reacted and [took to social media and blogs](#) to start a conversation about the study's revelations, keeping the story relevant and trending for more than 24 hours. In protest, Brazilian journalist Nana Queiroz created [a Facebook event and hashtag](#) to confront the outrage. The hashtag is appropriately titled #NãoMereçoSerEstuprada, which translates to '#IDon'tDeserveToBeRaped.'

In an organized call to action, on March 28 at 8 p.m. Brazilian local time, [women were encouraged to share photos of themselves](#) topless while covering their breasts with a sign that showcased the aforementioned hashtag. The Facebook event also specified that if women were uncomfortable posting topless photos, they should pose fully clothed. The important thing, the journalist explained, was that "they, as women, demonstrate that no one can claim ownership over their bodies either than themselves."

Here are some of the powerful images contributed to the online protest:

"I don't deserve to be raped..."







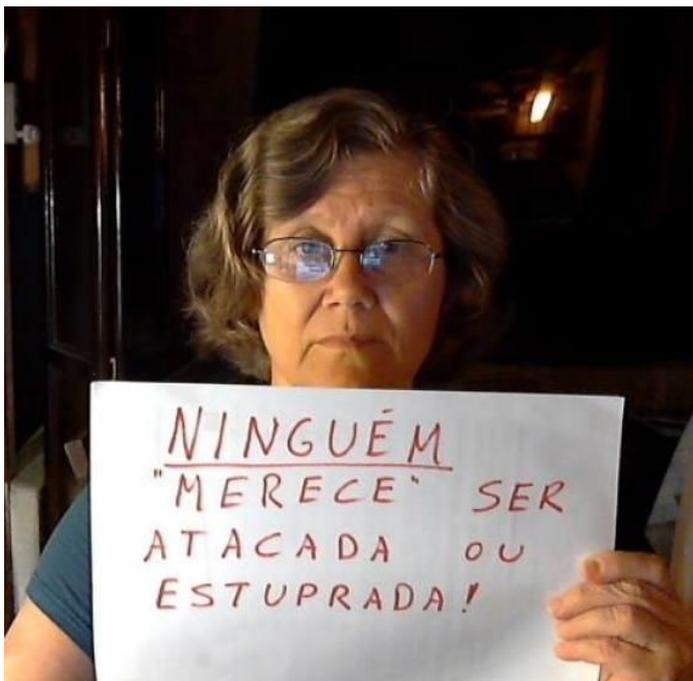
"I also don't deserve to be raped..."



"I don't deserve to be raped, nobody deserves to be..."



"No one deserves to be attacked or raped..."



"We don't deserve it..."



"Clothes don't define character!!"



"I don't deserve to be raped, NEVER!"



Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/29/brazilian-women-rape-culture-online-protest_n_5052364.html. Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

Brazil Police Push Into Slums Ahead Of World Cup

AP | By BRADLEY BROOKS

DATA: 2014.03.30

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — More than 1,400 police officers and Brazilian Marines rolled into a massive complex of slums near Rio de Janeiro's international airport before dawn Sunday in the latest security push ahead of this year's World Cup.

Not a shot was fired as the Mare complex of 15 slums became the latest impoverished area to see security forces move in to take control and try to push out heavily armed drug gangs that have ruled Rio's shantytowns for decades.

In the coming days, Army soldiers will begin patrolling the virtually treeless, flat area of about 2 square miles (5 square kilometers) in northern Rio that hugs the main road to the airport and is home to about 130,000 people.

Security forces will eventually set up permanent posts in Mare as part of the "pacification" program that began in 2008 and is meant to secure Rio ahead of not the World Cup and also the 2016 Summer Olympics. Police have installed 37 such posts in recent years in an area covering 1.5 million people.

Sunday's operation comes at a critical time for the security effort. In recent months, gangs have brazenly attacked police outposts in other shantytowns on orders from imprisoned gang leaders who want to stymie the spread of "pacified" slums. With each area police occupy, gangs lose valuable territory for the manufacture and sale of drugs.

Hilda Guimares, an elderly woman who slowly shuffled down a street on her way to church in Mare as officers from Rio's elite BOPE police unit quickly moved past, said she welcomed the presence of the state.

"This had to happen and it's about time," said Guimares, a longtime resident of the area. "We've needed to clean up this neighborhood for so long, but we've always been ignored. For too many years these gangs have been ruling this place."

Other residents, most of whom were too afraid of both the police and the gangs to give their names, had mixed feelings.

Over the arc of the 5-year-old "pacification" program, shootouts in the affected slums are unquestionably down. But many residents complain of heavy-handed police tactics.

More than 20 police who patrolled in Rio's largest slum, Rocinha, are facing charges for the torture, disappearance and presumed death of a slum resident there, whom they were questioning in an effort to find caches of drugs and guns in the community.

Additionally, residents say that after police set up permanent posts in slums, the state is not following up with strong social programs that would improve their lives.

"I didn't believe the police would actually come until I saw them enter before dawn," said Sabrina, a 15-year-old girl working at a snack stand who asked that her last name not be used, saying she was afraid

of retribution by gang members. "Those of us who live here are stuck between the gangs and the police; we don't know who is really going to control this place."

Follow Bradley Brooks on Twitter: www.twitter.com/bradleybrooks

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/30/brazil-slums_n_5058446.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Brazilian Footballers Ask For Common Sense

DATA: 2014.04.01



Foreigners often ask why Brazilians are so critical of the World Cup if they are so crazy about football. But that's exactly the reason. Every kid in Brazil plays football as soon as he or she is old enough to kick a ball, and Brazilians are much more into discussing football than politics. It's such a part of our culture that the World Cup is having a much more profound impact over us than any other society.

Take the "Common Sense Football Club," for instance. It's a one-of-a-kind movement started by some star footballers to demand better working conditions for all in an industry where workers almost never get a say -- except about their performance on the field. The movement started last September by former Fenerbahce midfielder Alex and the former Roma defender Juan, who coming back from Europe were appalled by the conditions of the leagues here in Brazil. While new stadiums have been built for the World Cup, professional players in Brazil still have to endure conditions that at times are far from ideal: bad pitches, shabby dressing rooms, and as we have seen lately, security issues. Since September, more than a thousand footballers have joined Common Sense, which has made possible actions such as the massive sit-down with crossed arms we performed before the start of every game in the 34th week of last year's Brazilian championship.

Now uniting over 1000 footballers, including ex-AC Milan striker Alexandre Pato, former Real Madrid midfielder Julio Baptista, the group has threatened to go on strike this year, and has three demands:

- A more democratic and inclusive calendar, with more space for local teams to grow and less strain on top footballers who sometimes have to play 70 to 80 matches in only one season
- Financial oversight over the teams, which are indebted and sometimes don't pay the athletes even though they earn more and more each year
- Lower ticket prices and better schedules for games (which are now controlled by TV station Globo mainly) to get supporters back to the stadia.

One must admit, it's only sensible. However, the campaign is not seen with good eyes by TV stations, sponsors, and the big bosses of club and of the Brazilian Football Association. Gilberto Silva, former Arsenal midfielder, has decided to voice concerns that "doors are closing" for him because of his engagement in the movement.

"If that's the price to pay for these issues to become public, I will happily pay it," he said. "The players know our movement will add up to negative news linked to the World Cup but it is important we get our message across. People abroad need to know what is going on."

Takes a lot of courage.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natalia-viana/brazil-world-cup_b_5069999.html.
Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Construction Halted At World Cup Stadium Marked By Recent Worker Death

AP | By TALES AZZONI

DATA: 2014.04.01



SAO PAULO (AP) — Labor officials are halting construction in part of the World Cup stadium where a worker died this weekend, creating a problem for Brazilian organizers trying to get the venue ready for the tournament's opening match in less than three months.

Fast Engenharia, the construction company in charge of the temporary seats, said in a statement that it received the notification from Sao Paulo's labor secretariat late Monday.

The officials said the installation of the temporary seats must be stopped until additional safety measures are implemented by constructors.

Fabio Hamilton da Cruz, 23, died after falling from about 26 feet while working on the temporary structures on Saturday.

Authorities said an initial probe showed he didn't connect himself to a safety cable at the time of the accident. According to witness accounts, the worker said he only had a "quick thing" to finish at the site.

Fast Engenharia said the worker had all required safety equipment available to him.

According to the UOL website, the labor officials said protective netting could've prevented the death even if the worker didn't use the safety cable.

"Company directors on Tuesday will analyze the technical demands made by (labor officials) and then will make an announcement about the case and its consequences to the construction timetable," Fast Engenharia said in its statement.

FIFA and the local World Cup organizing committee did not immediately answer a request for comment on Monday.

Construction was already behind schedule at the Itaquerao stadium because of the damage caused by another accident that killed two workers following a crane collapse in late November. A giant roofing structure fell on part of the stadium's facade, significantly pushing back the stadium's date of completion.

The Itaquerao was one of the six stadiums that were not finished by the end of last year as requested by FIFA. Local organizers said it would be ready in April, but soccer's governing body expected the venue to be completed in mid-May, about a month before the June 12 opener.

About 20,000 temporary seats were being added to the new stadium to increase its capacity for the high-profile inaugural match between host Brazil and Croatia.

The Brazilian club Corinthians, which owns the stadium, declared a three-day mourning period after the death but didn't stop construction at the site. Constructor Odebrecht said Monday that work in the rest of the stadium will continue as scheduled.

Two other stadiums remain under construction for Brazil's first World Cup since 1950, one in the wetlands city of Cuiaba and another in the southern Brazilian city of Curitiba. Infrastructure work across Brazil remains far from completed, but authorities insist the country will be ready for soccer's showcase event.

Seven workers have died in accidents at construction sites of World Cup venues so far.

Follow Tales Azzoni at <http://twitter.com/tazzoni>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/01/world-cup-stadium-brazil-work-halted_n_5068493.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

These 'Happy' Parodies Capture All The Angst And Joy Of Hosting The World Cup

DATA: 2014.04.01

While plenty of soccer fans are excited for Brazil to stage the World Cup in less than three months, not everyone in one host city is happy about the [state of preparations](#)—and there's video evidence to prove it.

Porto Alegre, which means "Happy Port" in Portuguese, has seen two [parodies of Pharrell Williams' hit song "Happy"](#) emerge online, each presenting a radically different face of the World Cup venue.

The first video, called "Porto un(Happy)," features students from Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre [dancing in unfinished construction sites](#), including the city's World Cup stadium, according to The Independent.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRPqfpqZs4Y>

Global Voices reports [the creators clarified the video's message](#) in a Facebook post, writing: "Our protest is NOT against the World Cup, but against the delayed construction works and the lack of care towards the population!"

Porto Alegre nearly had to pull out of the tournament due to a funding shortfall, until the state government [stepped in with tax incentives](#) for more construction last week, according to the BBC.

But others in the Brazilian city see things in a rosier light. A day after "Porto (un)Happy" was posted online, Porto Alegre's city administration circulated its own parody showing a different viewpoint.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Gs26YxJ6d0>

The creators of this actually happy video, which shows gleaming foundations and jolly municipal workers, said it was not in response to the protest parody, but simply a celebration of the city's 242nd anniversary, according to The Independent.

Nonetheless, the contrasting parodies anticipate the range of emotions that come with the world's largest sporting event, from the thrill of victory to the agony of defeat—and in this case, the happy and unhappy sides of playing host.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/01/happy-parodies-porto-alegre_n_5070013.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

(NOT) Happy About the World Cup

DATA: 2014.04.07



...but creating pretty great media to express the discontent.

"Are you going to the World Cup?!" Brazilians have been getting this question more than any other -- even more than "are there monkeys on the streets" and "do you speak Brazilian." The country that loves soccer is finally hosting the World Cup. As exciting as it may seem, however, the 2014 World Cup has caused quite a commotion among Brazilians. "It's important that people understand the dissatisfaction with the World Cup," says Tamires Alves, a political science PhD student residing in Rio de Janeiro. "The exorbitant public expenditures estimate between 28 and 32 billion reais [approximately between 14 and 16 billion US Dollars]." A country that struggles with its lack of infrastructure, healthcare, education, and abundance of poverty and corruption, could use these billions of dollars for so much before deciding to build new stadiums and renovate old ones.

In the midst of angry protests and annoyed rants, *Jeitinho Carioca*, the Brazilian series about Rio de Janeiro and its people and lifestyle, decided to take a different and funnier route. The group put some fun and sarcasm into their protest and made the video below -- where actors from the series dance happily to Pharrell's "Happy" tune, while showing issues Brazilians have to deal with on a daily basis: trash on the beach, awful traffic, absurdly high prices for gas, never ending and expensive construction projects, lack of infrastructure and safety, and more. The video even offers a satire of the [thief who was stripped naked](#) and tied to a lamppost in Rio last January.

"All of us from Jeitinho Carioca are in love with Rio de Janeiro, but we are upset by the way the politicians are governing the city, with overpriced constructions and ineffective solutions. So we had the idea of making the music video for Pharrell's "Happy", being ironic, given how Cariocas [people from Rio] are not happy at all with the problems of their city, right before the World Cup"

-- Director Marcelo Feijo.

"And the costs are not the only problem. The World Cup had a very large negative social impact in our country. Around here we call it 'The Cup of Removals' because thousands of removals were made to host the big events - the World Cup and Olympics. (...) The ANCOP (National Coordination of Popular Committees for the Cup) estimates that a total of 250,000 people have been or will be removed from

their homes due to these mega events. 'They treated us like trash' -- said Michel Souza dos Santos, a former resident of Restinga, after being expelled from his home.

So we ask ourselves: what kind of event is this? An event that is removing the poorest population from their homes, where we are not seeing investments that will improve our country, where the stadium -- one of the few places all classes could attend -- became an elitist arena with exorbitant prices only the wealthiest can afford... This is the World Cup of large corporations, and not an event that brought benefits to the Brazilian population."

-- Tamires Alves, Political Science PhD Student at UFF, Brazil.

WATCH: Filmmaker [Carla Dauden explains](#), in detail, why she isn't going to the World Cup.

WATCH: [How prepared Brazil actually is](#) for the Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nathalie-vassallo/the-best-on-the-world-cup_b_5077328.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Dilma Rousseff's Popularity Drops Since February, Poll Says

AP

DATA: 2014.04.07



SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff's popularity has dipped five percentage points ahead of October's presidential elections, a new poll published Sunday said.

The Datafolha polling institute said 36 percent of respondents rated Rousseff's government as "great/good" against the 41 percent who gave it that rating in the firm's previous poll conducted in February.

The poll was published by the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper.

Datafolha surveyed 2,637 people on April 2 and 3. Its poll has a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

The poll also showed that the number of people who say they will vote for her dropped from 44 percent to 38 percent. However, the new figures leave her ahead of her two main expected challengers, Sen. Aécio Neves with 16 percent and former Pernambuco state Gov. Eduardo Campos with 10 percent.

According to Datafolha, 63 percent of those interviewed said Rousseff has done less than they expected, compared to 34 percent a little more than a year ago.

Datafolha attributed the drop in Rousseff's popularity to rising inflation that now stands at 5.7 percent and fears of unemployment and lower purchasing power.

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In The Amazon, Indigenous People Fight To Preserve Way Of Life Amid Intrusive Construction

Agência Pública | By Sue Branford

DATA: 2014.04.07



by Sue Branford; additional reporting by Carlos Juliano Barros

They weren't consulted about the construction of hydroelectric plants in Tapajós, but the Mundurucu indigenous people want to preserve their way of life.

“Each day more police arrive in our villages, more armed forces. They think they will intimidate us but they never will. We are fighting for our people, our children, our nature. We have to save all this.”

This is Rosenilda, a Munduruku woman leader, speaking from the village of Boca das Tropas on the Tapajós River, a 40-minute boat ride from the town of Jacareacanga. While she and another indigenous leader, Maria Leusa, sat under the thatch of one of the many palm-covered huts that surround the center of the village, other women were cleaning up the area. Carrying baskets on their backs secured by bands around their foreheads, they were picking up stones, dead vegetation, and dirt, carrying it out of the village. Not far away, children were playing happily in the river, chattering and laughing.

It seemed strange to be talking of warfare in a setting of such tranquility, but the two women said that their people, the Munduruku, of which there are about 12,000 left, are fighting for their very survival because of the government's decision to build a series of hydroelectric dams on their river. Further up the Tapajós, in the larger village of Restinga, the chief Lamberto Painha expressed similar concerns.

"We have been suffering for 500 years," he said, from the big collective hut where the community had just gathered to eat breakfast. "The government wants to get rid of us all. If these dams are built, everything will end. That island over there will be flooded. Monkeys, birds, and we Indians will all lose our homes. What shall we do? How can we survive in cities? In cities people don't share things, only if you have money. How will we get bananas, potatoes, pineapple, sugar cane? We will die of hunger."

In recent decades, the Brazilian government has reiterated on numerous occasions its commitment both to preserve the diversity of the Amazonian forest and to protect its indigenous people. Indeed, thanks to the significant popular and multi-ethnic advances that came with the new constitution in 1988, approved in the elation of the return to democratic rule after 21 years of military dictatorship, the Indians won the right to continue their way of life in perpetuity. It was the first time since the arrival of the Portuguese in 1500 that the state gave up the idea of eventually integrating the Indians into so-called 'national society'.

How is it that, just a quarter of a century after winning such an important concession, the Munduruku are so fearful that the current phase of economic expansion into the Amazon basin will bring about their cultural, or even physical, extinction?

GOLD RUSH

Part of the explanation can be found in the village of Boca das Tropas, where, when I visited, the children were playing while the women talked of war. It was there, in 1958, that Nilson Pinheiro encountered the first grams of gold ever found in this part of the Tapajós River basin. The way in which he discovered the gold has become a legend, still recounted in the region: a female seer in the town of Parintins in the state of Amazonas described in great detail to Pinheiro the place where an extraordinary abundance of gold was to be found, and he went straight from the waters of the Amazon to the waters of the Tapajós River, finding the gold exactly where the seer had told him. Thus began the "folia do garimpo," the extraordinary gold rush that led to tens of thousands of garimpeiros (gold panners) moving into the region.

The influx of garimpeiros created conflicts with the indigenous population, but much more serious for the latter was the discovery that, under the gold on the surface, which the garimpeiros scratched at, lay far larger quantities of gold and other minerals.

According to one report, the Tapajós River valley is, world's region with the greatest mineral reserves, almost all of them unexploited. To get their hands on these reserves, mining companies need two things: a change in the legislation so that they can mine in indigenous lands — something that it is being fast-

tracked through Congress thanks to a bill presented in June 2013 (at the same time, strangely, that a wave of protests about the government's failure to listen to ordinary people was sweeping through the country); and an abundant supply of cheap energy. Data published on the website of ANEEL (Agência Nacional de Energia Elétrica/National Agency for Electric Energy), the government body that regulates the energy sector, shows that the government has toyed with the idea of building, on the Tapajós–Teles Pires River basin alone, 44 large or medium-sized hydroelectric power stations and 89 smaller ones — a total of 133 dams.

It is difficult to imagine that such a proliferation could actually happen — indeed, some of the dams are almost certainly unviable — but even if only a half or a third are built, the impact would be calamitous for biodiversity and for the people. It is worth remembering, by way of comparison, that the highly contentious (and disastrous) Belo Monte Dam, which is being built on the Xingu River, the next major tributary of the Amazon River to the east, consists of only one dam along the whole of the river.

NEW GLOBAL ALLIANCE

The government's plans for the Tapajós–Teles Pires River basin can be understood only within a global context. Throughout the world, multinational companies are moving into areas previously regarded as too remote, because of the growing difficulty of finding easily accessible natural resources. Although the development of large-scale mining in the Amazon basin has been stuttering, with the ups-and-downs associated with capitalist expansion, this trend is likely to intensify. By 2030 another 3 billion middle-class consumers are expected to enter the world market, many of them from China and India. Commodity prices have already risen by 147% since the beginning of the 21st century, justifying investments previously regarded as uneconomic.

The expansion of the economic frontier -- or, more accurately, various economic frontiers — has long been the motor behind the economic, social and environmental transformation of the Amazon region, and the new global scenario has intensified the process.

The anthropologist Paul E. Little, from University of Brasília, believes that a new global alliance has emerged across the whole of the Amazon basin:

“The first decade of the 21st century experienced a major restructuring of the financing of development projects in Amazônia, stemming from the economic crisis of the industrialized countries, together with the continued growth of the emerging economies, notably the so-called BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). During this same decade, Brazil and China forged new national development strategies based on the policies of the globalization of national companies and the establishment of regional hegemonic spaces dominated by their national capital investments. The Brazilian National Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES) and the Chinese Development Bank grew rapidly in this period and became the largest investors and creditors of mega-development projects in Amazônia.”

Little identifies two kinds of mega-projects — mega-infrastructure, financed mainly by public capital, and mega-extractive projects, generally financed by private capital. All of these have a serious social and environmental impact, which, says Little, is very unevenly distributed.

“The majority of the benefits derived from the development projects accrue to economic and political actors external to Amazônia, such as large multinational corporations, the administrative apparatus of national governments and financial institutions. The majority of negative impacts of these same mega-

development projects are borne by indigenous peoples, who suffer from the proliferation of serious social, health and sanitation problems.”

The Munduruku, a large group, which has long maintained contact with non- indigenous society, is now in the firing line.

HISTORY OF MUNDURUKU

The first written reference to the Munduruku comes from José Monteiro de Noronha who, in 1768, said that they were living on the banks of the Maués River, a tributary of the Madeira River in the west of the Amazon basin. They were a warlike “nation” that undertook audacious raids against rival indigenous groups and colonial settlements mainly along the Madeira and Tapajós Rivers, although they eventually also attacked settlements along the Xingu and Tocantins Rivers further to the east, causing the local economy to stagnate from the 1770s through to the 1790s. They used to take as trophies the heads of their enemies, which they mummified, and to which they attributed supernatural powers.

Around 1795 they made peace with the Portuguese, after which many of them settled in mission villages. By then, they dominated the Tapajós River valley, which became known as Mundurucânia (“Munduruku country”). They often waged war on traditional enemies at the behest of the Portuguese, whose interference increased the deadliness of such encounters and led to the extermination of smaller groups. Following the popular rebellion known as the Cabanagem, a widespread revolt in the 1830s by freed slaves, mestizos and Indians, which was brutally repressed, a Munduruku leader called Joaquim even received a commission from the Brazilian army, in acknowledgement of the Munduruku’s assistance in suppressing the rebellion.

The rubber boom in the late 19th century led to a labor shortage, so workers were brought in from the Northeast of the country. This meant that the Munduruku (who also tapped rubber, albeit in a more marginal way) were pushed further upstream and inland. Today, they live along the middle and upper courses of the Tapajós River basin, either in officially recognized territories or in small communities by the riverbank.

It is not just the Munduruku who are being affected by the dam building however. The Tapajós–Teles Pires valley is home to about 20 indigenous groups, including groups of uncontacted Indians. There are also traditional communities — so-called “ribeirinhos” or “beiradeiros” — living in areas that will be directly affected by the dams. They are descendants of rubber-tappers who settled on the riverbanks in the second half of the 19th century and, after the collapse of the rubber boom in about 1913, moved into the forests, by then abandoned by the rubber barons, and, using indigenous know-how, developed their own impressive ways of using products from the forest and growing crops on a small scale. Some of the communities, such as those at Pimental, Montanha and Mangabal, have on several occasions expressed their opposition to the dams, although the resistance has undoubtedly been led by the Munduruku.

It will be hard for the Munduruku, given the power of the Brazilian state, to prevent the resources of the Tapajós valley from being exploited, but one might have expected the government to opt for the most humane and least disruptive way of using the region’s resources. But the government has not listened to the critics. It seems determined to push ahead with its plans at all costs. Mario José Gisi, Coordinator for the Environment and Cultural Heritage at the Federal Prosecutors Office — an independent branch of the government, which provides legal support for the Munduruku and other Indians who will be

affected by the dams — said at a public meeting in São Paulo in early October 2013 that the authorities were arriving in the Amazon “like a tractor.”

Indeed, even though the Indians have not yet been properly consulted, in terms determined both by Brazil’s Constitution and by Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization (to which Brazil is a signatory), they are still moving forward with the projects.

INDIGENOUS FIGHT-BACK

The Indians are fighting back, demanding that they be listened to, and there have been serious clashes. In November 2012, the authorities undertook a military operation to stop what it claimed was illegal gold mining along the Tapajós River. None of the gold-mining barges being targeted was operated by Indians but the authorities claimed that they were, and sent the Federal Police and the National Security Force into an indigenous village. An Indian — Adenilson Munduruku — was killed. Some observers believe that the authorities deliberately targeted the Indians, in order to intimidate them and to undermine their resistance. As a result there were widespread indigenous protests, which the government crushed firmly.

The Munduruku have been joining forces with Indians who will be affected by Belo Monte, the third largest hydroelectric dam in the world and Brazil’s largest public work, which is being built on the Xingu River. Along with Indians from the Juruna, Kayapó (who are traditional enemies of the Munduruku), Xipaya, Kuruaya, Asurini, Parakanã and Arara tribes, a group of Munduruku occupied the Belo Monte building site in May 2013. Both Rosenilda and Maria Leusa took part in this protest. Talking about it in the village at Boca das Tropas, they said that they were part of a movement called Wacubarã, named after a woman Munduruku warrior from the old days.

“We Munduruku women are strong,” Maria Leusa said. “Twenty- three of us took part in the Belo Monte protest.” The Indians issued a statement to explain their action. This is an extract:

“You are pointing guns at our heads. You raid our territories with jeeps and soldiers. You have made the fish disappear and you are stealing the bones of our ancestors buried on our lands. You do this because you are afraid to listen to us. You are afraid to hear us say that we don’t want dams on our rivers, and afraid to understand why we don’t want them.

You invent stories that we are violent and that we want war. Who are the ones killing our relatives? How many white people have died and how many Indigenous people? You are the ones killing us, quickly or slowly. We’re dying and, with each dam that is built, more of us will die. When we try to talk to you, you bring tanks, helicopters, soldiers, machine guns and stun weapons.

What we want is simple: we want you to uphold the law that demands free, prior and informed consent from indigenous peoples before the dams are built. Until that happens, you must first stop all construction work, studies, and police operations in the Xingu, Tapajós and Teles Pires Rivers, and then consult us. We want dialogue, but you are not letting us speak. This is why we are occupying your dam building site.

You need to stop everything and simply listen to us.”

The authorities ignored the Indians’ demands and, to prevent further indigenous protests, the federal government sent in a large military body to protect the construction site in Belo Monte. In the Tapajós

valley, it continued to carry out viability studies and environmental impact studies, the very studies that the Munduruku say should, under Brazilian law, be carried out only after they have been fully consulted.

Not surprisingly, the protests continued. In early June 2013 the Munduruku took three researchers hostage, and released them only after the authorities had guaranteed that the “consultas prévias” — the consultations with the Indians, part of the “indigenous element” — would be carried out. The commitment was announced publicly in the town square in Jacareacanga on June 23, 2013, but it was not adhered to. New authorization was given weeks later for the continuation of the viability studies, without any consultation with the Indians or traditional communities. The researchers returned, this time with a large, intimidating military escort.

“AUDIÊNCIA PÚBLICA”

The authorities, meanwhile, are pushing ahead with their form of consultation with the local people, including the Munduruku, but not respecting the guidelines specified in Brazilian law and in Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization. One of these consultations — an “audiência pública” (public meeting) — was held in Jacareacanga, a town on the Tapajós River, on September 29, 2013. The consultation concerned the São Manuel Dam, which the government plans to build on the Teles Pires River, a tributary of the Tapajós in the far south of the state of Pará, near the border with Mato Grosso. The awarding of contracts for this dam, already delayed because of indigenous protests, is now scheduled for some time in 2014.

There was a considerable amount of wrangling, as is becoming routine in the battle over the dams, over whether or not the meeting on September 29, 2013 was legal. A few days before it was held, it was actually cancelled by the federal justice system at the request of the Federal Prosecutors Office. Three prosecutors — Felipe Bogado and Manoel Antônio Gonçalves da Silva in Mato Grosso, and Felício Pontes Jr. in Pará — argued that the meeting in Jacareacanga should be cancelled because the “indigenous element” had not been carried out. A federal court upheld the prosecutors’ request but, on the very eve of the meeting, the federal court’s decision was overturned by a higher court — as everyone in Jacareacanga had been sure would happen. After a brief suspension, the meeting was back on.

Many of the Munduruku Indians were angry that the meeting was being held. A small group of men, women and children, their bodies covered in their traditional designs, and armed with bows and arrows and clubs, gathered early at the entrance to the sports stadium attached to a middle school, where the meeting was to be held. It soon became clear that they intended to try to stop people going in to the stadium, even though the military police were out in strength, and a large contingent of soldiers from the National Force, a special military unit created by President Dilma Rousseff, was gathered in a nearby building.

As it turned out, the protest was short-lived. Internal divisions within the Indians brought the action to an end, rather than pressure from the police, who had clearly been instructed to behave with constraint. A small group of Munduruku, most of whom live in Jacareacanga, has been convinced by the authorities that the dams are a fait accompli, and that any attempt to stop them will be counterproductive, in that the Indians will lose the hefty compensation that they would otherwise be entitled to. A few of these Indians, accompanied by officials from the municipal government, arrived and forced their way through. The protesters felt unable to use violence against their parentes (relatives), so the barricade was breached. Indians and others poured into the stadium.

In the event, the public meeting was a sorry affair. It began with the singing of Brazil's national anthem. Ten white men, sitting on the stage, sang lustily, with the support of the three front rows, occupied by local businessmen, government officials, farmers, and one or two women. Behind them, a mass of Munduruku and poorer inhabitants of the town, most of whom were of Munduruku descent, stood there with their mouths firmly shut, in a kind of mute defiance. It seemed as if the town was being taken over by an occupying foreign power. There was little room, in fact, for participation from those in the back half of the stadium. The public was told firmly at the outset that no spontaneous contributions from the floor would be accepted. Only written questions would be allowed, but no instructions were given as to how or when to hand over questions. Indeed, no one from the back half of the stadium submitted a question, which was not surprising, given that many of the Munduruku and the poorer inhabitants are barely literate, and not at all used to this kind of formal procedure.

Questions were read out, but all appeared to come from the people in the front three rows. At no stage did anyone question whether the dams would actually benefit the local inhabitants. Two documentaries were shown, both of them strongly 'selling' the dam. It got very hot as the meeting dragged on. Only one question from an Indian was read out. It came from a man sitting with government officials in one of the front rows, who stood up after his name was called. It appeared to be a planted question, because the man asked how much indigenous land would be flooded, although the officials had repeatedly stated many times throughout the presentations that the answer was none.

On the following day, a Munduruku pointed out in conversation that no one had asked a real question, such as why their sacred sites were being destroyed. He was referring to the Sete Quedas waterfall, which had earlier been destroyed in preparatory work for the Teles Pires dam. In a letter both sorrowful and angry, written after this act of vandalism had been carried out, Munduruku leaders said that this site had been "where the dead live", where there was a portal, "which cannot be seen by common men, only by spiritual shaman leaders, who can travel to another unknown world without being seen." It seemed pointless to explain to the Munduruku Indian that, even if this question had been raised at the "audiência pública", it would have been ruled out of order, as it referred to the Teles Pires Dam, not the São Manuel Dam under discussion.

Apart from the Munduruku and the traditional communities, some of the biologists conducting surveys of the Tapajós great biodiversity have privately expressed disquiet at what they are doing. They are concerned, they say, about the methodology used in the environmental impact analysis, and pessimistic about the possibility that any recommendations they make might actually be implemented.

INVISIBLE NATIVES

Deusiano and his Munduruku relatives live in the Sawré Muybu village, on the banks of the Tapajós River. It takes a two-hour trip on the road to get from downtown Itaituba to the Bujuré port, located in the Amazon National Park. The natives of Sawré Muybu are trapped.

On one side, the threat comes from one of the region's largest gold and diamond mines, Chapéu do Sol, which dumps significant amount of mercury in the waters of the river. On the other side, what concerns is the 722 square kilometers lake that will result from the construction of the São Luiz do Tapajós Dam. "If the plant is built, our land won't be completely flooded, but we're going to be stranded, with no hunting and no fishing," says Juarez, Chief of the village.

For years, the Munduruku of village Sawré Muybu have been fighting for their land to be delimited. In 2007, the National Indian Foundation (Funai) even created a working group to begin the process. However, the professional responsible for an anthropological report concerning the process disappeared without a trace, according to Funai itself. The claim of the indigenous people was forgotten in the drawers of the federal bureaucracy, until the moment they crossed paths with the São Luiz do Tapajós plant.

Over the course of 2012, technicians of the companies doing the plant's feasibility studies entered their area numerous times without any sort of prior communication. They would go in the village and start messing with the land and leaving landmarks in the woods. This invasive posture made the Munduruku angry. "We're not going to let anyone come into our house," warns Juarez.

The federal government got Funai in Brasília to mediate the conflict and try to convince the Munduruku to allow the technicians into the land. In a tense meeting held on October 17, 2012, a Funai representative threatened to call the National Security Force to escort the technicians if the Munduruku resist. The fact is that the pressure of the indigenous from Sawré Muybu worked.

On October 31, 2012, the "Diário Oficial da União" (Official Federal Gazette) published the decree to resume the identification and delimitation of their area. The government's oblivion concerning Tapajós indigenous groups has been documented. The records on environmental permits of ongoing projects across the country can be accessed on the web portal of the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA). In the chart that summarizes the information about the São Luiz do Tapajós Dam, the following can be read on the page before the last: "presence of indigenous lands in the area affected: no information".

According to Funai, in addition to the Sawré Muybu, there are five other tribal lands occupied by the Munduruku in the area of direct influence of the São Luiz do Tapajós Dam. This fact was communicated to the director of IBAMA's environmental licensing through a letter dated February 17, 2012. In the document, Funai reported that out of the six indigenous lands, two were in the process of delimitation.

Exactly a week after the letter, IBAMA authorized Eletrobras to open clearings in the woods and collect material from the forest to develop the environmental impact study, including in the area of Sawré Muybu. And that sparked the conflicts. "More than a hundred researchers are going around Tapajós, without explanation to local populations. This resistance is natural," says Juliana Araújo, liaison between Funai's office in Itaituba and the village Sawré Muybu. "Eletrobras and IBAMA knew about Funai's letter. They knew there were indigenous lands in the area of influence of the São Luiz do Tapajós plant, but still ignored this information," accuses the Federal Prosecutor Fernando Antonio Oliveira Júnior.

He makes a point of mentioning that prior consultation to the indigenous people is not just a mere warning: we must explain in a clear and accessible way, so they fully understand the characteristics of the project. "The ILO Convention No. 169 is even more cautious and protective than the Brazilian Constitution of 1988. It says that the consultation has to be conducted before any type of authorization. It is one of the first steps for the beginning of the enterprise," adds the prosecutor.

The way the indigenous communities in the case of São Luiz do Tapajós are treated is symptomatic of what's to come. The federal government comes riding a "legal tractor" to enable not only the Tapajós hydroelectric complex, but other large projects in the Amazon.

In July 2012, the Federal Attorney General published the Decree 303. In practice, besides hindering the expansion of indigenous lands in the country, the measure opens loopholes for the government and the private sector to build dams, highways and other large projects “regardless of consulting the indigenous communities.” The ruling sparked fierce criticism by social movements and has had its constitutionality questioned in the Supreme Court by the Federal Public Prosecutors. Indifference with the natives affected by the Tapajós plants is just the tip of the iceberg.

Almost 30 years after the military dictatorship, the government rhetoric has changed, with more emphasis on “participation” and much less on direct repression. Nevertheless just like when the military decided to build the “Transamazônica” (Trans-Amazonian) highway, in the 1970s, calamitous changes are being imposed on local populations nowadays, with little effort to consult them or even to explain properly what is going on. We are left with the struggle for survival.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/07/amazon-preservation-hydro-plants_n_5070484.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Brazil Isn't The Only Country With A Startlingly High C-Section Rate

DATA: 2014.04.16

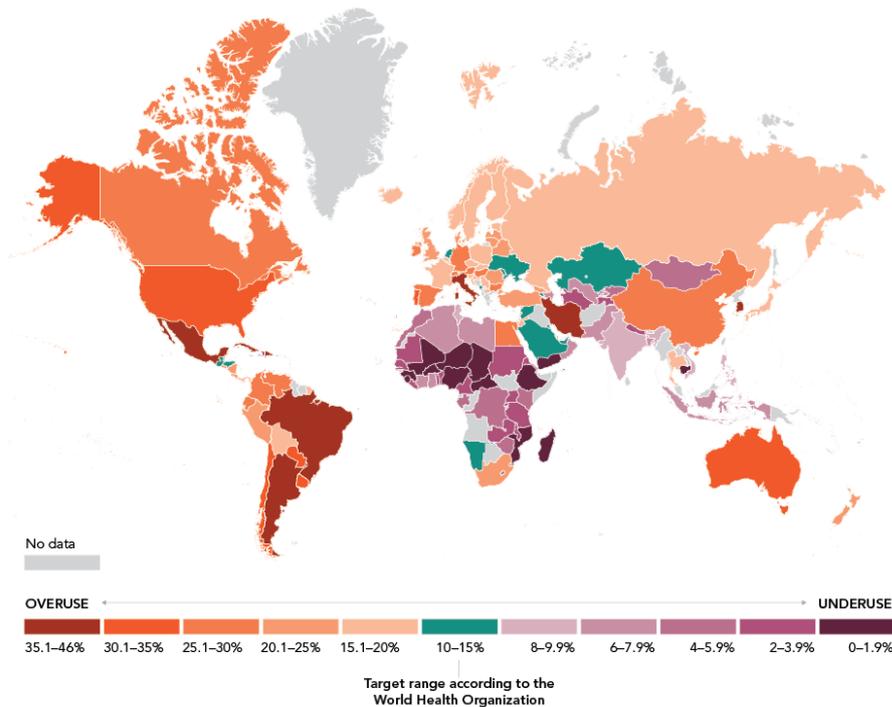
Often, cesarean sections are unquestionably life-saving for mothers and their babies. In other instances, however, they're performed unnecessarily on healthy, low-risk women who are capable of delivering vaginally. The reasons why are varied and contentious — including, but by no means limited to, hospital policies about how birth should unfold and [how quickly](#); the threat of malpractice and cultural norms. In Brazil — where the c-section rate in public hospitals is close to 50 percent, and as high as 82 percent in private hospitals — profiteering doctors schedule as many as eight of the procedures a day, according to a recent [Atlantic report](#).

Though there is no clear "ideal" rate, the United States has set a goal of lowering its rate by [10 percent by 2020](#), while the World Health Organization [has suggested](#) that rates should not exceed 15 percent of births. Here's how the world stacks up.

Where C-Section Rates Are Too High, And Too Low

The Atlantic calls Brazil's high C-section rate — 82 percent in the country's private hospitals — an "epidemic," driven in part by doctors that push interventions like labor-inducing drugs and painful episiotomies that can make C-sections feel like a welcome alternative. But Brazil isn't the only place in the world where the rates are too high, while elsewhere in the world access to C-sections is woefully scant.

Cesarean sections rates by country*



*Data for each country is from most recent year available

Source: World Health Organization

THE HUFFINGTON POST

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/16/c-section-rates_n_5161162.html. Acesso em: 05 de set. 2014.

Altair Faces Eviction - for the Third Time

DATA: 2014.04.22



The story of 60-year-old builder Altair Antunes Guimarães from Rio de Janeiro, illustrates a "collateral effect" of the mega-events in Rio that has fallen under the radar lately. With the first kick getting nearer -- less than 60 days now! -- people seem to have forgotten the thousands of families who at some point faced eviction to give way for the enlargement, improvement, or establishment of infrastructure for the 1-month tournament. The feeling is that the battles are lost to the construction companies, who indeed profited immensely during the construction of the stadiums -- and that families have by now resigned to leave their homes.

That's not the case with Altair and the 500 families who live in Vila Autodromo. Located in a very upscale region -- between the Autodrome and the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, the once-fisherman-village-turned-favela has been under threat of eviction since at least the mid-90s. The threats have come to stay since 2010 in preparation for the 2016 Olympic Games.

The government plans to build the Olympic Park nearby, and the public bid documents show the plan to build, in the very place where Altair and his community live, a 1-million square meters "high luxury condominium." "Why is that the rich people can live here, but the poor ones who already live can't stay?" asked Altair, who presides the resident's association, [during an interview](#) with Agencia Publica's reporter Ciro Barros.

And indeed, he has reasons to sigh since this is the third time he may be removed by Rio de Janeiro's government to make way for a city that has never cared about its older residents. He ended up in Vila Autodromo about a decade ago, when he and his family were evicted from suburban community City of God (yes, the same as in the movie) for the construction of a highway.

But before that, he faced his first eviction when he was only 14: his family had to leave the Ilha dos Caiçaras, in the south of the lovely Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, where he spent his childhood, and ended up in the very violent City of God. This time, he says, he and his neighbors will fight. And stay.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natalia-viana/rio-forced-eviction_b_5193838.html.
Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Violence Erupts In Rio Slum Near Olympic Venues

AP | By BRADLEY BROOKS

DATA: 2014.04.23

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A Rio de Janeiro slum erupted in violence late Tuesday following the killing of a popular local figure, with angry residents setting fires and showering homemade explosives and glass bottles onto a busy avenue in the city's main tourist zone.

Intense exchanges of gunfire were heard when members of an elite police moved into the Pavao-Pavaozinho slum, which lies a few hundred yards (meters) from where Olympic swimming events are expected to take place in 2016. Residents blame police for the killing of the local man, whose body was found earlier in the day.

The O Globo newspaper, citing local health officials, reported that another resident of the slum was shot and killed, and a 12-year-old boy shot and wounded, during Tuesday night's gunfire. It's not clear who fired the shots that hit either, nor did police confirm the reports.

It was the latest violence to hit one of Rio's so-called "pacified" slums — impoverished areas that for decades were controlled by drug gangs.

Police began an ambitious security program in 2008 to drive the gangs from such slums and for the first time set up permanent posts. It is part of Rio's overall security push ahead of the World Cup that begins this June and the Olympics the city will host.

So far, 37 such "police pacification units" have been created covering an area with a population of 1.5 million people.

But there have been repeated complaints of heavy-handed police tactics that have ended in the deaths of residents, and that is what set-off the latest clashes, resident said. More than two dozen police face charges from a high-profile case in a different shantytown, when investigators said a local man died while being tortured by police.

Slum residents have also lamented the lack of social services that had been promised to arrive along with the police presence in their communities.

Tuesday's violence erupted after the body of 25-year-old Douglas Rafael da Silva Pereira was found. He was a well-known figure in the community, as he was a dancer on a TV show for Brazil's Globo network, the nation's largest channel. The circumstances of his death aren't clear, but residents blame police.

"The police beat my friend to death, just like they've tortured and killed in other communities," said Johanas Mesquita, a 23-year-old resident of Pavao-Pavaozinho. "This effort to pacify the favelas is a failure, the police violence is only replacing what the drug gangs carried out before."

Police on the scene refused to answer questions about what prompted the violence. A spokeswoman reached by telephone said they didn't have an immediate statement.

Following the discovery of the body, angry young men began lighting fires throughout the slum and tossing homemade explosives, bottles and other objects down onto Copacabana's main avenues. Elite police units later entered the slum, and at least three prolonged exchanges of gunfire were heard,

presumably between officers and the drug gang members who continue to maintain a presence in the shantytown.

In recent months, drug gangs have brazenly attacked police outposts, in what authorities themselves say is an effort to block the expansion of the "pacification" program and to win back lucrative drug-selling territory.

Since November, gunfights have regularly broken out in the slum where Tuesday's violence took place.

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Follow Bradley Brooks on Twitter: www.twitter.com/bradleybrooks

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/23/rio-slum-violence_n_5198198.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Osama Bin Laden Bar In Brazil, With Lookalike Owner, Is All Kinds Of Offensive

The Huffington Post | By [Ron Dicker](#)

DATA: 2014.04.25

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCSPPOZU668>

Sometimes novelty doesn't translate.

World Cup-goers in Brazil this summer can take in a game and have a drink with an [Osama bin Laden lookalike](#) at his tavern, Bar do Bin Laden.

Realizing that he looked like the now-dead al Qaeda leader, owner Ceará Francisco Helder Braga Fernandes renamed his Sao Paulo club and [put up at least 100 photos of himself](#) in his bin Laden getup, posing with patrons, according to What About Sao Paulo blogger Andrew Creelman.

(Story continues below.)



"I'm not gonna lie; the pride this guy has about being a Bin Laden lookalike is pretty unsettling," Creelman wrote. "Interestingly, he is on every picture on the wall except one. Wanna know who that picture is of? Well if you guessed Jesus Christ, you'd be absolutely right! I left there feeling pretty confused!"

News site Vocativ said the owner first noticed he bore a resemblance to bin Laden when [motorcyclists began snapping pictures of him](#) just weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in the United States. When he asked the bikers why they were clicking away, they told him he looked like bin Laden. The apolitical Fernandes saw a marketing opportunity and replaced the name of his club, Barbas (Whiskers), with its current title.

"I am a man of good will. I can't stand violence," Fernandes, 54, told Vocativ. "But this was great for business. No one calls me Francisco anymore. It's Osama or bin Laden."

Fernandes got extra publicity for [hugging a President Obama lookalike](#) in a moment eventually posted on YouTube. (*See video below.*)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbgwrrGs9mg>

Believe it or not, the bin Laden concept has caught on. Now there are about a dozen establishments in Brazil named after him, including a restaurant called Bin Laden and Family, according to Vocativ.

Crazy, yes. But is it any crazier than a [KFC-styled Hitler fried chicken restaurant?](#)



Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/25/osama-bin-laden-bar_n_5207148.html.
Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

HuffPost Live Discusses Being Gay Or Trans In Brazil

The Huffington Post | By [James Nichols](#)

DATA: 2014.04.28

HuffPost Live sat down with Brasil Post's Social Media and Trends Editor Thiago Araújo this week to discuss what it's like to be gay or transgender while living in Brazil.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) identity is still highly stigmatized in Brazil, particularly for individuals who identify as transgender. As a part of this discussion Araújo shared with HuffPost Live the bleak reality and limited life choices that trans people in Brazil face.

"[Trans people] have two types of lives here: they can be hairdressers or they can be prostitutes. It's awful. I wrote a story at the beginning of the year that every 28 hours someone that's gay in Brazil dies in Brazil. If you look just at the trans community, I don't know the exact number but it's one of the countries that it's most dangerous to be [transgender]."

Check out the above clip to hear Araújo discuss life for gay individuals in Brazil and below to hear a conversation about Brazilian transgender identity.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/28/gay-trans-brazil_n_5227017.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Blackwater and the World Cup

DATA: 2014.04.30

The U.S. private security contractor Academi has trained Brazilian police forces for the World Cup, according to an article published by journalist Patricia Campos Melo, of newspaper Folha de S Paulo. A group of 22 federal policemen as well as military policemen from different states were sent to the Academi training center in Moyock, in North Carolina, where they were taught anti-terrorism techniques in the largest private training center in the United States, that includes scenario facilities, four ship-boarding simulators, two airfields and three drop-zones. According to Lieutenant Ricardo Nogueira, of the Sao Paulo Police, the course -- named "Maritime Interdiction of terrorism" -- focused on the US experience in fighting terrorism.

But if you have never heard of Academi, don't worry. I am sure you know who I am talking about. Academi is the company formerly known as Blackwater, one of the biggest U.S. contractors in the early stages of the occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan under billion-dollar military Defense Department contracts. The company is accused of killing 17 Iraqis in a massacre in Nisour square in 2007 and of other misdeeds that led to two changes of its name in the past 5 years.

This is the same company that trained the Greek police forces for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, a prominent player in a security market that covers from the protection of sensitive infrastructure like mines in Africa, to secure compounds in Afghanistan, and of course security of mega events. Most of the employees are former soldiers, and the proximity with the U.S. government means that many sensitive tasks -- from training foreign forces to protecting foreign diplomats -- are third parties to them.

As Wikileaks documents showed back in 2010, the U.S. has vamped up its assistance on anti-terrorism for the World Cup because it saw a high risk of danger -- and also a great business opportunity for its companies. However, opacity surrounds this support; the total investment of the U.S. embassy in the training was only revealed now -- U.S.\$ 2,2 million over the past 2 years. The deal was never publicized in full, and many questions remain. The Ministry of Justice is yet to explain for instance, how many courses were funded by the U.S., and who were the trainers -- U.S. military? Mercenaries?

And more importantly: in a country with a poignant track record of police torture and abuse, and no history of terrorism-related activities, is this the kind of training our police should be getting?

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natalia-viana/blackwater-world-cup_b_5242515.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Police: Tossed Toilet Bowl Killed Soccer Fan At Stadium In Brazil

AP | By STAN LEHMAN

DATA: 2014.05.03



SAO PAULO (AP) — A Brazilian soccer fan was killed when he was struck in the head by a toilet bowl hurled from stadium stands as supporters of rival clubs clashed in the northeastern World Cup host city of Recife, police said Saturday.

Also this weekend, authorities detained more than 40 people because of fan fighting outside the stadium that will host World Cup matches in the nearby city of Natal.

A police officer in Recife said the death occurred on Friday at Arruda Stadium after a second-division match between Santa Cruz and visiting Parana. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

The officer said fans ripped three toilet bowls out of stadium restrooms and threw them from the stands. He said one hit and instantly killed a fan he identified as Paulo Ricardo Gomes da Silva.

The incident comes six weeks before Brazil hosts the World Cup. Five tournament games will be played in Recife, although none at the Arruda. The city will host World Cup matches at the new Arena Pernambuco.

The Brazilian soccer federation said it was "preventively closing" the Arruda until authorities finish their investigation and a sports tribunal makes a ruling on the case.

In Natal, fans clashed before a match between rival clubs ABC and America in a test event at the Arena das Dunas on Saturday.

Police officer Roberto Andrade told the UOL website that the fighting began when a small group of America fans crossed into the path of ABC supporters on their way to the stadium. The ABC fans went after the rival group, throwing rocks and pieces of wood at them until officials intervened.

Andrade said fans from both clubs were detained and taken to a police station for interrogation.

The match marked the only official test event at the Arena das Dunas before the World Cup in June. The stadium will host four tournament matches.

Violence involving fan groups are common in Brazil, and the number of incidents escalated last year.

FIFA and Brazilian authorities have downplayed concerns about violence inside stadiums during the World Cup, saying security will be heightened and such incidents were related mostly to club matches.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/03/tossed-toilet-bowl-kills-fan_n_5259680.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Brazil's World Cup Conundrum

DATA: 2014.05.05



Photo: Fernando Henrique C. de Oliveira via Flickr

As the June 12 World Cup edges dangerously close, all heads have turned to its host country, Brazil, in anticipation of an atmosphere of extravagance, excitement and enticement. With expectations running high, is Brazil prepared to take on the burden and honor of the 2014 World Cup, or has it set itself up for disappointment and chaos?

Sluggish construction pace

With less than two months to go, construction workers are frantically putting the last touches on several stadiums and airports, while others stand little chance of being finished before the opening ceremony.

A reason for delays can be linked to FIFA's demands to increase the venues from eight to 12, due to the domestic political situation in Brazil.

And it is the Brazilian government that is bearing the grunt of this requirement, meaning more stadiums will be built from scratch with public funds that would have been better used for public service works and durable infrastructure. Moreover, stadiums built in locations such as Brasilia and Manaus will only be used several times during the Cup only to be later abandoned. FIFA President Sepp Blatter expressed deep dissatisfaction with the project, claiming that local authorities were to blame for failing to start work on the projects and stadiums sooner and called it "the most delayed world cup [] seen at FIFA."

All these delays come with a hefty price tag. While the initial bid for the Brazil World Cup stood at \$1 billion, this has since risen to over \$8 billion. It all adds up to \$62 million per each football match, a staggering sum for a country that lacks basic infrastructure and suffers from poor public services. Back in 2007, then-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva promised that private companies would largely fund the World Cup projects. However, it is now evident that the government's public purse is footing the large portion of the bill, fueling public anger and resentment towards FIFA. For example, lavish spending on stadiums has caused many to advocate for "hospitals and schools in FIFA standards."

"We don't need the World Cup"

For an event of great stature and pride, the expected violence and protests in Brazil are likely to put a damper on the event. The population, angered by the inadequacy of public services, and flashy investments in one-time extravagant stadiums, are certainly not enthused to host the event. Support for hosting the World Cup stands at a measly 52 percent, rather sad for a country that prides itself on being "the kingpin of FIFA world cup soccer."

Angered mobs of Brazilians, few of whom can even afford tickets to the overpriced event, will likely pose a security threat around the stadiums, as was witnessed during the Confederation Cup of June 2013. During the event, rising bus prices forced millions onto the street to fight for improved public services and shout against the government's pricey upgrades for the World Cup.

Indeed, many of the infrastructure projects -- such as the light-rail system -- that were meant to bring long-term benefits to Brazil's hosting cities have been neglected in a last-ditch attempt to get prime infrastructure for the events completed. Transportation delays, already common in Brazil, will likely increase in the wake of 600,000 expected tourists on top of the 3 million local visitors, causing further security disruptions.

The hefty media presence at the event will mean greater exposure for protestors and their demands. The government, well aware of this potential negative backlash has made contingency plans, but security is likely to be stretched thin. For starters, the Pacification program launched in 2010 has been successful in taking back almost 38 "favelas" (slums) from guerilla groups and drug traffickers and placing them under the protection of community police forces.

In preparation for the events, the government has authorized 150,000 trained professionals from the armed forces to patrol the more troublesome neighborhoods. However, given complaints of police brutality and human rights abuses, the presence of security professionals in the favelas will likely spark more outrage from its residents. Despite the Brazilian government's assertions that, "the World Cup in Brazil will be the safest" on record, recent violent outbreaks between gangsters and police strongly undermine this statement.

Efforts to "pacify" these neighborhoods have for the most part been welcomed by local communities tired of the favela fighting. But while the project has turned some of these slums into safer neighborhoods, violence and protests continue. Local drug traffickers continue attempts to gain back territory from police forces, while others protest continued water shortages, lack of sewage systems, and social infrastructure that the program failed to follow up on.

Big price to pay

With all this money spent and chaos seamed, what will Brazil be getting in return? In the long term, not a whole lot. While the World Cup does create a standing legacy for the Latin American country, its economic benefits are often exaggerated. Jobs that will be created in its wake will likely remain on a non-permanent basis and will only be concentrated in those cities where the games are to take place.

It is not surprising that the support for the event is so low. When the games will be over and the tourists will have scattered, instead of new hospitals, Brazil's cities will be left with useless first-class stadiums, some of which will never see a football match again.

These problems have a global significance and point to a troubling trend in the organization of mega-scale events such as the World Cup and the Olympics. Despite bringing reputation and glory, these competitions often put a great financial burden on the host country, while striving to meet the excessively flamboyant requirement of the committees. Brazil, like many others in the past, will pay a big price for its hosting of the World Cup this year and the Olympics in 2016.

In their book, *Soccernomics*, Simon Kuper and Stefan Szymanski argue that the Brazilian World Cup will likely see wealth transferred from Brazil to a number of interest groups such as football clubs and private companies. Taxpayers will see their hard-earned reals awarded to special interests within and outside the country, rather than to the population and the country's long-term development. In this sense, "Brazil is sacrificing a little bit of its future to host the World Cup."

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rafael-salazar/brazils-world-cup-conundrum_b_5267708.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Eighth Worker Dies During World Cup Stadium Construction In Brazil

AP | By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON

DATA: 2014.05.08



SAO PAULO (AP) — A worker at a World Cup stadium in Brazil died Thursday in an electrical accident, temporarily interrupting construction at one of the most-delayed venues only five weeks before the soccer tournament.

Rosenil Moraes, head of emergency services in the western state of Mato Grosso, said the construction worker received an electric shock at the site of Arena Pantanal in the wetlands city of Cuiaba. He died more than half an hour later of a cardiorespiratory arrest. Officials were not clear on what caused the accident.

It is the latest accident to tarnish World Cup preparations, marking the eighth death from injuries while building stadiums for the world's biggest soccer tournament. His death comes at a worrisome time as organizers rush to finish the last three stadiums ahead of the opening match on June 12.

Moraes said paramedics unsuccessfully tried to revive 32-year-old Muhammad Ali Maciel Afonso at the stadium, which is still missing seats because of delivery delays.

"Our workers followed all the protocols and tried to revive him for more than 40 minutes. But he didn't survive," said Moraes.

Afonso was working for a company called Etel Engineering that is setting up the information and communication networks at the stadium. The firm has not issued a statement, saying it needed to gather more information first.

Local World Cup organizers said Mato Grosso state police are at the scene investigating what could have sparked the electric shock around the stadium's skybox. They say that so far it looks like an isolated incident.

World Cup organizers in Cuiaba offered their "solidarity to Afonso's family" in a news statement and said they "will wait for the police investigation into the causes of the accident."

Police officers sealed off the area where Afonso died, temporarily halting the networks installation at Arena Pantanal. But officials say the construction continues in the rest of the stadium to make sure it will meet the World Cup deadline.

Emergency services' Moraes said the company is also carrying out an investigation into what went wrong. Officials said the worker appeared to be using safety equipment when he suffered the electric shock.

The accident happened only hours before President Dilma Rouseff toured another stadium still under construction in Sao Paulo in an attempt to soothe fears over delays that could interfere with the matches.

In 2012, a worker died at the construction site of the stadium in the nation's capital, Brasilia. Three workers have died at Sao Paulo's Itaquerao venue in two separate accidents, and three have been killed from injuries suffered at the Arena da Amazonia in the jungle city of Manaus. One of them was a 55-year-old Portuguese man who was trying to disassemble a crane when part of the machine struck his head.

Adriana Gomez Licon is on Twitter <http://twitter.com/agomezlicon>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/08/world-cup-brazil-worker-dies_n_5290760.html. Acesso em: 05 de set. 2014.

Homeless Blame World Cup For High Rent In Brazil

AP | By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON

DATA: 2014.05.08

SAO PAULO (AP) — Thousands of impoverished Brazilians are living illegally on land near the World Cup stadium where the opening match will be played next month, blaming the arena's construction for rent increases that drove them out of their homes.

Braving insects, little food and a lack of privacy, the families seized a field nestled in the green hills of eastern Sao Paulo forming a village 2 miles (3.5 kilometers) away from the stadium built for the sports' biggest tournament.

The new residents have shoveled dirt, hammered wooden stakes into the ground and fastened tarps and plastic bags to makeshift frames to improvise a tent city. The still-under-construction Itaquerao stadium hovers like a flying saucer on the horizon, just beyond a wall of trees.

The approximately 5,000 people who invaded this private property say rising rents are a result of World Cup real-estate fever in the neighborhood around the stadium.

But the occupation has come to symbolize Brazil's persistent income disparity and the frustration that the country's poor feel as the government focuses its spending on world-class arenas rather than providing more affordable housing and improving woeful schools, hospitals and other public works.

"We are not against the World Cup," insisted Rita de Cassia, a 35-year-old nurse who says her landlord doubled the rent on her one-bedroom house nearby, driving her family out of their home. "We are against how they are trying to belittle us. They are giving priority to soccer and forgetting about the families, about the Brazilian people."

The mother of three says her cabinetmaker husband is unemployed and they are living off her \$350 monthly salary, which she had used to pay about \$110 a month in rent.

But their landlord notified them earlier this year that the rent on their home in the Itaquera neighborhood was being raised to \$220.

"We just don't have that kind of money," she said. "We wouldn't have clothes. We wouldn't have food."

She joined the thousands of others organized by a group called the Homeless Workers Movement, which has been helping the families set up the tents.

Robson Goncalves, one of the movement's leaders overseeing the occupation dubbed "The People's Cup," says he doesn't know who owns the land that measures about 37 acres (150,000 square meters). He said it has been abandoned for two decades, and noted that no one has claimed it since the families began squatting on it last weekend.

"Ever since they started building that stadium, property owners started overselling. This area is really becoming affordable only to the upper class," Goncalves said.

The leader said the government should redistribute the property for subsidized housing and cited a federal program that has built hundreds of thousands of houses for families eligible for low-interest rate mortgages.

Sao Paulo mayor Fernando Haddad has told local media he's studying how to register the land so the families could move there legally. But critics say other people are already waiting for a government funded house or apartment in Sao Paulo, which has a housing deficit of 230,000 homes.

Some experts question whether the World Cup is really to blame for rising rents near the stadium.

Pedro Taddei Neto, an architect and urban planning expert from the University of Sao Paulo, said the World Cup hype won't leave a lasting impact on real-estate prices.

He said rent increases in Itaquera reflect speculation about future development in the industrial suburb and may be related to a nationwide real estate boom and inflation in Latin America's biggest economy.

"Of course, there's a lot of speculation. It's inevitable. The World Cup is around the corner and it worries these people," he said. "Once the World Cup is over, we will go back to reality."

Meanwhile, those in the squatter village try to get on their uprooted lives.

On a recent day, a boy pushed his friend in a wheelbarrow, while a little girl hugged her mother's thigh as strangers passed. One woman dried her hair with a towel after taking a shower at the communal bathroom while another cooked the last of the 60 kilos (132 pounds) of rice she prepared for the residents that day.

"The government might want to treat us like we are anarchists, disruptive, but we are families," said De Cassia. "You think that I want to have a girl as little as mine in the streets? No. I just deserve my rights."

Adriana Gomez Licon is on Twitter <http://twitter.com/agomezlicon>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/08/brazil-homeless-world-cup_n_5287336.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

The Secret Brazil Happy Meal McDonald's Keeps Under Wraps

Bloomberg

DATA: 2014.05.13



Looking for a traditional Brazilian dish of rice and beans while in town for the World Cup? Try McDonald's.

[Read the whole story at Bloomberg](#)

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/13/the-secret-brazil-happy-m_n_5315303.html. Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

The World Cup Is Just A Month Away But Brazil Still Isn't Ready

AP | By TALES AZZONI

DATA: 2014.05.13

SAO PAULO (AP) — It's all coming down to the final 30 days.

Brazil had seven years to get ready for the World Cup, but it enters the final month of preparations with a lot yet to be done.

Three stadiums are still under construction, some of the temporary structures needed for matches are delayed and it remains unclear if all cities will have time to organize the mandatory fanfests.

It's already known that not all infrastructure will be completed no matter how much organizers rush before the June 12 opener. The government acknowledges that communications inside stadiums won't be perfect, unfinished airports remain a concern and there are widespread threats of violent protests by Brazilians complaining about the billions of dollars spent to organize the tournament.

Brazilian officials guarantee everything will be fine. FIFA remains concerned.

"All arrangements are being made to guarantee a successful tournament," says Brazil's sports ministry, which is in charge of getting the country ready for the World Cup. "The meetings to finalize the operational plans in the varied areas involved in the event's preparations will be concluded this week in all 12 host cities."

Jerome Valcke, secretary general for soccer's governing body, says there's no time to waste.

"I would not say it's not ready, but it's not finished," he said recently.

"You feel that the competition is coming, so there is an excitement," Valcke told FIFA.com. "In the meantime, it's important to test everything and making sure it's working. The pressure is there to make sure we will be perfectly ready."

The local governments have the responsibility of making sure everything is working to receive the hundreds of thousands of visitors expected for the monthlong tournament, from transportation to public services to security.

FIFA is worried mostly about the stadiums where the 64 matches will be played. It wanted all venues completed by the end of last year, but Brazil was not able to get half of them ready in time. Many will not host all the test events that were planned.

Among the three stadiums under construction is the Itaquerao, where the opener between Brazil and Croatia will be played. There will be some 14,000 guests among the nearly 70,000 people in attendance, including many heads of state.

Some of the 20,000 temporary seats needed for the opener are still being installed, and the only official test event planned for the Itaquerao takes place Sunday, about three weeks before the opener. It won't even happen in front of a full crowd, with only 40,000 fans allowed into the venue.

"For the World Cup it will all be 100 percent ready," said Andres Sanchez, who is in charge of the stadium's construction.

Another unfinished stadium is the Arena da Baixada in the southern city of Curitiba, which was nearly excluded from the tournament by FIFA this year. The first full test at the venue is scheduled for this week.

"There were some setbacks in some of these stadiums," said Brazil's Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo, who has been arduously downplaying the delays. "Everything will be ready."

There is also concern with the temporary structures at the Beira-Rio Stadium in southern Porto Alegre, and the other incomplete venue is the Arena Pantanal in the western city of Cuiaba, which is only expected to host an official test event at the end of the month.

Cuiaba is one of the cities where authorities acknowledge some infrastructure work planned for the World Cup will not be ready. Projects also won't be done in many other cities, including at airports that will be crucial for the travel of teams and fans.

In the northeastern city of Recife, local authorities still haven't found private partners to host the fanfest, which allows fans without tickets to watch matches for free on large screens in public areas. FIFA has threatened to sue the cities that don't organize the event.

Brazil was the sole candidate when it was selected as host in 2007, but it took a long time before any World Cup work began.

"It is difficult. Maybe we should have involved the Brazilian government before," said Valcke, who recently acknowledged that FIFA has learned lessons from all the problems in Brazil and "will act differently" in Russia in four years.

Brazil is scrambling in great part because it pushed to stage the tournament in 12 cities instead of the eight that FIFA wanted. Brazilian federation president Ricardo Teixeira, who resigned in 2012 while implicated in taking tens of millions of dollars in kickbacks from World Cup deals, made the push mostly to please his political supporters at the time.

Brazil's is expected to spend \$11.7 billion on the World Cup, although the government says that long term the country could receive an economic boost of as much as \$180 billion.

The high costs, blamed in part by the late rush to get projects done, ignited a wave of public criticism from a population already tired of poor public services and widespread corruption. Many of the protests during last year's Confederations Cup were aimed at FIFA, and more are expected next month.

"It is easy to criticize FIFA, it's easy to use the Confederations Cup or World Cup to organize demonstrations," Valcke said. "But the target is wrong if the target is that FIFA are the reason for what's happening in a country. If a country is bidding for a World Cup, it's with the idea of developing the country and not with the idea of destroying the country."

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/13/brazil-world-cup-not-ready_n_5316757.html. Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

In Brazil, Protesters And Government Prepare To Face Off Ahead Of The World Cup

Brasil Post | By [Diego Iraheta](#)

DATA: 2014.05.14



The World Cup is a mere 30 days away, and the #NãovaiTerCopa (#ThereWillBeNoCup) movement persists. While large numbers of Brazilians will be watching the matches, different groups will be carrying out protests against the World Cup. Aware of a possible repeat of June 2013, the federal government is preparing to crack down on possible acts of vandalism and prevent Brazil's image from being tarnished in front of tourists and the foreign press.

"It is certain that there will be demonstrations, but we are not able to discern their magnitude," says political scientist Carlos Melo, from Insper, a research and education institute in Sao Paulo. He explains that today, dissatisfied sectors of the population are able to connect more easily through social networks, and get involved in worldwide events such as the Arab Spring, Occupy Wall Street and #vempraruva (#cometothestreets) in Brazil.

Many groups are currently planning protests throughout the country. In Rio de Janeiro, the Independent Popular Front invokes an "artistic scream" against the Cup through a festival of performances and cultural interventions that will take place on Friday May 16.

In Sao Paulo, the next event will be held on Thursday May 15, organized by the Sao Paulo Popular Committee of the World Cup. The commission, which calls itself nonpartisan, is leading a front for the "international struggle against the FIFA Cup."

Twenty-year-old student Fabricio Mendes plans to take part in new events of the #NãovaiTerCopa movement in São Paulo, including during the World Cup. As a militant of the Housing for All movement, he criticizes the billions spent to host the competition and the property seizures that occurred to build stadiums.

"At the moment, the World Cup is not a necessity; Brazil should have other priorities, such as housing and health care for the population," he argues.

However, participation in the protests or to the events set up through Facebook is much lower than that recorded in last year's demonstrations. By the time this article was published, just over 3,500 had confirmed presence in the events in Sao Paulo and 1,000 in the ones in Rio. An average of 2,000 people in the city of Sao Paulo have taken to the streets in organized acts over the last six months, according to Brasil Post.

The number of protesters is much smaller than in June last year, when approximately 100,000 participated in protests in Sao Paulo alone.

International Protests

The Popular Committee of the World Cup prepared a report in English spreading a rather pessimistic message about the championship abroad. According to the document, the 2014 World Cup has caused the deaths of workers, sexual exploitation of children and teenagers, violence against homeless people and the expulsion of 250,000 people from the area where they lived due to the construction of the different stadiums.

The Anarchist Black Cross group of Rio de Janeiro organized a European "tour" against the World Cup. The collective has already been to France, Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic and Poland to explain the conflicts at stake to foreign militants.

On May 12, a violent protest took place in Berlin. The Brazilian Embassy in the German capital was targeted by a hooded group of radical leftists. The embassy was stoned, and the perpetrators published a manifesto online stating that the act was against World Cup overspending.

For political scientist David Fleischer, professor at the University of Brasilia, the demonstrations in Brazil will be worse this year, compared to the ones during the Confederations Cup last year.

"The whole world will be watching -- which is an incentive to large, expansive and violent protests," he explains.

Demobilization Strategy

To avoid the chaos generated by demonstrations, the federal government is working on two fronts. The first is equipping security forces to ensure repression of vandalism. The second is the demobilization of street protests.

Authorities in the capital Brasilia try to give the World Cup the typical festive imprint, characteristic of competition seasons, in order to minimize the events that oppose it.

"Soccer is part of Brazil's national identity," said the Sports Ministry, in a statement sent to Brasil Post on May 12. "When the delegations will arrive, and the start date of the championship will approach, a festive mood will take over and there will be no room for violent protests."

Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo asserted early March that the number of protests would decrease during the World Cup.

"People will be more concerned with celebrating rather than protesting," he said in an interview with BBC Brazil.

Alongside the upbeat talk about national unity, the federal and state governments will employ other devices to deflate the protests.

"Full or partial holidays will be proclaimed to get people out of the streets, to relieve the pressure," says political scientist Carlos Melo, from Insper.

Repression Against Vandalism

The government estimates it will spend billions on security for the World Cup. The money will be invested in protecting stadiums, delegations and players. But a crackdown on the most enthusiastic protesters is also among the options being contemplated by the federal government.

"Violence, vandalism and looting is illegal and can't be tolerated," said a spokesperson for the Ministry of Sports, in a statement sent to Brasil Post. The ministry stressed that the right to demonstrations will be respected, as long as people go to the streets "peacefully."

According to the G1 website, the military police increased their stock of non-lethal weapons for the Cup. From June 2013, when the demonstrations erupted, to April this year, more than 270,000 grenades and tear gas canisters were purchased.

Partnerships with state departments of security and with other countries were signed by the federal government.

"Brazil has proven that it has institutions to rise to this challenge by successfully carrying out major events in the past year, such as the Confederations Cup and the World Youth Day," says the Ministry of Sport.

This piece was translated from Portuguese and originally appeared on [Brasil Post](#).

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/14/brazil-world-cup-tension_n_5325871.html. Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

Some Brazil World Cup Cities Face Dengue Fever Threat, Scientists Warns

Reuters

DATA: 2014.05.16

LONDON, May 17 (Reuters) - The risk of an outbreak of dengue fever during the upcoming soccer World Cup in Brazil is serious enough to warrant a high alert in three of the 12 host cities, according to an early warning system for the disease.

Scientists who developed the system said the overall threat of the disease during the month-long competition was low, but they warned that the northeastern venues of Natal, Fortaleza and Recife there faced a serious risk.

Dengue, sometimes called breakbone fever because of the severe pain it can cause, is a viral infection transmitted by a type of mosquito called *Aedes aegypti*. It can range from a mild, flu-like illness to a potentially deadly one, which develops in around 5 percent of patients. There are no vaccines or effective treatments.

Brazil has more cases of dengue fever than anywhere else in the world. More than 7 million infections were recorded between 2000 and 2013.

Rachel Lowe, from the Catalan Institute of Climate Sciences in Barcelona, who helped develop the warning system, said the possibility of an outbreak during the World Cup large enough to infect visitors and spread back to their home countries will depend on a combination of factors.

This include having large numbers of mosquitoes, a susceptible population and a high rate of mosquito-human contact, she said.

"Our aim was to take the available evidence on real-time seasonal rainfall and temperature forecasts, transmission dynamics, and social and environmental variables and combine it with the latest in mapping and mathematical modeling to produce robust risk estimates for the 12 host cities," she said.

The results, published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal on Saturday, showed the overall risk of an outbreak is low in the host cities of Brasilia, Cuiaba, Curitiba, Porto Alegre, and Sao Paulo. But it increases in cities like Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Salvador and Manaus.

The cities with the highest risk are Natal, Fortaleza, and Recife, Lowe said.

"The ability to provide early warnings of dengue epidemics at the microregion level, three months in advance, is invaluable for reducing or containing an epidemic and will give local authorities the time to combat mosquito populations in those cities with a greater chance of dengue outbreaks," she said. (Reporting by Kate Kelland, editing by Larry King)

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/16/scientists-warn-of-dengue_n_5340766.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

World Cup Stadium Construction Won't Be Finished In Time For Opening Game In Brazil

AP | By TALES AZZONI

DATA: 2014.05.16



SAO PAULO (AP) — The roof of the stadium hosting the World Cup opener in a few weeks will not be fully finished in time for the tournament, constructors said Friday.

Construction company Odebrecht confirmed that a part of the roof at the Itaquerao will only be completed after the World Cup.

There was not enough time to install the glass covers that were supposed to be added to the stadium's roofing structure, so Odebrecht and local organizers decided to postpone the work until after the tournament.

Odebrecht said the missing covers will not affect fans watching matches in the stadium, although it appears from photos that more people would be covered from rain if they were in place.

Also Friday, the company in charge of 20,000 temporary seats needed for the opener said it successfully addressed all health and safety issues that had prompted prosecutors to threaten to halt work at the venue.

Odebrecht said in an email sent to The Associated Press that "the glass covers will only be installed after the World Cup" because "transparency studies" were still being finalized to make sure the covers can allow the passage of the proper amount of light needed to "preserve the pitch in good conditions."

The metal structures where the glasses have to be installed are in place but they will be empty by the time the nearly 70,000 fans and guests arrive for the high-profile opener between Brazil and Croatia on June 12. The venue will host five World Cup matches, including one of the semifinals.

Odebrecht said the roof itself is ready and guaranteed that the covers are not essential, even though they were part of the initial project.

The company had already said that not all fans in the temporary seats behind the goals will be fully covered from rain.

The local World Cup organizing committee said it was not a requirement to have stadiums with all of their seats covered.

"The architectural project of the Arena de Sao Paulo, as of the other 11 stadiums, is not intended to have 100 percent of the fans protected from rain," the committee said in a statement. "That is only possible in stadiums completely covered."

FIFA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Itaquerao is one of the three stadiums yet to be completed ahead of the World Cup. Late last year, two workers died after a crane collapsed while hoisting a huge roofing structure, causing significant construction delays at the venue that was expected to be ready by the end of last year.

In March, another worker died while installing the temporary seats there, prompting labor officials to halt construction and causing another delay.

On Thursday, prosecutors said they found health and safety irregularities at the Itaquerao and threatened to stop the installation of the temporary seats that are still missing. The company in charge of the work, Fast Engenharia, said Friday that it addressed all the problems pointed by prosecutors and dismissed the possibility of another work stoppage.

In his latest visit to Brazil last month, FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke said there was "not a minute" to waste if local organizers wanted to make sure the Itaquerao was ready for the opener.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/16/world-cup-stadium-roof_n_5340357.html.
Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

Protest and Human Rights Shape Debate on Awarding of Mega Events

DATA: 2014.05.17

Mass protests against Brazil's hosting of the World Cup, Turkey's loss of opportunities to host sports events and controversy over 2022 World Cup host Qatar's labour system are impacting the global sports world's thinking about the requirements future hosts will have to meet. The impact is likely to go far beyond sporting and infrastructure concerns and raise the stakes for future hosts.

Qatar is under increasing pressure to overhaul its kafala or labour sponsorship system denounced by the United Nations and labour and human rights activists as violations of international human rights standards.

The Gulf state potentially risks losing its hosting rights if it fails to demonstrate rigorous enforcement of existing rules and regulations and enact radical reforms.

The Qatar controversy illustrates the risk both potential hosts groups such as world soccer governing body FIFA and the International Olympic Committee shoulder with the awarding of tournaments to nondemocratic or authoritarian-run nations. FIFA has been heavily criticized for its awarding of the tournament to Qatar.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter this week described the awarding to Qatar as a "mistake." FIFA later tried to soften the impact of Mr. Blatter's statement by saying he was referring to the fact that the awarding disregarded a negative FIFA technical assessment that warned about the country's bruising summer temperatures.

"Of course it was a mistake. You know, one makes a lot of mistakes in life. The technical report indicated clearly that it was too hot in summer, but despite that the executive committee decided, with quite a big majority, that the tournament would be in Qatar," Mr. Blatter said, sparking a soccer diplomacy spat, by charging that pressure by the governments of France and Germany as a result of commercial interests had contributed to the success of the Qatari bid.

In doing so, Mr. Blatter perhaps unwittingly raised the question what the drivers for the awarding of sports mega events should be. "We know perfectly well that big French companies and big German companies have interests in Qatar. But they are not only involved in the World Cup," Mr. Blatter said. France and Germany have denied his allegation.

Qatar, meanwhile, is caught in a Catch-22: its international image and the achievement of its soft power policy goals demand swift and decisive action; its domestic politics necessitate a more gradual approach.

The risks in hosting mega events are for Qatar and other Middle Eastern and North African nations particularly high given that their significant investment is designed to achieve more than country branding and international projection and the creation of commercial and other opportunities.

Mega events serve them as a tool to build soft power either as part of a defense and security strategy designed to compensate for the inability to acquire the hard power necessary to defend themselves or as a way of increasing international willingness to provide economic and political support in difficult geopolitical circumstances.

Mass protests in Brazil against the World Cup, the first time a sporting association, FIFA, and an event, became the target of the protest rather than its vehicle, have further pinpointed the need to obtain public buy-in as part of the awarding process to prevent mega events from being mired in controversy and social protest. Brazil hosts this year's World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games.

Finally, brutal police response to protests and a series of authoritarian measures to control the media, the Internet and the judiciary have cost Turkey the chance to host the 2020 Olympics as well as EURO 2020, reinforcing that fact that mega sports events cannot be viewed independently of a country's domestic policies.

Qatar however, provides the foremost case study to date of what potential future hosts of mega events may expect. Qatar has garnered significant credibility by becoming since the awarding of the World Cup the first Gulf state to engage with its critics and work with them to address issues.

Yet, at the same time its credibility is being called into question by a history of promises on which it has yet to make good. Qatari institutions have in the past three years adopted lofty principles in response to criticism of its labour system, pledged to incorporate these into World Cup-related contracts and stepped up enforcement of existing rules and regulations. Those promises and principles have yet to be incorporated into law.

At the same time, promises pre-dating the awarding of the World Cup such as a pledge in 2008 to introduce a law governing the rights of domestic workers have yet to be fulfilled. Human rights and trade unionists have charged that the promise this week to overhaul the kafala system, while easing some restrictions on workers' rights appear to be more of a relabeling exercise than a radical reform, much like Formula-1 host Bahrain did several years ago.

Qatar's lesson for future host is that putting a country's warts on public display is risky if it is unwilling or unable to proactively tackle sensitive domestic issues.

The Jordanian hosts of last week's Asian Forum of Soccerex, a major sports business conference that expanded into Asia for the first time, appear to have recognized which way the wind is blowing. Recognizing that global soccer governance and business is focused on the top end of professional soccer, they introduced debates on issues such as grassroots and women's soccer into the debate.

The Jordanians are also looking at including preparations for future World Cups in forthcoming Soccerex gatherings.

Hosting the conference is part of a Jordanian effort to project itself as a significant and progressive player in international sports. Jordan is scheduled to host the 2016 Under-17 Women's World Cup.

Said Jordanian Prince Ali Al Hussein, the Soccerex conference's host and a vice-president of FIFA: "Football is not just a sport but a tool to improve society."

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Follow James Dorsey on Twitter: www.twitter.com/mideastsoccer

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/james-dorsey/protest-and-human-rights_b_5343985.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Brazil Prison Revolt Ends As Inmates Release Hostages And Officials Agree To Transfers

AP

DATA: 2014.05.18

SAO PAULO (AP) — Inmates released four prison officers Sunday after holding them hostage for more than a day during an uprising at a Brazilian penitentiary in the northeastern city of Aracaju. Authorities said they had met the rebellious inmates' main demand that some prisoners be transferred to other jails.

Nearly 130 relatives of prisoners who had arrived Saturday for visits at the prison and got caught up in the uprising were also allowed to leave, said Mauricio Lunes, commanding officer for the military police in the state of Sergipe, home to Aracaju.

Legal counsel Sandra Melo said the family members had not been threatened, but they were trapped while inmates held the prison officers hostage. Melo is the legal adviser for the company Fundacao Reviver, which runs the Advogado Antonio Jacinto Filho prison complex housing 476 inmates.

Lunes said officials agreed to transfer some of the inmates out of the maximum-security prison. That was the key demand behind the uprising that erupted at midday Saturday in one of the wings of the penitentiary.

"We managed to control the situation before it was extended to other areas of the prison," Lunes told TV Globo's G1, a Brazilian Internet news portal. Two officers had minor wounds.

About 500,000 inmates are held in Brazil's more than 1,200 prisons, and uprisings are common. In 2012, inmates at the same prison held 131 hostages for 26 hours to demand an investigation into alleged beatings by guards.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/18/brazil-prison-revolt_n_5349218.html.
Acesso em: 05 de set. 2014.

Brazil Won't Clean Up Water Pollution In Guanabara Bay By 2016 Olympics, Officials Say

AP | By JENNY BARCHFIELD

DATA: 2014.05.18



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil will not make good on its commitment to clean up Rio de Janeiro's sewage-filled Guanabara Bay by the 2016 Olympic Games, state environmental officials acknowledged in a letter obtained Saturday by The Associated Press.

In the May 7 letter addressed to Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo, Rio's state environment secretary, Carlos Francisco Portinho, asks for more funding for depollution efforts but acknowledges that at current investment rates, it will take more than a decade to significantly reduce the levels of pollution in the bay, where the Olympic sailing events are to be held.

In Brazil's 2009 Olympic bid, officials promised that the city's waterways would be cleaned up, "setting a new standard of water quality preservation for the next generations."

But an AP analysis last year of a decade's worth of government data on Guanabara and other waterways showed that sewage pollution indicators consistently spiked far above acceptable limits, even under Brazilian laws that are far more lenient on pollution than the United States or Europe.

Authorities pledged to cut by 80 percent the flow of pollution into Guanabara Bay by the 2016 Games through the expansion of the sewage network and the construction of River Treatment Units, or RTUs, built at the mouths of rivers flowing into the bay. The facilities would filter out much of the sewage and trash.

But little progress has been made on either front, and with just over two years to go until the Olympics, nearly 70 percent of the sewage in the metropolitan area of 12 million inhabitants continues to flow

untreated, along with thousands of tons of garbage daily, into area rivers, the bay and even Rio's famed beaches like Copacabana and Ipanema.

With Rio in the international spotlight ahead of next month's World Cup to be held in 12 Brazilian cities, the stench of raw sewage that greets those arriving at the international airport, and the stream of images of the garbage-strewn waters of the once-pristine bay, have become a major embarrassment for authorities. Associations representing Olympic athletes have also begun to sound the alarm bells, raising questions about possible health hazards for athletes.

In the letter, Portinho requested the Sports Ministry give Rio state \$70 million to help build two new RTUs. He acknowledged that even if the funds were released and the treatment units built, they, along with two other existing units, "would represent a reduction of over 50 percent of the pollution flowing into Guanabara Bay" — well below the promised reduction.

Portinho added that given the "urgency of the matter and its fundamental role in the event, it is of great importance that the funds be released in order to allow construction (on the two RTUs) to begin in the second half of 2014."

Reached by telephone, Marisa Bastos, a spokeswoman for Rio's environment agency, confirmed the authenticity of the letter. She said it was a copy of an earlier letter sent to the Ministry of Cities.

In the letter, Portinho wrote that even if authorities were to tackle the bigger problem of a lack of basic sanitation by expanding the sewage network, it would prove are too little, too late for the Olympics.

"Even if the necessary resources to implement sanitation systems in the waterways mentioned were released . it would not be possible to plan and implement all the projects within a timeframe that would make a significant difference in the water quality in Guanabara Bay by the 2016 Olympics," the letter stated.

It added that several state agencies "have been studying the issue and concluded that the beneficial effects on the waters of Guanabara Bay will only occur in at least a decade, if the current levels of spending on sewage collection and treatment are maintained."

Authorities here have consistently maintained that Rio was on track to meeting its Olympic commitments.

Several Olympic sports federations raised fears that Rio's polluted waters could prove harmful to athletes' health. Exposure to fecal matter can cause Hepatitis A, dysentery, cholera other diseases.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/18/brazil-water-pollution-guanabara-bay-2016-olympics_n_5347766.html. Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

Brazil's Lack Of Planning Poised To Hurt Country Even After World Cup Over

Brasil Post | By Thiago de Araújo

DATA: 2014.05.19

The current state of mass transit in Brazil is far from desirable. An initial plethora of promises and high expectations has given way to delays and the revelation of a characteristic Brazilian shortcoming: lack of planning. This lack of planning could also affect the country's hotel infrastructure, which increased supply and now fears losses before, during and after the Cup.

According to estimates from the federal government, the World Cup will cost the public treasury somewhere around 26 billion reais (\$11.6 billion). In an interview with *Brasil Post*, Gil Castello Branco, secretary general of the NGO *Contas Abertas*, said it was too early to consider it as the final cost, taking into account the recent history of public administration in the country. Data from the country's public audit institute show that government inspections prevented the misappropriation of around 600 million reais (\$272 million), but are not conclusive.

According to Castello Branco, one of the biggest disappointments is the failure to complete various mass transit projects in time for the event.

"The *Matriz de Responsabilidades* (Accountability Chart) projected 12 billion reais (\$5.44 billion) just for transit projects, but 4 billion reais (\$1.8 billion) disappeared from it when it became clear that those projects would not be ready in time. Today the estimate is of 8 billion reais (\$3.6 billion), but this has caused a lot of frustration. We will only know the total cost of the World Cup when it is over, maybe next year, since there will be many last minute expenses such as temporary structures or communications, an area in which we have a profound deficiency," he said.

From the time Brazil was officially named the host of the World Cup by FIFA in 2007 to recent months, there was no shortage of suggestions for transport projects. The most pharaonic of these foresaw the construction of a bullet train to connect Campinas, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, but the project made little progress beyond intentions, rumors and ideas. The same can be said about the subways in Salvador and Curitiba, or the possibility of building a monorail in Manaus. In general, these and other projects, not just in the area of transportation, were cut short in the absence of strategies and clear planning.

"Unfortunately, Brazilian managers are not able to think in advance of events, something that also occurred in the past. Before doing something, it is necessary to think, which means to plan. There is a lack of planning, for with planning you know exactly what you will get accurately, including the costs. With these in hand, the government agency that is hiring knows what to purchase and the supplier knows what to deliver," said the president of the National Union of Architecture and Engineering (*Sinaenco*), José Roberto Bernasconi.

A not-so-bright state of affairs

A recent survey conducted by *Sinaenco* revealed that in at least eight of the 12 cities that will host the World Cup there are projects underway expected to be completed between April and May, after they should already have been delivered. Thus, the tight schedule and the need to be ready in time for the World Cup will not allow for a period for tests and adjustments that would typically be required.

The situation is also critical when it comes to airports. Even though the federal government last week launched a strategic plan to manage the airport sector during the World Cup, the situation remains quite uncertain in some parts of the country. While talking with *Brasil Post*, the national president of the

Association of the Hotel Industry (ABIH), Enrico Fermi, was walking through construction sites at the Confins Airport in the region of Minas Gerais. In his opinion, this is one of the sector's major issues.

"Much was said about how the private sector would not participate, but it happened. What is really worrying is what the government promised and has not delivered."

At least nine of the 12 Brazilian airports that will receive a large number of supporters are still under construction, and many of them will not be ready for the World Cup -- a fact that even the federal government now admits, adopting the discourse that everything is being done "for the Brazilian people" without focusing solely on the World Cup. However, according to Bernasconi, there will only be actual improvements in the sector after a minimum period of ten years.

"It will take a while. Over the next ten years Brazil will improve its airport infrastructure, but this will not be because of the World Cup or the Olympics, but because we actually need it. We need greater efficiency. Today, Brazilian airports are at least 20 years behind. Anyone traveling abroad can see that everywhere in South America there are better airports than in Brazil," he said, observing that there may be difficulties in traveling between airports, hotels and stadiums.

"Even if a holiday is declared on match days, as the mayor of Rio (Eduardo Paes) has suggested, there will be difficulties. You tend to have less demand for everyday spaces and public transport, since when people do not work, as on holidays, they stay at home or plan leisure activities that do not require transportation during peak hours, which include morning and late afternoon. This can lessen the demand for public transport and make life easier for those who come to see the World Cup games, but it's not a certainty."

There are those who disagree, such as Ailton Brasiliense Pires, the president of the National Association of Public Transport (ANTP). For him, even if all the proposed works are not ready in time, the country is prepared to receive whoever comes.

"Tourists will have no problem accessing sites. The Corinthians stadium is close to both a subway line and a CPTM (Paulista Metropolitan Train Company) train line, something no other city has. In Rio, there is a subway station next to the stadium. In Porto Alegre, the Beira-Rio Stadium has always been far, and the subway line 2 will get you pretty close. As matches will be on Sundays or holidays, there will be no problem. Cities have dealt with this for decades. The Cup was indeed a good opportunity for cities to invest in the vicinity of the stadiums, improving mass transit."

The hotel industry fears losses

In late January this year, Match, Fifa's partner company in the sales of hotel packages for the World Cup, cancelled 50 percent of the reservations made in 2007 and confirmed in 2010 with 840 Brazilian hotels.

Enrico Fermi criticized the federal government for raising doubts about the participation of the private sector in the World Cup -- "they said they would bring ships in to meet demand, things like that" -- and for not holding up its end of the bargain. As for the country's hotels, the president lamented the lack of effort put into the training of personnel, a responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism.

Fermi also addressed criticism about high room rates during the World Cup in Brazil. Some of the main international media companies blamed hotel prices for their decisions to reduce staffing to cover the event.

"We have no comparative standards. The last World Cup in Brazil happened in 1950, there is no parameter. And Match has been FIFA's partner for 32 years; they would not hire bad hotels. They judged the rates were acceptable, so much so that they made a great number of reservations," he explained.

At this point, the president of the National Union of Architecture and Engineering (Sinaenco), José Roberto Bernasconi, sees some justification for the so-called law of supply and demand, which, economically, alters prices. However, he believes that some hotels may have overcharged and if so that decision could come back to haunt them later on.

"Those traveling across Brazil are already paying more for tickets. Flying is expensive in Brazil, as well as hotel fees. This does not only happen in Brazil. What can happen is that some of these decisions could prove excessive, end up killing future possibilities, scaring away people who might never come back again or just cancel."

The construction of new hotels throughout the country also brings another challenge: how to fill these rooms after the World Cup. Fermi says he truly believes in the strength of the domestic market, most notably business tourism.

"The construction of a hotel is not undertaken for a 40-day event, but after a study of the market and the potential return on a 30-year period. But we are convinced that the domestic market will benefit and will absorb these new rooms, and will adapt to the new environment," he added.

This piece was translated from Portuguese and originally appeared on [Brasil Post](#).

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Lloris Heads to World Cup After Standout Season With Europa-bound Spurs

DATA: 2014.05.19



Tottenham ended a forgettable 2013-14 campaign with a 3-0 victory over Aston Villa at White Hart Lane, giving Spurs 69 points in the Premier League table -- good enough for sixth, which was not good enough for anybody associated with the club. Suffering a treble defeat to the crosstown North London team was insulting enough, but suffering one to the likes of West Ham was pitiful.

There were many disappointments throughout the season, which culminated in the second firing of a manager within five months when chairman Daniel Levy let Tim Sherwood go, to the surprise of no one. Supporters might take a measure of comfort that, despite playing underwhelming soccer for much of the season, Tottenham nevertheless qualified for the Europa League and finished above Manchester United for the first time in a generation. But even when winning, Spurs displayed a distinct lack of inspiration and, all too often, passion. When off-season acquisition Paulinho styled after scoring against Villa -- this just a week after making like a matador when "defending" a free kick at West Ham -- it reminded me of how I felt when Emmanuel Adebayor dared break out his dance moves when he scored his 5th league goal last season... in the club's 37th match. One might hope Lewis Holtby's spirit will prove infectious for Paulinho now that the midfielder returns to Spurs from his loan spell with now-relegated Fulham.

Nevertheless, let's end on a positive note and take some time to recognize the squad's most outstanding player this season. At his position, he may well have been the best the entire league had to offer.

No club wants to have a goalkeeper stand out as its best player. Tottenham's Hugo Lloris said as much late in the season. "If the goalkeeper is man of the match, then it means the team didn't do the job properly." This might partially explain why a vote of Spurs supporters clubs named Christian Eriksen their player of the season. To be fair, the Danish midfielder displayed some excellent skills in his debut Premier League season after coming over from Ajax of the Dutch League. He notched 7 goals and led the club with 8 assists in league play. At times -- most times, even -- he seemed to offer the only creative spark on the attack. And he did so despite Sherwood insisting on playing him on the left wing, away from his natural central attacking slot.

Eriksen was the club's best outfield player this season, and one can see him asserting himself as the club's best overall squad member next season. But this season, it was Lloris. Forget the stats, which are indeed impressive: 14 clean sheets and 103 saves in 37 starts. They don't tell the whole story. Through his combination of catlike reflexes and sweeper-keeper style of play, the French national team goalie had many talking about him as arguably being the league's best netminder. Sure, he made some mistakes now and then, sometimes as a function of his trademark aggressiveness. But on the whole, from August through May he proved to be a constant, stabilizing force in the back even when all else seemed to be falling apart around him.

Lloris suffered a concussion from a collision with Everton's Romelu Lukaku at Goodison Park in November. The keeper stubbornly insisted on staying in the match and helped preserve a 0-0 draw. He returned to play after sitting out just one match on doctor's orders. I myself suffered a concussion on the slopes in January. I'm still experiencing symptoms from it--and I battle computer screens for a living, not world-class athletes. I can't conceive of anyone with brain trauma going back onto the field in a contact sport of any sort so soon. I don't condone it. Tottenham should've handled it all better. But Lloris's injury just makes his season's performance all the more remarkable.

The club has lost its best player in each of the past two summers when Luka Modric and then Gareth Bale departed for Real Madrid. I hope this dubious streak will not be extended to a third year. While one might well argue a star keeper can be replaced more easily than a world-class field general or a freakishly gifted attacking player, the club badly needs to establish a sense of consistency within its

culture. Lloris's success in the world's toughest league has undoubtedly caught the attention of a filthy rich club or two in Ligue 1, let alone the rest of Europe. He deserves to play in the Champions League, and one would not blame him if he left for greener pastures. After falling just short two seasons ago and falling apart this past season, Spurs will need to convince Lloris they have a real plan for immediate improvement. The hiring of a visionary manager will be the first step in that direction. And a left back or two wouldn't hurt, either.

Until then, we may look forward to Lloris starring for his country in Brazil this summer, just as we look for Paulinho to relocate his spark with the host nation's team; for Nabil Bentaleb to gain priceless experience playing for Algeria; and for Misters Dembele, Vertonghen, and Chadli to get back in the groove with Belgium. And who knows, after his banishment on loan down to Queens Park Rangers in the Football League Championship, maybe Benoit Assou-Ekotto will stop reading Camus and find his raison d'être while playing for Cameroon.

Stranger things have happened. Just ask a Spurs supporter.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rob-kirkpatrick/hugo-lloris-world-cup_b_5352360.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Brazil Tries To Assure World Cup Tourists Airports Are OK

AP | By TALES AZZONI

DATA: 2014.05.20



SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil is trying to assure World Cup tourists that they won't face problems at airports even though not all upgrades will be complete.

The chronic delays in airport renovations have matched those in stadium construction, and officials have acknowledged for a while that visitors will be using unfinished airport facilities. Now they are stressing that everything will be OK for fans on arrival.

Wellington Moreira Franco, Brazil's civil aviation minister, said in an interview with The Associated Press that "all airports will be prepared to adequately" receive World Cup tourists and all "major" projects will be completed.

"I would tell tourists not to worry," Franco said.

A day earlier, President Dilma Rousseff used her weekly radio show to "guarantee" the airports will be ready.

But the government's attempts to downplay concerns come as problems continue to arise three weeks from the start of the tournament. In the latest setback, heavy rain caused flooding in the passenger terminal of the World Cup airport in the jungle city of Manaus on Monday, upsetting travelers and forcing officials to temporarily close some areas.

Construction continues at full pace in many airports, and some of the renovation projects initially planned for the World Cup will be completed only after the tournament.

"Of course, we all wanted the work to be ready, but it's not," Franco said. "But that doesn't mean that there will be problems. The work is not finished, there are some delays. But that's not keeping us from being prepared."

The government predicts 3.7 million people will travel in the country during the World Cup, including 600,000 from abroad. Airports are crucial because nearly all of the travel between host cities will be by air.

Franco said Brazilian airports are already able to handle more passengers than that during the peak period of Christmas and New Year's.

Tourists "won't find anything different than they would normally find anywhere else," Franco said. "I assure everybody coming to Brazil that you will find the same level of comfort and security as you would find in other airports in the world. The problems here aren't better or worse than the problems you have at home."

Industry experts interviewed by the AP recently warned that fans should brace for some difficulties at airports because of the construction delays, but noted it was unlikely there will be widespread chaos in air travel during the monthlong World Cup.

"I know there are many concerns and doubts," Franco said. "It's natural that sometimes there are fears that things may go wrong in countries outside of the 'first world.' But you can rest assured, we are not concerned."

Rousseff has been trying to get that message across any time she gets a chance.

"People coming through airports today will notice that the dust is settling, the noise is dwindling and the boards are coming down to give way to modern and comfortable installations," Rousseff said during her radio show. "I guarantee that our airports are prepared for the World Cup."

Follow Tales Azzoni at <http://twitter.com/tazzoni>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/20/brazil-airports-world-cup_n_5360339.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

American Soccer's Steady Journey From Periphery to Core, Where Germany Has Comfortably Resided for Decades

DATA: 2014.05.21



Even though Germany and the United States will share their presence -- with Ghana and Portugal -- in Group G (a.k.a. the Group of Death) at the forthcoming World Cup in Brazil, and even though they will play against each other on June 26 in Recife, the tournament's cultural importance, social significance, emotional involvement and overall ramifications will be very different for each of the two teams and countries.

The "Big Four" Comprising Current American "Sports Space"

Association Football -- "football" (or its national variant like "Fussball") to much of the world, but known by its nineteenth century English university student slang term of "soccer" in the United States as well as other countries, like Australia, in which "football" denotes a related but different game -- has a completely different cultural presence in the United States than in Germany. To wit: the normal and average American sports fan's preoccupation in the months of April and May were as follows: the culmination of March Madness ending the five-months-long college basketball season; the beginnings of the all-important playoffs in the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Hockey League (NHL) leading to the crowning of the champion in both; the commencing of Major League Baseball's (MLB) six-month long annual campaign; and the draft of the National Football League (NFL), which culminated two-months of national obsession and debate in a television extravaganza that attracted more than 12 million television viewers to an event where nothing actually happened beyond former college players appearing in eight-minute intervals, donning caps of the professional teams that drafted them, shaking the commissioner's hand, and hugging their mothers.

This, then, is the scenario in the United States of what has been termed "sports space" meaning the cultural construct that defines what a vast majority of a country's public follows rather than plays. This is the world meant by the expression "The Big Four" or the "four major North American sports" constantly invoked by the millions conversant with North America's dominant sports culture. Indeed, with the possible exception of Australia, no country other than the United States has four such items -- a few have three, many have two, and most have only one, that being soccer. But soccer is not among these in the American case -- at least at the time of this writing--though it might very well be on its way to creating what will then become "The Big Five" in the coming decade or so. And the impending World Cup will play an absolutely crucial role in the timing of this development if not in its overall outcome.

The "Huge One" Comprising Current German "Sports Space"

Contrast this situation to Germany's. The normal and average sports fan has been totally preoccupied solely with soccer on all its stages. First, and foremost, there was the weekly Bundesliga which, though made totally boring and predictable by Bayern München's impressive brilliance that had the team clinch its 24th title in record time, still had crucial contests with much drama both on top and the bottom of the table. Then there were the very important cup ties (Pokal Spiele) culminating in the final in Berlin featuring yet another dream contest between archrivals Bayern München and Borussia Dortmund, without any doubt Germany's two most dominant soccer teams of the past decade, with the former prevailing decisively, thus attaining its 17th "Pokal" and once again winning the much-coveted domestic "double." Then there was the UEFA Champions League in which all four German teams advanced into the knock out round with Borussia reaching the quarterfinals and Bayern the semis. And last, there is the ever-present "Nationalmannschaft" -- affectionately and tellingly known by all simply as "Mannschaft" -- whose importance and urgency increases by every minute that brings the World Cup tournament closer.

Core, Semi Periphery and Periphery

Of course there is a steadily increasing number of people in the United States following soccer on its many domestic and foreign levels, just like the North American "Big Four" can claim a growing number of aficionados and experts in Germany. The previous description focused on each country's norm -- the core of its hegemonic sports culture -- that has been defined by a history and tradition that reach in the American case into the middle of the nineteenth century and the German to the very beginning of the twentieth. And sure enough, in the sports that comprise each country's cultural core, both countries constitute a global core. Thus, in baseball, basketball, American football, and ice hockey, it is the top leagues in North America that attract the world's absolute best. The great Dirk Nowitzki plies his trade and passion in the NBA not the Basketball Bundesliga, as do the comparable best basketball players from France, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, and many other countries. The same pertains to the best German, Swiss, Austrian, Russian, Czech, Slovak, Fin, and Swedish hockey players and Japanese, Korean, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Venezuelan, and Dominican baseball players.

In the Big Four, North America comprises the core with the others constituting what Immanuel Wallerstein in his seminal work has come to call the semi periphery and periphery. The exact opposite situation exists in soccer. Here, Europe's top five leagues located in England, Spain, Italy, France, and - of course -- Germany are the game's core with the rest of the world being the semi periphery and periphery. The world's best footballers want to play in these countries. Thus, it is not by chance that the

two best American field players Clint Dempsey and Michael Bradley played in England and Italy, respectively, and that Jürgen Klinsmann, the coach of the United States national team, was less than happy when they transferred their talents from the game's core to its semi periphery by joining teams in Major League Soccer (MLS) where the quality of play is simply not up to the core's level.

Soccer's Journey in the United States

The journey for soccer in the United States has been from the game's peripheries in both senses of that term in that since the early 1930s until the end of the twentieth century soccer in America had been only present on the periphery of the country's hegemonic sports culture and, closely tied to this phenomenon, also appeared only on the periphery of this sport's global presence. The reasons for this are beyond the scope of this essay. Suffice it to say that the institutional presence of the Big Four and their organizational and cultural establishment preceding soccer's contributed to the former's rise and proliferation to comprise the core of America's sports culture and to soccer's relegation to that culture's margins. But the long journey departing from this periphery commenced in the early 1970s with a number of crucial developments: first, the establishment of the North American Soccer League (NASL) that, despite its eventual demise in 1985, introduced top-level soccer to an American public that was in the process of undergoing a serious cultural shift and social change. By featuring players of the game's core stardom such as Pele, Franz Beckenbauer, and Johan Cruyff among many others, and by creating the world's first truly globalized sports team of any kind in the New York Cosmos that presaged the current norm of multiculturalism and the bevy of different nationalities that populate any of the game's top teams in its European core -- or of the top baseball, hockey and basketball teams as well -- soccer attained a stage that appeared stealthily at the time but that placed crucial seeds into the American cultural ground that were to grow later.

Second, the advent of Title IX in 1972 that totally altered the topography of the culturally all-important space of college sports in the United States by introducing women to this world in a massive way. It was this that led to the women's game becoming the absolute best in the world yielding not only culturally recognized and much-respected public figures of the likes of Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, and Brandi Chastain among others, but also to the attainment of four Olympic gold medals and two World Cups that is only rivaled by Germany's two trophies in that competition. Thus, in notable contrast to the men's side, the United States is very much a core player in the global presence of the women's game.

Third, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 which arguably represents at least as crucial a progressive reform that transformed the United States as Lyndon B. Johnson's rightly touted Voting Rights Act of the same year and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, substantially increased Latin immigration to the United States creating a constituency for soccer in this country that remains a crucial part of its core to this very day.

Fourth, the aforementioned cultural shift and social change led to a huge proliferation of soccer being played in an organized manner by over 13 million in the United States, making it the third most popular sport behind basketball and baseball/softball. To be sure, performing a sport is only tangentially related to following it. To wit: most Olympic sports are only followed quadrennially by people outside the narrow circles of their actual purveyors and their immediate supporters. And they are followed on that occasion for one sole reason: nationalism, thus confirming that sage Jerry Seinfeld's brilliant point that our following sports essentially means the following of laundry.

The U.S. National Team's Strong German Connection

When at the last World Cup held in Brazil, the United States defeated all-mighty England 1 - 0 on June 29, 1950 in Belo Horizonte -- arguably an even bigger upset than the famed "Miracle of Bern" four years later that catapulted West Germany to the first of its three World Cup titles by beating the heavily favored Magnificent Magyars of Ferenc Puskas and pals -- soccer in America and American soccer were on the periphery. But by virtue of having hosted the World Cup with the largest attendance that will, most likely, never be surpassed in 1994; by virtue of having started Major League Soccer in 1996 that in the meantime has become a solid, if not yet dominant, player in America's sports space; by virtue of the national team's respectable showing at the World Cup tournaments in 2002 and 2010; and by virtue of a massive improvement in the quality of soccer played by American athletes at the top level of their game; soccer in the contemporary United States has definitely left its peripheral stage behind and is well ensconced with many other nations in the respectability of a semi peripheral existence. But it will take the national team's steady successes at top-level tournaments, like the impending World Cup in Brazil and the Copa America competition to be held all across the United States in the summer of 2016, for American soccer to enter both cores: domestically by pulling even with the current Big Four in the United States; and internationally by entering the game's current core, which would also mean that top-level European and Latin American players would not only consider playing in MLS as a default option or as a comfortable way to their retirement from the game but actually see this option as one of their top choices alongside those offered by any of Europe's top five leagues.

Interestingly, Germany's role in potentially helping the United States make giant strides in that direction is undeniable. Not only was Jürgen Klinsmann, the American national team's coach, one of German soccer's most prolific strikers; but his recently hired assistant, Hans-Hubert "Berti" Vogts, was arguably the country's best right back (at least until Philipp Lahm), a Borussia Moenchengladbach legend, and a mainstay of the Nationalmannschaft both as a player and its coach. And if one adds the Austrian Andreas "Andy" Herzog, who played the most productive portion of his distinguished career for Werder Bremen and Bayern München, into the mix, a German leadership of the American endeavor is nearly perfect. Add to that eight players on the current thirty-man roster who were either born in Germany, play for German clubs, and speak much better German than English, and the present United States national soccer team could easily be characterized as "Germany lite."

For very different reasons, the impending World Cup will be huge for both the German and American teams that will actually confront each other in the third game of the first round in a group rightly given the sobriquet "Group of Death." For the German team, the hopes and expectations of an entire nation ride on its performance and eventual results. No such burden rests on the Americans. Instead, their results will have a major bearing on the timing of soccer's eventual entry into the core of the American sports space.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrei-markovits/us-germany-soccer_b_5366256.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Brazil's Vale Do Pati Is The Perfect Escape

The Huffington Post | By [Carly Ledbetter](#)

DATA: 2014.05.21



With soccer fans counting down the days to the FIFA World Cup and Brazilians busy [getting facilities ready](#) for the 2016 Rio Olympics, the country is on major [hosting duties](#) for the next few years. While waves of fans begin to take over the bigger cities, why not venture somewhere a little less crowded, like Bahia, Brazil?

[Vale do Pati](#), a delightfully isolated spot, can be found in [Chapada Diamantina National Park](#) and it is definitely worth a visit. A photographic wonderland, this beautiful [nature reserve](#) is home to less than 100 people and is [accessible year-round](#).

Have a look!

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/21/vale-do-pati-brazil-n_5330716.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Crime Surges In Brazil Ahead Of World Cup

AP | By JENNY BARCHFIELD

DATA: 2014.05.21

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Marcelo Gomez was taking the bus home from a soccer match at Maracana stadium, where the World Cup final will be played, when a teenager slid into the seat beside him and another boy took the seat behind him.

The one next to him growled at Gomez to hand over his wallet and cellphone, whispering that his friend had a gun. The 35-year-old truck driver didn't see any weapon, but as is standard practice in Brazil,

where thieves often kill if met with resistance, he handed over his belongings. The boys then moved on to rob another passenger a few rows back, then others after that.

Such muggings on public transportation, at public beaches and in popular tourist areas are on the rise in Rio de Janeiro, eroding the strides the city had made in security in recent years as it geared up to host seven World Cup games and the 2016 Olympics.

Muggings on Rio's bus fleet, the main form of public transport in this metropolis of 12 million, doubled over the last year, the state's ISP security statistics agency says. More than 420 incidents were reported in January alone, compared with 195 in the same month a year earlier, returning such incidents to their peak level of four years ago.

The phenomenon also dovetails with a general rise in non-transit related muggings and robberies. In the first three months of the year, the number of muggings reported in the city's marquee Copacabana neighborhood rose nearly 60 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Paulo Storani, a security expert who spent nearly 30 years on Rio's police force, said at least half of the 12 World Cup host cities have experienced a recent rise in violent crime. He attributed the increases to a feeling of impunity.

"People do not recognize the authority of government officials, and as a result criminals are more at ease to commit their crimes because they feel they will not be arrested or punished," Storani said.

The U.S. State Department has warned its citizens traveling to Brazil of "frequent" robberies on city buses, in banks and at ATMs and recommended against resisting thieves. British and German authorities have made similar recommendations.

The situation in Rio's public transit has gotten so bad that state lawmakers have proposed the creation of a specialized police battalion for the city's fleet of nearly 9,000 buses. Rio Gov. Luiz Fernando Pezao reportedly favors the proposal but it needs to clear several more legislative hurdles.

Pezao characterized the city's fight against criminality as "a war."

Rio state's top security official, Jose Mariano Beltrame, has responded to the spike in crime by beefing up the number of officers who will be on duty during the June 12-July 13 World Cup by around 20 percent.

But with little concrete improvement so far, Rio residents are turning to the Internet for help. A website called "Where I Was Robbed" allows users to pinpoint the exact location of muggings, carjackings and other crimes in the city. Users of the site have tagged more than 360 mass muggings on public transit since the beginning of the year.

It's not just robberies that have made public transportation in Rio dangerous.

A year ago, the gang rape of an American student aboard a public transit van made headlines around the world. The student and her French boyfriend hailed the van in Copacabana. The van's driver, money-taker and another man soon forced the other passengers to disembark, tied up the Frenchman and subjected the woman to what a police investigator described as an all-night-long "party of evil," raping her repeatedly.

Although investigators quickly tracked down those responsible, it emerged that police had failed to follow up on earlier reports by Brazilian women who were raped by the trio under similar circumstances.

The issue of sexual violence in public transport captured headlines again earlier this year, this time in Sao Paulo, which is hosting the World Cup's opening match. Authorities there detained several men for allegedly accosting women on subways and buses, sometimes filming them with cellphones and posting the videos of the molestations on social media.

Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's first woman president, said on Twitter that such acts "shame our society."

While it's unclear if the rate of sexual assault has increased in the past year, the high-profile attacks have fueled the widespread perception that using public transportation is dangerous.

Sao Paulo's flurry of public transit crimes coincides with an increase in robberies, with the number of monthly reports up nearly 50 percent.

In Rio, the crime spike comes despite a "pacification" program launched in 2008 that brought police outposts to "favela" slums where the state had long been absent. The campaign initially saw crime fall, and Rio residents began taking walks after dark again.

But the resurgence in crime is driving many back into a siege mentality and fueling fears of problems when an estimated 600,000 foreigners descend on Brazil for the World Cup.

Joe Biundini, president of the security company FAM International, called transportation in Rio a major concern.

"The risk of kidnappings and assaults inside a moving vehicle is huge," said Biundini, whose firm is providing security for VIP clients attending World Cup matches in Rio and Sao Paulo.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/21/brazil-crime-world-cup_n_5368592.html.
Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

Street Artist Captures The Sheer Irony Of Brazil's World Cup In Heartbreaking Image

The Huffington Post | By [Dominique Mosbergen](#)

DATA: 2014.05.21

A Brazilian artist has captured the heartbreak and anger of his countrymen in a poignant image that is now being shared by thousands around the world.

Earlier this month, [street artist Paulo Ito](#) posted [a mural on the doors of a São Paulo school](#) that depicts an anguished, starving child with nothing on his dinner plate but a soccer ball. The stunning image, which Ito posted about a month before the start of the [2014 World Cup in Brazil](#), has gone viral on social media in recent days.



“The truth is there is so much wrong in Brazil that it is difficult to know where to start,” Ito told Slate this week of the striking image. “I didn't mean [to say] nobody is doing anything against poverty. But we need to show the world or ourselves that the situation is still not good.”

Thousands upon thousands of disgruntled Brazilians in [at least 18 cities across the country](#) have taken to the streets in recent weeks to protest the billions that the government has spent on the World Cup even as poverty continues to be a major national issue and public services remain neglected.

“When the government told us we would host the World Cup, we hoped there would be improvements for us. But they aren't putting on a Cup for the people, they're putting on a Cup for the gringos,” protester Maria das Dores Cirqueira told the Los Angeles Times earlier this month. Cirqueira is one of [several thousand protesters who have occupied an empty lot near Arena Corinthians](#), a stadium constructed in São Paulo for the World Cup, to demand affordable housing and better services for the poor.

[Brazil is expected to spend more than \\$11 billion](#) on the World Cup. Arena Corinthians itself, where the tournament's first game is scheduled to be played on June 12, cost about \$445 million to build, per the LA Times.

According to the World Bank, [Brazil is one of the world's wealthiest economies](#). However, about [16 percent of Brazil's nearly 200 million people](#) continue to live in poverty, per 2012 data.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/21/brazil-world-cup-poverty-paulo-ito_n_5362373.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Watch Thousands Scramble To Escape Chaos In Brazil's Subway During Transit Strike (VIDEO)

The Huffington Post | By [Nick Robins-Early](#)

DATA: 2014.05.21

Mere weeks before the start of the World Cup, terrifying footage of an immense and chaotic crowd trying to get out of a Brazilian subway station has left many worried about the capacities of the country's transport system.

Posted online by the Brazilian newspaper Folha de S.Paulo, the footage shows a swirling mass of people clambering over one another in the packed underground. There's fainting, screaming, and three security guards for whom regulating the insanity is probably above their pay grade.

As the New Republic [notes](#), the overcrowding occurred during a bus strike on Tuesday that [reportedly](#) closed around half of the city's bus stops and left around 300,000 people to find alternative transport. Sao Paulo's metro was forced to deal with the overflow and that may have been too much for the underground system to handle.

Despite being South America's largest city, Sao Paulo's metro system has only about [46 miles](#) of track for millions of commuters (for reference, similarly-sized Seoul has around [250 miles](#)), leaving it vulnerable to such jams.

Beyond a claustrophobic spectacle, the video is [yet another](#) ominous sign for Brazil's lack of World Cup preparedness. Look on, ye soccer tourists, and despair.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXycKeyDKXk>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/21/brazil-subway-video_n_5367487.html.
Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

Chagas Disease: A 2014 World Cup Yellow Card

DATA: 2014.05.22



This post was co-authored by Bernard Pécoul.

As the most expensive World Cup ever is set to begin in Brazil, a "yellow card" warning must be raised about one of Latin America's most serious public health threats: Almost 6 million of the most vulnerable people living in the nine participating Latin American countries today do not receive treatment for their most debilitating neglected tropical disease.

Chagas disease is [a leading cause of severe and life-threatening heart disease](#) of the extreme poor in the Americas and gradually is becoming a disease that affects all social classes around the world. It is caused by a microscopic parasite known as a trypanosome that can be transmitted to humans when they are bitten by blood-feeding "kissing bugs" at night. Trypanosomes have the ability to invade human hearts and cause severe cardiac damage.

The disease affects mainly people who live in poverty, mostly because their poor-quality houses allow the "kissing bug" vector to thrive in the cracks and crevices of mud, brick and thatch. Throughout South and Central America it strikes those who live in squalor often not far from nearby areas of great wealth.

World Cup-participating nations such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay have made great strides in eliminating new transmission of Chagas disease through national programs of insecticidal spraying, but [it remains a sad fact](#) that most people living with Chagas disease are never tested for their illness, and less than 1 percent of these infected individuals have access to treatment. Instead they are mostly neglected by their medical communities, and allowed to become sick and die. [More than 10,000 such people die every year](#) of Chagasic heart disease. [Brazil, Argentina and Mexico lead the world in terms of number of cases -- more than one million each](#) -- and deaths.

Beyond its health impact, Chagas disease also [causes an estimated \\$7 billion](#) in global economic losses as infected people become too ill to work and the health care costs accumulate for managing heart disease. It comes as no surprise that a new study conducted in Mexico just determined [that it is ultimately less expensive](#) to treat a Chagas disease patient than not to treat.

[The two medicines that can be used to treat Chagas disease](#) have unwanted side effects but have the potential to cure a patient if he or she is caught early enough in the course of their disease. The primary drug, benznidazole, is being manufactured locally in Brazil -- in Pernambuco in the northeast of Brazil -- as well as by a second producer in Argentina. The other drug, nifurtimox, is available for free through an agreement between the World Health Organization (WHO) and Bayer, a German pharmaceutical company.

Our Global Chagas Disease Coalition of research and advocacy organizations works to encourage governments of the affected countries to identify and diagnose patients and put them on anti-parasitic

therapy, supported by [growing evidence of the efficacy of the current treatment for chronic patients](#), as well as accelerate research and development (R&D) for badly needed new health tools. A recent Coalition experts meeting [found that most people living with Chagas disease are unaware of their illness](#) until they develop advanced heart disease and by then it is too late for the medicines to be effective. Thus, much like other forms of heart illness or other chronic diseases such as cancer, early detection and treatment is the key to a successful therapeutic outcome.

Today, [three-quarters of the world's Chagas disease patients live in the nine Latin American countries that will be represented](#) in the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Another 375,000 patients live in the United States where there is also [evidence for Chagas disease transmission among the poor](#) and in Spain, the most affected European country.

In parallel with scaling up screening and treatment of Chagas disease, R&D needs to be boosted to improve currently available diagnostics and to develop better and safer treatments or vaccines, all for improved individual patient care and sustainable, long-term disease control. For decades, scientists in Brazil, Argentina, and elsewhere in Latin America have conducted important, pioneering research on Chagas disease in the areas of diagnostics and treatment, as well as basic research that are now yielding results that could be translated into new drugs, and vaccines.

Ultimately, solving the Chagas disease problem in the Americas will require new public policies and the active participation of an alliance that includes governments, academia, affected communities, patient advocacy groups, the medical community, and the pharmaceutical industry.

The theme of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil is "all in one rhythm." So far that rhythm could leave behind millions of Chagas disease sufferers in the Americas.

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Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-hotez-md-phd/chagas-disease-2014-world-cup_b_5367793.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Landon Donovan Left Off USMNT World Cup Roster

Goal.com

DATA: 2014.05.22

By [Thomas Floyd, Goal.com](#)

When the U.S. national team flies to Brazil for the World Cup next month, [it will do so without its all-time leading scorer.](#)

Landon Donovan [was left off coach Jurgen Klinsmann's 23-man squad](#) for the World Cup, U.S. Soccer announced Thursday, with Clarence Goodson, Michael Parkhurst, Brad Evans, Maurice Edu, Joe Corona and Terrence Boyd also trimmed from the 30-man roster released last week.

Among the more notable inclusions are defenders John Brooks, Timothy Chandler and DeAndre Yedlin, midfielder Julian Green, and forward Chris Wondolowski — all of whom [combined to make one appearance in World Cup qualifying.](#)

The [#USMNT](#) 2014 FIFA World Cup Roster: [@j_klinsmann](#) Names His 23. [#OneNationOneTeampic.twitter.com/UFM7YCa4Tx](#)

— U.S. Soccer (@ussoccer) [May 22, 2014](#)

Donovan's exclusion comes as a shock but not a complete surprise. The 32-year-old attacker, who has scored five goals over three World Cups, appeared in just 3 of 10 matches in the final round of World Cup qualifying last year after taking a nearly four-month sabbatical from the sport.

Although he appeared to win back Klinsmann's trust last summer with a standout Gold Cup, for which he was named the tournament's most outstanding player, Donovan was relegated to the bench for a friendly against Mexico last month. In comments to the media in recent weeks, Klinsmann emphasized that Donovan's place was not assured.

"It's an exciting moment when you have narrowed the roster down as a coaching staff, and these 23 players that you've chosen can focus now purely on Brazil," Klinsmann said in a news release. "We can go into more specific things about technical approaches, and about the opponents.

"For the players, it's very important to know that they are now part of it and they can relax and know they are on the list going to Brazil and taking it from there. After almost 10 days of work right now, we thought the point has come to make the decision."

Squad in full:

Squad in full:

GOALKEEPERS (3): Brad Guzan (Aston Villa), Tim Howard (Everton), Nick Rimando (Real Salt Lake)

DEFENDERS (8): DaMarcus Beasley (Puebla), Matt Besler (Sporting Kansas City), John Brooks (Hertha Berlin), Geoff Cameron (Stoke City), Timmy Chandler (Nurnberg), Omar Gonzalez (LA Galaxy), Fabian Johnson (Borussia Monchengladbach), DeAndre Yedlin (Seattle Sounders)

MIDFIELDERS (8): Kyle Beckerman (Real Salt Lake), Alejandro Bedoya (Nantes), Michael Bradley (Toronto FC), Brad Davis (Houston Dynamo), Mix Diskerud (Rosenborg), Julian Green (Bayern Munich), Jermaine Jones (Besiktas), Graham Zusi (Sporting Kansas City)

FORWARDS (4): Jozy Altidore (Sunderland), Clint Dempsey (Seattle Sounders), Aron Johannsson (AZ Alkmaar), Chris Wondolowski (San Jose Earthquakes)

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/22/us-world-cup-roster-landon-donovan-brazil_n_5375570.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

The World Cup Is Just Weeks Away. Here's Why Brazilians Aren't As Excited As You Are.

The Huffington Post | By [Gabriela Kruschewsky](#)

DATA: 2014.05.22

It seems like every day there's a new report painting a grim picture of the impending FIFA World Cup that will take place in cities across Brazil next month. Stadiums and other event-related facilities such as airports [aren't completely finished](#). Protests are still taking place. And many Brazilians seem to be unexcited, to say the least, about the worldwide spectacle that's due to take place in their country.

One of the biggest causes of the unrest? The unbelievably high figure Brazil has shelled out for the event... from public funds.



A protestor holds up a sign which reads "There won't be a cup!," São Paulo - April 29, 2014. Photo by Andre Penner for AP.

Neither the World Cup nor FIFA, its organizing body, are completely to blame for the frustration and indignation Brazilians feel over the looming event. Brazilians aren't gathering in the streets to protest one of the world's most popular sporting event itself, but are rather in the midst of a longstanding fight against the Brazilian government, which they believe has failed to deliver on promises to the people. It's

a much larger strife for the most basic and simplest of human dignities, including education, healthcare and affordable housing -- many Brazilians feel the money would be better spent if invested in these social necessities.



Young boy holds flag during a protest in the Jacarezinho slum, Rio de Janeiro - May 10, 2014. Photo by Hassan Ammar for AP.

Hidden in the numbers, or perhaps parading around in plain sight, is a sense of just how complex the situation really is. Here's a look inside why these protests, which started about a year ago, are still going strong, and why they are expected to carry on throughout the duration of the World Cup.

Brazil is expected to spend close to \$11.7 billion on this World Cup.



Brazilians protest and display a sign telling FIFA to go home, São Paulo - May 15, 2014. Photo by Victor Moriyama via Getty.

When you realize that the billions spent come from Brazil's public funds, and all ticket and media rights revenues made from the Cup go directly to FIFA without taxation (which is true of every World Cup), the public unease seems inevitable.

The astronomically high cost of the tournament is the most pressing concern among Brazilians. [With an expected final price tag of more than \\$11 billion](#), this will be the most expensive World Cup to date. South Africa spent about one-third of that in 2010, (close to [\\$3 billion](#) total) and was still [the most expensive Cup at the time](#).

Many are worried the investment won't pay off. Estimates suggest that longterm revenue of about [\\$25 billion will be pumped back into the country's economy](#), according to Brazil's tourism authority Embratur, part of the Ministry of Tourism. A number arrived at based on how much the [600,000 foreign tourists](#) who are attending the World Cup in June are expected to spend. But not all are optimistic: South Africa never fully recovered from the billions it spent on the 2010 World Cup. According to the Associated Press, [the country reportedly only made back \\$400 million](#) of the nearly \$3 billion spent, and Brazilians fear a similar fate.

Meanwhile, 55 percent of Brazilians feel that the event will do more damage to their country than good.

A recent study conducted by local Brazilian institute Datafolha revealed that [more than half of the nation believes this World Cup is essentially bad news](#). That number is up 11 percent from Datafolha's last study, conducted in June 2013 during the Confederations Cup -- the tournament that takes place in the host country a year before the World Cup -- which showed 44 percent of the population believed World Cup would do more harm than good.

In a different study also conducted by Datafolha in 2008, a whopping 79 percent of Brazilians supported hosting the World Cup in their country, but that number has since dropped dramatically to 48 percent. Discontent over exorbitant public spending started brewing in the summer of 2013 as people took to the streets to protest both the Confederations Cup as well as the Cup itself. [Thousands gathered in front of Rio's Maracanã stadium](#), where the protests eventually turned violent.

\$900 million in public funds went to building a new stadium that will likely be "abandoned" once the tournament is over.



A worker cleans the new Mané Garrincha stadium in the country's capital in the world, Brasília - June 14, 2014. Photo by AP.

Brasília's Estádio Nacional Mané Garrincha stadium, which was inaugurated in May of last year and constructed solely for the World Cup, [is now the second most expensive soccer stadium in the world](#). The budget for this particular stadium nearly tripled between the beginning and end of its construction, an outcome that most Brazilians attribute to corruption and fraudulent spending.

Even more unsettling is the fact that the city of Brasília does not even have a professional soccer team to use the stadium in the future. After Mané Garrincha hosts seven World Cup matches, there isn't a permanent organization in place expected to use the facilities. Yet when broken down by the numbers, almost ten percent of the World Cup budget was spent on this stadium alone.

Brazil's original plan was to host the World Cup in eight cities. Then Brazilian Football Confederation President, Ricardo Teixeira, [pushed to expand it to 12](#), thus requiring completely new stadiums and an increased spending of public funds.

[Other newly built arenas](#) include Arena das Dunas in Natal at an estimated cost of \$400 million, Itaipava Arena Pernambuco in Recife at [\\$500 million](#) and Arena da Amazônia in Manaus at [\\$290 million](#). The latter, located in the damp Amazonian jungle, is considered to be the most controversial due to its isolation. Many are worried about what will [happen to the stadium once the Cup is over](#). Manaus, like Brasília, also does not have a professional soccer team.

Eight workers have died so far in the construction and remodeling of stadiums across Brazil. The latest fatality happened just [earlier this month](#) as workers are hurrying to finish construction before the June 12 opening.

Over 250,000 families have been forced from their homes to make way for stadiums.

According to the Popular Committee of the World Cup, [hundreds of thousands have been displaced from their homes](#) in order to make room for new construction in areas surrounding the soccer stadiums. The government relocations due to the Cup as well as the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro are becoming

all too common, especially in the [Metrô-Mangueira area near Maracanã, the stadium hosting the Cup final.](#)

Some of the displaced, forced to relocate, have been left completely homeless without any affordable housing alternatives available. By June, [relocations in one slum alone will have affected 678 families.](#)

Although there's some dispute as to why the forced removals are taking place -- residents believe it's to "clean house" and make room for a parking structure for the Cup, while some officials insist it's to [construct an automotive plant](#) -- residents of the slum are comparing what once was their home to a [distressed Libya or Iraq](#). Where once stood houses, most of them constructed with their owners' bare hands, now lies nothing but rubble and an unrecognizable landscape of what was.

The displacements aren't only affecting the poorest Brazilians. Others report being squeezed out due to higher rent rates in surrounding stadium areas, forcing them to seek alternative housing. A particularly large group affected in the country's metropolis of São Paulo [responded by seizing an abandoned piece of land nearby](#). Since inhabiting the vacant land, the group has banded together as an improvised community.

["We are not against the World Cup."](#) explained one resident to the Associated Press. "We are against how they are trying to belittle us. They are giving priority to soccer and forgetting about the families, about the Brazilian people."

Tensions are climbing as Brazilians also tire of a corrupt administration and police force.



A protester accuses the administration of prioritizing and investing in soccer over education, Belo Horizonte - June 20, 2013. Photo by Pedro Vilela for AFP.

At the center of the protests, ongoing in Brazil since June of last year, lie the people's demands for better education, health care, public services, the right to protest peacefully and a less corruptive governing body and police force.

Every year, [police are responsible for over 2,000 deaths in the country](#) and the beginning of this year proved no different, with fatalities including [Cláudia da Silva Ferreira](#), an innocent woman who was

killed after being dragged behind a police car, and [Douglas Rafael da Silva](#), a well-known dancer on a local television show who was mistaken for a drug trafficker by police.

The three policemen involved in Ferreira's death have been responsible for at least [69 "on-duty killings" since 2000](#). Most officers attribute sporadic fatalities to suspects "resisting arrest," even if evidence suggests otherwise. These incidents have sparked more outrage and unrest in the country at a time when the relationship between its people and its government is already strained from the spending scandals of the World Cup.

In response to the general chaos, Brazilians have gone on strike, with groups of teachers and bus drivers leading the charge to demand change.

Bus drivers, teachers and military police are among the few groups who have frequently abandoned their posts across various cities in the past few months. Most recently in Recife, rioting and looting erupted this month after the military police had already been on strike for three days. [Federal troops later entered Recife](#) to help maintain and diffuse the situation.

Meanwhile, protests are intensifying. On May 15, 2014, [12 Brazilian cities carried out protests in a joint public display](#), one of the many the country has witnessed in past few months. Thousands took to the streets in São Paulo, Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro.

Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at a crowd of [over 4,000 demonstrators](#) near the Itaquerao stadium in São Paulo, where the opening game between Brazil and Croatia will be held on June 12.

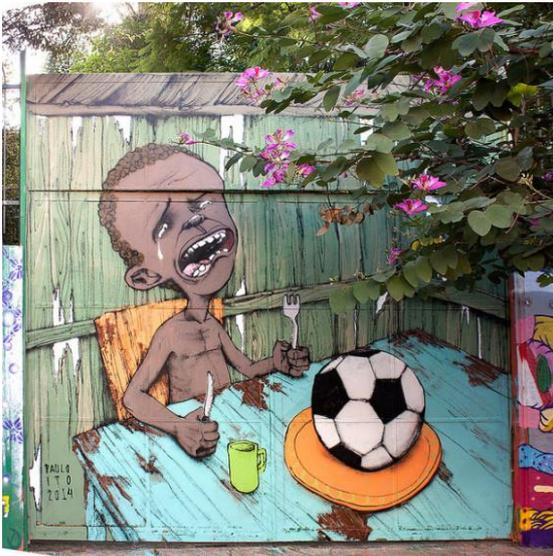
Meanwhile, independent groups are still organizing protests -- and vow to continue them once the Cup starts on June 12.



Member of the Homeless Workers Movement carries a flag near Itaquerao, São Paulo - May 15, 2014. Photo by Andre Penner for AP.

Although some expect Brazilians to ultimately embrace the celebratory World Cup atmosphere once the tournament begins, [according to Brasil Post](#), close to 2,000 people have participated in organized demonstrations in the last six months in São Paulo. That's a significant drop-off from June of last year, when approximately 100,000 took to the streets. But certain groups, including [the #NãoVaiTerCopa and Housing for All movements](#), have vowed to continue protesting even once the Cup kicks off.

Less than a month away, many Brazilians remain unhappy with the Cup -- and the unrest could carry over to the actual event.



A street artist captures the popular sentiment behind the upcoming event, the prioritization of soccer over everything else, São Paulo - May 10, 2014. Photo by [Paulo Ito](#).

Between Brazil running behind on World Cup infrastructure and citizens promising to continue their protests, many are anticipating a Cup of chaos and disorganization once the games begin.

On May 22, Amnesty International Brasil released a video [calling for peace and "no foul play" during the World Cup](#). It shows protesters and police coming together on the field and engaging each other in what resembles the many violent protests that have taken place in the country over the event.

This is their second campaign about World Cup unrest, earlier this month they (virtually) gave [876 yellow cards to the Brazilian government](#) for their handling of the protests.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKpHfNgU_Aw

The video closes with a very strong message and reminder to all those involved: "the world is watching."

Clarification: *Language has been amended to indicate the Embratur is part of the Ministry of Tourism, but is not the ministry itself.*

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/22/world-cup-brazil-problems_n_5332948.html. Acesso em: 05 de set. 2014.

U.S. World Cup Roster Announced: With Donovan Cut, Pressure Squarely on Klinsmann

DATA: 2014.05.22



Jurgen Klinsmann shocked U.S. soccer fans Thursday afternoon by announcing the [final roster](#) of 23 players he'll be taking to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil next month. The major news of the announcement was the exclusion of Landon Donovan, the team's all-time leader in goals and assists, in a move that [Klinsmann called](#) the "toughest decision in [his] coaching career."

Donovan, however, was not the only surprising storyline in the final round of [roster cuts](#), down from 30 players initially invited to the pre-World Cup training camp. Considered together, the selections paint a puzzling picture of the manager's decision-making.

German-American Influence

Klinsmann's influence on the U.S. national team in the three years of his tenure has perhaps been most felt through the incorporation of a large class of German-American dual nationals. The World Cup roster is the boldest demonstration yet of this trend, with five of the six German-American players invited to camp making the final roster. Jermaine Jones and Fabian Johnson had always been considered shoo-ins to make the team, but John Brooks, Timmy Chandler, and Julian Green are all contentious decisions that leave the German manager wide open for criticism if the selections don't pan out.

Brooks and Chandler were two of eight defenders named to the final roster, while Michael Parkhurst, Clarence Goodson and Brad Evans were among those cut Thursday. With these picks, Klinsmann has chosen two players who've contributed little in the previous year's run-up to the tournament. Brooks has failed to impress in a trio of friendly appearances, while Chandler is coming off a recent injury and last featured for the national team on June 2 of last year. Meanwhile, Goodson, Parkhurst and Evans were

fixtures in the national team locker room throughout the U.S. team's successful runs through World Cup qualifying and the Gold Cup in 2013.

Green, the Bayern Munich youngster who only recently declared his allegiance to the U.S. team and was widely thought to have a guaranteed place on the plane as a result of that decision, could have been the player who knocked Donovan out of the final 23.

2018 on the Mind?

Possibly working against Donovan and the other cut players was Klinsmann's aggressive inclusion of youth in the U.S. squad. In addition to Green and Brooks, DeAndre Yedlin, the 20-year-old Seattle Sounders right back, surprised many when he made the initial 30-man camp. While he plays a position that has been far from settled and he's perhaps the only defender in the U.S. player pool who could stay with Cristiano Ronaldo in a foot race, he's another player who seems far more likely to play significant minutes in 2018 or 2022 than this year in Brazil.

An eye to the future of the program is justifiable, and giving the next generation of players priceless World Cup experience makes sense, until one considers...

Other MLS Veterans Make the Cut

The real puzzlement with Donovan's omission comes when set against the inclusion of 32-year-old Brad Davis (older than Donovan) and 31-year-old Chris Wondolowski among the squad's attacking players. Davis is a left-footed specialist who offers an interesting option off the bench, but frankly isn't the caliber or type of player the U.S. is likely to need at that position against its [Group of Death](#) opponents.

Wondolowski has seemingly worked his way into Klinsmann's soft spot over the last six-plus months with his attitude and high soccer IQ. Despite the fact that his national team goal scoring has come entirely against inferior competition, the San Jose Earthquakes striker was preferred to Donovan, the red-hot Terrence Boyd, and Eddie Johnson, whose lackluster club form left him snubbed from even the 30-man camp.

All In

Donovan is inarguably not the player he once was, and three losses in Brazil would likely have put the coach's job security in question regardless. Now, by controversially leaving the American soccer icon out of his team, Klinsmann has guaranteed U.S. fans will have only one place to direct their ire.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bryan-maygers/us-world-cup-roster-landon-donovan-cut_b_5376061.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Landon Donovan: 'I Absolutely Deserved To Be Going To Brazil'

AP | By GREG BEACHAM

DATA: 2014.05.24



CARSON, Calif. (AP) — Landon Donovan thought he had earned a prominent role on the U.S. World Cup team right up until the moment he was cut from the roster by coach Jurgen Klinsmann.

Donovan was still stunned and confused by Klinsmann's decision when he went back to work with the LA Galaxy on Saturday.

"I'm disappointed. I'm sad," Donovan said Saturday after the Galaxy's practice. "I'm human, and I wanted to go. I really wanted to go. I'm at peace with it. I respect the decision. I just feel in my heart that I deserve to be there, and that's the pill that's hardest to swallow."

The 32-year-old attacker was denied the chance to play in his fourth World Cup after Klinsmann chose U.S. team newcomer Aron Johannsson and 31-year-old Chris Wondolowski over the most accomplished international player in American history.

The decision surprised Donovan, who believed a strong performance in training camp had secured his spot on the 23-man roster.

But Donovan declined to speculate on additional possible factors in the decision: his recent soccer sabbatical, the coach's decision to evaluate a versatile player solely as a forward, or the impact of the Americans' difficult group draw on their long-term planning.

"I think if I'm being judged solely on what happens in camp, then I absolutely deserved to be going to Brazil," Donovan said. "I firmly believe that not only should I be going, but I feel like I really deserved it, and not from anything that I did in the past, but from what I've done in the last week and a half."

Donovan gave little insight into whatever reasons Klinsmann shared with him at the Bay Area training camp. Klinsmann provided only murky details about his decision Friday, saying other players were "a little step ahead of Landon in certain areas."

"I don't agree with that assessment," Donovan said. "I think I was at least as good as everybody else in camp. ... I think I was one of the better players, so that's why it stings a little. If I had gone in and didn't feel like I deserved it, I could live with that. But that's not the case here."

Donovan had nothing to say about any underlying implications of the mocking tweet by Jonathan Klinsmann, the coach's teenage son, moments after the announcement.

"I don't really know his son well, so I'm not really sure where that came from," Donovan said.

Donovan also doesn't think his four-month sabbatical from soccer in 2013 after the Galaxy's second straight MLS Cup title should have worked against him.

"I actually think I've been a much better player since I came back," he said.

Donovan is the career U.S. leader with 57 international goals, and is second with 156 appearances. He has scored five World Cup goals, including a stoppage-time goal against Algeria to send the Americans to the second round four years ago.

Instead of jetting off to Brazil, the five-time MLS Cup champion will resume his pursuit of the top U.S. league's career goal-scoring record in Sunday's home game against Philadelphia. Donovan tied Jeff Cunningham's mark with his 134th goal late last season, but hasn't scored in seven matches with the Galaxy this year.

"I'm excited to be back here," Donovan said. "I certainly didn't want to be back here under these circumstances or this soon, but I love these guys. These are my teammates, and this is my home. I will not let this affect me going forward."

Donovan said he would gladly return to the U.S. team from the standby list if an injury created a spot on the roster, and he wouldn't rule out playing for the U.S. team in the future. He urged fans to support Klinsmann's current squad because "I don't want there to be a negative tint to any of this."

"I've always loved representing this country, so I can't imagine that if I'm given another opportunity that I would say no," Donovan added. "But at this point, I'm just trying to deal with the disappointment."

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/24/landon-donovan-world-cup-reaction_n_5386871.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Brazil World Cup Host City Manaus Declares State Of Emergency

AP

DATA: 2014.05.27



SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazilian World Cup host city Manaus has declared a state of emergency as the waters of an Amazon River tributary swell, though officials say they don't expect it to flood.

Manaus city hall spokeswoman Jacira Oliveira says the 180-day state of emergency that went into effect on Tuesday is just a preventive measure to assure swift access to emergency resources if the Rio Negro unexpectedly spills into the city.

She says that even there are floods, they won't damage the Arena Amazonia stadium that will host four games, including England against Italy on June 14 and the United States vs. Portugal on June 22.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/27/manaus-emergency-world-cup-host-city_n_5399112.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Ritual on Steroids: Staging the World Cup in Brazil

DATA: 2014.05.27

Written by Werner Krauss

Structural anthropology has been good at explaining sports as a social context for belonging: my soccer club, my national team. Events like World Cups or Olympic Games made sense of a global world inhabited by a united humanity, simultaneously exhibiting and transcending differences of race, class, nation and sex. But long gone are the illusions of sport as a form of philanthropic idealism. The global football federation, FIFA, is an umbrella organization that hosts a traveling circus that originated in England, travels soon to Brazil and is scheduled to land in places like Russia and in Qatar. FIFA controls the marketing of this multi-billion dollar business; it sets the rules for its staging, and it is an organization that does business with dictatorships as comfortably as it does with democracies; it gives illusory hope to small and developing countries that yearn to appear on the world stage, just as it pays fealty to the soccer dynasties in Europe and Latin America. The World Cup is a carnival that has turned into a global commodity, organized by semi-official and semi-legal institutions that resemble mafias much more than they do the UN. The World Cup will take place in Brazil, a powerhouse on the pitch and on the global

field of changing power relations, a battlefield for climate politics and an emerging domestic middle class. This is why Brazil decided to stage this global ritual on steroids.

To understand tribal rituals, structuralism had to somehow conjure away the omnipresent colonialism; to understand the quadrennial ritual of the World Cup, the anthropologist once again is tempted to surrender a measure of professional skepticism. The World Cup is a crystal ball reflecting and fueling the unending spectacle of power, violence and corruption that surrounds the matches on the pitch. Even the professional commentators, whether they are anthropologists or their siblings, the sports journalists, are sucked into this maelstrom. They are part of a globalizing event that by definition no longer has an outside. The World Cup is global without providing the comforts of the domestic sphere, apart from the fact that one somehow feels at home amidst the stereotypical folklore of the global Brazilian.

This stadium is where we see the FIFA bosses surrounded by the representatives of global capital, of American, Russian or Saudi Arabian investors who sell oil and gas and buy players and soccer clubs. In doing so, they change the global maps of belonging and of politics. Perhaps they, too, are baffled by the transformation of club players into representatives of nations situated far from their workplaces. The permanent tournament of the European Champions League has reduced the soccer world to a few clubs located in cities where stock markets and capital as well as the tourist industry thrive. Global capital and ambitious investors connect Madrid, London, Paris, Milan or Munich and turn them into global playgrounds, superseding mere nations and linking them to markets in Asia and elsewhere. Players like the Portuguese Ronaldo in Madrid, the Argentinian Messi in Barcelona, the French Ribery in Munich, or the German Özil in Chelsea now play for their respective countries, while oil magnates clasp hands with soccer functionaries and heads of states, as an enormous globalized sports industry looks on with approval. Meanwhile, the black Brazilian player Dani Alves [eats](#) the banana thrown at him in Milan, known for its racist supporters.

After Olympiads in China and Russia, the global sports public has gotten used to the panicky preparations and the purging of the lower social orders that prepare the way for these mega-events. In Brazil, it is the military police invading favelas, while social protests against extravagant government spending set the tone during the ConFed Cup rehearsal. On these unusual occasions, dissatisfied and unruly populations point to the scandalous coexistence of social poverty and the fantastic costs of global sports spectacles. What about the starvation wages, the social injustice, and the endemic corruption that constitute the backdrop for the spectacles and parades of the billionaires? Ultimately, the players on the pitch are pawns of the magnates who own their contracts. The bribed sports functionaries enjoy glasses of champagne and hearty handshakes with their political and commercial partners. Behind the scenes, the Brazil government tries to fight the evils of corruption, of criminality and of a woefully inadequate infrastructure on its way to modernity, to the dream of a real middle class, to membership in the club of developed nations. Soccer is a ticket on this trip into a future that may be as devastating as it is promising -- for the future of the native peoples of the Amazon, for the global economy and climate, and even for your own life and senses of belonging.

Rituals are said to create identity and avoid change by incorporating what is new into existing structures. They are conservative by nature. The World Cup in Brazil is no exception if we look at it from this perspective. It is a global ritual, following the same rules that do not change, satisfying a global spectatorship and conferring certain kinds of meanings on individual lives. We are all part of this ritual on steroids, this global maelstrom of corruption, dirty handshakes and shameful compromises; we watch it unfold with our emotions invested in our teams and dreams, commenting upon the latest scandal along with the chances of the newly assembled teams of stars from the capitals of soccer. We become accomplices of a world gone mad and reassure ourselves that soccer is a game played by 22 players,

with Germany winning in the end. Or, perhaps, we post a banana selfie on Facebook to support Dani Alves' protest against racism.

[Dr. Werner Krauss](#) is a cultural anthropologist at the Institute of Coastal Research in Germany.

Follow American Anthropological Association on Twitter: www.twitter.com/AmericanAnthro

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/american-anthropological-association/ritual-on-steroids-stagin_b_5399580.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

World Cup Preview: Group A Players to Watch Include Eto'o, Oscar

DATA: 2014.05.27

By Jack Williams

This series first appeared in the [World Cup Issue](#) of 8by8mag, available now.

Brazil: Oscar



Drawing comparisons to Brazilian legend Kaka, Oscar, with a price tag of around \$30 million at just 20, showed how highly Chelsea -- and the world of football -- rated the young South American. Capable of turning on a sixpence and with flair in abundance, Oscar, 22, is one of an exciting crop of players who helped Brazil lift the Confederations Cup on home soil in 2013. That victory means many fans of this year's hosts now expect Oscar, Neymar, et al., to go all the way and win the country's sixth World Cup.

Croatia: Ivica Olić



The jury is still out as to whether Olić was born with a third lung, given the amount of running that the Wolfsburg striker does in a game. At 34, the Forrest Gump of strikers is enjoying one of the most prolific seasons of his career -- something that will please head coach Niko Kovač, who hopes Olić can profit from the technically gifted players who surround him. Croatia will face Brazil in the tournament's opening match.

Mexico: Oribe Peralta



Though predicting the Mexican lineup may be pure guesswork, the 30-year-old Peralta scored 10 goals in qualifying -- including five goals in a playoff against New Zealand -- and must stand a good chance of making his nation's starting 11. An accomplished header of the ball, the center forward has a strike rate for his country of better than a goal every two games. He and his teammates will have to be on top form if they are to advance from a tricky group that includes host Brazil.

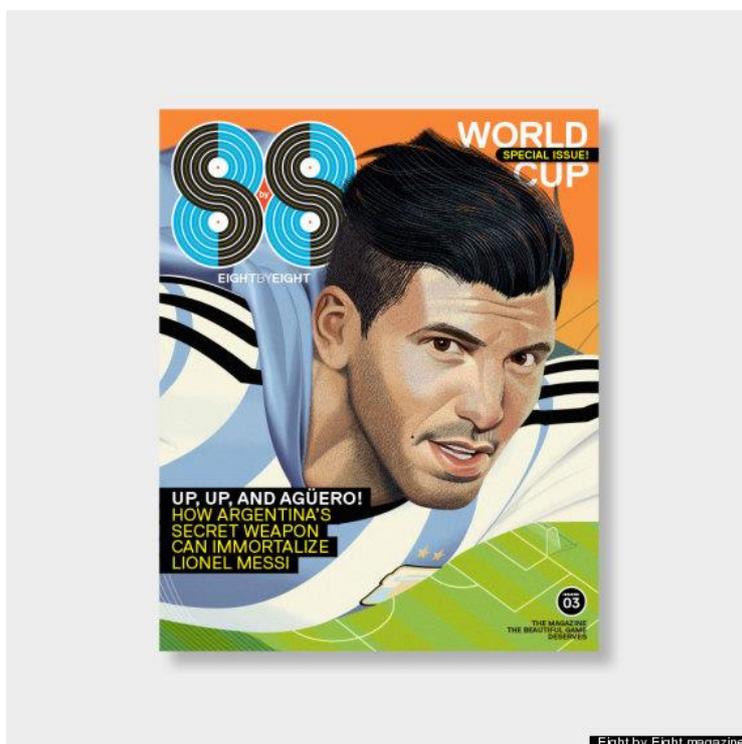
Cameroon: Samuel Eto'o



With 100-plus caps and his tally still increasing as his country's all-time leading goal scorer, Eto'o has been pivotal in any Cameroonian success for more than a decade and a half. Under the stewardship of fellow Champions League winner, manager José Mourinho, the 33-year-old has enjoyed a steady season with Chelsea, despite briefly going into international retirement in September after a dispute with international boss Volker Finke. Cameroon face a tough group of Brazil, Croatia, and Mexico.

Download a free preview of the 8by8 mag World Cup issue [here](#).

See more from *Eight by Eight* on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eight-by-eight/world-cup-group-a-players-to-watch_b_5381835.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Neymar And Gisele Bündchen Are The 'Dream Team' For Vogue Brazil

The Huffington Post | By [Carolina Moreno](#)

DATA: 2014.05.28



Fashion and soccer keep coming together for the World Cup.

Brazilian soccer star Neymar and model Gisele Bündchen [are the “Dream Team” on the cover of Vogue Brazil’s](#) latest issue with the sub headline, “Champions of the world. And the Cup hasn’t even started.”

The two are some of the South American country’s biggest names on an international level. Donning an all-white dress, both the Brazilian flag and the soccer player’s arm are draped around Gisele’s neck on the cover.



Irina Shayk also wore white for her Vogue Spain cover and the Russian model was also accompanied by soccer royalty. For the June 2014 issue, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo [joined his girlfriend on the cover completely nude.](#)

Famed Peruvian photographer [Mario Testino shot both covers](#), which were released in time for the 2014 World Cup. The highly anticipated soccer tournament will be held in Brazil and run from mid-June to mid-July.

Check out more images from the Vogue Brazil shoot below.



Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/28/neymar-gisele-bundchen_n_5406336.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Powerful Photos Capture The Defiance Of Brazil's Indigenous People During World Cup Protest

DATA: 2014.05.28

Members of Brazil's indigenous tribes [protested in the country's capital](#) on Tuesday, leading to dramatic clashes with riot police some two weeks ahead of the start of the 2014 World Cup.

Dressed in traditional headdress and armed with bows and arrows, the group rallied against legislation they fear will shrink reserves and [undermine protection of their ancestral lands](#).

The indigenous protesters then joined hundreds of Brazilians [marching on Brasilia's World Cup stadium](#) in outrage at the huge sums spent on the upcoming soccer tournament, the BBC reports.

Riot police tried to block the march with volleys of tear gas, sparking clashes that left two indigenous protesters injured and [one officer speared in the leg with an arrow](#), according to the Associated Press.

Thousands of Brazilians have [joined similar demonstrations across the country](#) over the past year, decrying that the games' hefty price tag would have been better spent on basic public services.



Indigenous protesters clash with military police during a protest against the World Cup outside the National Stadium in Brasilia, Brazil, May 27, 2014. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)



An indigenous protester shouts slogans during clashes with military police during a protest against the World Cup, outside the National Stadium in Brasilia, Brazil, May 27, 2014. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)



Indigenous Brazilians from different ethnic groups protest in front of the Planalto palace, the official workplace of Brazil's Presidency in Brasilia on May 27, 2014. (EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images)



Indigenous Brazilians protest outside the Supreme Court in Brasilia, Brazil, May 27, 2014. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)



Indigenous Brazilians protest in front of the Planalto palace, the official workplace of Brazil's Presidency in Brasilia on May 27, 2014. (EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images)



An indigenous protester runs with his bow during a protest against the World Cup outside the National Stadium in Brasilia, Brazil, May 27, 2014. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)



Indigenous Brazilians aim their bows at the Planalto palace during a protest in Brasilia on May 27, 2014. (EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images)



Indigenous Brazilians protest on top of the National Congress in Brasilia on May 27, 2014. (EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images)



Brazilian chief Raoni attends a protest in front of the National Congress in Brasilia on May 27, 2014. (EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images)



An Indigenous protester in traditional headdress gets ready to fire an arrow against the military police during a protest against the World Cup outside the National Stadium in Brasilia, Brazil, May 27, 2014. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)



People protest against the upcoming World Cup in Brasilia on May 27, 2014. (EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images)



Indigenous Brazilians protest outside the Supreme Court in Brasilia, Brazil, May 27, 2014. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)



An indigenous man protests in Brasilia on May 27, 2014. (EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images)



Indigenous people protest in Brasilia on May 27, 2014. (EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images)



Indigenous Brazilians protest on top of the National Congress in Brasilia on May 27, 2014. (EVARISTO SA/AFP/Getty Images)

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/28/brazil-indigenous-protest-photos_n_5404045.html. Acesso em: 03 de set. 2014.

Why The World Cup Is No Stranger To Controversy

The Huffington Post | By [Eline Gordts](#)

DATA: 2014.05.28



Fans around the globe are counting down the days to June 12 to see their favorite teams perform at the World Cup in Brazil. But Brazilians have been coming out in the thousands to [protest the high cost](#) of the event -- billions of dollars that will be taken out of public funds.

Brazilians say the money should be used instead to improve education, health care and public services, as well as to put an end to corruption in the government and police force. They criticize the government for allowing hundreds to be displaced from their homes because of new construction or higher rents in areas surrounding the new stadiums.

Brazil's Ministry of Tourism has said that the tournament -- the [most expensive in history](#) -- is worth the cost and will generate an estimated \$25 billion in revenue for the country in the long run. But many Brazilians are focusing on the exorbitant price tag as well as the huge revenue the games will bring in from broadcasters and sponsors for the international soccer organization, FIFA.

The World Cup is no stranger to controversy -- host nations in the past, as well as those chosen for future games, have faced everything from protests and strikes to reports that workers are being treated like slaves.

2010 WORLD CUP: SOUTH AFRICA



A South African fan blows a vuvuzela during the opening ceremony of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa on June 11, 2010, in Johannesburg. (Clive Mason/Getty Images)

In 2010, the World Cup headed to South Africa, marking the first time the tournament was held in Africa.

For months before the games started, people protested spending so much money on them at a time when the country was facing massive problems. Residents complained that while billions were being spent on new stadiums, houses surrounding the fields lacked water and electricity, and nearly one-in-four South Africans was unemployed. Transportation workers went on strike right before the games to obtain higher wages, and labor unions threatened to strike during the tournament because of high electricity prices.

As [The Wall Street Journal documented at the time](#), the scenes outside the stadium in Soweto, where the opening match was played, exemplified the discrepancy between the grandeur of the tournament and the lives of so many living in its shadows.

Undulating over Soweto's hills in southern Johannesburg are oceans of corrugated metal shacks. In these settlements, roads are dirt, toilets are outdoors and electricity is pilfered from traffic lights. Incensed citizen groups have protested the lack of public services, turning Soweto and other townships into hotbeds of unrest once again.

Authorities were also accused of disbanding neighborhoods near stadiums and evicting its residents, forcing them to find shelter elsewhere or in newly established camps. Amnesty International [warned at the time](#) that informal housing was being taken down without giving residents enough notice or providing alternative housing or compensation. The organization also accused security forces of harassing informal traders, homeless people and migrants living in temporary shelters.



Two-thousand construction workers held up tools at the Soccer City Stadium during a demonstration in Soweto, outside Johannesburg on July 8, 2009. (Alexander Joe/AFP/Getty Images)

South Africa had been optimistic about the economic growth the country would see from hosting the World Cup. In 2008, [the country estimated](#) the games would create 695,000 jobs, have a gross impact of about \$12 billion on the national economy and change foreign investors' perception of doing business in the rainbow nation.

However, final reports indicate the estimates were far off. FIFA said the 2010 World Cup raised [\\$3.6 billion](#). But hosting the tournament cost South Africa [more than \\$3 billion](#), 10 times more than the original price tag. The 309,000 visitors who attended the games -- [141,000 fewer than originally expected](#) -- brought in [about half a billion dollars](#). While companies working directly for the tournament recorded a profit, economic growth in the country [reportedly slowed](#). In addition, South Africa was left with [five new stadiums it can barely maintain](#).

2022 WORLD CUP: QATAR

FIFA's executive committee stunned the world in 2010 by [picking Qatar](#) as the host for the 2022 World Cup.



FIFA President Joseph Sepp Blatter during a press conference at the conclusion of the meeting of the FIFA Executive Committee in Zurich, Switzerland, on March 21, 2014. (Murat Unlu/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images)

Many have mocked the decision, questioning why the committee would choose to hold a four-week long summer sports event in the middle of the desert, where temperatures are expected to reach 122 degrees. FIFA chief Sepp Blatter [recently admitted as much](#), saying the organization may have made a mistake in awarding the Gulf state the honor.

Qatar is expected to spend an estimated [\\$100 billion](#) on infrastructure projects and [\\$20 billion](#) on new roads ahead of the tournament. To construct its nine new state-of-the-art stadiums and 55,000 hotel rooms, it is drawing upon thousands of migrant laborers, mostly from Asia. It is the richest country per capita in the world, but its national workforce is among the smallest. It has an [expatriate community of 1.39 million people](#), which amounts to more than 85 percent of the country's total population of 2.1 million.

In a [study published in March](#), the International Trade Union Confederation concluded that the conditions of some migrant workers in the country amount to modern-day slavery. Four-thousand of the workers could perish in the desert nation before the 2022 World Cup even gets underway, the report found.

"Grown men said they were treated like animals, living like horses in a stable," [the study says](#). "Tragically a small number of Qatari power brokers have chosen to build the trappings of a modern economy off the backs of exploited and enslaved workers."



A worker takes a break at a construction site in the new City Center and West Bay district on Oct. 24, 2010 in Doha, Qatar. (Sean Gallup/Getty Images)

According to a separate [investigation by the Guardian](#), migrants often have to pay middlemen large sums of money to get jobs. Workers say that their passports are routinely confiscated and that they depend on the goodwill of their employer to provide them with exit visas. They often work six days a week, and many complain of a lack of water, food and rest, the study found.

Qatar's authorities have admitted that hundreds of migrants have died in construction projects each year. The government insists, however, that no workers have died on World Cup projects. In an attempt to quell criticism, the country's 2022 World Cup organizers announced they would penalize contractors who violate the welfare of construction workers. In addition, it announced in March that it would reform its controversial labor laws that tie workers to a single employer. According to Amnesty International, the move is an important first step but [falls short](#) of what's needed. The ITUC said the proposals are "cosmetic" and that they won't eradicate modern slavery from Qatar.

FIFA has put the responsibility for reform on the state of Qatar and the companies employing the workers. Blatter, the FIFA chief, told reporters in March that while he acknowledges the organization has "[some responsibility](#)" for the rights of workers, he said it "cannot intervene."

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/28/world-cup-controversy_n_5352561.html.
Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

In Brazil, General Motors Recall Is A Reminder Of Past Tragedies

Agencia Publica | By Natalia Viana & Moriti Neto

DATA: 2014.05.29



On May 22, General Motors announced a recall of 238,360 vehicles in Brazil that were manufactured between October 2013 and April 2014. The company says it will replace the fuel filter in order to prevent leakages that could lead to a fire.

The announcement came days after *Agencia Publica* reporter Moriti Neto [revealed](#) the tragic explosions of several cars of the model Vectra produced between 1996 and 1999. An association of victims mapped 59 cases of cars that exploded in the following decade in 10 states in Brazil — half of them without an apparent outer cause. The explosions led to at least five deaths and five victims were severely injured. But contrary to the company's recent policy in the U.S., the indemnifications are much lower than those paid by (or pledged to) U.S. citizens.

Some are extremely tragic stories, such as what happened to Lucineia Rodrigues dos Santos Silva, a middle-aged woman whose eyes still water when she remembers July 28, 2008, when her Silver 1997 Vectra from Chevrolet — an associated brand in Brazil — exploded after she came back from shopping in a small town in the mid-Western state of Mato Grosso do Sul. Lucineia and her 6-year-old son had just left the car parked in the garage when she heard the blow. Her 6-month-old daughter was still in the car as Lucineia fought the flames and tried to save her baby. Small Raissa barely survived and spent several days in intensive care before caving into the burns. Lucineia, in shock, tried to receive compensation for her loss, but was met with the Kafkaian Brazilian justice system that seldom stands for small men and women. Almost five years after filing the lawsuit, not even one audition has taken place.

The worst blow came when the company rejected the report from the criminal division of the civil police. The report claimed that the explosion was caused by a fire in the rear of the car caused by an electrical defect, but GM in Brazil demanded a new report. However, three years later, no report was finalized. The reason is quite jaw-dropping: the car simply disappeared from the parking lot where it was taken by policemen three years before. GM's lawyers therefore say that no definite conclusions can be made without proof, despite the first report.

“As a mom, I felt guilty,” Lucineia said when she relayed her story for the first time to reporter Moriti Neto.

Unfortunately, Lucineia is not alone. A group of victims and family of victims found 59 explosions. In addition, they found that GM had issued an internal alert in 1998 to its retailers, warning of a defect in the fuel pump harness. Consumer organizations claim this is evidence that GM knew of the problem and could have prevented the explosions.

However, 16 years on, no recall was made on the Vectra models. The recent recall — announced just days after the *Agencia Publica* story was published — may show that GM is actively trying to change

its slack no-recall culture. Or else, it may show that GM has decided to dismiss the problems of the past — avoiding paying for compensations — and is moving on.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/29/brazil-gm-recall_n_5411158.html. Acesso em: 05 de set. 2014.

How Far Will That American Passport Take You?

DATA: 2014.05.30



Credit: zimmytws - Fotolia.com

U.S. citizens are scrambling to get last-minute Brazilian tourist visas for the World Cup, but Brits, Swedes, and Finns have nothing to stress about -- they're able to skate into the South American country with just a passport. Hotel search trivago, in collaboration with Swedish newspaper *Expressen*, examine the countries whose nationals are allowed into the most and fewest countries without a visa. U.S. travelers might be pleasantly surprised.

Nationalities with highest visa-free access (with the number of countries they're able to enter without a visa)...

Sweden:	173
Finland:	173
UK:	173
USA:	172
Denmark:	172
Germany:	172

Luxembourg:	172
Belgium:	171
Italy:	171
Netherlands:	171

The US has tied for 4th alongside Denmark, Germany, and Luxembourg -- falling behind only Sweden, Finland, and the UK.

It should come as no surprise perhaps, that many of these countries granted easy access (not the U.S.) also top the list of the world's most peaceful nations, according to The Institute for Economics and Peace's Global Peace Index, with Denmark at No. 2, Finland at No. 7, Sweden at No. 9, and Belgium at No. 10.

...and the countries with the most restricted access

Azerbaijan:	56
Kyrgyzstan:	56
Cape Verde:	57
Philippines:	58
Moldova:	59

Visa required to watch the World Cup in Brazil

American soccer fans traveling to Brazil this summer will need to obtain a visa before entering. Although the processing fee for the document is \$160, it may be [waived](#) for those providing proof of ticket purchase or proof of travel for official business, according to *The Washington Post*. Although the Brazilian government has recently approved new measures to ease and expedite the process for future visitors to obtain visas, Americans planning a last-minute trip to Brazil would be wise to start the process now.

Other destinations that require U.S. citizens to obtain a visa before entering (some are easier to get than others!)

India
 China
 Vietnam
 Turkey
 Myanmar
 Russia
 Cuba (special permission only)

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/trivago/how-far-will-that-america_b_5403409.html.
 Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Police Repression Seems to Be the Lasting Legacy of the 2014 World Cup

DATA: 2014.05.30



A couple of weeks ago I wrote here about how the civic organization of affected people was one of the legacies of the World Cup in Brazil. Now it becomes clear that another enduring legacy will be the new and revamped repressive capacity of the military polices.

On May 15, as small protests erupted in 12 cities, what was seen was once again brutal police repression. In São Paulo, the 5,000 protesters were escorted by at least as many policemen, and then violently dispersed with the use of tear gas and rubber bullets. This shows that in spite of the Brazilian police's obvious unpreparedness last year in dealing with demonstrations -- the dozens of human rights violations against protesters are yet to be investigated and punished -- state governments have not worked on improving the quality of our police forces. Instead, they have decided to vamp up investments in repressive equipments.

In Brazil, the military police, responsible for public security, is under the authority of each state government. A recent article by web portal G1 showed that between June of last year and May 2014, the military police of various states in Brazil purchased over 270,000 tear gas bombs and 260,000 rubber bullets cartridges. The states that purchased more non-lethal arms were Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Distrito Federal and São Paulo e Bahia.

This shows just how the governments are seeing their role in keeping the event peaceful for those few lucky and wealthy enough to be inside the stadia -- by having their police forces violently clash down on protestors. What is yet to be seen is if the Brazilian population will be okay with that.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natalia-viana/brazil-world-cup-turmoil_b_5420370.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Ronaldo Says He's 'Appalled' At Brazil's World Cup Preparations

AP | By STEPHEN WADE

DATA: 2014.05.30



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Former Brazil striker Ronaldo said Friday he was "appalled" at the chaotic preparations for the country's World Cup, arguing that little of what had been promised to the people was delivered.

A member of the local organizing committee, Ronaldo's comments in the newspaper *Folha de S.Paulo* are his harshest criticism so far of Brazil's planning for the World Cup, which opens in just under two weeks.

"I have followed everything very closely," Ronaldo said. "I had hoped everything would work out — even at the last minute. It's a shame. I feel appalled. There is a disregard for the population. I think, primarily, serious planning was lacking for everything to have been delivered. We had time — seven years."

Brazil is spending about \$11.5 billion on the World Cup, with \$4 billion going to 12 new or renovated stadiums — four of which are expected to be white elephants. Several of the stadiums are still incomplete, with workers struggling to finish work inside, or work outside including roads and access areas.

The lavish spending has been harshly criticized at home and abroad, with many questioning priorities in a country with poor school and hospitals and a slowing economy.

Ronaldo is a local hero after leading the country to two World Cup titles, but he has been growing more critical in recent weeks. Pele, the country's other football idol, has also questioned World Cup spending and national priorities.

"I got on the (organizing) committee because it (the Cup) was a great opportunity for Brazil," Ronaldo added. "We are failing to take advantage of it."

He estimated only 30 percent of non-stadium infrastructure had been built.

"Nobody here will ever see another World Cup in Brazil," Ronaldo said, citing continual clashes between Brazilian officials and officials of FIFA, the world governing body of football.

In 2012 Jerome Valcke, the top FIFA official in charge of the World Cup, said Brazilian organizers needed a "kick in the backside" to speed work on venues.

In a separate interview published Friday in the newspaper O Globo, retiring Supreme Court Chief Justice Joaquim Barbosa said the World Cup would "probably be very bad for the country's image because those responsible for its organization did not prepare themselves for an event of this size."

Despite the cutting comments, Ronaldo also predicted the World Cup would be a "success."

"We will host a great World Cup," he said. "It will be a brilliant Cup. Marvelous. We'll show the world we're capable of organizing it."

Stephen Wade on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/StephenWadeAP>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/30/ronaldo-appalled-world-cup-preparations-brazil_n_5419764.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Brazil's Churches Fight Against Child Sex Tourism Ahead Of World Cup

Religion News Service | By Janet Tappin Coelho

DATA: 2014.05.31



RIO DE JANEIRO (RNS) As Brazil counts down to the opening of the World Cup on June 12, churches in cities hosting the international soccer tournament are not content to sit on the sidelines and cheer.

They've launched a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of the hundreds of vulnerable children at risk of sexual exploitation during the monthlong competition.

With an estimated 600,000 soccer fans expected to arrive in Brazil within a matter of days, the South American nation is under pressure to combat its international reputation as a destination for child sex tourism.

Church leaders fear the heavy flow of tourists during the games could fuel an explosion of sexual trafficking of children and teens at fan fest locations around the World Cup arenas. Thousands of youngsters will be on school holidays during the event, and the risks of exposure to criminal gangs and predatory individuals is significantly higher.

An estimated 250,000 children are sexually abused every year in Brazil, according to nonprofit child advocacy organizations, and the numbers spike around major sporting events.

Research from Childhood Brazil, a human rights organization designed to protect children, shows sex crimes against children increased by 66 percent during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and by 28 percent during the 2006 games in Germany.

A network of Brazilian churches and nonprofit groups has joined forces to form Bola na Rede or “Back of the Net” in English, a nationwide campaign alerting tourists to the dangers facing the country’s children.

“Over the last three years, we’ve been preparing churches in the 12 cities, encouraging them to mobilize their congregations so they actively do something in the days leading up to and during the World Cup,” said Ronald Neptune, the national coordinator of Bola na Rede and a missionary with the United World Mission in Sao Paulo, referring to the 12 host cities.

“As Christians, we can’t just clap our hands and praise the Lord, we have to work to make a difference to the lives of the young people at risk,” he said. “We can be the eyes and ears on the streets and the motivating force that gets people out leafleting and speaking to tourists about how they can be vigilant to help protect our children.”

On May 18, over 97,000 Christians took to the streets in Brazil’s host cities in a nationwide day of marches. Outside the World Cup stadium in Itaquerao, Sao Paulo, where the opening match between Brazil and Croatia kicks off on June 12, churchgoers gathered to protest peacefully with banners and posters. They then knelt in prayer for victims of sex abuse on the grass outside the stadium.

This coming week, evangelical churches will hold a series of daily prayer sessions on child sex abuse. The Brazilian government is getting into the game, too. Last month, legislation was introduced increasing prison sentences and making those arrested for child sexual exploitation ineligible for bail. The government has also launched a series of advertising campaigns in English warning tourists that offenders will not escape prosecution.

“We need to keep our children off the streets,” Neptune said. “We’re supporting about 20 churches in each of the host cities who are planning to stay open with school vacation projects. They will provide Bible-related activities, games, sports and stories to occupy the children.”

In Porto Alegre, in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, Joane Morais knows what it’s like to be destitute. The 37-year-old mother of eight was sexually abused as a child and thrown out of her home when she fought off her attacker with a knife.

But last December Morais’ life changed drastically when women from a local Baptist church knocked on her door saying they were part of Bola na Rede and were working to protect vulnerable children and their families.

“Their involvement in my life made me realize the risks my children and others face,” she said. “Now I’ve started going out to talk to other vulnerable mothers to teach them about God’s love and the

importance of protecting their children from the various forms of violence in our community, especially sexual exploitation.”

According to REST (Real Escape from the Sex Trade), a direct service faith-based charity in Seattle, raising awareness around major sporting events like the Super Bowl and the World Cup is essential, but providing a long-term service is crucial to making a profound difference.

“The World Cup in Brazil will provide an international stage to highlight the issue,” said Bridget Battistoni, REST’s chief operating officer. “But we know from experience that when the coverage ends and the cameras disappear there are still hundreds of people desperately needing help. We want the church and the people engaged in the anti-trafficking movement to be in it for the long haul, not just for the big moments.”

It’s a sentiment echoed by Neptune, who says Brazilian churches are only now awakening to the extent of the problem after decades of silence. “The World Cup must be the start to what we do,” he said. “We need a cultural shift in our churches so our children are protected for the long term.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: The number of children sexually abused each year in Brazil was incorrectly attributed to UNICEF in an earlier version of this story.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/31/brazil-church-sex-tourism_n_5420683.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

'The New American Dream' Is Winning The World Cup

The Huffington Post | By [Chris Greenberg](#)

DATA: 2014.06.02



Forget the white picket fence and the two-car garage. There is a new dream grabbing hold of the American consciousness. It is not simply a pursuit of material goods in the workaday rat race of modern

life. It is the pursuit of respect and history in the world's beautiful game. It is the dream of winning the World Cup.

The New American Dream [@AmericanOutlaws](#) tifo for [#USAvTURpic.twitter.com/SMOIXHR2fp](#)

— U.S. Soccer (@ussoccer) [June 1, 2014](#)

When the U.S. men's national team took the field at Red Bull Arena in New Jersey on Sunday to face Turkey in the second match of its Send-Off series, the fans in attendance provided a raucous welcome, complete with several World Cup-focused banners. Prominent among the signs on display was one depicting the Statue of Liberty holding aloft the World Cup trophy. Along with the depiction of Lady Liberty, the aspirational and inspirational tifo included the slogan, "The New American Dream."

The 2014 World Cup begins in Brazil on June 12 and the first match for the U.S. team is scheduled for June 16 against Ghana. The United States is making its seventh straight appearance in the World Cup but has advanced to the quarterfinals just once during that span.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/02/new-american-dream-world-cup-tifo_n_5429227.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

A Cup for Whom?

DATA: 2014.06.03



Many people have been and still are dumbfounded by the dissatisfaction of a large part of the Brazilian people with the 2014 World Cup: how come the country of soccer, where almost anyone carries a story of passion for this sport, is protesting against its major event? Between the devotion for the ball and the general discontentment, what has been lost?

The surprise and the presumed contradiction became even clearer when, in July 2013, during the Confederations Cup, about one million people took part in manifestations during the games, and the eyes and hearts of a large number of people were with the activists, and not with the national teams.

Several opinion polls, since the beginning of the 2013 massive protests until the eve of the 2014 World Cup, reveal that few people agree about the mega event -- according to a Datafolha study in May, 66 percent declared that the Cup will cause more loss than benefit.

Three years ago, when asked "A Cup for whom?" few people had a clear answer; today almost no one objects that this tournament already has its great champions.

The 110 billion reais increase in the national economy brought about by the Cup will go to the hands of just a few. Fifa, a non-profit association that gains U.S. \$100 million a year, has announced that it will have the biggest profit in its history -- 10 billion reais. Its commercial partners, such as Coca Cola, Adidas and McDonalds, will have the monopoly of sales in arenas, festivals and their surroundings, besides exclusiveness in the 2014 Cup products. A few Brazilian businessmen and companies, mainly the big contractors (Andrade Gutierrez, Odebrecht, OAS and Camargo Correia) and other national sponsors of the event, will also benefit of high profit rates.

The Cup's promised social legacy will not bring benefits to the population as a whole -- less than 20 percent of the urban mobility works, which would bring improvements to buses, trains, subways and airports, were concluded, and one third of those were cancelled. Those that were concluded, still, are mostly works of airport expansion. That is: almost nothing new will stay as a legacy to public transportation.

#ThereWillBeViolation

Despite the big lie of a "Private Cup" announced since 2007, according to which the stadiums would be paid by private capital, has been exposed, with less than 1 percent of the Cup's costs coming from businessmen pockets, the costs of the mega event to the public chests are not the Cup's most wicked dimension to Brazil. The most urgent question we must face is the human rights violation, the social cost of the Cup. And in this aspect, unfortunately, it has already started, and we are losing badly.

Ten workers have died just in the arenas' construction; 170,000 to 250,000 people were removed from their homes with no right to compensation -- besides the thousands expelled by real-estate speculation; there has been growing sexual exploitation reports, including of children and teenagers, and of human traffic; the homeless population is being violently expelled from urban centers; scores of protesters were hurt by law enforcement agents, many others suffer political persecution; and small retailers, street artists and thousands of street peddlers (138,000 just in São Paulo), besides recyclable material catchers, are prohibited to work in the exclusion zones -- a radius of 2 kilometers (protected by military blockade) of exclusiveness for Fifa around stadiums and Fan Fests, where only people with tickets can circulate.

Authorities and businessmen have searched precisely in the Brazilians' passion for soccer the legitimacy to do their business and to justify violations. But not even soccer has survived to the Cup of Cups: bleachers have disappeared and gave way to the Fifa-standard "arenas"; tickets prices have rocketed, some of them arriving at 2,000 reais (around three times the minimum wage). In the new "stadiums of exception," soccer is just for a few.

Violations have been going on with the repressive apparatus expansion: 2 billion reais were spent in public security, being 54 million just in guns' purchase. Police officers were trained by military groups from Israel and France. New battalions and control centers were created in the cities. Exception courts around stadiums, with expanded punishment and without a right to ample defense, a basic principle in any democracy, will be installed. New legislation allow to frame social movements as terrorists. The

"preventive" detention of protesters has been announced for the tournament period. And all of that in a country known around the world as supposedly inhabited by a hospitable people. To whom are directed all of those measures?

The poor, black and peripheral people who lead the grim statistics of murders committed by the police in outer neighborhoods offer a clear and historic answer to that question.

Soccer for whom?

Brazil became globally known as the great soccer country, and its people as the sport's main lovers. Scholars such as anthropologist Roberto da Matta have pointed to the central place soccer occupies in the Brazilian identity, and the importance of the stadium as a social space of creation and popular celebration, fulfilling a role between the carnival spectacle and erudition. Several cultural, social and political manifestations in Brazil were born and built in stadiums among fans. One must just remember that during the military regime, the first public banners for amnesty were raised at the bleachers.

But from the 1990's on much has changed in the Brazilian soccer scene, which has only followed a global trend. We have seen the fast development of new commercial strategies linked to the sport, with a progressively growing influence of large television corporations on the games and a growing process of militarization of stadiums, which became less and less accessible to popular classes -- traditional occupants of the benches.

That has been conspicuous in the appearance of pop-star players, true products of marketing and of the big media; in the shift of the public stadiums, with a constant increase in tickets prices; the opening of clubs to the sponsoring of big companies, and even to the financial capital; and the creation of a repressive and legal apparatus around the fans, increasingly censoring their practices under a discourse of restraining violence -- something like the process unleashed by Margaret Thatcher in Britain after the Hillsborough tragedy.

All of that was already in course, but the World Cup has accelerated, in great measure, that process in Brazil: with the help of Fifa, soccer became a show, the stadium a shopping center and the fans, mere consumers. The multiple feelings and passions were emptied and popular participation itself was put under doubt.

The stadiums in the 12 cities that will host the 2014 Cup were built or remodeled according to Fifa's demands; street workers lost their sales spaces, big companies gained the local trade monopoly, stands were replaced by seats, and patrons and workers started being checked by a complex private security system -- called "big brother." Each step within the arenas will be watched and a series of traditional behaviors in stadiums will no longer be allowed.

Signalers, batteries, flags, fireworks, cut paper -- none of those will be permitted. One cannot bring food and drinks, and there will be no more hot dog stands or any stands close to stadiums, only within them, and for exorbitant prices. Clothes or banners showing political statements or referring to commercial identifications which are not those of the event's sponsors will not be allowed, among other Fifa provisions.

The Complexo Maracanã SA, a company that became the owner of the traditional Rio stadium, decided to extend the rules to their employees, with the requirements of a clean shave, the use of deodorant and

not having visible tattoos. The company also explains that its target audience are individuals who own summer houses, horses, boats, drive imported cars and drink fine whiskies.

Is the Brazilians' lack of excitement with the Cup of Cups still stunning?

As Juan Arias said: "It is as if Brazil were saying that the way things go in that field, the Cup had no interest, either playing it or winning it. That the passion for the sport is being changed for a capitalist operation whose maximum expression are Fifa's swindles, which are killing real soccer." Likewise, more than half of high school students in a public school have told us that they "will not cheer for Brazil".

But among the streams of money and violations by Fifa, CBF, companies and governments, the popular passion endures: in the bare feet, in streets, squares, parks and riverside fields. That is what we have seen during two editions of the Rebel Cup, an event organized by the Popular Committee of Copa SP and partner movements in a self-managed and horizontal way.

In the joust, men, women and children have met Indians, immigrants and Palestinian visitors, activists linked to the struggle for popular housing and for the women's rights, collectives that want the decriminalization of drugs and freedom to live, movements that demand "free land" in cities and fields, and also the "free pass" in public transport, homeless people and several others, threatened by removal, repressed, segregated and made invisible. An infinite number of flags, many of which remain up around the fields, converge in the struggle for the right to the city and against the Fifa Cup.

The Rebel Cup experience showed that another World Cup, popular and organized from the bottom up, is possible. And this is the message we want to send to the whole world.

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Six Steps to a Successful World Cup

DATA: 2014.06.03



When the final whistle blew after 120 minutes of yet another thrilling Champions League Final, the football world could finally give 100 percent of their attention to the upcoming World Cup in Brazil. The first kick is less than two weeks away and like World Cups in the past, it's already filled with intrigue. We shouldn't expect anything less. The only guarantee is anything is possible. There will be goals, there will be heartbreak, but only one winner.

I won't try to make any predictions, but what I will do is describe what it takes to have a successful World Cup.

A Win is a Win

You have to be willing to win ugly. A win is a win and you need at least one to progress out of the group stage -- and you have to keep winning to be crowned Champion. There are no points awarded for style. In 1998, when the French won on home soil, they started out brilliantly, with three wins for maximum of nine points (three points for a win) to win their group. In the knockout stage, it was an entirely different ballgame. They had to grind out victories against Paraguay (1-0), Italy (0-0, 0-0, 4-3), and Croatia (2-1). In the finals, however, they played masterfully against a heavily favored Brazil side, winning 3-0. Winning is all that matters.

Get Lucky

No team wins a World Cup on skill alone -- except for maybe Brazil in 2002. In 2006, the Italians were on the brink of extra time against the Australians when Fabio Grosso went down -- softly I might add, replays show little to no contact -- after stepping over a challenge from an Aussie defender. The referee determined that was enough to award a penalty, which the Italians converted and moved on to the next round, eventually being crowned Champions. Or take the US squad in 1994. Who would have thought the US could have beaten Colombia? But a few lucky bounces -- and an unfortunate own goal -- and the US pulled off the unthinkable.

U-N-I-T-Y

Nothing spells disaster like a team in turmoil. If the players don't get along with each other or if there's no respect for the coaches and managers, no team will have a chance to succeed. All I have to point to is the French debacle of 2010. The players refused to practice after one of their teammates had been, in their opinion, unfairly punished. Or, on the exact opposite of the spectrum, the Spanish side that won in South Africa. Much of that squad played in La Liga -- spending their club seasons intensely competing against each other. They overcame their club rivalries to be crowned World Cup Champions.

Overcome Adversity

The outcome for the US in 2010 could have been much different had they not persevered through slow starts, bad officiating, and a grueling 90 minutes with Algeria. If you remember, their World Cup started

with early goal to England -- Steven Gerrard's cool finish past Tim Howard. The US was able to get a goal back and settle for a point against England. In their next game against Slovenia, they had a winning goal disallowed after coming back from two goals down, because the referee -- who should remain nameless -- called a non-existent foul on an American player. In their final group game, on the brink of elimination, a quick counter attack found Landon Donovan pouncing on a loose ball in the Algerian goal mouth to give the US a dramatic 1-0 victory and the top spot in their Group. Unfortunately, the US were eliminated in the next round, but 2010 remains a success nonetheless.

Play Big

No, I'm not talking about size -- although that helps. But I'm referring to playing with heart and conviction. There's no better example than Cameroon in 1990. The Indomitable Lions weren't given much of shot after being drawn in a group with reigning World Champions Argentina and European Championship runner-up Soviet Union. In their first match, they managed to shock the world by defeating Argentina 1-0 -- even ending the match with nine men. After making it to the Round of 16, they defeated Colombia. Unfortunately, England ended their run in the quarterfinals -- Cameroon had even led the game 2-1. Cameroon's success in the 1990 World Cup remains the litmus test for subsequent African sides competing in the World Cup.

Realistic Expectations

Being realistic with your goals goes a long way both in life and sport. It'd be foolish for American fans to think the US should bring home the trophy -- I'd be ecstatic, but seriously, it's not going to happen. But teams like Spain or Brazil, wouldn't be wrong to think they have a legitimate shot at winning the whole thing. I'd be worried if the coach from either team suggested their goal was the Round of 16.

The most successful teams will be the ones that accomplish these steps -- although let's be honest, it won't be because they've read this piece.

So, sit back, relax -- no check that, sit on the edge of your sofa, bar stool, office swivel chair, or stand if necessary and cheer on your favorite national team. Starting June 12 anything is possible.

Correction: A previous version of this post incorrectly scored USMNT's victory over Algeria in the 2010 World Cup.

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Brazilian Man Xiahn Nishi Has Plastic Surgery To Look More Asian (PHOTOS, VIDEO)

The Huffington Post | By [Simon McCormack](#)

DATA: 2014.06.04

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tg1kfdDfpVc>

Love the skin you're in.

Or you could do what a Brazilian man did, and change your face to look more Asian.

As can be seen in the video above, Xiahn Nishi, who used to go by "Max," is a Brazilian man who decided to undergo ten surgeries to achieve his goal, [according to the Sydney Morning Herald](#). The results are below.

Story continues after the photos ...

"I think I look handsomer like this," Nishi told the Herald. "Maybe some people think it's not, but I think it is."

Nishi insists he doesn't think of himself as Asian or as Korean, a nationality that he greatly admires after visiting the country, but as "something in between."

But, the [Stir's Rebecca Stokes](#) suggests something much darker may lurk inside Nishi's psyche.

"When the outside adulation goes, who's to say how long his sense of satisfaction will last?" Stokes writes. "How long is it before he just goes under the knife again rather than deal with his real issues?"

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/04/xiahn-nishi-plastic-surgery_n_5447600.html. Acesso em: 04 de set. 2014.

Brazil's Homeless Workers Hold Peaceful March On World Cup Arena

Reuters

DATA: 2014.06.04



By Reese Ewing and Nacho Doce

SAO PAULO, June 4 (Reuters) - Thousands of homeless workers on Wednesday marched peacefully on Brazil's Arena Corinthians stadium, which is to host the opening game of the soccer World Cup next week, pressing their cause under the spotlight of the global sporting event.

The Workers Without Homes Movement, which police estimated mobilized more than 10,000 people to demand more government spending on transport, health, education and low-income housing, shut down one of Sao Paulo's main highways to the stadium, which is fighting the clock to get ready for the June 12 event.

The notorious transport infrastructure constraints of South America's largest city won't ease soon, as foreigners start to straggle in ahead of the month-long tournament to catch some of the friendly matches now going on between national squads.

Brazil's decisive 4-to-nil victory over Panama in a friendly Tuesday does not seem to have diffused the social tensions ahead of the official Cup.

Union workers of Sao Paulo's Metro subway system are set to go on strike from midnight. The city's traffic police also plan a strike on Thursday.

The frequency and intensity of protests in Brazil have picked up over the past month but it is still unclear in what direction the tide of civil disobedience is now headed.

While Wednesday's protest has been without violence, the May 27 protest outside the Mané Garrincha National Stadium in Brasilia, the capital, involved clashes between riot police and Indians armed with clubs, spears and bows and arrows.

Some 600,000 to 850,000 foreign soccer fans are expected to travel to Brazil for the World Cup. Brazil's next friendly is scheduled for Friday against Serbia at the Morumbi stadium, nestled in one of Sao Paulo's wealthiest neighborhoods. And the homeless workers' group, also known by its Portuguese acronym MTST, is threatening to crash the event. (Editing by Clarence Fernandez)

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The World Cup Exposes Brazil's Injustices

Posted: 06/04/2014 2:48 pm EDT Updated: 08/04/2014 5:59 am EDT

On June 12th the World Cup kicks off in Brazil; the country has been beset by protest in the run up to the tournament.



Chief Raoni walking away from protests in Brasilia, May 27th, credit Maira Irigaray, Amazonwatch

Last year up to a million people demonstrated across Brazil: protesting the vast expense of the World Cup, calling for better public services and an end to corruption. On [June 3rd](#), the police were accused of heavy handedness as protestors gathered outside the World Cup Stadium in Goiania, during a friendly football match between Brazil and Panama. The demonstrators condemn the 15 billion dollars spent on the tournament which could have gone towards social services and improving living standards for the poor of Brazil. It's the latest in a long line of demonstrations.



May 27th protests, Brasilia. Credit, MEDIANINJA

But now Brazil's poor favela residents and the indigenous and tribal people have joined forces. On [May 28th](#) in Brasilia, 1,500 residents of the favelas, indigenous people, students and many other Brazilians from all walks of life took to the streets, gridlocking them for hours. Some occupied the roof of the Brazilian Congress, including members of the indigenous Guarani tribe who carried banners saying, 'Guarani resiste, Demarcacao ja!' 'The Guarani are resisting. Yes to demarcation!'

Police fired tear gas and stun grenades into the crowd. One policeman was reportedly shot in the leg with an arrow.



Smoke bombed protesters, Brasilia May 27th 2014, credit MEDIANINJA

At first glance the inhabitants of Brazil's urban slums, the favelas, and the indigenous people of the Brazilian Amazon may not seem to have a common cause. But both groups face violence with impunity from police and the military, poverty, land insecurity, neglect by the authorities. The Brazilian government is brushing them under the carpet.

On June 9th the legendary Chief Raoni Metuktire and his nephew Chief Megaron Txucarramãe, members of the Mebengôkre Kayapó tribe in the Brazilian Amazon, will arrive in London to gather support for the Kayapó and for all the tribes across Brazil in their struggle to protect their ancestral lands and way of life. They are urging the Brazilian government to demarcate the region known as Kapôt-Nhinore, which is sacred to the Kayapó. They will be holding a press conference on June 9th - I will be there to speak in their support, as Founder and Chair of the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation (BJHRF).

It is a critical time for indigenous rights in Brazil. The Kayapó, and all the indigenous peoples of the Amazon are threatened; by mega-dams, illegal mining, logging, occupation by settlers and ranchers, and by companies and large corporations, by proposed legal reform and constitutional amendments which if allowed to go ahead will strip the tribes of their territorial rights, and endanger their livelihoods and cultures.

Throughout my life I have campaigned on behalf of indigenous peoples all over the world: in South America, Asia and Africa. I have witnessed the suffering of many of these ancient tribes, murdered,

threatened, abused, forced from their homes and deprived of their way of life. Millions of indigenous people have become refugees in their own land and we don't know how many thousands have lost their lives.



Protester being treated after gas exposure, May 27th. Credit MEDIANINJA

The values of indigenous people have shaped my relationship to the earth, and our responsibilities towards her. During my thirty years of campaigning for human rights, social justice and environmental protection, I have campaigned on behalf of many indigenous tribes in Latin America: the Miskitos and Mayangna in Nicaragua, the Yanomami, the Guarani, and the Surui Paiter in Brazil, the Cofán, Siona, Secoya, Kichwa, and Huaorani tribes in Ecuador, and the Quechua in Peru. I learned from their wisdom, and also from their courage. Traditional indigenous cultures use natural resources sustainably: forests, grasslands, rivers and wildlife, and preserve biodiversity. Protecting the rights of indigenous peoples is essential to our survival and that of the planet. Over and over again, indigenous peoples have been proven to be the best custodians of biodiversity in their ancestral lands.

Brazil's 1988 constitution recognises that the Indians have an 'Original' and inalienable right to occupy and use their traditional lands. If it can be shown that the tribe historically occupied and used that area of land, it is theirs by right - it should become demarcated land.

Kapôt-Nhinore has already been surveyed by the indigenous agency FUNAI for demarcation, but the process has been stalled by bureaucracy, and is threatened by proposed changes to Brazil's demarcation laws and constitution.

In the past Brazil had an average of thirteen demarcations per year. Under President Dilma Rousseff this number has sunk to three a year. The demarcation process has been crippled by an unrelenting barrage of legislative proposals from Congressmen representing large agribusiness, mining corporations and the dam industry, designed to wrest the land from the indigenous tribes and open it to development. It is unconscionable. I urge President Rousseff to halt the [Proposed Constitutional Amendment](#) (PEC215) which would further delay the process for demarcations and claims: and would result in few, if any further demarcations being approved.

[Brent Millikan](#) of International Rivers states, 'constitutional amendment PEC 215 would transfer authority for demarcation of indigenous lands from the Executive branch to the Congress.' Demarcation

would become a political decision; power of the Executive being transferred to the Legislature, an abuse of the separation of powers, a foundation stone of the Constitution. Since the Congress is today dominated by the *Bancada Ruralista* - the large landowners' lobby - it is highly unlikely that any demarcation would be granted. Even if it were, finding time for Congress to debate each demarcation would mean even more delays introduced into the process. Because the change would effectively be retrospective, Congress would also acquire the power to reduce or reverse territories (TIs) which have already been demarcated.

I urge President Rousseff to halt PEC 215 and the other proposed amendments to the Brazilian Constitution and laws which are eroding the indigenous peoples' right to their ancestral lands. Some proposals would open up indigenous territories for mineral and oil extraction - mining companies have already begun to lodge claims to the territory. Some would not only permit, but effectively force the indigenous people to allow cattle ranching and agriculture on their land. If allowed to go ahead, these changes could destroy the forest and traditional lives of the Kayapó and many other tribes across Brazil.

I call on the Brazilian government to enforce the Kayapó's rights to their land, which are enshrined in the 1988 Constitution. I appeal for protection for the hundreds of tribes in the Brazilian Amazon who are continually threatened by landowners, illegal mining, logging, occupation by settlers and ranchers, and by companies and large corporations which continue to trade in produce from illegally farmed crops on indigenous territory, by reckless development projects which threaten their lives and livelihoods. Otherwise indigenous people will continue to be murdered, abused and pushed off their ancestral land.



Protesting PEC 215, Credit Maira Irigaray, Amazonwatch

Among the most monstrous of these projects is the Belo Monte Dam, which is under construction on the Xingu River in the Brazilian state of Pará, in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon. Belo Monte will be more than a dam; it is a megadam, the third largest in the world, which will displace 20,000 people and change the Amazon basin forever. It is a grave human rights violation and an environmental crime

I have campaigned against Belo Monte for many years. In March 2012 I went on a fact finding mission to the Xingu. Construction on the dam had then just begun. I travelled down the Xingu River in a small boat. I was accompanied by my courageous friend Antonia Melo, co-ordinator of [Xingu Vivo](#), a collective of local NGOs opposed to Belo Monte, and Ruy Marques Sposati. We saw the great red

scarred coffer dams, the beginnings of Belo Monte, rearing out of the river. I met with indigenous leaders, with local communities, NGOs, government officials, extractivists - and the Bishop of the Xingu, Dr Erwin Krautler, whose concern and care for the people affected by Belo Monte was evident. I was distraught by the suffering I witnessed in the area. I published my findings in a report on the Huffington Post: [The Belo Monte Dam, an Environmental Crime](#). I urge you to read it. The people of the Xingu need our support.



Protesters assemble on the beach in Rio de Janeiro during Rio+20, 2012, to protest the Belo Monte dam. Credit, Sue Cunningham

And Belo Monte is only part of the plan: on 25 April 2014 it was disclosed in Lima, Peru that 412 dams are [planned](#) across the Amazon. 256 of them are in Brazil, 77 in Peru, 55 in Ecuador, 14 in Bolivia, six in Venezuela, two in Guyana, and one each in Colombia, French Guyana and Surinam. Five of the six rivers which run through the world's largest tropical forest will be dammed - and damned. All over Brazil, even now, the Amazon's waterways are being blocked and diverted. The river system that provides a fifth of the world's fresh water is being dammed, polluted and fouled up.

It is imperative that indigenous rights, including the right to free, prior and informed consent, be respected in places like the Tapajós basin, in the heart of the Amazon, where the Brazilian government plans to construct up to 29 large dams, following the same destructive model as Belo Monte.

To the Kayapó each river, the sky, the rocks, all plants, trees and animals have a spirit. The Xingu River is sacred. At least five dams are planned upstream of Belo Monte. If these dams are built, it will be a grave human rights violation and cause irreparable environmental destruction in the Kayapó lands. Already the Kayapó are seeing the impact of the influx of some of the 100,000 workers and migrants who are flooding into the area, bringing overcrowding, disease, alcoholism, violence and prostitution. Anthropologist Paul Little released a report in April 2014, '[Mega-Development Projects in Amazonia: A geopolitical and socioenvironmental primer.](#)'

He writes, '

The weight of these socio-environmental impacts is distributed in an extremely unequal manner. The majority of the benefits derived from the construction of mega-development projects accrue to... large

multinational corporations, the administrative apparatus of national governments and financial institutions. The majority of negative impacts of these same mega-development projects are borne by indigenous peoples, who suffer from the invasion of their territories, and local communities, which suffer from the proliferation of serious social and health problems.'

In 2009 the Kayapó wrote a letter to Eletrobras, the parastatal energy company that is partnering with huge construction companies such as Odebrecht, Andrade Gutierrez and Camargo Correa to build mega-dams in the Amazon and elsewhere in Latin America and Africa. .

'We do not accept Belo Monte or any other dam on the Xingu,' they said. 'Our river does not have a price, our fish that we eat does not have a price, and the happiness of our grandchildren does not have a price. We will never stop fighting: In Altamira, in Brasilia, or in the Supreme Court. The Xingu is our home and you are not welcome here.'



Protesters confront police, credit MEDIANINJA

The Brazilian Amazon is one of the wonders of the world. It is critical to survival of the people of Brazil, and people throughout the world. A quarter of all land animal species are found in the Amazon. The rainforest absorbs around 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year. It is vital in the race against climate change. I urge President Rousseff to save it, and put a stop to Belo Monte and the other dams. The plight of the Kayapó illustrates the failure of governments all over the world to protect indigenous peoples and their ancient way of life. The Kayapó have a rich and ancient culture. Their name for themselves, Mebengôkre, means 'people of the space between waters,' but the name 'Kayapó' was given to them by outsiders. It means 'those who look like monkeys,' probably from the traditional ceremonial dance in which the men wear monkey masks. I appeal to the Brazilian government to affirm the Kayapó's rights to their sacred land in Kapôt-Nhinore, and to do everything in its power to protect them.

President Dilma Rousseff has a choice. I urge her to seize this leadership opportunity, to halt PEC215 and the other unconscionable, unconstitutional amendments and changes to law which will threaten indigenous peoples' rights to their land across Brazil. If these proposals go ahead, hundreds of tribal cultures may disappear and Brazil will lose an irreplaceable part of its heritage.

Follow Bianca Jagger on Twitter: www.twitter.com/BiancaJagger

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Why Brazilians Want More From the World Cup

DATA: 2014.06.04



Brazil is not ready for the World Cup, and after a [\\$3.5 billion investment in stadiums and infrastructure](#), no one is more distraught than its own people. I recently returned from an eight-day trip to the South American country, where in the absence of sunshine, I basked in the country's distinct culture, picturesque vistas, amazing music, and vibrant people. But despite my positive and highly enriching experience, there's no doubt you could taste the mounting tension from Rio de Janeiro to Salvador.

Brazil has always been a country of diversity. Its people comprise a true melting pot of African, European, and Latin American indigenous influences. Breathtakingly exotic. Visually stunning. Young and vibrant. Brazil's a country that encompasses a landmass of some 3.28 million square miles, including the Mantiqueira Mountains, the Amazon rainforest, and long stretches of white sand beaches. And just like its landscape, its economy is equally as diverse, featuring tremendous wealth and, sadly, crushing poverty.

Nowhere is this juxtaposition more apparent than in Rio. While the city promotes tourism through images of perfectly tanned women lounging on its gorgeous beaches, it doesn't take long to discover the city's less fortunate side, which lingers only feet from the city's center.

Rio is surrounded by slums, known as favelas, where the city's more than [1.4 million poorest citizens subsist in minimal conditions and in some places, abject squalor](#). In fact, more than 6 percent of Brazil's population lives in favelas, and the World Cup has only exacerbated already difficult conditions.

In São Paulo, just a few miles south of the still-unfinished Arena Corinthians -- slated to host the opening match of the 2014 World Cup -- grows an encampment of more than [4,000 families living in tents](#) with no plumbing or electricity. The World Cup, which the Brazilian government promised would raise living standards, has displaced thousands who can no longer afford to live in working-class neighborhoods as Cup development has spiked housing prices.

While economic inequality is nothing new to the Latin American country, the billions in public money spent on building and refurbishing 12 soccer stadiums has fueled outrage and contempt among average Brazilians. The government promised that the World Cup would not only boost Brazil's tourist economy, but that it would revitalize Brazil's aging infrastructure. All the people would then benefit from the money spent.

But as the World Cup nears, those promises appear empty. [Brazil is way behind in completing critical infrastructure projects](#) and now plans to leave some projects half-finished due to time restraints. The rail systems are limited, streets remain unpaved, hotels are half built, and most notably, stadiums -- built for a few games during the World Cup for many millions of dollars, in cities without a regular team to use them later -- stand unfinished, a seeming mockery to past promises.

As the only country to ever win the World Cup five times, and as a land where soccer is a national religion, the nearing tournament is proving to be a cruel irony, bringing pain instead of a much needed diversion. For many Brazilians, this is a Marie Antoinette moment, as they are told to eat cake when there's no bread for the table.

In the past few weeks alone, [protests have erupted](#) in São Paulo and other Brazilian cities, with every day bringing clashes between angry citizens and local police. Fed up activists, indigenous people, students, and regular citizens have joined together to rally against the World Cup, pleading for a better life.

Brazilians, as I discovered, are open to discussing the current political state. On my trip, I spoke with locals from all walks of life. Each conversation ended with the same sentiment -- the need for change. And I hope that somehow, that's what the World Cup will bring to Brazil. At this point, there is no turning back. In less than two weeks, the World Cup will be played, and the world will judge if Brazil succeeds or fails. But from what I experienced, the people I spoke to, the things I saw, the chances of winning the public relations war seem remote, regardless of who wins the actual Cup. Brazil simply isn't ready.

The influx of more than 600,000 international travelers will likely overwhelm the outdated infrastructure and the unfinished stadiums already flagged for failing safety requirements. From the look of things, the tournament could be heading toward an outcome far worse than [the Sochi Olympic Games](#).

A looming failure, though costly, could be the silver lining that brings change to a country plagued by poverty and income inequality. Under the media's unblinking eyes, Brazil might yet be forced to improve social conditions in the country. In parallel to the recent [fall and rise of Greece after the Athens Olympics](#), the calamity could prove to be a prescription for social change. While all the international attention might bring tensions to a head, a blossoming nation could yet rise from the ashes.

I have been to many countries throughout my travel career, and Brazil is among the most beautiful, most culturally fascinating, and most magnetic destinations in the world. Despite the glum mood and negative comments experienced during my visit, I have no doubt that with so much going for it, Brazil will move forward to overcome the many challenges it faces as it strives to create a better and richer life for its citizens. In the meantime, bumps and bruises notwithstanding, Brazil still deserves its seat on most bucket lists, and for now, the games will go on!

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peggy-goldman/why-brazilians-want-more-b_5446204.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Brazil to End Most Animal Testing for Cosmetics

DATA: 2014.06.05

Brazil is well known for its fast-paced economic growth, but today the country has shown the world that it is [quick to take action](#) for animals as well.

Cruelty Free International launched our Brazil office and campaign for a ban on cruel animal tests for cosmetics and toiletries just nine months ago. And after a whirlwind campaign, the Congress last night voted that most cosmetics tests must now be carried out without the use of animals.

The bill -- fast-tracked because of the impending World Cup -- was hammered out in a series of detailed negotiations between its sponsor, Representative Ricardo Izar (PSD-SP), Cruelty Free International Brazil campaign manager Dr Frank Alarcon and government officials including the major testing and validation authorities. Detailed negotiations with the parties were important too, and a key turning point was when we obtained a written commitment signed by all 10 party leaders to give the issue priority.

With the support of politicians, celebrities and over 190,000 compassionate people who signed our petition, our hard work has paid off.

In 90 days' time, when the bill comes into force, the use of animals for cosmetic testing will be prohibited where alternatives have already been established. Alternatives which have been approved internationally will be accepted. Animal testing will still be allowed for the rare case of novel ingredients developed for use in cosmetics, but even this will be prohibited after an alternative method has been established or in five years, whichever happens first.

The significance of our achievement cannot be overstated. It took us [20 years](#) of relentless campaigning, with detailed negotiations, fierce opposition and false starts, until the European Union eventually agreed to consign animal tests to the past where they belong. It took us just 9 months to make this hugely significant breakthrough in Brazil.

When we established Cruelty Free International just over two years ago with the EU ban finally in sight, it was because we knew could -- we must -- take our expertise around the world and turn the European ban into a global ban. Animals in testing laboratories simply couldn't wait another 20 years.

And we were right. Our team of experts has been able to use the EU decision to open new doors around the world, including in Brazil. This strategy has been instrumental in paving the way for bans in Brazil, India and Israel, and positive developments in China, Korea and [Vietnam](#). The global trend is now unmistakable -- not least because cosmetics companies need harmonized regulations across the world rather than a need to use modern non-animal methods in some countries while having to duplicate the work with animal tests elsewhere.

Our task is now to work with industry and regulators to ensure that Brazilian cosmetics become completely cruelty-free at the earliest possible date, and to use the momentum created in Brazil to convince other countries that the continued use of animals to test cosmetics is anachronistic and, frankly, a dirty secret that has had its time.

We won't rest until we have achieved a global ban. But as Brazil now turns its attention to hosting the beautiful game, we couldn't be more delighted that the country has shown great leadership and made cosmetics beautiful too.



Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/monica-engebretson/brazil-to-end-most-animal_b_5452371.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Rio Mayor Admits Brazil's Major 'Mistake' With World Cup

AP | By STEPHEN WADE

DATA: 2014.06.05



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes says it was a bad idea for Brazil to spread the World Cup over 12 cities.

"We are a continental country, we are very big," Paes said on Thursday. "We made a mistake. We should have fewer cities hosting the World Cup than we have."

The World Cup starts in a week, but several of the 12 stadiums are still being finished, and work outside many continues with roads and sidewalks being put down, and sponsor and media areas still under construction.

Brazil is spending about \$11.5 billion on the World Cup with about \$4 billion going to build or renovate 12 stadiums.

FIFA requires only eight venues for a World Cup, but Brazilian politicians decided to sprinkle the games across the country, building at least four new stadiums that are expected to be white elephants when the World Cup ends in Rio on July 13.

Paes said repeated delays have hurt the country's image.

"There was huge damage to our reputation," he said. "When you don't have everything ready, that is a big damage."

Asked if Brazil had let an opportunity slip away, he replied: "I don't think we blew it. Let's wait until next week. We're going to have a great World Cup."

Paes talked openly about chronic delays plaguing the World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

He is a key figure organizing South America's first Olympics along with Carlos Nuzman, head of the 2016 organizing committee, and CEO Sydney Levy. The International Olympic Committee recently sent special advisers to Rio to speed preparations.

"We don't hide our problems," Paes said, noting that favelas — Rio's hillside shantytowns — abut wealthy parts, particularly in the south of the city.

"Inequality is everywhere," he said. "You see it everywhere."

Paes suggested there would be protests during the World Cup and defended Brazilians' right to take to the streets.

"I don't think people are protesting against the World Cup," he said. "People are asking for better services. They are asking for better politics. They are asking for more transparency."

Brazil is expected to use almost 200,000 soldiers and police to secure the World Cup. The Confederations Cup last year was hit by daily protests, and tear gas wafted into Rio's Maracana during the final between Brazil and World Cup champion Spain.

Even without protests, Brazil's cities can be dangerous. It has 15 on a list of the world's 50 most dangerous cities, according to Mexico-based Citizen Council for Public Safety and Criminal Justice.

Rio is not among the 15.

"This is a safer country than lots of developed countries," Paes said. "There are a lot of security issues going on. The cities will be pretty safe."

—

Stephen Wade on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/StephenWadeAP>

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/06/brazil-world-cup-mistake-cities_n_5453929.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Sao Paulo Public Transportation Operators Go On Strike 1 Week Before World Cup

AP | By STAN LEHMAN

DATA: 2014.06.05



SAO PAULO (AP) — The Brazilian city that will host the World Cup's opening match in a week was thrown into transit chaos Thursday as subway and overland commuter train operators went on strike, putting at risk the only means that most soccer fans will have to reach the stadium.

The subway system is Sao Paulo's main public transportation system to the Itaquerao stadium where the Cup's first game will be held on June 12.

The strike stranded many of the more than 4 million people who use Sao Paulo's public transport systems on an average weekday.

Enraged passengers kicked in large doors at some stations when they arrived to find them closed for their morning commute.

The station nearest the Itaquerao stadium was damaged by irate commuters who kicked down the metal barriers at two entryways.

There and in some other stadiums, angry passengers jumped onto the tracks to protest, though they dispersed when police arrived. Others rushed to bus stops to squeeze into the packed vehicles and make their way to work.

Thursday's strike follows others by bus, subway and overland train operators that have frustrated passengers.

"The strikes ... are getting on my nerves," said Silvia Rodrigues da Silva, who manages a small coffee shop in central Sao Paulo. "The subway station nearest my house was closed so I had to wait for more than an hour to get into an overcrowded bus to come to work."

Late Wednesday a judge ordered the train operators to work at full capacity during rush hours, and at 70 percent capacity in off hours. Union members voted to go ahead with the strike anyway, despite the judge ordering that the union be fined \$44,000 each day it ignores the ruling.

The union said on its website the strike will continue until its demand for a pay hike of at least 10 percent is met. The Sao Paulo state government company that runs the subway system has offered an 8.7 percent wage increase.

Workers who did not join the strike operated three of the city's five subway lines at below capacity, the company's press office said.

"I had no problem getting into work today," said accountant Zaira Carmoletta. "The subway ride was a bit slower than usual and the cars were almost empty. I think many people did not know some trains were running and either drove to work or took buses."

In response to the strike, Sao Paulo's government suspended a rule that restricts passenger cars from entering the central part of the city.

That led to extreme congestion on main roadways, with the government's transit authority saying the city was seeing its worst traffic of the year so far. A separate strike by traffic police, demanding higher wages, aggravated the congestion.

Sao Paulo is notorious for congested roadways and crowded public transport, the failures and costs of which have stoked protests over the past year.

Massive demonstrations that overtook many Brazilian cities last June were initially sparked by a violent police crackdown on marchers calling for the reversal of a hike in public transport fares.

Associated Press writer Bradley Brooks in Rio de Janeiro contributed to this report.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/05/brazil-public-transportation-strike-world-cup_n_5454132.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

After One Too Many Fouls, the World Cup Deserves a Red Card

DATA: 2014.06.06



The very first World Cup match I watched from kick-off to final whistle was the opening game of the 1978 tournament, on June 1, between West Germany, then the defending world soccer champions, and Poland, some team from Eastern Europe.

I was 10 years old. I had begged my mother to get some imported cookies and milk just for the occasion, even though I was mildly lactose intolerant and cookies were a luxury for our family. TV was still a novelty in slightly malarial Johor Baru, the Asian landmass' most southerly town. Because of the time difference between Malaysia and host Argentina, the game was televised well past my bedtime.

West Germany was clinical, antiseptic, playing a geometric game that was all sharp angles and squares. Poland wore red shirts and kicked the ball out of bounds a lot. The game ended in a [scoreless draw](#), meaning no one scored a goal, which is the only reason some people even watch the game and increasingly these days, [bet big bucks on them](#).

Never mind that the West Germany-Poland match lacked an ounce of flair. Never mind that no one executed a single back-heel, let alone bicycle kick. Never mind that highlights from that stodgy, stultifying game are in no danger of ever going viral on YouTube, our modern yardstick for must-see anything.

I was hooked.

The World Cup would be a part of my life every four years, and every four years I'd root for someone different. Ball movement and hip fakes trumped loyalty to any flag.

In 1978, I walked around in Dutch orange for three weeks. In 1982, I rooted for the swashbuckling Italian team. In 1986, the Danes played with the kind of imagination that left Scotland, Uruguay and West Germany flatfooted -- until they got thumped by the Spaniards in the knock-out stage, their brilliance good for only three straight matches. In 1990, I reflexively cast my lot with hosts Italy, and again in 1994. In 1998, the talented multiethnic French outclassed everyone else. In 2002, I cheered for the underdog, overachieving dual hosts, Japan and South Korea. In 2006, I picked a clearly superior France over Italy, and [picked wrong](#). In 2010, I watched [Spain](#) play like the Brazil of our Platonic ideal, all the way to World Cup glory and showed, in the process, how games decided by a single goal could still be exhilarating.

By most measures, the 2014 World Cup in Brazil should be a dream for soccer fans around the globe, myself included. After all, the five-time World Cup champion gave us the beautiful game. This was the nation that elevated a simple sport involving feet, an open space and a round object into artistry. This is the land that birthed people like [Pele](#) and [Garincha](#) and [Socrates](#) and [Ronaldo](#), who did things to a ball physicists and physiotherapist struggle to explain and who always seemed to perform their timeless magic, dancing between defenders and pylons, to "[Mais Que Nada](#)" on the soundtrack.

Just a few days away from the largest sporting festival in the world, the stories coming out of Brazil are [not so festive](#). The handwringing reflects [less on Brazil](#), but on whether the world even needs a World Cup anymore.

[Eight people](#) have already died. Instead of doing the samba, instead of celebrating a majestic legacy that's defined the world's most popular sport since its modern incarnation in the early 1900s, Brazilians are [protesting in the streets](#).

They're angry. They're angry that their country is spending \$15 billion for the World Cup while its credit rating is in the toilet and a quarter of the population is poor. In March, the average Brazilian worker earned [2,046 Brazilian real a month](#) -- about \$896. A single ticket to watch a game that's coiled into the Brazilian DNA and played on the world's greatest stage costs as much as half a month's salary. Brazilians' tax dollars are being invested, they're told, on a glittering spectacle designed to attract billions of dollars -- [billions that will flow out of Brazil](#).

That's the sad new calculus for the beautiful game -- in fact most sports played at the highest levels of the international stage. Brazil 2014 simply follows a formula established a few months earlier, in Sochi.

At a whopping \$51 billion, the recent winter games is the [most expensive Olympics ever](#), held in a region of Russia where the average [income is around \\$778](#) a month and where the national economy grew at an anemic 1.3 percent. For a few weeks, financial experts and [Russian opposition politicians](#) were calling Sochi an obscene monument to excess and corruption, until Crimea got invaded.

Let's for a moment, ignore these killjoys and review the facts through the cold hard lens of returns on investment, or ROI.

Russian taxpayers spent an average of \$520 million to put on each of the 98 events in Sochi, according to *Businessweek*. The summer Olympics in London two years earlier spent \$48.3 million per event, a bargain for 302 total events.

Brazil will spend \$234 million to put on each of the 64 scheduled World Cup games.

The next World Cup, in Russia, is blowing its budget out of the water, at [\\$20 billion](#), or \$312 million per game. The 2022 World Cup in Qatar is already getting buried under more bad press than Donald Sterling. Assuming it sticks to the current format of 32 teams playing 64 games, [Qatar will cost \\$3 billion a match](#) -- more if you add in the \$5 million in bribes that have been traced to date. At least [990 migrant workers have died](#) so far, building stadiums across the sand dunes of Qatar that may meet the same fate as [Ozymandias'](#) "trunkless legs of stone" once the World Cup whistles fall silent.

On June 12, the opening match between Brazil and Croatia at the brand new Arena Corinthians in Sao Paulo will likely be more entertaining than the opening match I watched 36 years ago.

The real question is whether that match -- or any other World Cup game -- is really worth all that money and all those lost and ruined lives.

Follow Azlan Ibrahim on Twitter: www.twitter.com/azibrahim1

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/azlan-ibrahim/brazil-2014-world-cup_b_5460754.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Truths and Lies About the World Cup

DATA: 2014.06.06



With only a few days to go before the beginning of the World Cup, one of the main concerns of journalists like myself is the amount of bad information that is getting published abroad.

A couple of weeks ago, Danish journalist Keldorf Mikkel Jensen announced that he was giving up covering the World Cup because of the problems he saw in Fortaleza -- mostly, because he heard that street children were being killed "to clean up cities and make a good impression for the World Cup." "Often, they kill them at night, when they're sleeping, in an area full of tourists," he wrote.

This extremely serious accusation was promptly dismissed by NGOs who work with street children in Fortaleza. Director of NGO "O Pequeno Nazareno" Adriano Ribeiro admitted that he had heard such claims, but did not find any evidence of such a brutal crime.

Claims that the government is taking out money from the education or health budget to fund the World Cup are equally wrong. Other problems, such as sexual exploitation of girls for prostitution and repression against streets vendors, are much older than the World Cup but were indeed vamped up by the arrival of the event. Reporting on such themes is extremely important, and the fact that the foreign media is paying attention to them is a great virtue of the mega-event -- and one that Brazilians noticed quite quickly.

One of the questions foreign correspondents keep asking me when I tell them to separate facts from fiction is: but then why are Brazilians so angry?

With the world's attention focused on the football nation, Brazilians have decided to take this opportunity to show everyone they are not happy with the way FIFA and our government led the process, spending way too much with lack of oversight and dialogue with the affected populations. On the other hand, the way the event is organized -- with stadia being refurbished for VIPs to enjoy games at ridiculously expensive prices -- means that most Brazilians who have always dreamed of seeing the World Cup were really not invited to the party. Which is why taking to the streets to protest is one of the most important and timely things Brazilians can do right now.

With the entire world watching, this is the time to yell that we are not satisfied. And in many ways, no matter what happens over the next couple of weeks, Brazilians have already made their point, and made the 2014 World Cup a historic World Cup. The world public opinion will never look at the FIFA tournament the same way. And this is our way of participating, and claiming back protagonism, in the biggest festival in the world.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natalia-viana/world-cup-truths-and-lies_b_5459929.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Here's What To Do In Brazil's World Cup Host Cities Besides Watch Soccer

The Huffington Post | By [Lisa Miller](#)

DATA: 2014.06.07

The [2014 FIFA World Cup](#) begins June 12, and host cities across Brazil are [gearing up](#) to welcome hundreds of thousands of travelers.

Soccer fans traveling to the games in the [12 host cities](#) are in for a treat. Brazil offers stunning scenery, vibrant cities and a wealth of cultural activities. Fans would be remiss not to check out the amazing opportunities the host cities have to offer *beyond* the sporting event.

1. Belo Horizonte



Belo Horizonte, also known as [Beagá](#), is Brazil's little-known third-largest city. The city is known as the [bar capital of Brazil](#), with lots of low-key watering holes where locals of all ages eat and drink together. In addition to frequenting said bars, check out the stalls at [Mercado Central](#), explore the urban streets of the Savassi neighborhood, visit the iconic [Church of St. Francis of Assisi](#), and learn about the local history and culture at the [Memorial Minas Gerais-Vale](#) museum.

2. Brasilia



Brazil's futuristic capital city is packed with contemporary architectural wonders, including the [Cathedral of Brasilia](#), [Complexo Cultural da Republica](#) and [Palacio da Alvorada](#). The city's design [resembles an airplane](#), with Eixo Monumental (the central avenue) forming the body and the residential and commercial areas form the wings. Explore the area, visit [Museu Nacional](#), and, if you want to go big, take an [aerial tour](#) of the city and experience it from above.

3. Cuiabá



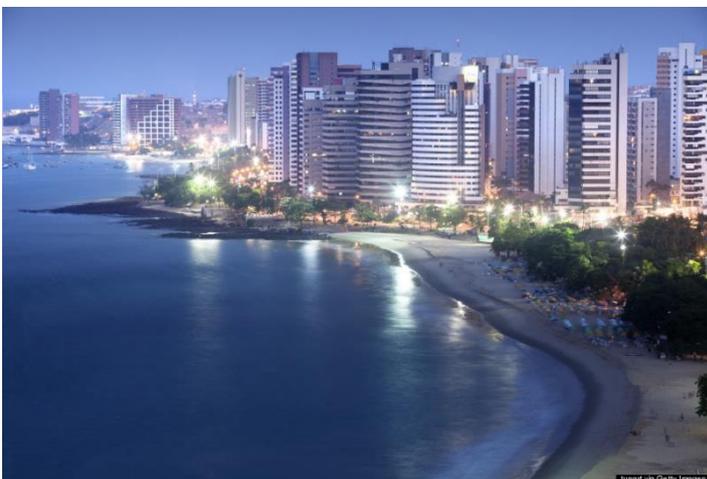
Cuiabá, the capital of the [Mato Grosso](#) region, is the northern gateway to the Pantanal -- the [world's largest swamp](#). The [city](#) is actually made up of two sister cities, Old Cuiabá and Varzea Grande. To learn about the area's history, check out the Museu Histórico de Mato Grosso, and sample the regional pantaneiro river fish for a taste of the local cuisine.

4. Curitiba



[Curitiba](#) is known as one of the world's best models for urban planning and Brazil's most efficient city. For architectural enlightenment head to the [Museu Oscar Niemeyer](#), which pays homage to Brazil's most famous native architect. Also check out the [Botanical Garden](#) and hop a ride on the [Serra Verde Express](#), an incredible scenic train route.

5. Fortaleza



[Fortaleza](#) is a work-hard-play-hard beachfront city that knows how to party. Fortaleza is all about the beaches, and [Praia do Futuro](#) is known to be the best one. When you tire of the beach, wander around [Centro](#) and check out the shops, stop by a restaurant in the Varjota area or party 'til dawn in [Praia de Iracema](#).

6. Manaus



[Manaus](#) is a modern city planted in the middle of the Amazon Rainforest, at the confluence of the Rio Negro and Rio Solimões. Encontro das Águas, the spot where the two rivers meet, is just outside the city and is a must-see. Within the city, the [Teatro Amazonas](#) opera house is an opulent glimpse into Manaus' past.

7. Natal



[Natal](#), the capital of Rio Grande do Norte, is a popular tourist city among Brazilians, known for its beaches, nightlife, restaurants and nearby excursions. For a historical venture, check out [Forte dos Reis Magos](#), a rare still-standing Portuguese fort that dates to the 1500s. Beach bums can hang out and ogle the surfers at [Praia de Ponta Negra](#).

8. Porto Alegre



As you can infer from its name, [Porto Alegre](#) is a port city. It sits on the banks of a giant freshwater lake, Lagoa dos Patos. The city is known for its progressive politics, lively arts and music scene and eye-catching neoclassical architecture. Stop by Mercado Público, a vibrant market that's perfect for shopping and dining, and check out [Catedral Metropolitana](#). Visitors with extra time should take a day trip to [Vale Dos Vinhedos](#), Brazil's stunning wine country.

9. Recife



[Recife](#), a cultural hub of Northeast Brazil, offers a range of sights and activity. The city sits on the coast, meaning gorgeous ocean views are in store. Explore the historic center, the nightlife and dining scenes and visit [Kahal Zur Israel](#), the oldest synagogue in the Americas.

10. Rio de Janeiro



There's a whole lot to do and see in [Rio](#). Whether you're taking in stunning views from Corcovado Mountain or sunbathing on one of the city's 23 beaches, there is no shortage of excitement and activity. You must check out Ipanema and Copacabana, two of the world's most famous beaches, hike through Tijuca's rainforests and samba the night away.

11. Salvador



[Salvador](#), located in Bahia, is the hub of Brazil's Afro-Brazilian culture. Pelourinho, the city's historic center, is a mix of churches, colorful buildings and cobblestone streets. Be sure to make a visit to [Museu Afro-Brasileiro](#), [Igreja da Ordem Terceira do Carmo](#) and the awesome art deco [Elevador Lacerda](#).

12. São Paulo



With an all-day-every-day clubbing scene, rowdy bars, an array of gourmet restaurants, and a well-rounded arts scene, [São Paulo](#) has a rich cultural life with something for everybody -- which makes sense, since it's the third largest metropolis on earth. In Centro, you'll find no shortage of activity -- do some shopping at [Mercado Municipal](#), admire works of art at [Pinacoteca do Estado](#) and visit [Mosteiro de São Bento](#). Soccer fans should of course check out Museu do Futebol. At night, head to Vila Madalena and Baixo Augusta to experience some epic nightlife.

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/07/world-cup-host-cities-guide_n_5403935.html?utm_hp_ref=brazil. Acesso em: 09 de set. 2014.

Twilight Of The International Sports Scoundrels: Your Sunday Morning Conversation

DATA: 2014.06.08



In just a few days, the eyes of the sporting world will be on Brazil, where the world's finest soccer teams ([and also Australia](#)) will gather in the South American nation for the 2014 World Cup. And upon its conclusion in mid-July, Brazil will begin a sprint to make Rio de Janeiro ready to host the 2016 Summer Olympics.

But while earning the right to host two of the international sporting world's marquee events in such rapid succession may seem like a boon for Brazil on the surface, it might make more sense to have considerable concern. After all, that's an awful long period of time for one nation to spend in the company of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). While these two organizations front as generous cultural elites bringing the light of peace and economic health to the world through athletic competitions, they are actually gangs of blackguards, as corrupt as they come.

In recent months, the long-whispered nature of these organizations is finally, in a number of ways, starting to be spoken of more loudly. And fissures in their relationships to a world of sports fans and the nations in which they reside are starting to form. International sports is having a moment, and it's not a moment of glory. Unless you imagine a pack of humiliated jackals stewing in their own graft and incompetence to be somehow glorious.

That FIFA and the IOC are vice-ridden gangs is well documented. Back in 2006, Scottish investigative reporter Andrew Jennings shone a harsh light on FIFA's double-dealing in reporting that went on to form the basis of a 2006 Panorama special titled "The Beautiful Bung: Corruption and the World Cup," and a book, *Foul!: The Secret World of Fifa: Bribes, Vote Rigging and Ticket Scandals*. Jennings subsequently migrated to exposing the IOC for similar degeneracy. Returning to FIFA in his most recent publication, 2014's *Omerta*, Jennings says that "the leadership of FIFA, under Brazil's João Havelange and now Sepp Blatter, tick all the boxes defining an Organised Crime Syndicate."

Outside of the media that exists within the Sports-Entertainment-Corporate Branding Complex, no one even questions the notion that these organizations are packed with petty thugs and grifters. In 2012, [Chris Lehmann wrote a piece for New York magazine](#) that described the extent to which the IOC had become a "mobbed-up oligarchy" stuck on an infinite loop of defilement:

[Belgian Count Jacques] Rogge was groomed as the successor to the Games's long-running chieftain Don Juan Antonio Samaranch y Torelló, First Marquis of Samaranch, Grandee of Spain, a former sporting official with the fascist government of Francisco Franco who managed to reinvent himself as a global ambassador of sport with the large-scale financial backing of Adidas shoe mogul Horst Dassler. Mr. Samaranch oversaw a stunning litany of corruption in his two decades on the job -- encouraging influence peddling, arranging sinecures for family members and cronies of committee members, and padding the I.O.C. board with fellow authoritarians and baksheesh impresarios. In his more expansive moments, Samaranch would also grace vicious dictators like Romania's Nicolae Ceacescu with awards for their alleged contributions to international sport. When an HBO interviewer confronted Mr. Samaranch on this latter trespass, he curtly replied that he was "very proud" of Ceaucescu's garland, adding that the I.O.C.'s judgment was not to be questioned because "we are more important than the Catholic religion."

FIFA has always found itself knee-deep in the same brackish waters as the IOC. In Lehman's piece, he describes how former FIFA head Joao Havelange, having landed with the IOC, washed out with that organization after he became enmeshed in a massive bribery scandal. Also enmeshed: Current FIFA head Sepp Blatter. But as [Jennings reported for The Nation](#) earlier this year, Blatter managed to survive

that scandal. He shows up in Jennings' piece posing in a picture with another crowd of "mobbed-up oligarchs," the current gang running the IOC.

FIFA is back in the news this week due to [a Sydney Morning Herald story](#) that described how former President Bill Clinton, the honorary chairman of the U.S. bid for the 2022 World Cup, was so angry at FIFA's decision to award the cup to Qatar that upon returning to his hotel room, "he reached for an ornament on a table and threw it at a wall mirror in a fit of rage, shattering the glass."

[Per the Sydney Morning Herald:](#)

Clinton, the honorary chairman of the US bid, had wheeled out such big-hitters as Brad Pitt, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Morgan Freeman and Spike Lee to add lustre to the US Soccer Federation bid. Australia and Japan's bids had seemed the biggest threat, but few had seriously entertained the idea that Qatar, a footballing desert, could win.

"Clinton was fuming," said one well-placed source. "He felt humiliated and felt the decision did not make sense."

Obviously, the game has changed from that time that a World Cup-bidding nation could simply flatter FIFA's ruling grandees with exclusive access to Benjamin Button -- something that obviously caught Clinton by surprise. Also surprising: The fact that the eventual winner was soccer mediocrity and stadium-bereft Qatar, a nation whose standard, desert temperatures stand out as a solid argument against staging an international soccer tournament. According to a bombshell report from the Sunday Times, Qatar managed to secure the cup thanks to, among other things, \$5 million in bribes funneled to various officials by former FIFA VP Mohammed Bin Hammam. ([The Times piece](#) is subscription-only; [here's a summary from the BBC.](#))

It's worth noting that at the time FIFA decided to award the cup to Qatar, the group's 24-member executive committee was down to 22 members because "[two members were caught trying to sell their votes to undercover journalists.](#)" And in the wake of the Sunday Times' allegations, FIFA has floated the notion that it might call backsies: "If corruption is proven," [said the obviously hopeful FIFA VP Michel Platini](#), "it will take a new vote and sanctions."

An enraged Bill Clinton going on a tchotchke-hurling rampage over losing the chance to host a soccer tournament is a strange thing to imagine. (For what it's worth, [a Clinton spokesperson has denied](#) the part of this report where he gives a hotel mirror [a Dean Baquet-style thrashing.](#)) Of all the places that some international grifters could have established a Marvel Team-Up, international sports would seem to be a fairly safe space. It's not exactly the flamboyant debauch of the global petrochemical industry that Ken Silverstein describes in his book, *The Secret World Of Oil*. This is just sports, right? As [Grantland's Brian Phillips remarks about l'affaire Qatar](#), "there's something deeply silly about many of the organization's Machiavellian twists."

But Qatar's misadventures in gearing up for the 2022 World Cup are proving to be far from silly. In fact, if the nation's World Cup bid has accomplished anything, it's been to shine a light on the lives of the migrant workers who toil in destitution in the oil-rich nation. In a pair of stories, the Guardian reports that [400 Nepalese workers](#) and over [500 Indian workers](#) have died in Qatar's rush to build the infrastructure necessary for the World Cup. [Deadspin's Barry Petchesky follows on:](#)

Together, those two countries provide an estimated 38 percent of the 1.2 million migrant workers currently in Qatar, so you do the math—our headline wouldn't have been out of place in using "thousands."

It is impossible to say how many of the deaths are directly related to stadium construction -- though the Guardian's analysis of official lists suggest that "more than two-thirds died of sudden heart failure or workplace accidents." (Heart failure is a catch-all cause of death that human rights organizations believe is used to cover up more sinister explanations.)

It's not known if Bill Clinton has destroyed any additional hotel furniture as a result of these reports.

Even if we excuse these circumstances as unique to Qatar, it's important to remember how things like the World Cup and the Olympics are sold -- as a booming tide of potential restorative economic growth for the hosts. [As The Nation's Dave Zirin told Amy Goodman](#), "The problem is that first [former President of Brazil Luiz Inácio] Lula [da Silva] and then [current President] Dilma [Rousseff] told the country very explicitly that the World Cup was not just going to be a soccer tournament; it was going to walk hand in hand with even more developments, more money, more employment, more opportunity for people."

[As Al Jazeera reported](#), the reality is quite different:

Many in Brazil's middle class are unhappy with the effects the World Cup has already had on their lives. The cost of living has risen in the cities hosting the games, traffic jams have worsened, and a construction boom aimed at improving urban mobility has only compounded problems, they say.

But it is the poorest Brazilians who have borne the brunt of the World Cup preparations. According to the Popular Committee for the World Cup and Olympics, a group opposed to how the games' preparations have been handled, 250,000 people across Brazil have been forcefully removed from their houses or are being threatened with eviction. Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre are the most affected cities, it says.

Marli Nascimento's family and 117 others had been living in the low-income Parque Sao Francisco area in the town of Camaragibe, just outside of Recife, for more than 60 years. Between February 2013 and March 2014, her whole community was levelled to make room for a highway leading to Arena Pernambuco stadium, where Germany, Italy, Mexico, Japan and the US teams will play.

And the Guardian's [Simon Jenkins notes that this is par for the course](#):

Fifa's claim is that host countries benefit from its blessings. The audit on South Africa's 2010 World Cup showed it cost the taxpayers £3bn for a return of £323m and an economic slump. This month's extravaganza in Brazil, which was pledged to cost the ill-resourced country nothing, has seen state spending on stadiums alone of £2bn, with another £9bn on infrastructure. Qatar is reputed to be spending a staggering £120bn. These sums for a brief sporting festival are obscene, whoever is paying.

It's even more obscene when you consider that very little of what Qatar is spending on the World Cup is slotted to budget line items like, "keeping construction workers alive."

The Olympics, of course, are sold in similar "you'll benefit from our blessings" fashion, and the promises typically prove to be just as false. As Robert A. Baade and Victor Matheson write in their study, "Bidding For The Olympics: Fools Gold?": "Diverting scarce capital and other resources from more productive uses to the Olympics very likely translates into slower rates of economic growth than that which could be realized in the absence of hosting the Olympic Games."

Back when Lehmann penned his indictment of the IOC, it looked for all the world as if this lesson would never be learned. In his piece, University of Toronto sociology professor Helen Lenskyj offers this

downcast assessment: “The typical pattern in host cities is steep cost overruns ... But the organizations sponsoring the event never learn from that experience.”

That may be changing. [Deadspin’s Petchesky reported last week](#) that at the moment, the IOC is having a hard time finding a taker for the 2022 Winter Games, and it would seem that the chief reason is that people have wised up. Voters put the kibosh on Switzerland’s bid [back in March 2013](#). Later that year, [voters in Germany did the same](#). This past week, [Polish voters followed suit](#). And the new governing coalition in Sweden [offered a pretty blunt account](#) as to why they pulled out of the bidding process: “Arranging a Winter Olympics would mean a big investment in new sports facilities, for example for the bobsleigh and luge ... There isn’t any need for that type of that kind of facility after an Olympics.”

Petchesky goes on to note that two of the four remaining bids are “in bad shape.” Public sentiment is shifting quickly against the bid of Oslo, Norway. And the last Winter Games host, Russia, having imposed new stratospheric benchmarks for Olympics-related spending on everyone else, has compounded this problem by -- and you may have heard something about this! -- invading Ukraine, which has pretty well imperiled Lviv’s bid for 2022. That leaves China and Caspian petrochemical dictatorship Kazakhstan as the only two contenders not staggered by circumstance or public opposition. [As Petchesky summarizes](#): “When actual citizens are allowed to have a say, they say they don’t want the Olympics.”

In Brazil, something never thought possible is happening: The people there have turned against the World Cup. Demonstrations have been a common occurrence [for well over a year](#). [Brazil’s national team has even been the focus of protests](#). Last week, [The Wall Street Journal reported](#) that no one’s even pretending that the cup is going to provide some sort of economic benefit. How could they? Those empty promises now live on as unfinished infrastructure projects the dot the nation’s landscape.

It’s not like Brazilians have lost their love for the game. In fact, their soccer mania has been put to higher purpose, rechanneled as the fuel for populist demonstration [in the form of La Copa Popular](#) (“The People’s Cup”). Featuring players from Brazil’s notoriously destitute *favelas*, it’s an idea that’s been re-adopted after it was first launched in South Africa.

Here in America, the tipping point reached by these reprobate international organizations has not gone unnoticed. As Simon Jenkins notes, “American soccer authorities, to their credit, have said they will not bid for any tournaments until FIFA is reformed.” And this week, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio [announced that the Big Apple was not going to bid for the 2024 Olympics](#). Considering the fact that staging an Olympic Games would have been wholly antithetical to his goal of making working-class New Yorkers more prosperous, it had to have been one of the easiest decisions he’s yet faced.

None of this is to say that the world needs to give up on international sports, or that anyone should disparage the athletes who participate in them. Even Brazil’s La Copa Popular participants plan on watching their national team play. They just won’t be bought off for the slim price of getting to watch Neymar’s heroics up close. [Simon Jenkins has urged Britain](#) to lead the way in establishing a new, more virtuous governing body for international soccer. Mark Perryman, in his book, *Why the Olympics Aren’t Good for Us, and How They Can Be*, lays out a way that the Olympics can be truer to their humanitarian rhetoric. And the more that participating officials demand reform from international organizers of these events, the sooner we’ll have athletic competitions in which we can all take pride. Until that day, however, we need to be less innocent to the fact that FIFA and the IOC have simply become havens for scoundrels, and more aware of the fact that their panglossian promise of economic benefit is nothing but a con.

[Would you like to [follow me on Twitter](#)? Because why not?]

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/08/fifa-world-cup-corruption_n_5462752.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Your Weekly Travel Zen: Brazil

The Huffington Post | By [Lisa Miller](#)

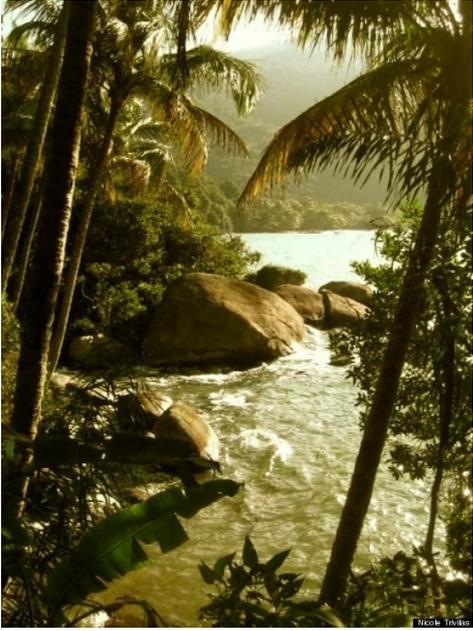
DATA: 2014.06.08

The World Cup is just days away and flocks of fans and travelers are descending upon cities around Brazil... so why not take a moment to admire the beauty of the country?

With innumerable natural wonders, stunning beaches and lively cities, Brazil has something for every traveler out there. Whether you want to party the night away in Ipanema or explore the Amazon, you will find your zen in Brazil.



Bamboo trees on Ilha Grande. Photo courtesy of Nicole Trilivas.



Ilha Grande. Photo courtesy of Nicole Trilivas.



Lopes Mendes Beach, Ilha Grande. Photo courtesy of Nicole Trilivas.



Escadaria Selarón, Rio de Janeiro. Photo courtesy of Nicole Trilivas.



Boa Viagem Beach, Recife, Brazil. Photo courtesy of G.J. Monahan.

War more likely in the Balkans or sex in Brazil, turned into an unexpected UN Security Council debate. Is promiscuity for conflict, sex or soccer something embedded in our genes, culture or environment? Some stereotypes perhaps are better, or more accurately less harmful, but in the end they become a hurdle.

Conflict & Ethnic Cleansing as Historically Predestined?

As the citizens of Bosnia & Herzegovina and the broader region suffered through conflicts where they frequently were the targets and not just collateral damage, rationalization for their fate only added to their victimization. Opting to do little to confront the war makers, within the UN security Council it became convenient to rationalize inaction as well as the conflicts and ethnic cleansing that tore the former Yugoslavia apart during the early 1990's as somehow part of the DNA of the region and peoples. The history of region was projected as somehow destined to produce new, ever more brutal killings and conflict. (That Muslims were part of the ethnic/religious melting pot only added to the appetite for bias.) Predisposition toward conflict became the easiest explanation why little would be done to confront the would-be demagogues claiming religion, ethnicity, or sense of national threat or humiliation as camouflage for imperial ambition and perpetuated hold on power. The same pattern now is evidenced from Syria to Myanmar to the Central African Republic to Ukraine, and no corner of the world is immune from such contagion of narrative if left unchallenged. Western Europe's history, perhaps the most scarred by religious and ethnic conflict, now is perceived as most removed due to economic prosperity, the colonization of others, and the blessings of the pan-European institutions and thinking.

The Slur that Becomes the Ultimate Victimization:

That the big powers (P-5 Veto members of the UN Security Council) would have attributed their inaction to the presumed historical maleficence of the region was to be perhaps expected, and as Bosnia's Ambassador across the UN Security Council's horseshoe table, I responded in the same open debates and challenged each on their own historical blemishes: the collaborators of Vichy France, the genocides and gulags of Stalin, and the brutality of America's Civil war, slavery and eradications of Native peoples. However, the slurs directed at the peoples of the former Yugoslavia also came from some of the Ambassadors whose populations/states had also suffered destructive stereotyping. The Ambassador of Botswana stated in open debate that the UN Security Council was tiring of "babysitting" BiH and the region even as the sieges and deprivations were still ongoing. By contrast, Ambassador Diego Arria of Venezuela, a devout Catholic, made no distinction in the victimization between Bosnian Muslims, Catholics, Orthodox Christians or others. The long history of co-existence and mutual profit from pluralism, from Albania to Macedonia to Serbia was evidence cited by others including then-US Ambassador Madeleine Albright, (who was born into a Czechoslovakia swallowed by Hitler and then spent early years in Belgrade), as well as myself, a child of Sarajevo. The intermingling of traditions, music, art as well as mosques, churches and synagogues is no where more evident than in Sarajevo - evidence of tolerance and coexistence that held the fabric of our society together. My parents, Drs. Aziza and Nedzib, raised me with an appreciation for the diversity and the potential for good which I adapted in my American identity.

Rationalizing Ethnic Ghettos as Solution:

Even after the Dayton Accords, the establishment of ethnic ghettos where previously peoples had lived intermingled became an excuse for a less than nurturing peace to restore normalcy to lives of citizens, political accountability and the rule of law. The slurs did not end with the war, and I was intent on raising the expectations for peace, both around the UN Security Council table and back in BiH and the region. Slobodan Milosevic, the chief architect of the conflict and frequent drinking buddy of wanna-be mediators, still ruled Serbia & Montenegro.

Promiscuous War or Sex?

Then-Brazil Ambassador Celso Amorim, (now Defense Minister & formerly Foreign Minister) defined the lack of progress in the normalization of peace as embedded in the region's proclivity for conflict. My reply to this slur was to refer to a film: "Blame it on Rio" (1984 starring Michael Caine & Demi Moore), whose storyline inferred that something about the Brazilian city made it conducive to promiscuous sex, which I thought a much less damning condemnation, if that. Ambassador Amorim asked for the floor again, and visibly fuming declared that this image was unwanted by Brazil and something it was working to erase. Nowhere though did he recognize that his own initial reference was also a stereotype that maligned the citizens of BiH and the region as a whole. Thus, I demanded the floor again and asked whether Ambassador Amorim believed that the stereotype directed at BiH and the region was somehow more OK even as he objected to a Hollywood title and implication of a film as it related to Rio. Ambassador Amorim's failure to retract or even recognize his own biased slur only added to the careless insult. The UN Security Council session concluded without a reconciliation of positions, but the message was that bigotry would not go unanswered. It was a not so infrequent moment of unanimity when Croatia's, Serbia & Montenegro as well BiH's representatives had grown weary of being maligned by such stereotyping. (Ironically, years later during a WTO debate Foreign Minister Amorim was criticized for stating that EU states and the US applied the same stereotyping as employed by Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels.)

Who will you Root for in Brazil World Cup 2014?

Brazil and the states of former Yugoslavia do share much, including a diversity reflecting many cultural influences, a love for music, creativity in film and art, and a proclivity for soccer that is outsized. Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia this year have emerged as serious challengers for the World Cup in Brazil. In previous years, Slovenia and Serbia (along with Montenegro) had reached World Cup's final stage. Even before the 1992 dissolution of the country the former Yugoslavia, as one country, had amassed significant success with players from all its Republics including several from my child favorite FK Sarajevo. (The Balkan region as a whole has had other distinctive success including Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Turkey.) Rather than root against neighbors as some presumed expression of historical animosity, I tend to want the best for the teams of the former Yugoslavia and region. Overt employment of soccer as an avant-garde for nationalism is the only turn-off for my rooting loyalties. Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia and my adopted country, the US, will be my favorites this year in Brazil. (However, "American football" remains my greatest love as I earned a scholarship to Tulane University to play the game as cited by President Bill Clinton in his book ["My Life"](#)).

Coming Together in face of Disaster & Tragedy:

The recent devastating floods that swept through BiH, Serbia and Croatia caused personal tragedy and much loss of property. It will take years, perhaps decades to rebuild lives and property with much assistance needed from Diasporas and international investors. (Donations are still sought by aid agencies - see link below) There was though a blessing: the people of the region even beyond the countries immediately impacted, almost by instinct came together to help, hope and pray for each other. <http://huff.lv/1sQqpVn>

It went beyond empathy and pierced much of the destructive politics that had consumed goodwill and fertilized fear of the other. The countries of the former Yugoslavia will most likely be as one again, as members of the European Union, and the leaders in Brussels as well as Washington would be wise to see the clear future rather than a past made muddy by those stirring baser instincts. After the recent unrest in Ukraine and again stirring of old passions, the acceleration of European integration is a remedy for the backward stampede urged by the extreme right-wing and xenophobic politicians who would take Europe back to a century earlier.

We Create more than History!

We often forget that besides its outsized history and appreciation for soccer, the peoples of the former Yugoslavia have much to offer. Sarajevo is often credited with "creating more history than it can consume." We are though creators of culture, education and industry - just witness the roll call. Nikola Tesla was an ethnic Serb born on the border of BiH, lived in Croatia and emigrated to the US. In my mind as a young immigrant to the US, he was a model, both as to my origins and as an aspiring American. When I entered a state-wide contest as a 7th grader writing an essay on an "American inventor," I chose Tesla. My essay received acclaims, but I was disqualified because Nikola Tesla was deemed not to qualify as American.

Overcoming stereotypes even more than history is perhaps more of a challenge. Citizens also should ask whether a future Nikola Tesla could come to realization in the region - is the environment for public governance and private enterprise conducive? Films and cultural works from BiH and the region have already gained global recognition from the Oscars to Berlin. Nonetheless, I suspect that most persons of the region would prefer the stereotype attached to Brazil than the Balkans - better to be projected as promiscuous in almost anything other than war.

Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey

@MuhamedSacirbey

PHOTO: Courtesy of WikipediA - Theatrical Release Poster

Disponível em: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ambassador-muhamed-sacirbey/blame-it-on-rio-or-saraje_b_5473735.html. Acesso em: 11 de set. 2014.

Brazil World Cup Excitement Darkened By Public Anger

AP | By BRADLEY BROOKS

DATA: 2014.06.09



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — It's a tale of the two World Cups — one on a field and one playing out on this country's streets.

As Brazilians raise the curtain this week on what's arguably the world's most popular sporting event, the country's fervent love of soccer is butting up against public anger over charges of wasteful spending, corruption, traffic jams, strikes and a litany of other complaints.

After enduring a year of anti-government protests that tied up roads and strikes that paralyzed public transport, schools, and other services, many exhausted Brazilians finally are preparing to cheer on their beloved team, though in what may be the flattest pre-Cup climate they've yet seen.

On a dark, rain-soaked street in Rio's Copacabana neighborhood, Francisco Nascimento climbed a rickety wooden ladder to hang plastic streamers in the colors of Brazil's national flag. With only a few days to go before the Cup's opening match, Nascimento was running out of time to repeat the ritual he's completed for every World Cup since 1982.

"I started putting the decorations up really late this year, I can't say why. Normally I would have done this a month earlier," Nascimento said. "Still, I feel a responsibility to show the world our pride, even if it's just these little streamers.

"Brazil's struggles, our frustration with politicians, have dampened excitement, and that anger won't go away. But I don't know anybody who isn't praying for our team to show its grit, to show our swagger, and win this Cup."

Anticipation is building over the tournaments' expected drama: Will boy wonder Neymar help Brazil avenge its haunting 1950 Cup loss in Maracana? Will Lionel Messi finally lead Argentina to glory on its archrival's home turf? Or will an underdog team emerge to captivate the world's imagination?

But on the Cup's eve and with great hopes that Brazil's team will win its sixth world title, surely attention will focus on the soccer and not on the street?

"There is certainly a mood of 'we've already paid for the party so we might as well enjoy it,'" said Juca Kfour, one of Brazil's best-known sports commentators. "But there is also the feeling that a lot of people

are ashamed. They're ashamed to wear the Brazil jersey or put a Brazilian flag in their window because of the protests, because they don't want to be associated with the exorbitant spending on the Cup."

Brazilians question whether the expense of hosting the Cup will prove to have been worth it, considering their constant pain of having one of the world's heaviest tax burdens yet still enduring dilapidated hospitals, roads, security and other poor public services. Many demand that Brazil build schools as spectacular as the new stadiums.

Recent polling shows half the population disapproves of Brazil hosting the event at all, a position once unthinkable for the nation that embodies soccer like no other. Three-fourths polled are convinced corruption has tinged World Cup works which have cost the country \$11.5 billion.

The struggles with the Cup have become emblematic of Brazil's larger ills, of citizens' feelings that they're forever hamstrung by politicians on the take and their anger at dealing daily with a broken, frustrating system.

Brazilians are split on whether their country's international reputation will be helped or hindered by the event, according to a recent Pew Research Center report, despite leaders' grand hopes that the event would unveil a newly powerful Brazil on the global stage.

Even a popular poll giving the "temperature reading," of how Brazilians feel about the Cup indicates mixed sentiments, with about 40 percent telling the Ibope polling group they were on the cold-to-frozen end of the spectrum, 30 percent on the warm-to-boiling side, and the rest in the lukewarm middle.

President Dilma Rousseff, whose popularity in polls continues to slip ahead of an October presidential election, has repeatedly invoked the warm nature of the Brazilian people as being the country's saving grace.

Kindness and smiles will make up for incomplete airport renovations, public transportation works that never got off the ground and worries of logistical struggles for the hundreds of thousands of fans as they move around a continent-sized nation with already seriously strained infrastructure.

"We're prepared to offer the world a marvelous spectacle, made richer with the happiness, respect and kindness that is characteristic of the Brazilian people," Rousseff said last week when presenting the World Cup Trophy for public viewing in Brasilia.

But Kfoury and other observers say leaders are overestimating their constituents' good will.

"Authorities are confident that Brazil's 'Carnival spirit' will overcome all the problems," Kfoury said. "But I think the mood of the Cup will greatly depend upon what Brazil's national team does on the field.

"If Brazil is knocked out in the Round of 16 and we've got two weeks of a World Cup in Brazil and no Brazilian national team playing, well, then, even if just for diversion, people will take to the streets to make a mess, to protest against the fact that we can't even win in soccer."

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Brazil's Catholic Church Reprimands World Cup Organizers For Favoring Stadiums Over The Poor

Reuters | By Esteban Israel

DATA: 2014.06.09



(Reuters) - Pope Francis may be a die-hard soccer fan, but the Catholic church has given Brazil's World Cup organizers a "red card" for spending billions of dollars on stadiums while failing to improve the country's notoriously poor public services.

In a red card-shaped brochure distributed this week in churches and parishes across the world's biggest Roman Catholic country, Brazil's Bishops Conference urged the Brazilian government to respect people's right to demonstrate against the month-long tournament that kicks off next Thursday.

"The Church wants to contribute to the public debate and express its concern with ... the inversion of priorities in the use of public money that should go to health, education, basic sanitation, transportation and security," it said.

That view is shared by many Brazilians who have taken to the streets sporadically over the past year to protest against spending on World Cup stadiums, which are widely viewed as symbols of waste in the South American nation.

More protests are expected during the tournament.

An ardent fan who often receives soccer shirts from worshippers during mass at the Vatican, Pope Francis, an Argentine, is expected to deliver a message of peace ahead of the World Cup.

In its brochure, the Brazilian church criticized World Cup organizers for evicting hundreds of poor people from areas near stadiums, ignoring environmental regulations and surrendering the sport to "big corporations."

It also urged Brazilian authorities to combat sexual exploitation during the event, which is expected to attract 800,000 foreign soccer fans to Brazil.

The success of the World Cup, the bishops said, will not be measured by how much money it contributes to the local economy or the profit it will bring its sponsors.

"A victory for all will only be possible if some fundamental demands are met."

In soccer, a red card is displayed by a referee to indicate that a player is being sent off the field for a flagrant violation.

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Does Brazil Matter for Brand Owners?

DATA: 2014.06.09

Brazil. Home to Carnival, Samba and Havaianas. The proud host of this year's soccer World Cup and the Olympics in 2016. But also laboring against a perception of violence, corruption and poor education & healthcare. Are we sure Brazil matters for brand owners?

The short answer is yes. The numbers are eye-opening: the fifth biggest country in the world and the sixth richest. Blessed with natural resources and a \$7bn luxury market. Brazil creates 19 new millionaires every day, and 35 million people have escaped poverty in the last 12 years. It is set to grow between 15-25% over the next five years.

Brazil is changing fast, but how do we make sense of the nature and direction of change? Looking at Brazil from a cultural, social and economic perspective, six key shifts emerge.

1. Growing Female Empowerment

If women have until recently been seen more as conventional sex sirens and mother figures, the near future will be marked by female empowerment. From Dilma Rousseff to Brazil's women's soccer team, the times are a-changing. As women take a more central role in society, the fertility rate has dropped from 4.1 children/family in 1980 to 1.9 today. As the slogan goes, "la fabrica esta fechada" (the factory is closed). And 49% of entrepreneurs with companies less than 42 months old are women (versus the global average of 37%).

2. DIY Culture

Brazilians are taking ownership of a future of entrepreneurship and innovation, leaving behind a traditional culture of state support. Favela occupants, once the hopeless within society, are combating life's uncertainty by creating organized communities, responsible for security, daycare and retail outlets. Social currencies are being created to help economic development: more than 70 are now in operation, issued by community banks in parallel to the Real. And in terms of entrepreneurship, one in six adults either runs or is trying to launch a new venture, while another 15% already runs a more established small business.

3. Favela Rehab

Beachlife aspiration isn't going to disappear, but it's Brazil's favelas that are the motor of cultural change. Better transport connections are key here: the iconic Complexodo Alemão, a cableway connecting Brazil's favelas to Rio de Janeiro, was inaugurated in 2011. But ground-up movements are equally responsible: vibrant new hotspots like Bob Nadkarni's Jazz at the Maze are popping up all over the favelas. And over on TV, while telenovelas used to portray the lives of the rich and famous, now the heroine of the TV series Avenida Brasil is a girl living in a favela.

4. Tech Enablement

As technology becomes affordable for most of the population, it's shaping opportunities and changing behaviors. Every classroom in Rio municipal schools is to be equipped with Wi-Fi and given access to Educopedia, an online platform for collaborative learning. Tech is also seen as key for entertainment: 82% believe that equipping the home with tech items increases fun for the family; and for making informed consumer choices, 70% of middle class consumers have used the web for price comparison in the last year.

5. Promoting Diversity

Brazil has traditionally been marked by white economic and cultural power, but that's all changing. Affirmative action is making waves: in Rio's state universities, 20% of places are set aside for black students, with a further 25% reserved for a 'social quota' of low-income families. And favela culture continues to break down barriers; for example, BaileFunk is an iconic musical genre with African favela roots now spreading to the wealthier classes.

6. Citizen Action

With its wealth of natural resources, Brazil is evolving from exploitation to greater preservation. Widespread grassroots opposition to deforestation and environmental degradation has forced the government's hand, as it has in the agriculture industry: one quarter of the workforce is in agriculture, and pressure is being applied on agri-businesses to employ more sustainable processes.

So, what does all this mean for brands? Here are five key take-aways.

1. The emerging middle class is the must-win audience. It now represents over 50% of the population, and it's expected to reach 60% by 2030. That's over 90 million people with a particular value system of family, stability and aspiration that brands have the opportunity to speak to.
2. Women represent an enormous opportunity. Dove and Rexona have shown how to couple sexiness and femininity with a strong, independent attitude to life.
3. Brands should appeal to the burgeoning national pride, but be aware that Brazilian-ness will vary in power by category: some categories are owned by Brazilian brands (hygiene, skincare), while others require foreign brand endorsement (e.g. medications and supplements). As elsewhere in the world, Unilever does a case study job in adapting to local tastes and flavors.
4. Thinking about where brands should focus their Responsibility strategy, the environment is not today's priority. It is currently the social dimension that is more meaningful, and bearing in mind the disruption caused by the World Cup and the Olympics, brands will have to manage their sporting associations skillfully.
5. The media landscape in Brazil is the same, but different. Brand owners need to: Think real-time, connecting on social platforms. Think video--YouTube is huge in Brazil and has been used by the likes of Nissan, Visa, Whirlpool and Burger King to launch major campaigns. Think blog--look at how Converse increased their reach. And don't underestimate TV, it's still growing in Brazil!

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