

1889 - Monarchy overthrown, federal republic established with central government controlled by coffee interests. Brazil produces 65% of world's coffee by 1902.

Vargas period

1930 - Revolt places Getulio Vargas at head of provisional revolutionary government.

1937 - President Vargas leads coup, rules as dictator with military backing. Economy placed under state control, start of social welfare revolution.



1939-45 - Brazil initially declares itself neutral but in 1943 joins Allies in World War II.

1945 - President Vargas ousted in military coup. New constitution returns power to states.

1951 - Getulio Vargas re-elected president, but faces stiff opposition.

1954 - President Vargas commits suicide after military gives him the options of resigning or being overthrown.

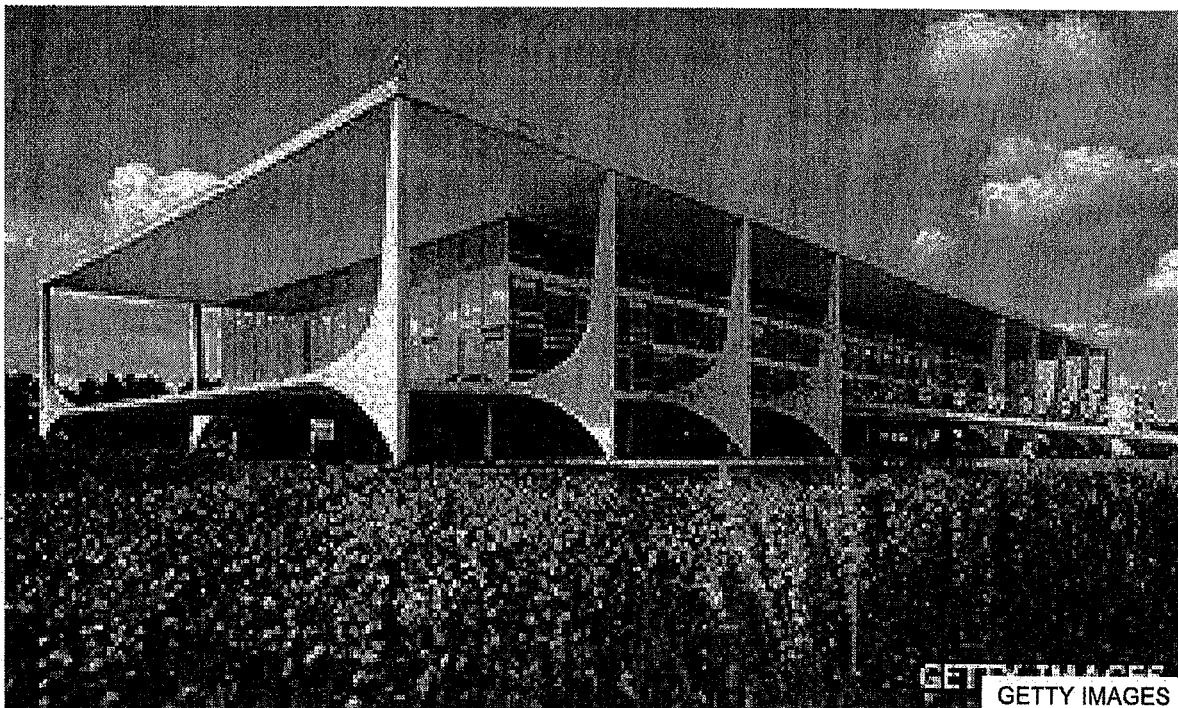
1956-61 - President Juscelino Kubitschek achieves rapid economic growth.

1960 - President Kubitschek moves capital to Brasilia.

1960 - Janio Quadros elected president, but resigns after several months, plunging country into constitutional crisis. Succeeded by left-wing vice-president, Joao Goulart.

Military rule

1964 - President Goulart ousted in bloodless coup, flees into exile. Military rule associated with repression but also with rapid economic growth based on state-ownership of key sectors.



1974 - General Ernesto Geisel becomes president, introduces reforms which allow limited political activity and elections.

1985 - Tancredo Neves chosen as first civilian president in 21 years under military-run electoral college, but dies before he can be inaugurated.

His vice-president Jose Sarney becomes president, and struggles to cope with inflation.

1988 - New constitution reduces presidential powers.

Economic woes