

# Brazilian History & Culture



# Comparisons

## Brasil

- 3,287,597 [sq mi](#)
- 192 million pop.
- Colonized by Portugal
- North-south divide
- Relied on slavery for agro-exports
- Federal Republic



## U.S.A.

- 3,794,066 sq mi
- 308 million pop.
- Colonized by Britain
- North-south divide
- Relied on slavery for agro-exports
- Federal Republic



What unites the people in the following slides?











## Answer

They're all Brazilian.

Brazil is perhaps the world's most ethnically mixed country.

Portuguese colonists, later European immigrants, native peoples, enslaved Africans and even the world's largest Japanese immigrant population all call Brazil home and have mixed over the generations.

Social inequality is an issue with lighter skinned Brazilians typically out-earning those with darker complexions.

How can you attempt to address this in a society where race is rather ambiguous?



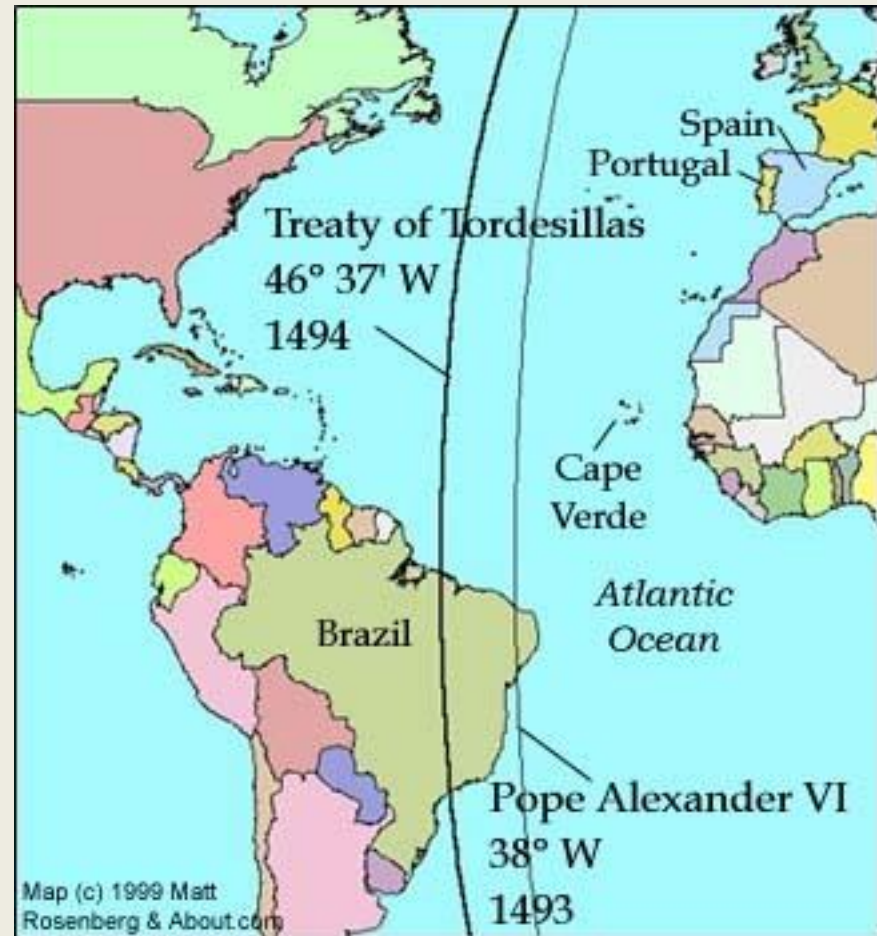


## Key events in the Brazilian narrative




## Treaty of Tordesillas

In 1494 Pope Alexander XI divided the world between Spain and Portugal. France and Britain had no desire to cooperate.



# 1500, Pedro Cabral makes land in Bahia



- 
- Brazil was originally named “Land of the True Cross” and split into 4 Donatary Captaincies with Portuguese nobles in charge of each. Many never left Portugal and the D.C. of Bahia got shipwrecked and eaten!
  - Brazilwood was the first significant export and was so for a century.
  - Defending the long coast line from Europeans seeking to poach land was problematic.

# 1544, Capital is established at Salvador





Salvador, city of churches



Celebrating Bahian independence

# Tobacco, sugar & alcohol



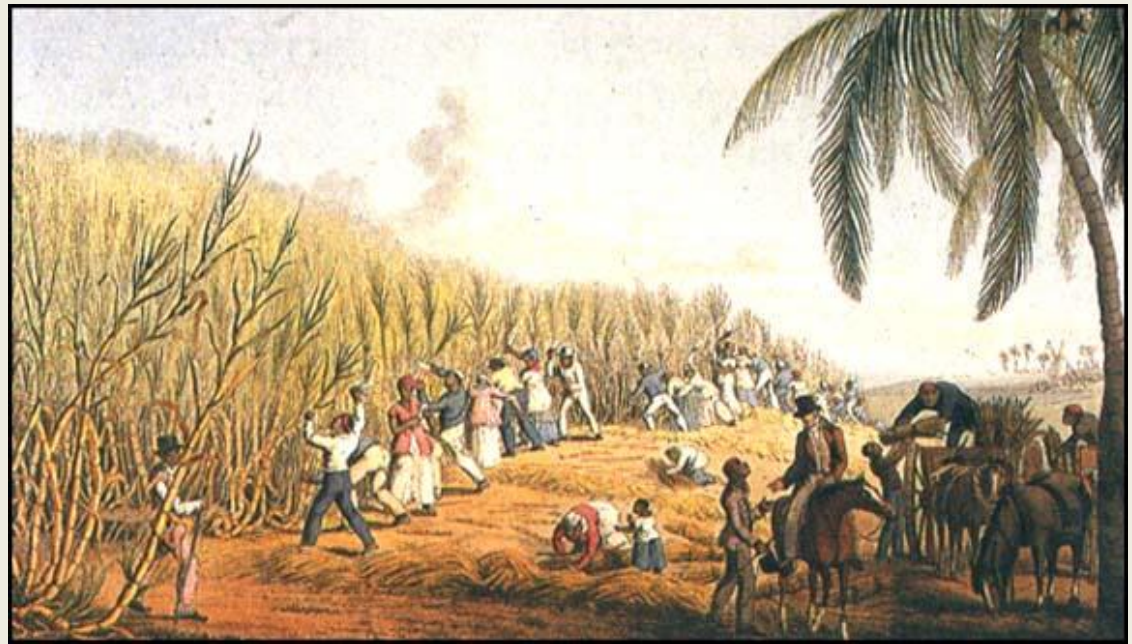
These 3 crops drove the early colonial economy in Bahia but one was far more significant than the others.....





## Sugar

- 10-month growing season in the northeast.
- High European demand.
- Difficult to enslave natives on their own soil so Africa became the source for labor.
- Roughly 1/3 of all enslaved Africans were sent to Brazil!
- Brazil currently has the 2nd highest African population (Nigeria is # 1).
- 17-hour work days—enslaved population was never self-reproducing.
- Conditions were BRUTAL.



# 1690s, Gold Rush in Minas Gerais



Discovery of gold in the interior triggered a mass migration from the coasts. Gold rush dwarfed that of the US in the 1840s. 500,000 Portuguese moved to Brazil.



Churches, such as this one, St. Francis in Salvador, were lavishly decorated in gold.

1763, Capital was moved to Rio to better protect gold mines







## Path to Independence

1750, Treaty of Madrid recognized Portuguese claims to land west of the Tordesillas line.

Immigrants to the interior discovered land suitable for cattle ranching.

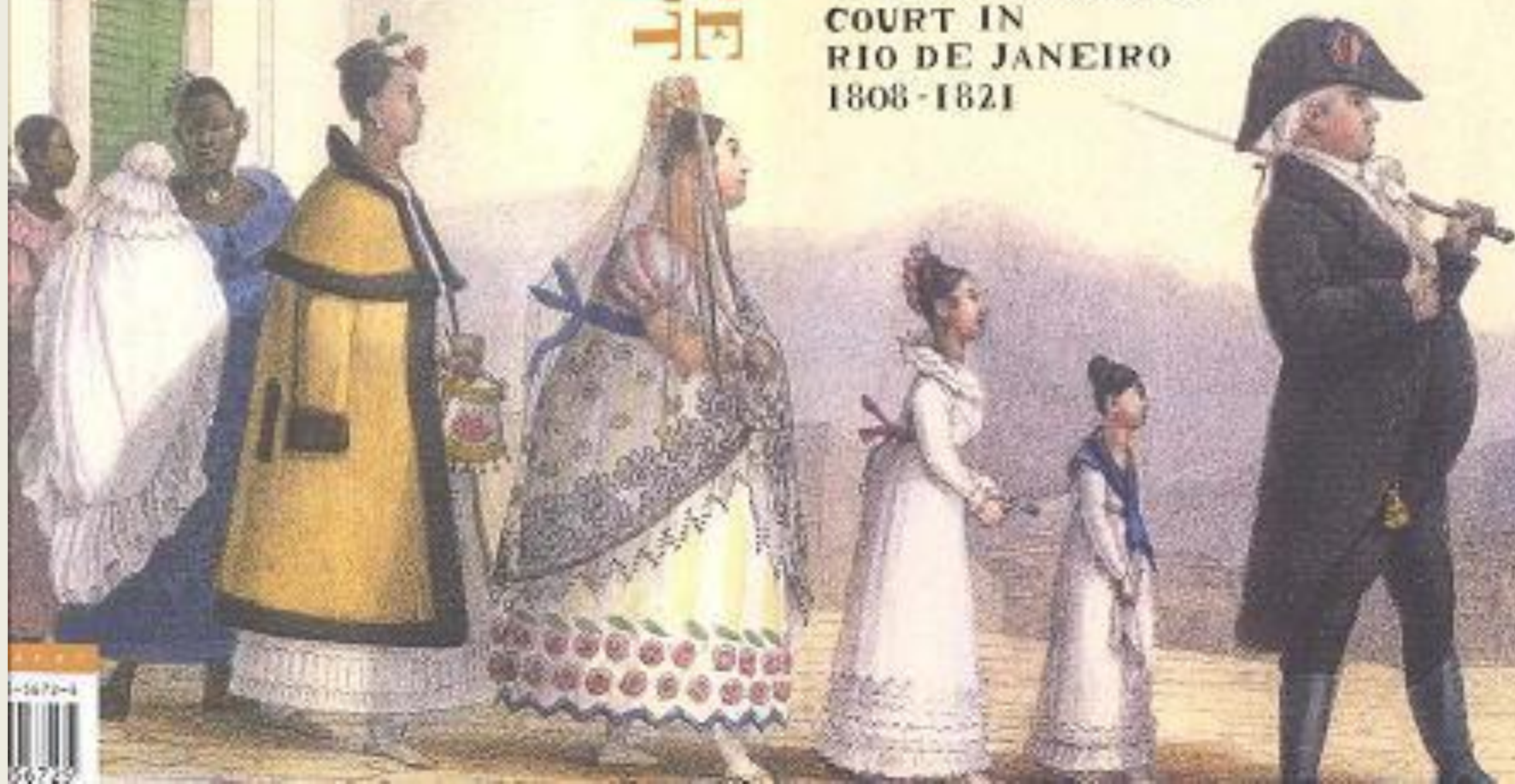


PATRICK  
WILCKEN

EMPIRE  
ADRIFT

# EMPIRE ADRIFT

THE PORTUGUESE  
COURT IN  
RIO DE JANEIRO  
1808-1821



4-5672-4



06729





- As Napoleon invaded Iberia to isolate the British through blockade (Portugal was allied with Britain), Portuguese King João VI moved the empire from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro.
- With the French threat removed, João went back to Lisbon and left his son, Pedro I, in charge.
- Under pressure from merchants, wealthy farmers and the Church, independence was declared in September 1822. No revolution required!
- Brazil became a constitutional monarchy.

7 DE  
SETEMBRO  
1822



# The Empire (1822–1889)



Pedro I, 1822–1831—took over Portugal after the death of his father. Left his son...



Pedro II (1840–1889) in charge . Rule was autocratic. Senators appointed for life.

## Rise of coffee and shift of power. Why and where?

- Years of sugar production stripped the soil of nutrients, reducing yields.
- 1888, emancipation without civil war!
- Diversification of the economy made slavery obsolete.
- Power shifted from the northeast to the southeast and coffee became “king,” accounting for 70% of national exports.



## The Old Republic (1889–1930)

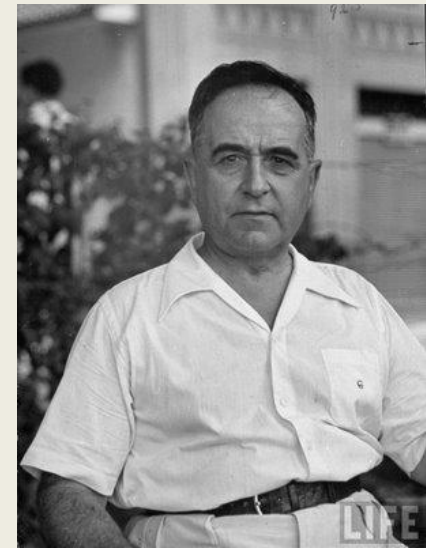
- Seeking a more enlightened, European model of government, the King was driven to France.
- Freedom of religion was established
- All literate males gained suffrage.
- European, Arab and Japanese immigration continued. Attempt was made to 'whiten' population.
- Gap between north and south widened.





More Japanese live in São Paulo than there are Japanese in any other country!

# Vargas (1930–45 & 1951–54)



## “Father of the poor: “ President or Dictator?”

- \* Came to power in a bloodless coup supported by the Liberal Alliance.

- \* Light industrial sector surpassed coffee as the key industry

- \* **“Brazilianization”**—culture unified around common themes,...Blacks allowed on the soccer team, samba became the official music.

- \* Brazil became the only Latin American country to fight in WWII (allies).

- Raised minimum wage, suspended democracy and created an oil and electric monopoly before committing suicide in 1954.

- \* Most important Brazilian ever? A citizens’ poll in 2010 said so.





## Kubitschek (1956–61) to Military Rule (1964–1985)

Kubitschek moved the capital to the interior, Brasília, as developing the interior become a national priority.

Fearing the politics of Brazil had gone too far left, conservatives mobilized and seized control in '64.

Suppressed dissent (tortured 20,000) and free press, abolished political parties, blocked agrarian reforms.

This period of repression is also associated with an economic boom.



## Lula da Silva



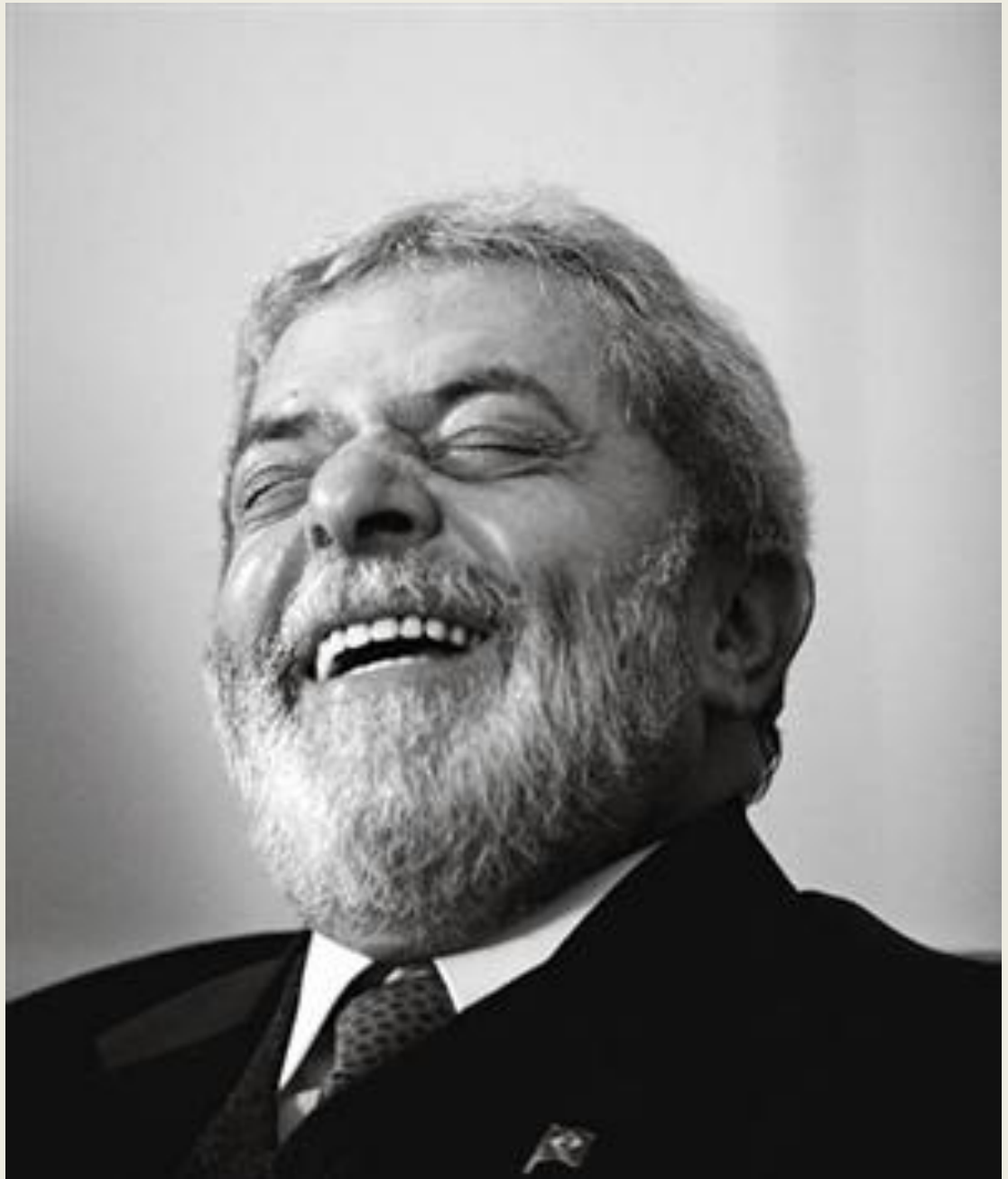
Born poor, had little formal education.

Jailed during military rule, Lula became a union organizer and founding member of the Workers' Party (1980).

Elected President in 2002 after several failed campaigns.

"Under Lula, Brazil became the world's eighth-largest economy, more than 20 million people rose out of acute poverty and [Rio de Janeiro](#)" Under Lula, Brazil became the world's eighth-largest economy, more than 20 million people rose out of acute poverty and Rio de Janeiro was awarded the [2016 Summer Olympics](#), the first time the Games will be held in South America."

— [The Washington Post](#), October 2010<sup>[12]</sup>



# Notable aspects of Brazilian culture and identity



# Carnival

Beginning 40 days prior to Easter and lasting a week, Carnival is Brazil's most recognizable holiday.

Nominally Catholic (coinciding with the beginning of Lent), the festival combines circus, dance, music, costumes and parades.

Typically one had to join a samba school to participate. Groups like Didá in Salvador have organized female drum lines and seek to involve those of lower socio-economic status.



# Soccer and Its King



# Soccer & Its King

- In an attempt to create a unified national culture, soccer was integrated after WWI in Brazil and is easily the nation's most popular sport. It is to Brazil what baseball was to the US during the 1940s and '50s.
- Pelé played from 1957–77, amassing over 1,000 goals, leading experts to dub him the greatest player of the last century.
- Brazil has won 5 of the 19 World Cups and will host the event in 2014.

# Samba



# Bossa Nova

## BOSSA NOVA IN RIO

ALTAMIRO CARRILHO,  
SUA FLAUTA MÁGICA, E GRANDE CONJUNTO.

EXECUTAM MÚSICAS DE ALGUNS DOS  
MAIORES COMPOSITORES "BOSSA NOVA".





# Samba and *Bossa Nova*

- Samba is a music and dance widely regarded as Brazil's most recognizable form of cultural expression. Think of what rock 'n' roll or jazz are to US culture. With roots in Africa, the music relies on string and percussion instruments and is played in a 2/4 tempo. The music is truly appreciated across gender, age and ethnic boundaries like nothing in the US.
- *Bossa nova*, "new trend," evolved from samba in the 1950s in Rio. It's typically classified as a form of jazz by most Americans. "The Girl from Ipanema" is perhaps the most recognizable Brazilian song.

# Capoiera



## Capoeira

Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art combining dance, music and the blending of acrobatic and fluid fighting moves. While debates exist as to certain aspects of its origin, we do know that it came to and evolved in Brazil with enslaved Africans.





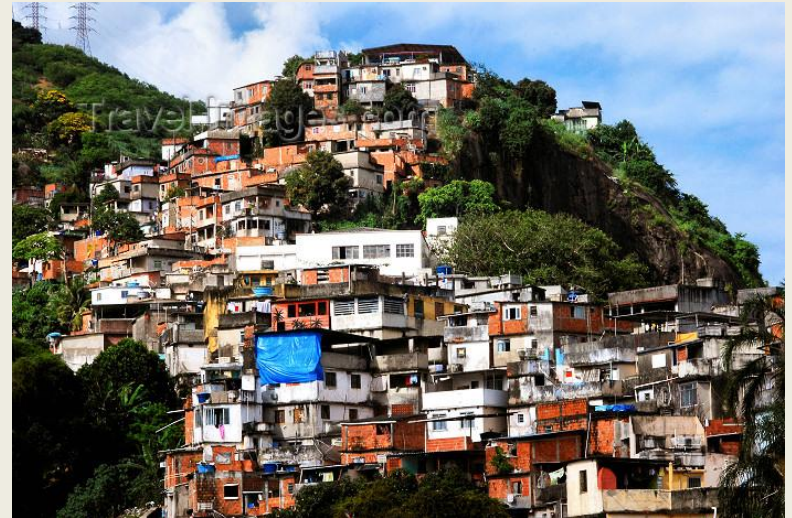
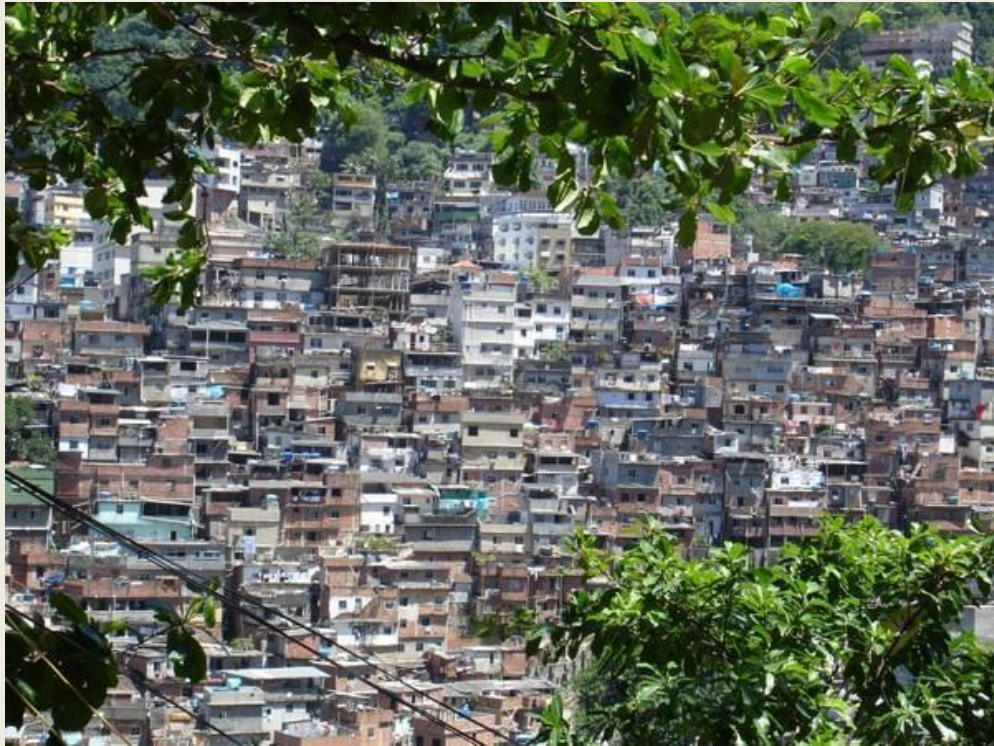
Niemeyer architecture in São Paulo, Edifício Copan.  
The world's single largest apartment complex?

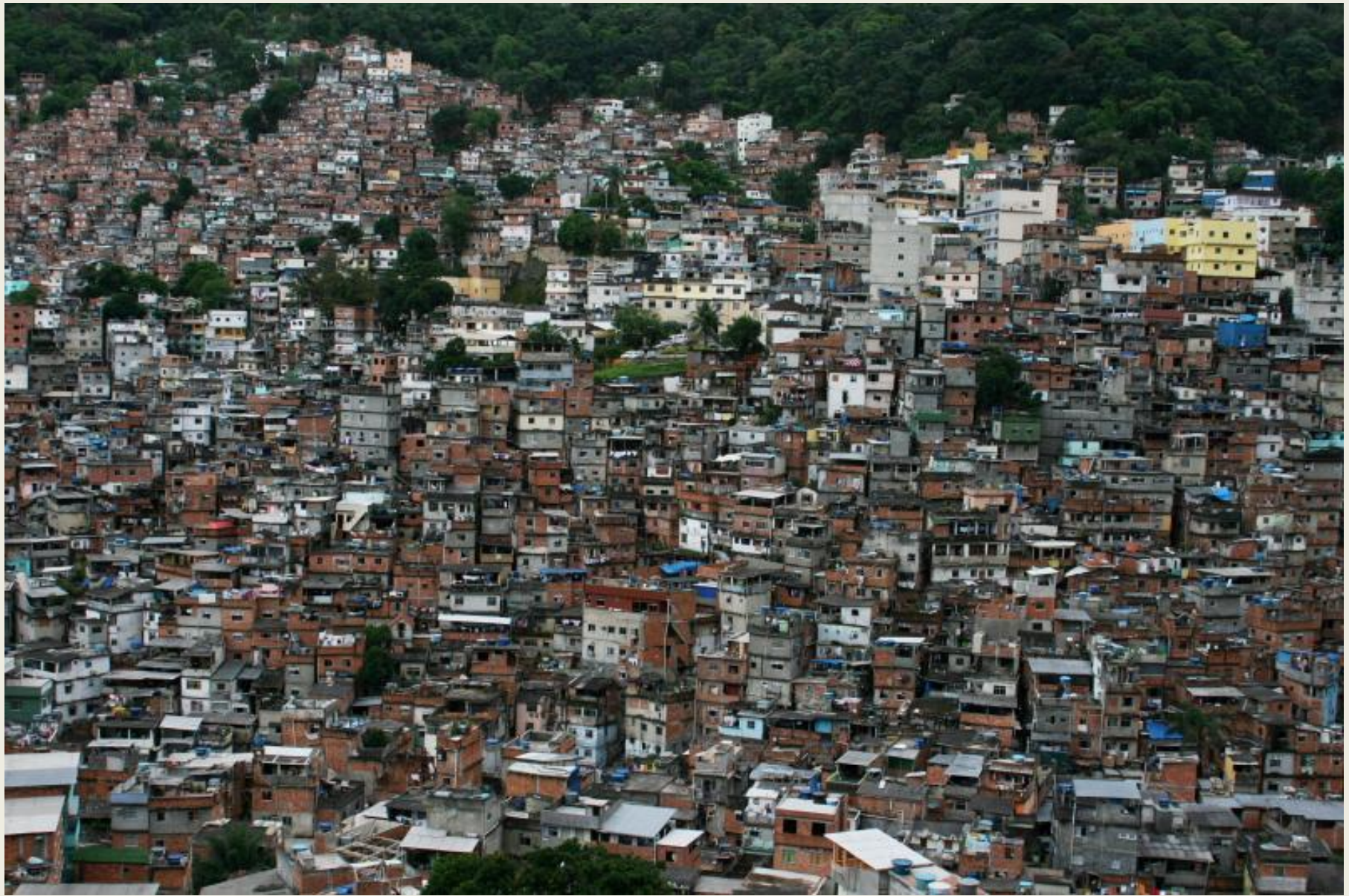


# *Favelas*, urban shantytowns



Rocinha-Rio







# Candomblé



# Candomblé

- An Afro-Brazilian religion blending tribal African spirituality, beliefs and gods (Yoruba *orixás*) with the practices of Catholicism and the veneration of saints.