
POWER OF DIVERSITY IN THE MILITARY – WORKSHOP

- “Nationalism and (no) Immigrants in the Brazilian Armed Forces”
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BRAZIL OVERVIEW

- Brazil has 213 million inhabitants.
- About 1 million are immigrants (+/- 0.5% of population).
- 35% of the population is under 24 years old – a young country.
- 11% of the population aged 15 and above is illiterate.

BRAZIL OVERVIEW

- Only 17.4% of the population has a university degree.
- GDP per capita is USD 6,400 per year.
- Homogeneous culture and language (Portuguese).
- Indigenous peoples – 0.7% of the population and dozens of languages.

BRAZIL – HISTORICAL IMMIGRATION

- From the 16th century to the 19th century the country received **6 million** enslaved Africans.
- In the 19th and 20th centuries, thousands of immigrants from several European countries like Portugal, Spain, Germany, Poland, Italy etc moved to Brazil.
- Miscegenation among ethnic groups but also **racism**, especially against black and **Afro-descendant people, 50% of the population.**

BRAZILIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

- There have been no immigrants in the Armed Forces of the country since the war of independence (1822-1823).
- Since then, only native or naturalized Brazilians have been able to serve in the Armed Forces.
- The Armed Forces are understood as the **cradle of nationality** and nationalism.

BRAZILIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

- The Minister of Defence must be Brazilian-born.
- In the military career, only Brazilians-born people can become officers – an indication that nationality and nationalism walk hand-in-hand in the Armed Forces, and that naturalized Brazilians cannot be fully trusted to defend the homeland.

**COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE FOR 18-YEAR-OLDS.
MANDATORY FOR MEN AND VOLUNTARY FOR WOMEN.**

- Military service is understood by officers as a school of citizenship, a school of *Brasilidade* (“Brazianness”).
- 9-12 months.
- In recent years, 1.5 million young people have been eligible to serve.
- Only about 90,000 are admitted.
- For the most part, it is poor young men who wish to serve – opportunity to have an occupation, a job.



ARMED FORCES STRUCTURE AND PERSONNEL

- Three Forces – Army, Navy and Air Force
- Number in activity – 334,500 – 2/3 in the Army
- **Women**: 22,000 (9,000 in the Air Force, 7,000 in the Army and 6,000 in the Navy)
- Reservists – 1,652,500

ARMED FORCES STRUCTURE AND PERSONNEL

- At the top, the elite is white. In the middle and lower levels, most members are black or Afro-descendant.
- Endogamic institution – 40% of young officers have parents and relatives in Armed Forces.
- The Armed Forces are one of the most popular and trusted institutions in the country.

BRAZILIAN ARMED FORCES ACTIVITIES

- 1 – External – National Defence and Peace Keeping Operations
- 2 – Internal activities: security (public disorder); environmental issues; electoral assistance (transport of voters); health campaigns; humanitarian help; public infrastructure construction (roads, bridges etc); among others.
- N.B.: South America is a peaceful continent in terms of interstate wars. No intense border disputes. But very high levels of interpersonal violence.

PROBLEMS TO STUDY THE MILITARY IN BRAZIL

- No academic research or surveys with recruits or officers is allowed.
- Not enough transparency about military plans and projects, budgets, military education, military internal culture or military politics.
- Strong participation of military in politics – Military dictatorship (1964-85), for example.
- Jair Bolsonaro's government (today) – **7,000 military personnel serving in the Executive Branch.**
- The military and politics have been tied together since the beginning of the Republic, in 1889.