

Brazil's Path to Independence

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Background Info on Colonial Brazil



- Portugal used mercantilism to control colonies trade
- Manufacturing in Brazil was outlawed as well as foreign ships
- Portugal relied on Brazilian goods

Royal Family comes to Brazil



- 1807: Napoleon invaded and occupied Portugal
- Royal family fled to Brazil under British Protection and Prince Dom João established government in Rio de Janeiro
- Brazil was provided with a national Bank, library, universities, and printing presses
- Dom Joao opened ports to foreign trade and took away decrees prohibiting some manufacturing

Liberation of Portugal



- 1811: The British liberated Portugal
- However, the royal court remained in Brazil
- 1815: Brazil was made a kingdom equal to Portugal
- When Queen Maria died, Joao was proclaimed king of both Portugal and Brazil
- 1820: The Portuguese were uncomfortable with the dual monarchy, which brought about the Portuguese Revolution in demand of the return of their king



Constitution of 1824



- New system of government that limits the emperor's power
 - Was dissolved in November and he asked his advisors to construct a constitution
- Bicameral Legislature, where the lower house was indirectly elected by male suffrage and the upper house was selected by the emperor
- The constitution ended in 1819, which was also the end of the monarchy

The Role of the Emperor



- Could veto all legislation that was passed by the lower and upper house
- Had the right to dissolve the legislature when he thought was necessary
- He could appoint the cabinet and dismiss ministers at any point
- Catholicism was the state religion, and the emperor is head of the church

Independence



- Some people believe that Brazil's independence was bloodless
- Rebels were generally guerrilla groups
- Dom Pedro asked for British asylum in fear of a civil war
- No major battles



Thank You!

