

BRAZIL 2018 ELECTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

This poster is supposed to be a crash-course on the last 10 years of Brazilian politics. While we were in São Paulo and Rio, I noticed that the upcoming elections were mentioned on several of the visits and many speakers referred to the Operation Car Wash as well as the former President Lula. The following research helps paint a better picture of the political situation leading the 2018 elections.

THE POLITICAL CHAOS

2005 Mensalão Scandal

- “Big monthly payment” scandal
- Congressman revealed the ruling party (PT) was paying generous monthly allowances to congressional members in exchange for favorable votes on the PT’s legislative priorities.

2010 Economy Peaks

- GDP growth at 8%
- Lula leveraged the boom to expand social policies such as “Bolsa Família”- a monthly cash transfer program that helps poor families who keep their children in school and ensure they have medical checkups

2012 Mensalão Reached the STF

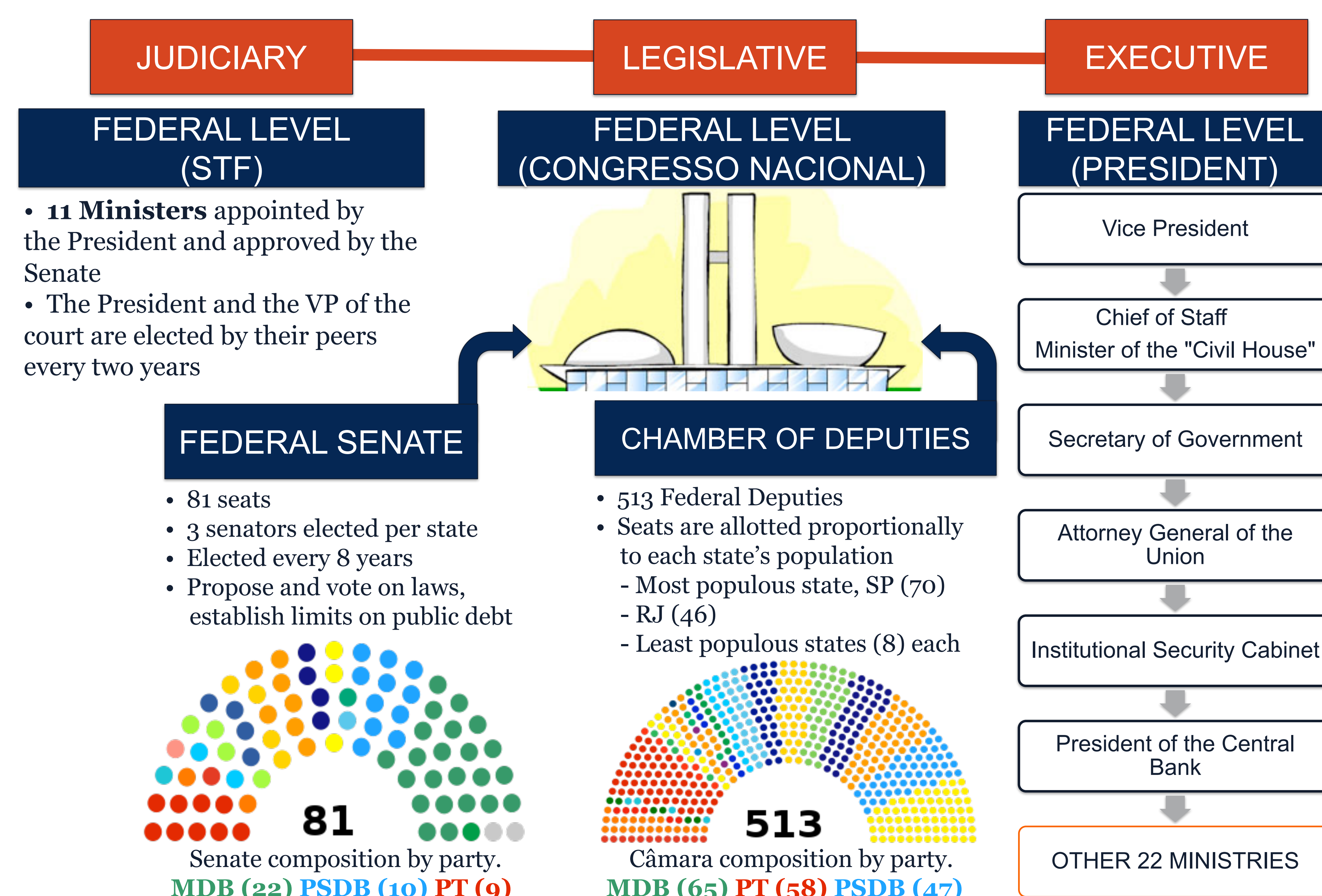
- The criminal investigation into the “Mensalão” reached the Supreme Court
- Chief Justice Joaquim Barbosa - the first and only Afro-Brazilian judge to ever serve in the STF – became a “prosecutor-hero”
- 12 defendants received jail sentences

2013 “V is for Vinegar”

- Massive protests during the Confederations Cup soccer tournament over the unequal wealth distribution
- June Journey: National protest over rising bus fares and lack of social investment
- In order to signal that the Senate got the message from the protesters, Senate president Renan Calheiros, passed ten legislative measures.
- Among those measures was a plea-bargaining reform

2014 Lava Jato

- Led by federal Judge Sérgio Moro as well as a group of 9 prosecutors known as the “Nine Horsemen of the Apocalypse”
- Started as a money laundering investigation and became the biggest corruption scandal in Latin America
- Political parties endorsed particular individuals to sit on the Petrobras board of directors
- In return, board members accepted bribes and inflated the price of the contracts to construction firms
- **Initial estimates value the bribes at nearly \$5 billion.**
- Brazilian construction company Odebrecht was deeply involved and was found to have a secret branch used for illegal payments in several Latin American countries, from Hugo Chavez in Venezuela to Pemex in Mexico



ELECTIONS 2018

With former President Lula out of the running the 2018 presidential elections are uncertain. Below are a list of the declared candidates:

JAIR BOLSONARO (PSL)

- A former army captain and Congressman
- Very conservative views
- Wants to implement a Brazilian military government

GERALDO ALCKMIN (PSDB)

- State Governor of São Paulo

- Social Security reform

- Supports of privatizations

MARINA SILVA (Rede)

- Former Minister of the Environment, State Senator for Acre

- Supports sustainable development

- Clear anti-corruption message

CIRO GOMES (PDT)

- Former Minister of the National Integration, Federal Deputy for Ceará

- Progressive tax reform

- Against privatizations

JOAQUIM BARBOSA (PSB)

- Former Supreme Chief Justice } ?

PARTIDO NOVO A new party founded by people with no political career. Focus in defense of democracy to preserve individual liberties, encourage entrepreneurship, competition, and citizen participation in political life

IMPEACHMENT 2016



- Dilma Rousseff was a strong ally of former President Lula
- Before presidency she was the former Energy Minister and was part of the board of directors of Petrobras
- Petrobras scandal devastated the PT and Rousseff’s reputation:

1. Many questioned her competence and judgment for allowing the scandal to happen
 2. Moro released tapes of recorded conversations between Rousseff and Lula in which she talks about appointing the former President to a cabinet-level position that would place him under Supreme Court jurisdiction and “shield” him from the *Lava Jato* investigation
- The recession paired with the Petrobras scandal led Brazilians to organize massive protests against the Rousseff government
 - President Rousseff was impeached on the charges cooking the government’s budgetary books to artificially prop up the economy before her 2014 reelection

MICHEL TEMER GOVERNMENT (MDB)



- Dilma Rousseff’s Vice President
- Became acting president on May 2016
- Reduced the number of ministries from 31 to 22
- Passed a bill labour reform
- Passed a bill on public pension plans
- Signed on Rio’s military intervention
- 87% rejection rating

FORMER PRESIDENT: LUIZ IGNACIO LULA DA SILVA



- Lula was found guilty of accepting over R\$ 3.7m (\$1,082) from the OAS company
- After exhausting all his appeals, the STF ruled by six to five against his request
- He is sentenced to serve 12-years in jail after being convicted of corruption

- Lula was the front-runner in the Brazilian upcoming elections
- While he is still the Workers Party candidate for the 2018 presidential election, his conviction makes him ineligible to run

CONCLUSIONS

A key takeaway that I learned after all the research is that the 2018 elections will be “up for grabs”. With the front-runner in jail, the voting scenario is likely to become more polarized.

Brazilians are tired of the corruption and the current scenario of poverty and violence. This is likely to influence the voter to try something new, and we can start to see that with running candidates that are running for presidency.

The culture of indifference towards politics is changing and now people are talking about the problem, which is a start. We should watch closely the new parties, and new candidates with different backgrounds such as law or business.

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