

## THE INDIVIDUALISM OF THE ELITES AND THE NEGLECT OF THE POPULATION IN BRAZIL

## O INDIVIDUALISMO DAS ELITES E O DESCASO COM A POPULAÇÃO NO BRASIL

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e2015135

PUBLISHED: 02/01/2025

**ABSTRACT**

*Brazil faces deep social inequalities, where the elite enjoys privileges while most of the population suffers from poverty, violence, and state neglect. The political system perpetuates exclusion, favoring a minority while essential public services such as healthcare and education deteriorate. Spatial segregation and institutional corruption worsen the crisis, leading to high levels of violence and political distrust. The lack of social mobility traps millions in precarious conditions, while the media manipulates information. Without structural reform, inequality will persist, benefiting an elite that historically resists change.*

**KEYWORDS:** Brazil. Individualism. Social Mobility.

Brazil has always been marked by deep social inequalities, where a privileged elite lives in a completely different world from that of the majority of the population. While a portion of the country enjoys security, access to quality healthcare and education, the other part faces a brutal reality of violence, poverty, and political neglect. This social divide is sustained by a political system that perpetuates exclusion and reinforces the interests of a minority at the expense of the basic needs of the majority.

In this exclusionary scenario, a federal deputy receives a salary of nearly 50,000 reais per month, while the average salary of those who elected them is just 2,000 reais. A councilor in a small Brazilian city earns, on average, 8,000 reais per month, officially attending just one meeting per week at the City Council, while the minimum wage is 1,518 reais. When the people fall ill, they turn to SUS – the Unified Health System – while the elite travel by helicopter to the Sírio-Libanês Hospital. These contradictions bleed the Brazilian people daily. While a surgery at Sírio-Libanês happens on the same day as admission, in SUS, patients wait for months, and often, when they are finally attended to, it is already too late. But who cares? After all, it is the "common folk" who die, not a "doctor from Brasília."

Urban violence, one of the most evident reflections of this inequality, primarily affects the most vulnerable segments of society. Spatial segregation pushes entire populations to peripheral areas where the State is absent, and organized crime assumes the role of a pseudo-government. Meanwhile, the elite protect themselves in gated communities with private security, remaining oblivious to the consequences of a failed social model that insists on ignoring the reality of the majority. Brazil experiences what amounts to an annual Vietnam, with around 50,000 deaths due to criminal violence. We are already in a civil war, and society has not even realized it.

Poverty in Brazil goes beyond a lack of financial resources. It is a structural mechanism that prevents social mobility and keeps millions of Brazilians trapped in precarious living conditions. The public education system, in ruins, does not offer real opportunities for social advancement. The healthcare system, in disarray, leads thousands of people to death due to inadequate care.

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Unemployment and informal work become inevitable alternatives for those who have never had access to a fair system of economic and social development.

This information and data do not reach the population due to the manipulation of the media and the lack of cognitive ability in a large part of the nation, which has never had access to proper, quality education. Many drop out of high school to help their parents with household expenses, over 60% of which come from taxes imposed by an inefficient government that takes from the poor to subsidize projects benefiting a small business, financial, and political elite.

The National Congress, far from faithfully representing the interests of the population, functions as a true marketplace, where legislative projects are dictated by corporate interests and powerful lobbying groups. Corruption scandals are frequent, showing that many so-called representatives of the people work to benefit themselves and their networks rather than seeking solutions to the country's structural problems. The gap between politicians and the population is so evident that necessary measures to reduce inequality and ensure dignity for all rarely move forward.

In the 2022 elections, nearly 40 million voters either abstained or cast blank or null votes. This means that out of every three voters, only two actually voted. And according to research, within a year, most voters no longer remember whom they voted for—whether for a deputy, mayor, councilor, or senator.

The selfishness of Brazil's elites reflects a historical culture of privilege, where a few concentrate wealth and influence while many struggle daily for survival. According to IBGE (the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics), in 2022, the wealthiest 10% of the population held 51% of the national wealth—a perverse socioeconomic picture.

In this scenario, 54 million Brazilians depend on Bolsa Família, 12 million are public employees, and another 12 million are retirees. In other words, 80 million Brazilians rely on the State, while only 20 million from the Economically Active Population (PEA) sustain the entire structure. The numbers don't add up. This social model is unsustainable and perpetuates the country's instability, fueling a cycle of exclusion and revolt.

Brazil urgently needs a political and social restructuring that prioritizes the fair distribution of resources, strengthens public services, and reduces inequalities. Only then can we move toward a more just and equal future. But the established elites do not want and will not change the status quo they have maintained through centuries of exploitation. Worse still, even those who own a small house and have a job are afraid to take a stand, fearing they will lose what little they have achieved.

A sad nation that does not share collective well-being, only the costs of a heavy, inoperative, inefficient state with high levels of corruption at all administrative levels. Perhaps it would have been better if Cabral had changed his course and never discovered the island of Vera Cruz. Maybe then, we would still have the more than six million indigenous people who once kept this land full of pure life and innocent souls. But they arrived, imposed their culture, and committed mass genocide, thus building a nation that, to this day, does not fully understand what ethics and morality truly mean.

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