

BRAZIL  
THE SECOND LARGEST  
COUNTRY WHO  
CONTRACTED THE  
CORONAVIRUS

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President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right populist who surged from semi-anonymity to power in 2018, and who is anti-science, when his popular health minister, Luiz Henrique Mandetta, advised the country to take the necessary precaution. He was fired and resulted in the country being thrown into turmoil resulted from so many deaths because of the coronavirus. Perhaps we can compare the same to Dr. Anthony Fauci here in the US with President Donald Trump, with both presidents admiring each other and resulted in being the #1 and #2 country with the most contained cases.

Across the developing world, this pandemic is causing a devastating economic crisis. The IMF has already warned us of the steepest recession since the 1930s and already it has received requests for emergency reliefs from more than 100 countries.

The developed countries are releasing funds to ease the unemployment and the slumping economies and the collapsing health systems.

For Brazil, this pandemic is a double-blow to the country. Its economy was in the sharp recession in 2015-16 with its public finances under heavy pressure, and now the fiscal response to the decline in the demand has created even greater strain.

On top of all these, it has a dysfunctional federal government with a president who is ideological who openly opposing the strategy for fighting the pandemic proposed by his cabinet, senior lawmakers, and even his close allies.

Its economist, Marco Lisboa, who even said that the crisis arrived when Brazil was ill-prepared with the economy most fragile after several years of low-growth. The government was incapable to lead and to take the co-ordinate action in taking the necessary action. The lack of leadership and the lack of public policy have led the country into a disaster.

As of August 17, Brazil has 3,359,570 cases with 108,536 deaths. And at the beginning of the month, the cases were 2,708,876 with 93,616 deaths.

If you look back one month ago, it was 1,966,748 cases with 75,366 deaths.

Fortunately, it has not been very contagious, and the death rate has been within 3% and not higher.

But since April the impact of the coronavirus has left the financial impact and the Brazilian real was under a lot of pressure. The Brazilian economy minister predicted its forecast of growth to be zero.

Earlier on the economy minister laid out an emergency support package of R\$1.2 trillion (US\$223 billion). This is the entire projected savings over the coming decade from the last pension reform. The money will go to support the poor, for the workers, local governments, businesses, and the health sector.

The country has entered into the deteriorating economic outlook, but the erratic outbursts of Bolsonaro have only added more pressure to the situation of the pandemic. His insistence that the virus would go away sounds too familiar with what Trump is saying in the US.

Promoting the use of malaria drugs chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine to treat people with the virus without the backing of any scientific evidence, and again this is what Trump has been promoting.

Lately, we have heard that the indigenous people who are living in the reserve in Brazil's Amazon rainforest are protesting for the lack of government support that they have received during the pandemic plus the illegal deforestation in their territories. The lack of restrictions on entry into their land has helped to spread the virus where the indigenous communities have little access to healthcare and almost no natural immunity against the disease.

Brazil's indigenous people make up less than 1 million of the total population of 211 million, and they live in an area scattered across the Amazon that is bigger than Venezuela.

Since Bolsonaro took office he forces the entry into the Amazon for commercial activities in what is known as his commercial policy. This has invited the wildcat miners, illegal loggers, and ranchers to exploit the protected land. The deforestation has never been seen in any regime, and it jumped 59% in the first four months of 2020 compared with last year. The illegal mining has increased by 13%.

So far, 17,000 indigenous Amazonians have been infected by a coronavirus and almost 600 have died. The mortality rate is higher than average Brazilians.

The pandemic and the deforestation is a very serious threat to the indigenous Amazonians. It can be genocide if no support from the central government can be provided.

Amazon forest is home to about 80% of the world's biodiversity as noted by the World Bank in 2008. And the World Economic Forum estimates the goods and services provided by the biodiversity are worth \$33 trillion a year.

Jair Bolsonaro sees this as the excessive legal protection to Brazil's 300 ethnic groups and the large-scale constitutionally-mandated land reserves as a burden to the country.

This brought us to the history of how the "white men" had brought the disease and destruction to American indigenous groups as the old Spanish and Portuguese Conquistadors five centuries ago.

If this deforestation continues to advance at the current rate, the indigenous people will be gone.



Courtesy of: Aljazeera.org

Amazon rainforest is shared by Brazil, with 60% of the rainforest, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and small percentage with Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana.

















<https://jakubmarian.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/official-languages-south-america.jpg>

This is the map of South America and I would like you to know how big the land Brazil is. It is the only country in South America that speaks Portuguese. All the rest are Spanish speaking.

The total land area is 8,515,799 square kilometers or 6.888 million square miles.

Brazil is 8,515,799 square meters, it is 47.7% and it is closed to half of the South American continent. The following chart is about the population breakdown of South American countries. Again, Brazil's population is closed to half of South America.

	Country	Projected population (17 August 2020)	Pct of total	Annual growth <sup>[a]</sup>		Doubling time (years) <sup>[b]</sup>
				Increment	Rate	
1	 Brazil	212,849,655	49.35%	1,580,204	0.75%	92
2	 Colombia	51,117,252	11.85%	678,395	1.37%	51
3	 Argentina	45,259,558	10.49%	419,527	0.95%	74
4	 Peru	33,109,677	7.68%	521,193	1.63%	43
5	 Venezuela	28,101,979	6.52%	-371,289	-1.29%	-54
6	 Chile	19,207,104	4.45%	222,878	1.19%	59
7	 Ecuador	17,706,503	4.11%	289,304	1.69%	41
8	 Bolivia	11,696,581	2.71%	159,958	1.41%	50
9	 Paraguay	7,146,086	1.66%	88,570	1.27%	55
10	 Uruguay	3,475,857	0.81%	12,449	0.36%	192
11	 Guyana	787,037	0.18%	3,760	0.48%	144
12	 Suriname	587,515	0.14%	5,382	0.93%	75
13	 French Guiana	290,877	0.07%	7,018	2.55%	28
14	 Falkland Islands	3,546	0.00%	143	4.42%	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>431,339,228</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,617,492</b>	<b>0.85%</b>	<b>82</b>

Courtesy of: en.wikipedia.org