

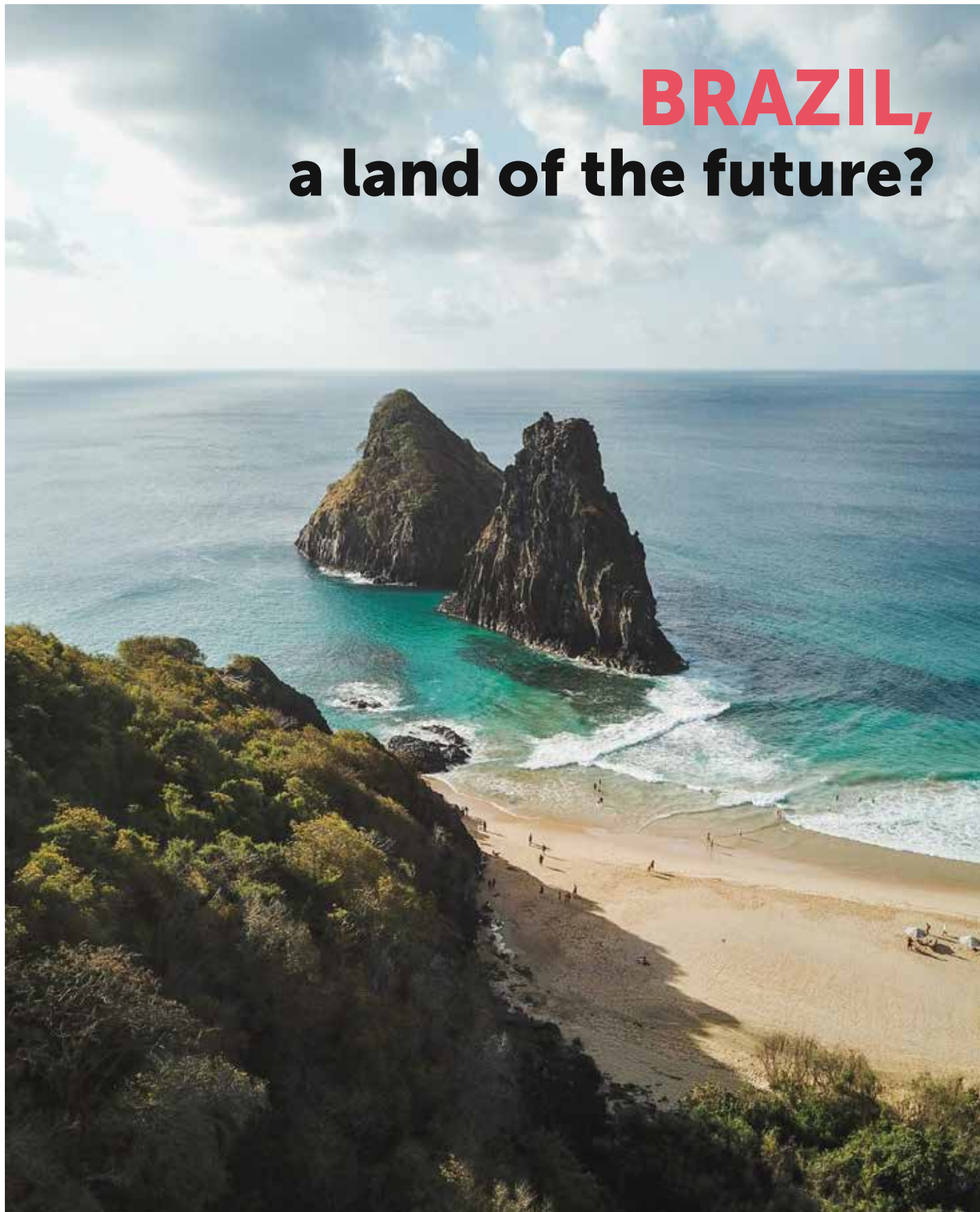
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BRAZIL, a land of the future?





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Brazil, a land of the future?

Brazil is attractive to companies because it benefits from considerable advantages: an immense territory, a variety of climates that allow for a diversity of cultures, a coastline of more than 7,000 km where its largest cities are located. The country is also well blessed with natural and mining resources. It is the world leader in the production of coffee, sugar, soya and maize because it controls the upstream and downstream supply chain, which enables it to make the difference.

Regarding mining resources, Brazil is rich in bauxite, iron, nickel and gold, and has enormous mining potential in the Amazon. In terms of energy, the country is largely independent thanks to the many hydroelectric dams that cross its territory and the discovery in 2006 of immense offshore oil fields that have strengthened its economic sovereignty. For all these reasons, Brazil is seen as a promising country with a bright future for its people. God,» believes Lula da Silva, «is Brazilian, and he doesn't want to leave Brazil», because he has provided it with all the resources required for its economic development.

In political matters, however, Brazil today appears to be a country deeply divided between the supporters of Bolsonaro and those of Lula da Silva. This was demonstrated by the riots in January 2023 provoked by supporters of former president Bolsonaro against the symbols of power (Congress and the presidential palace). They benefited from the complicity of part of the military, which reflects the polarisation of the country¹. In other words, Lula da Silva's return to power in 2023 is going to be difficult because of internal vulnerabilities. According to Claudio Frischtak (consultant to the World Bank), not all ministries are ready to collaborate with the new Lula government, as some are strongholds of radical evangelicals.² This further reduces its ability to manoeuvre.

In addition, Brazil's radiant future is hampered by deep-rooted social inequalities. In 2021, the poorest 50% had access to just 10.1% of the national income. On the other hand, the wealthiest 10% of the population will have access to 58.6% of the total income, and 1% of households in this category will have access to 26.6%. Brazil thus appears to be an unjust country where the social fabric is torn apart by recurrent violence and urban policies that favour wealthy neighbourhoods widen the gap between social categories.³ Moreover, 20% of

the country's population lives in the thousand or so favelas in the heart of the city. In Rio de Janeiro, for example, 22% of the population live in favelas with no access to basic services.

This analysis shows that Brazil today appears to be a vexed power that is unable to emancipate itself from its history. It seems as if, in its desire to reform the country in depth, factors of social inertia are undermining its takeoff by maintaining the status quo. As a result, there is a gap between the ambition of its objectives and the underestimation of certain predatory practices. The result is a weakening of the state, and an increase in clientelism and inequality. Is Brazil a country with a future? On condition that it reinvents an inclusive future that leaves no social category by the roadside, which is a prerequisite for Brazil's stability. ◉

Douraya Asgaraly

¹ *Brazil, the anger of a giant* - Patrice Montagu-Willims - published by Soul of people - 2022

² *Brazil, the anger of a giant*, ibid

³ *Le Brazil in 100 questions* - Frédéric Louault - Talandier edition - 2022 - page 72

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Table of contents

ÉDITORIAL.....	3
INTERCULTURAL.....	5
COUNTRY PROFILES.....	6
SAUDI ARABIA SEEN BY A SPECIALIST.....	8
FOCUS : SAUDI ARABIA, AN ELDORADO TO CONQUER.....	12
HOW TO EXPORT IN SAUDI ARABIA.....	14