

# Download Brazil A Country Study

Because of the rapid growth experienced by this country in terms of urban development, industrialisation and population at the beginning of the 21st century, Brazil is facing a number of social, environmental and political challenges. More information about Brazil is available on the Brazil Page and from other Department of State publications and other sources listed at the end of this fact sheet. History. In the 1840s, the owners of the farm which would later originate the city of Brazil decided to name their farm after the country of Brazil, because that country was often the subject of news at the time. The city was founded in 1866 under the name of that farm. As of now, Brazil is a part of the Terre Haute Metropolitan Statistical Area. Since the Portuguese colonized Brazil in the 16th century, it has been overwhelmingly Catholic. And today Brazil has more Roman Catholics than any other country in the world – an estimated 123 million. <sup>1</sup> But the share of Brazil's overall population that identifies as Catholic has been dropping