

Comparing the governments of Brazil, Mexico, and Cuba

SS6CG2: The student will explain the structures of national governments in Latin America and the Caribbean

Warm-Up 2/8/16

- What kind of government does Brazil have?
- What kind of government does Cuba have?
- What kind of government does Mexico have?
- What makes these three governments different?

BRAZIL, MEXICO, CUBA



BRAZIL

- Official Name: Federative Republic of Brazil
- Brazil is a federal republic with the power divided between the central government and the state and local governments (like USA)
- Brazil is also a presidential democracy
- The citizens elect the President and they also elect the legislature which is called the Congress (like the USA)
- The president serves a 4 year term with a limit of two terms (like the USA)

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BRAZIL

- Brazil's president: Luis Inacio Lula de Silva



BRAZIL

- Citizens of Brazil can vote, both men and women.
- Citizens who are 16-17 may vote if they choose, however citizens 18-70 are required to vote by law.
- Citizens over 70 have the choice to vote or not



BRAZIL

- There are **many political parties in Brazil**
- People may join any political party they choose
- Most center around particular beliefs and some center around certain people

Examples of Brazilian political parties:

Party of the Liberal Front

Liberal Party

Party of Brazilian Social Democracy

Brazilian Labor Party

BRAZIL

- Brazil enjoys an average level of freedom compared to other countries in the world.
- Its score with the State of the World Liberty Project is 59
- Personal property is not always protected and the court system can not be trusted to help people in all cases.

MEXICO

- Official Name: The United Mexican States
- Mexico is a federal republic with the power divided between the central government and the state and local governments (like USA)
- Mexico is also a presidential democracy
- The citizens elect the President and they also elect the legislature which is called the Congress (like the USA)
- ~~DIFFERENCE:~~ The president serves a 6 year term, no more.

MEXICO

- Mexico's President: Felipe Calderon



MEXICO

- Citizens of Mexico can vote, both men and women, over the age of 18
- It is not required that all citizens vote
- Like Brazil, there are many political parties that center on particular beliefs or people.



MEXICO

- Mexico has an average level of freedom with its score being 52 with the State of the World Liberty Project.
- The court system is managed by the central government and is not totally independent of the president (unlike the USA)

CUBA

- Official Name: Republic of Cuba
- Cuba is a unitary government with the central government controlling all regions in the country.
- Cuba is a communist dictatorship run by Fidel Castro

Autocratic



CUBA

- The communist government of the Soviet Union helped to support Cuba until 1991.
- When the Soviet Union collapsed, Cuba faced difficult times economically

Photos are of Nikita Kruchev of the USSR and Fidel Castro of Cuba



CUBA

- The citizens DO NOT elect the president
- The president is appointed by the National Assembly of People's Power, the Cuban legislature and has unlimited terms
- People may vote for members of the legislature, but only those approved by the one political party, the Communist Party of Cuba.
- The Communist Party controls all aspects of Cuban government.

term of leadership

leg.

leader.

Cuba

- Citizens have few freedoms
- Men and women 16 years and older may choose to vote.
- Citizens have few choices with only one political party allowed, the Communist Party of Cuba
- This party has been ruled by Fidel Castro since 1959. Now that Castro is in poor health, his brother Raul is running the country.

CUBAN VOTING FORM

Tick your preference in the box below



FIDEL CASTRO
Hatless Party of Cuba



FIDEL CASTRO
Hat Party of Cuba

CUBA

- Cuba is one of the least free countries in the world.
- Its score with the State of the World Liberty Project is 157
- The government controls nearly all aspects of life and there is little opportunity to own personal property
- Almost all businesses, factories, and farms are run by the government

