HIU34081/82. From Plantation Colony to Global Development Power: A History of Modern Brazil (Diogo de Carvalho Cabral)

LIST I



As a nation-state, Brazil has followed a unique path in the concert of modernity. Emerging from the decolonisation of the Ibero-American world in the early nineteenth century, Brazil – unlike other countries in what would come to be known as 'Latin America' – managed to maintain the integrity of its colonially shaped territory under a monarchical structure. To build a democracy and a sense of nationhood, the country's political elites had to deal with the structures inherited from Portuguese rule, especially African slavery and the plantation economy dependent on European markets. These legacies shaped – and were transformed by – the developments of the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries, such as the establishment of the republican regime, industrialisation, and urbanisation. The module will explore these historical continuities and discontinuities, offering an all-encompassing survey of the country's trajectory until the Workers' Party's ascension to power, its social-democratic project, and its ambition of leading a Global South development front in the early twenty-first century. Partly as a reaction to these policies, a far-right movement has emerged over the past ten years, which we will study as the module's final topic. Michaelmas term will be devoted to the nineteenth century (with a brief discussion of the

colonial precedents), while in Hilary term we will focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.