


## German Immigration in Brazil – Historical and Cultural aspects

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An important sentence written in the book “180 years of German Immigration in Brazil”—Author Telmo Lauro Müller: ***“People without history are like a man without memory. If a man without memory could live without being able to identify himself, people without history would not know who they are, where they came from and where they go.”***

- 1) Emigration Reasons, why they left Germany for Brazil
  - Napoleonic wars (1803–1815);
  - Hunger of 1817;
  - Economic and social issues;
  - Other reasons: Political, Religious, Personal and the Advertising in the Homeland.
- 2) Brazil—the targeted destination:
  - Brazil is the #5 largest country of the world:

<b>Size of Brazil</b>	
North-South	4,394.7 km (2,730.7 mi)
East-West	4,319.4 km (2,683.9 mi)
Coast	9,128 km (5,672 mi)
Area	8,515,767 km <sup>2</sup> (3,287,956 sq mi)
States	26 + DC (5 regions)
<b>Population</b>	
1872	9.9 million
2021	211.7 million
Language	Portuguese



- Germany’s size like the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina together.

- 3) A brief historical timeline of Brazil:

1500	Discovery by Portuguese Navigator Pedro Álvares Cabral <b>Brazil Colony of the Kingdom of Portugal</b>
1815	<b>United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and Algarves</b> King Dom João VI (moves to Brazil due to Napoleonic wars)
1822	<b>Empire of Brazil (Independence from Portugal)</b> Emperor Dom Pedro I de Bragança and Leopoldine von Habsburg
1889	<b>Republic of the United States of Brazil</b> President Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca
Today	<b>Federative Republic of Brazil</b> Democratic federative republic with a presidential system

- Brazilian Flag inherits the green from the Portuguese royal House of Bragança and yellow (diamond shape) from the Austrian royal House of Habsburg.

- 4) Timeline of Germans in Brazil before the massive immigration:

1500	Cabral navigated with Master <b>Johann Varnhagen</b> , 35 German soldiers
1534	<b>Ulrich Schmiedel</b> , traveled from Buenos Aires (Argentina) to São Paulo
1548	<b>Hans Staden</b> (adventurer and soldier)
1570	Lins Family: <b>Sebald Linz von Dorndorf</b> and <b>Christoph Linz</b>

1636	Dutch West India Company: <b>Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen</b>
1803	<b>Georg Heinrich von Langsdorff</b> (Doctor and Naturalist)
1817	Prince Dom Pedro I married Archduchess <b>Leopoldine von Habsburg</b>
1818	Scientists: <b>Johann Natterer, Johann B. von Spix, Karl F. P. von Martius</b> <b>Georg Anton von Schäffer</b> (Doctor, soldier, German colonists' recruiter)

- Austrian Archduchess **Leopoldine von Habsburg** and recruiter **Georg Anton von Schäffer** were mainly responsible for the upcoming German colonization.
- Emperor **Dom Pedro I** emphasized to **von Schäffer** to recruit more German soldiers (mercenaries) rather than colonists.

#### 5) German Immigration in Brazil:

- Main Settlements by Brazilian State and origin of German-speaking Colonists:

State	Year	Origin of Colonists
<b>Bahia (BA)</b>		
Leopoldina (Nova Viçosa)	1818	Schweiz
Frankenthal (Nova Viçosa)	1821	Schweiz
Ilhéus	1822	unknown
<b>Minas Gerais (MG)</b>		
Teófilo Ottoni	1847	Potsdam, Baden, Pommern, Sachsen
Juiz de Fora	1852	Hessen, Schleswig-Holstein, Bayern, Nassau, Braunschweig
<b>Espírito Santo (ES)</b>		
Santa Isabel (Domingos Martins)	1847	Pommern, Hunsrück, Rheinland, Preussen
Santa Leopoldina	1857	Pommern, Rheinland, Preussen, Sachsen
<b>Rio de Janeiro (RJ)</b>		
Nova Friburgo	1818	Schweiz, Hessen
Petrópolis	1843	Kastellaun, Mosel, Bingen, Nassau, Ingelheim Wörrstadt, Darmstadt, Rheinland
<b>São Paulo (SP)</b>		
Santo Amaro	1827	Pfalz, Hessen
Itapecerica da Serra	1827	Mecklenburg, Pfalz, Hessen
Rio Claro	1827	Pfalz, Rheinland
Limeira	1846	Schleswig-Holstein, Pommern
<b>Paraná (PR)</b>		
Rio Negro	1828	Mecklenburg, Pfalz, Hessen
Curitiba	1851	Russland (Wolga)
Lapa	1877	Bukowina, Russland (Wolga)
Guarapuava	1951	Ungarn (Donauschwaben)
Witmarsum	1951	Russland (Menoniten)
<b>Santa Catarina (SC)</b>		
São Pedro de Alcântara	1828	Hunsrück, Moseltal (Rheinland), Luxemburg
Blumenau	1850	Pommern, Holstein, Hannover, Braunschweig, Sachsen

Joinville	1851	Pommern, Preussen, Oldenburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Hannover, Schweiz
Brusque	1860	Baden, Oldenburg, Rheinland, Pommern, Schleswig-Holstein, Braunschweig
Pomerode	1861	Pommern
São Bento do Sul	1873	Böhmen, Bayern, Österreich, Preussen, Sachsen
Dreizehnlinden (Treze Tílias )	1933	Österreich (Tirol)
<b>Rio Grande do Sul (RS)</b>		
São Leopoldo	1824	Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Hunsrück, Sachsen, Württemberg, Sachsen-Coburg
Torres, Três Forquilhas	1826	Hessen
Santa Cruz do Sul	1849	Rheinland (Hunsrück), Baden, Pommern, Schlesien
Santo Ângelo (Agudo)	1857	Rheinland, Sachsen, Pommern, Böhmen, Holland
São Lourenço do Sul	1857	Pommern, Rheinland
São Vendelino	1857	Saarland, Rheinland, Schweiz, Luxemburg, Belgien, Holland
Nova Petrópolis	1859	Pommern, Sachsen, Böhmen, Rheinland
Conventos (Lajeado)	1861	Rheinland, Pfalz, Hessen
Teutônia	1868	Westfalen
Ijuhy (Ijuí)	1891	Russland (Wolhynien), Österreich-Ungarn

- The official beginning date is **25<sup>th</sup> July 1824 (in 2024 celebrating 200 years)**.
- **São Leopoldo** in Rio Grande do Sul is known as the starting town in Brazil.
- **Pomerode** in Santa Catarina is known as the most German town in Brazil.
- **Blumenau** in Santa Catarina celebrates the Oktoberfest #2 of the world.
- **Santa Cruz do Sul** in Rio Grande do Sul celebrates the Oktoberfest #3.
- Most settlements took place in the Southern states of Brazil:

State	Population today	German roots (estimated)		
<b>PR</b>	11.3 million	2.3M	1/5	4% South region
<b>SC</b>	7.2M	2.4M	1/3	
<b>RS</b>	11.4M	2.8M	1/4	
<b>ES, SP, RJ, others</b>		4.5M		2% Other regions
<b>Brazil</b>	211.7M	12.0M		6% Total

- Brazil got more than 250 thousand German-speaking immigrants and has the **#2 largest population with German roots** outside Germany and after the USA.
- Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay and Ecuador also received German immigrants in South America.
- German-Brazilians from Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina also settled in Misiones, Argentina and Itapúa, Paraguay, founding colonies (towns) there.
- Interestingly families from same surnames and towns migrated to North and South-America confirming kinship all over the world – we are all connected.

6) Arrival and hard Beginning:

- The Advertising in the homeland said lands in Brazil were ready for farming, but
- They arrived and needed to open their own lands cutting into the jungle,
- They needed to prioritize planting to have food for their families,
- They built provisional Houses (sheds or shelters),
- They were confronted by wild animals, nomadic Natives (indigenous), and
- They would face upcoming wars:
  - 1825–1828: Argentine-Brazilian war and independence of Uruguay;
  - 1835–1845: Ragamuffin war (Southern states trying independence);
  - 1851–1852: Platine war (Argentina vs Brazil, Uruguay);
  - 1864–1870: Paraguayan war (Paraguay vs Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay);
  - One of the reasons they left Europe (running away from wars);
  - On the other hand, lots of German colonists were actually mercenaries recruited to form a Southern Brazilian military force to protect borders.
- They were on their own, cause the Brazilian State was never present to help them,
- They created villages and moved there, gathering to be safer,
- However, they were satisfied and happy with what they got, just missing their family far away in the Homeland:
  - For example, some words in a letter written by Johann F. Friedrich living in São Leopoldo to his brother Claudius Friedrich in Mulfingen, Germany:
  - *...the climate here is healthy, pure air, clear and tasty water...everything is green and blooms all over the year, with two harvests satisfying the people... there is not a day that I do not have you in thought with love!...(01.01.1832).*

7) Family, Religion and Education:

- Family, living in community, religion and education were strong values;
- Brazil was officially a Catholic Country only, until 1889 (Republic declaration);
  - The Roman Church better assisted Brazil after Catholic Germans arrived;
  - Today 61% of Brazilians are still catholic (largest catholic country);
- **The Germans brought Protestantism with them in 1824:**
  - The “Deutsche Evangelische Kirche” was stated;
  - They could not build formal churches (just houses, schools) until 1889;
  - Priests were sent from Germany for worshipping and teaching;
  - Lutheran Priests from Missouri Synod (LCMS-USA) were sent early 1900s,
  - Due to lack of Priests coming from Germany,
  - There was no local Lutheran graduation until 1908 (Concórdia Seminary).
  - The German Church became IECLB (Igreja Evangélica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil), counting with 634,286 members (72%) today.
  - The American Church became IELB (Igreja Evangélica Luterana do Brasil), founded in 1904 and counting with 245,631 members (28%) today.
- The “Gemeinde Schule” (Community Schools) used to teach in German until WWII:
  - Germans were highly literate (mainly to read the Bible and calculate),
  - They were more literate than other ethnic groups present in Brazil,
  - All social classes had access to formal education in the German colonies.

State \ Schools	Lutheran	Catholic	Mixed	Total	Students
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<b>RS</b>	549	362	41	<b>952</b>	72%	37,078
<b>SC</b>	116	80	82	<b>278</b>	21%	12,846
<b>Others</b>	40	9	47	<b>96</b>	7%	6,949
<b>Total</b>	705	451	170	<b>1,326</b>		56,873
Statistics on German Community Schools in Brazil (1931).						

#### 8) German Language in Brazil:

- German was the “lingua franca” in the German towns and among them.
- Publishings in German language:
  - Books to learn Portuguese and German;
  - History Books and articles;
  - Magazines, Almanacs, Newspapers and Periodicals;
  - Lutheran Church: Record books, Certificates, Hymnals and Bibles.
- Before and during WWII, German and other foreign Languages were forbidden:
  - The Brazilian Government put panels everywhere saying: “It is forbidden to speak **German, Italian and Japanese**. In Brazil, only Portuguese is spoken. Violators will be punished to the fullest extent of the law.”
  - German-Brazilians were put in jail, persecuted, humiliated and they had goods confiscated by the Brazilian Government;
  - German Schools were closed, at least one generation became illiterate;
  - However, the German language and some dialects survived WWII.
- The German language today in Brazil:
  - German is the #2 most spoken ethnic language, just after Portuguese;
  - Estimated 3.0~4.5 million German-Brazilians still speak a German dialect;
  - About 1.5~3.0M speak Hunsrückisch (Rhein-Pfälzisch, like Pennsylvania Dutch, still spoken in the USA), mostly in the Southern States of Brazil;
  - Others speak Standard German (Hochdeutsch) and some Low German (Niederdeutsch) dialects, like: Pommersch, Westfälisch, Niederpreussisch;
  - Lexicons have been published to preserve German-Brazilian dialects.
- Some German heritage in Brazilian-Portuguese language (mainly in the South):

<b>English</b>	<b>ST-German</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>Brazilian-PT</b>	<b>Portuguese</b>
Car	Auto	Auto	<b>Auto</b>	Carro
Jam	Marmelade	Schmier	<b>Chimia</b>	Geléia
Draft beer	Fassbier	Schoppen	<b>Chope</b>	Cerveja
Sauerkraut	Sauerkraut	Sauerkraut	<b>Chucrute</b>	Repolho azedo
Crumb Cake	Streuselkuchen	Kuchen	<b>Cuca</b>	Bolo
You	Du	Du	<b>Tu</b>	Você
Trouble	Ein Kranker	Ein Kränker	<b>Encrenca</b>	Problema
Plum	Pflaume	Pflaume	<b>Flauma</b>	Ameixa
Valve	Ventil	Ventil	<b>Ventil</b>	Válvula

#### 9) Hard work and Prosperity:

- Germans and German-Brazilians are known as hard-working and skilled people, entrepreneurs, and they succeeded in different areas, like:
- Agriculture:
  - Cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, fish in ponds production;

- Wheat, corn, rice, beans, mate tea, vegetables and fruits planting;
- Soybean planting (Lutheran Priest Lehenbauer brought seeds from USA);
- Today Brazil is the #2 largest soybean producer, just after USA, and the #1 largest exporter.
- Industry:
  - Ag Machinery: Ideal (AGCO); Schneider & Logemann (Deere & Company); Fankhauser; Vence-Tudo; Müller; Keppler & Weber; Saur; Horbach; Fockink... (today 65% of Ag Machinery is produced in RS, #1 in Brazil);
  - Steel and Metallurgy: Gerdau (#1 in Brazil, operations in 11 countries);
  - Leather, shoes (RS) and textiles (SC);
  - Food and Beverage: Oderich; Ritter; Fritz & Frida; Hemmer, SLC Alimentos; Piá, Fruki, Weber-Haus, Bier breweries (today 236 in RS #1)...
  - In 1924 (100 years anniversary) more than 50% of 650 large industries were owned by German-Brazilians in RS.
- Trading:
  - Import and Export: mostly by German owners in Porto Alegre, the capital of RS, from 1850 to 1889;
  - Farming production outflow and goods inflow by river shipping (mainly through Jacuí river in RS);
  - “Musterreiter” (traveling salesman) sold goods in the Colonies;
  - Cooperativism: “Spar- und Darlehnskasse” implemented by the Swiss-German Catholic Priest Theodor Amstad in the town of Nova Petrópolis;
- Culture and Sports:
  - Parties: Oktoberfest; Kerbfest; German folk music/bands; Choral;
  - Shooting clubs: “Schützenverein”; and Turners “Turnverein”;
  - Bowling: “Kegeln” (Bolão);
  - Soccer: clubs like Fussball Club Porto-Alegre; Grêmio; Coritiba;
  - Literature, Science, Hospitals foundation, Architecture, Politics...
- Some known German-Brazilians:
  - Emperor **Dom Pedro II** (son of Leopoldine von Habsburg)
  - President **Ernesto Geisel**
  - Industrialist **João Gerdau**
  - Writer **Lya Luft**
  - Soccer Coach **Carlos Bledorn Verri** (Dunga)
  - Minister of Justice **Rosa Weber**
  - Actor **Werner Schönemann**
  - City founder **Hermann Blumenau**
  - Aid worker **Zilda Arns Neumann**
  - Landowner **Eduardo Logemann**
  - Cardinal **Cláudio Hummes**
  - Top model **Gisele Bündchen** (married to Tom Brady – USA footballer)
- Top 15 most common German Surnames in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil: Schmidt; Becker; Wagner; Müller; Schneider; Weber; Klein; Scherer; Hoffmann; Rech; Schmitz; Kuhn; Mallmann; Diehl; Ritter.

10) Sources and References in the Presentation.