

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil summer of 2016 has been an enlightening experience to say the least. I am interning at Candido Mandes University, which is in Rios city center. Settling into my internship, I was surprised to find out that its location remains in Rios historical district. It is here that you can see the old Parso Emperial (Imperial Palace). The palace had been the



center of both Portugal and Brazilian Monarchy and stands next to Rios congressional. Prasa XV in the Central district of Rio is a beautiful area historically important for Brazilian and is a visual link to its Portuguese past. Brazil has gone through many changes. Two monarchies, two dictatorships, and three republics can all be seen rooted in Rios streets.

My commute every day takes me from Leme, a neighborhood within Copacabana, to Rios city center. On the way, I see spray-painted on the walls “Golpe” (Coup). Since the Impeachment of President Dilma Rousoff activists of all colors and ages are taking to the streets. The Classrooms of at our university constantly fill with students debating political. Sounds of protest coming from the state congressional building across the street engulf our research office across the street. Protests have even began to adhere to the international crowd as they visit famous buildings like

Copacabana Palace.

Dilma is part of Partido Trabaladora (PT/Workers party) one of many political party in Brazil. Recently Brazils Supreme Court led by Judge Sergio Moro created what has been

called the Lavagato (arrests of high officials linked to corruption). From the arrest of Jose Maria Marin the owner of Brazilian soccer to the charging Lula de Silva (former president of Brazil and member of PT). With tensions high, every street corner and every bar in Rio de Janeiro is teeming with political ideas. The decision to impeach Dilma will be determined by October at the latest.



With the onset of the 2016 Olympics Rio is at the center of the world stage. On top of political protests Rio itself is in a state of financial emergency. Public officials including the police have been protesting against the city of Rio. During the wonderful opening ceremony of the Olympic, the Brazilian people jeered the president of Rio's Olympic committee Carlos Nuzman when he thanked the government.

Even with all this turmoil swirling around the city, it is hard not to enjoy Rio. The beaches and the mountain scenery are astounding and the streets teem with life. In every little nook and corner you can see a bar filled with people watching soccer and barbequing. Despite political and economic distress, Brazilians show their resilient spirit. They find ways to enjoy the paradise that is Rio and make things work even in the face of the unknown.



My time in Rio has taught me that I have a lot to learn about how the world works. During my internship I researched the history of Brazilian diplomacy. As I worked, I had to stop thinking as if things ran the same as they do in the U.S. I forced myself to re-learn how to think about political ideas. Even when attempting to explain Trump to my peers, I had to remember that “right” and “left” had different meanings in the two countries. The understanding of these differences has been the most valuable lesson I have learned. I would have never fully grasped this small understanding of Brazil’s political history without emerging myself into the country. Plenty of mistakes and naïve questions led me to see how much I still have to learn.