

# ***Cannibal Manifesto* and The Brazilian Culture**



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# Oswald de Andrade

- Jose Oswald de Andrade Souza was born on January 11, 1890-October 22, 1954
- He was a Brazilian poet and polemicist.
- He was born and spent most of his life in Sao Paulo
- Was a participant in the week of Modern Art in 1922; modernism began in Brazil during this week
- He best represents the rebellious characteristics in the modernist movement
- He the wrote the “Cannibal Manifesto” in 1928

# The Modernist Movement: basic concepts (wikipedia)

- This movement emerged in the mid 19th century in Western Europe and has the idea that the traditional forms of art, literature, religious faith, social organization, and daily life had become out of date. For this reason, these forms must be pushed aside.
- This movement believed in the industrialized age and re-examined every existing aspect of life in order to find that which was holding back progress, so that they could replace it with a more updated and better way to reach the same outcome.
- In simpler terms, the modernist movement believed that the new technologies and advances being made were permanent and society needed to accept this change as a beneficial thing.

# The Cannibal Manifesto

- This is a satirical document that was inspired by a piece of artwork given to Andrade by Tarsila do Amaral.
- Andrade and his friend, Raul Bopp (the writer), decided to start a movement based on this picture.
- They titled the piece *Abaporu*, which means man-eater in the language of Tupi-Guarani.
- The Tupi Indians are a native group to Brazil who are known for their acts of cannibalism. They are especially remembered for eating their Bishop.
- Through all of Andrade's references, he is basically saying that Brazil is like a melting pot because there are so many other cultures within the country, and instead of following in the footsteps of European culture, they should work towards finding their own.

# Abaporu

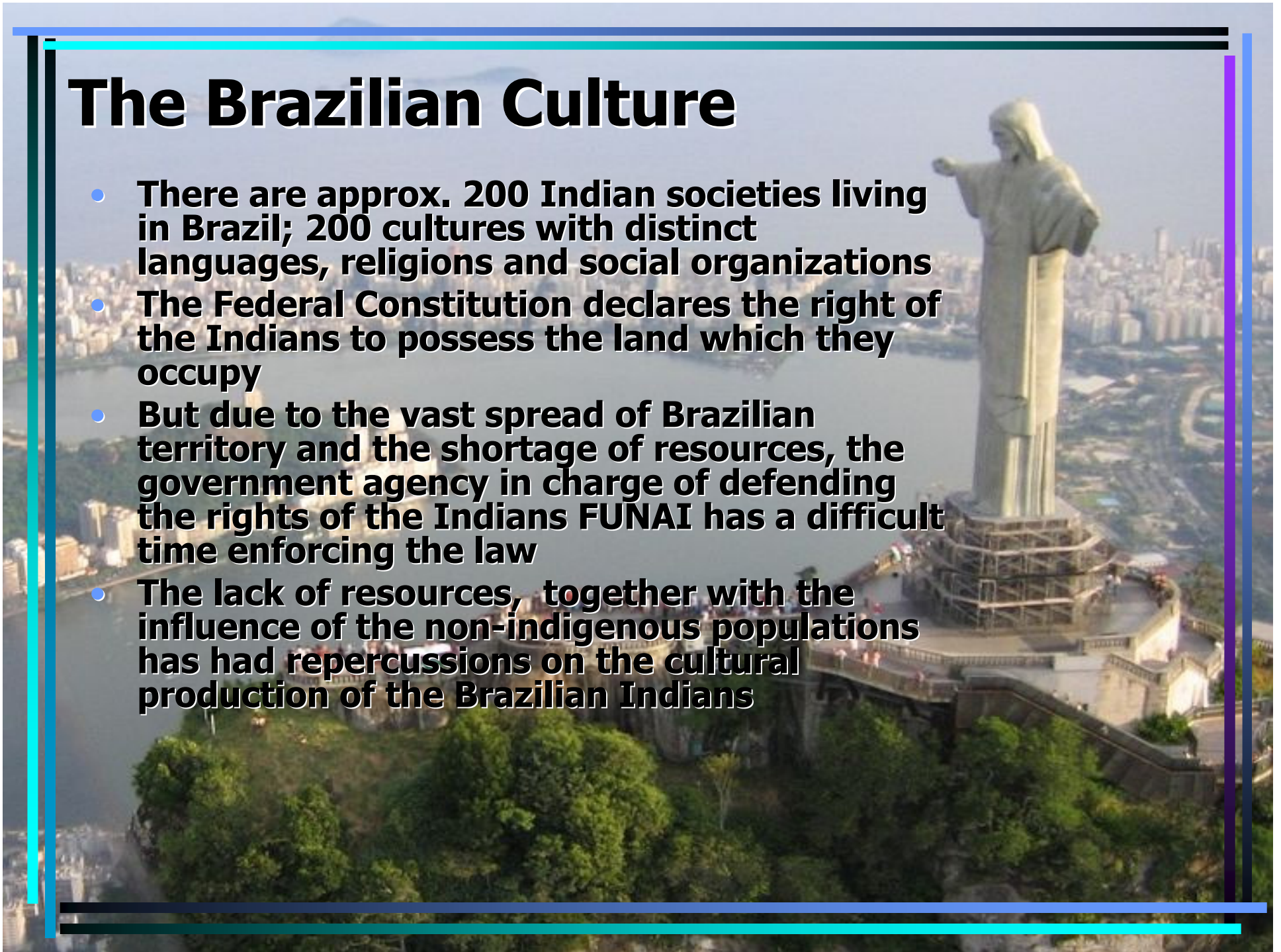


# History of Brazil

- **Begins with the arrival of the first indigenous peoples, over 8,000 years ago, into the present territory of that nation**
- **The colony's manpower was initially composed of enslaved peoples, firstly Amerindians and then, after 1532, mainly Africans**
- **The Brazilian Empire was formally a democracy in the British style, although in practice, the emperor-premier-parliament balance of power more closely resembled the autocratic Austrian Empire**
- **Slavery was abolished in 1888, through the "Golden Law", created by Princess Isabel, and intensive European immigration created the basis for industrialization**

# The Brazilian Culture

- **There are approx. 200 Indian societies living in Brazil; 200 cultures with distinct languages, religions and social organizations**
- **The Federal Constitution declares the right of the Indians to possess the land which they occupy**
- **But due to the vast spread of Brazilian territory and the shortage of resources, the government agency in charge of defending the rights of the Indians FUNAI has a difficult time enforcing the law**
- **The lack of resources, together with the influence of the non-indigenous populations has had repercussions on the cultural production of the Brazilian Indians**



# Acculturation

- by definition, acculturation is the process of adopting the cultural traits or social patterns of another group.
- In terms of Brazil, acculturation is a perfect example of this because it is one of the most diverse countries in South America.
- European, African, and indigenous peoples are what make up the majority of Brazil's population and these people learn how to get along without leaving other cultures behind.
- “If, for the civilized European, the man of the Americas was a savage or an inferior being, because he practiced cannibalism, in the positive and innovative vision of Andrade, it was precisely our cannibalistic nature that would, in the field of our culture, permit the critical assimilation of European ideas and models” (Wikipedia).

# The Brazilian Culture: Music

- Brazil's origins- the Indians with their reed flutes, the Portuguese with their singers and viola players, and the Africans with their many thrilling rhythms- make it a musical country
- When the Jesuit fathers first arrived in Brazil they found that the Indians performed ritual songs and dances
- The Jesuits made use of the music to catechize the Indians by replacing the original words with religious ones using the Tupi language
- African music was introduced during the colony's first century and was enriched by its contact with Iberian music



# The History of Samba

- The word Samba, in Portuguese, was derived from semba, a word common to many West African bantu languages
- To the African slaves brought to Brazil during the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the word had a variety of meanings
- It meant to pray, or invoke the spirits of the ancestors, or the Gods of African pantheon
- It could also mean a compliment, a cry, or something like “the blues”
- The African Slaves called samba a religious ceremony characterized by the rhythm and choreography of the batuque
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miEQ-NGx0sQ>

# Capoeira

- **A Brazilian martial art created by enslaved Africans during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century**
- **It originated by Nigerian ethnic group where members fought with music and the winner won a partner, usually female**
- **Participants from a roda (circle) and take turns playing instruments, singing, and sparring in pairs in the center of the circle**
- **These Africans brought their cultural traditions and religions with them to the New World**
- **The homogenization of the African people under the oppression of slavery was the catalyst for capoeira**
- **Capoeira was developed as a way to resist oppression, secretly practice art, transmit culture, and lift spirits**
- **Some historians believe that the indigenous peoples of Brazil also played an important role in the development of capoeira**

# Capoeira Images



- Capoeira Dancing