

Glossary of Major Political Parties

PDC	Christian Democratic Party
PDS	Democratic Social Party. Successor to ARENA, the party backing the military regime, joined with the PDC to create the PPR.
PDT	Democratic Labor Party. Moderately left, led by populist politician Leonel Brizola, whose career began in the 1945–64 period.
PFL	Liberal Front Party. An outgrowth of the old PDS. Conservative, strongest in the Northeast. Has an ideologically neoliberal wing and a substantial wing of nonideological “pork and patronage” types.
PMDB	Party of the Brazilian Democratic Movement. Broad-based, center party that grew out of the Brazilian Democratic Movement. Began as the “official” opposition in the military regime. Plagued by frequent desertions but still the largest party in the Congress.
PPB	Brazilian Progressive Party. Conservative, created by merger of PPR and Progressive Party in 1995. The PPR was formed by the merger of the PDS and the Christian Democratic Party.
PPR	Reformist Progressive Party
PPS	Popular Socialist Party. New name for Brazilian Communist Party. Formerly Moscow oriented (unlike the Chinese-oriented Communist Party of Brazil), now mainstream socialist.
PRN	The Party of National Reconstruction. A vehicle for the ambitions of Fernando Collor de Mello, president from 1990 until his impeachment in 1992.
PSB	Brazilian Socialist Party. A small, mainstream socialist party, becoming an alternative for dissidents from the PSDB and other parties.
PSDB	Brazilian Social Democratic Party. A 1988 spinoff of center-left elements of the PMDB. Allied in 1994 with the conservative and northeastern-based PFL to guarantee the election of presidential candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

- PT** Workers' Party. Originally based in the progressive São Paulo union movement. Has grown steadily and spread geographically since its founding in 1979. Its factions range from moderate socialist to quasi-revolutionary. Presidential candidate Luís Inácio Lula da Silva lost in 1989, 1994, and 1998.
- PTB** Brazilian Labor Party. In the 1945–64 period a populist, urban party. After 1979, the old PTB leaders could not reclaim the label, so they formed the PDT. Became a mostly right-wing collection of deputies whose overwhelming interest is pork and patronage.