

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810207503321
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Titolo	Brazil's second chance : en route toward the first world // Lincoln Gordon
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : Brookings Institution Press, c2001
ISBN	0-8157-9854-7
Edizione	[1. ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (261 p.)
Disciplina	981.06
Soggetti	Brazil History 1954-1964 Brazil History 1964-1985 Brazil History 1985-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"A Century Foundation book."
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Cover -- Title Page -- Copyright Information -- Foreword -- Preface -- Table of Contents -- The Goal: Genuine First World Status -- The First Chance: What Went Wrong? -- Structural Change under the Military Republic -- The Incomplete Transformation: Economic Structures -- The Social Dimension -- The Political Structure -- From Debt and Drift to Real-and Stability? -- Brazil and the World -- The Prospects -- Index -- Back Cover.
Sommario/riassunto	Brazil is currently in a critical phase of a decades-long transformation from a patrimonial society--based on the cultivation and export of sugar and coffee--to a modernized industrial and service economy with effective democratic governance. It is the world's fifth largest nation-state in area and population, and ranks eighth in total economic output. Since World War II, Brazil has been a leader in international trade governance and negotiation, playing an important part in development of the GATT and the WTO. Currently, the country is a major factor in negotiations toward a hemispherewide Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). However, Brazil's political record in the past half century has been erratic and it has struggled with high inflation and balance-of-payment deficits. In this major new work, a former American ambassador to Brazil examines the social, political, and economic history of the country since the 1930s and discusses whether Brazil is now ready to assume a place as an important participant

among First World nations.

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