

sources; half of its territory is located in the Amazon rainforest region, much of whose mineral-rich area remains unexplored, and its resources untapped.

In terms of raw materials, Brazil could perhaps be compared to the Congo, or even to the entire African continent. Yet, Brazil possesses something more. It is an industrial powerhouse in its own right—the tenth largest economy in the world. Over the past 60 years, largely under the aegis of the Brazilian state, it has developed basic industry, scientific infrastructure, and impressive technological capabilities in the areas of nuclear energy, medicine, rocketry, and aerospace industries. Brazil has also played a crucial role in transferring advanced technology to other developing nations.

London not only wants to steal Brazil's extraordinary wealth for itself; it wants to make sure the Brazilian people cannot use it for their own, sovereign development. Compared to the rest of the continent, Brazil is still relatively virgin territory, in the sense that the looting of its national assets has only just begun. On behalf of the British, the soon-to-be-

knighted Fernando Henrique Cardoso is committed to quickly ramming through the privatization of state-owned companies, pension funds, banks, and other national assets.

A sociologist by profession, Cardoso is steeped in the existentialism of Sartre and other followers of Heidegger and Friedrich Nietzsche. He has vowed to put an end “to the era of Vargas,” or to what these networks call “the patrimonial,” or dirigist, state. He has defined this as a personal goal, starting first as foreign minister; then as finance minister, where he shaped the current free trade economic policy; and finally, as President.

Cultural warfare

London's alternative to Brazilian industrialization is national dismemberment, plunging the nation and its people into Jacobin madness, civil war, and genocide, as is now occurring in Central Africa.

Once unleashed, Brazil's disintegration could unfold at lightning speed, since it lacks the historical legacy of strong

The significance of Brazil's CVRD

Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD), which the government of Brazil privatized in May 1997, is the third largest mining company in the world and the largest in all of Ibero-America. It has enormous proven reserves of countless minerals and precious metals, and potential deposits that are still not fully quantified. CVRD holds concessions on the largest and most promising areas of mineral exploitation in the country, totalling 23 million hectares, and an additional 600,000 hectares of commercial forest lands. At the point it was privatized, CVRD was at a take-off point in the production of gold, copper, silver, molybdenum, and uranium.

In gold, it is Brazil's largest producer, with an output of 18 tons per year. It also has the country's most promising holdings, with 108 tons of proven and probable gold reserves—not counting the recent finds in Sierra Leste (150 tons), or the 413 tons in various other deposits.

CVRD is the world's biggest producer of iron ore, with an annual output that is about 25% of the world total. It has 3.3 billion tons of proven and probable reserves of iron ore, and an additional 38 billion tons which CVRD describes as “other mineral deposits,” which, at current levels of production, would last for another 200 years.

In bauxite, the company controls 199 million tons of proven and probable reserves, which is 98% of the nation's total and 14% of the world's deposits. As for copper,

CVRD owns 529 million tons of proven and probable reserves; 23.7 million tons of manganese; 4.4 million tons of potassium; and so forth.

CVRD also owns the most significant transportation and logistical infrastructure grid in the country, which includes 2,000 kilometers of railroads; a fleet of 22 ships that it owns, and 15 more that it leases; 6 seaport facilities; 8 steel plants in Brazil and 3 abroad; 3 paper and cellulose factories; and, above all, an invaluable capacity for generating new companies, based on the accumulated know-how and experience of its technicians and executives.

Apart from its physical and human assets, Brazil's CVRD has enormous historical and political significance as well, because it symbolizes the fight by Brazilian patriots to industrialize their country.

The company was founded in 1942, as a result of the so-called Washington Agreements signed by U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Brazilian President Gen. Getúlio Vargas. The two obliged Britain to hand over to the Brazilian state the deposits of the Itabira Iron company in Minas Gerais, which had been founded at the end of the 1920s by British agents Muley Cotto and Percival Farquhar. Thus, CVRD was born.

Cotto and Farquhar were front men for the British-controlled Brazilian Hematite Syndicate. The concessions which earlier Brazilian governments had granted them, led to a generalized nationalist reaction, especially in the ranks of the Brazilian Army, against the British holdings. This ferment eventually exploded in the 1930 revolution, which brought General Vargas to power, along with a generation of young officers committed to the idea of sovereign industrial development for Brazil.