


## ANTAGONISM OF A STRUCTURED STRUCTURE AND THE STRUCTURING ABYSS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SOCIAL INEQUALITY: COMPARISON BETWEEN BRAZIL AND RUSSIA

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### ABSTRACT

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was an attempt to combat the deep social inequality of Tsarist Russia, the result of centuries of rigid social structure. At the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, Russia was experiencing late industrialization, which aggravated the precarious conditions of the working class, with a lack of rights and exploitation in factories. Marxist ideas about revolution faced challenges, as the majority of the population, composed of peasants and workers, remained on the margins of progress. The disagreements between Marx and the Russian populists made it difficult to implement the revolution in an agrarian society.

In contemporary Brazil, social inequality is also alarming, with a high Gini coefficient, positioning the country as one of the most unequal in the world, reflecting inequality in areas such as jobs, food, education and leisure. Although the historical and political contexts are different, both countries face structural problems that exclude the less favored classes and hinder their social mobility.

This article proposes a comparative analysis between Brazil and Russia, investigating how political and economic systems contribute to the perpetuation of inequality. Based on authors such as Bourdieu and Piketty, the study seeks to identify the causes of these inequalities and suggest reforms to address them, highlighting the importance of discussing the role of political and legislative institutions in maintaining these social disparities.

**Keywords:** Inequality. Comparison. Brazil. Russia. History.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Russian Revolution of 1917 represented a radical attempt to address the deep social inequality that pervaded Tsarist Russia, a phenomenon rooted in centuries of rigid social structure. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Russia was experiencing a late industrialization that resulted in harsh conditions for the working class, marked by the absence of basic labor rights and extreme exploitation in factories, often under military control (Benedini, 1976). Marxist ideas, which defended revolution as an inevitable product of the development of capitalism, were faced with the reality of a society where the majority of the population, composed of peasants and workers, remained on the margins of progress. Theoretical divergences between thinkers such as Marx and Russian populists further complicated this scenario, generating intense debates about the viability of a revolution in a predominantly agrarian society. Brazilian contemporaneity reflects, in a disturbing way, aspects similar to those experienced in pre-revolutionary Russia. Brazil, with a Gini coefficient that reached its peak in 2018 and, despite a slight reduction in 2022, still maintains an alarming rate of 74%, positioning itself as the 2nd most unequal country in the world, only behind South Africa. This reality highlights the persistence of deep inequalities, which manifest themselves through the lack of decent jobs, food insecurity and restricted access to education and leisure. Despite the differences in historical and political contexts, both Tsarist Russia and Brazil today face structural problems that perpetuate social exclusion and hinder the mobility of the less favored classes. Social inequality is a multifaceted phenomenon that involves the unequal distribution of income and access to essential services, and it is crucial to understand its historical and social roots. This article proposes a comparative analysis between Brazil and Russia, emphasizing how the political and economic systems of both countries create obstacles to the effectiveness of public policies aimed at reducing inequality. From a theoretical perspective that dialogues with the works of authors such as Bourdieu (1984) and Piketty (2014), this study seeks not only to identify the characteristics of social inequalities in each country, but also to propose reforms that can face the persistent challenges, the present work sought to investigate the role of political institutions and legislative powers in Brazil and Russia, in order to corroborate how these elements contributed, maintained or even eliminated social inequalities, as well as the relevance of this debate today.

Image 1: Flag of Brazil and Russia



Source: Brazil wants to use its influence with Russia, says UK. Power 360. Available at: <https://images.app.goo.gl/iHm3BPvVTC9jnYxRA>. Accessed on November 27, 2024

## OBJECTIVES

### GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Analyze the political and ideological differences between Brazil and Russia, highlighting their government structures and how they affect social inequality, exploring the historical, political and economic roots, considering the implications of market capitalism and socialism in the development of social policies in the creation of structured inequalities over time.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- Compare the structuring abyss in the social and economic dynamics of Brazil and Russia, reflecting on the invisible barriers that perpetuate inequality and limit opportunities for social mobility, so that it expresses the challenges of the current policies of both, such as the Brazilian crisis and the consolidation of power in Russia and the consolidation of power in Russia.

- Reflect on possible solutions to reduce the structuring abyss that perpetuates social inequality in both countries, considering the role of institutional reforms, social movements and collective action towards a more equitable model of development.

- To examine the contradictions between political intentions and practical results in combating social inequality in Brazil and Russia, investigating how antagonisms between different power groups and interests structure responses to poverty and wealth distribution



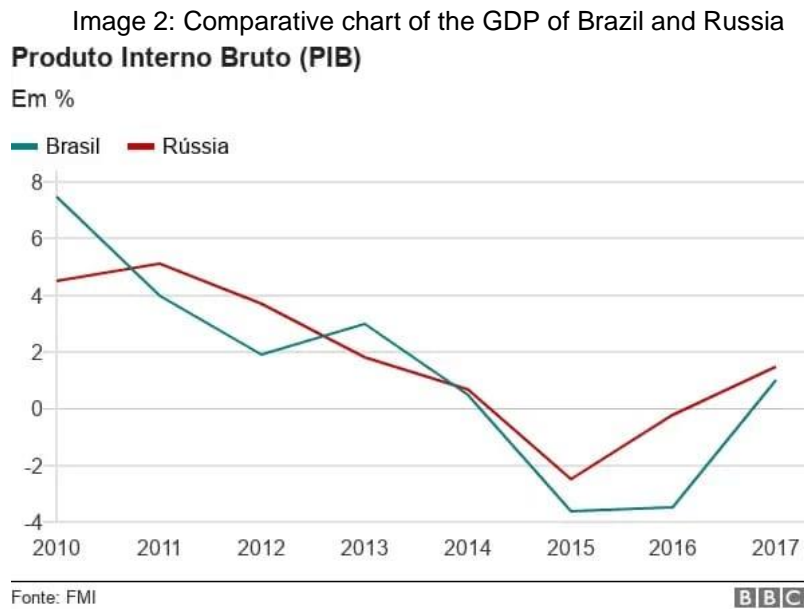
## METHODS

This article was developed within the scope of the History discipline of the 3rd grade of High School at ETEC Professor Massuyuki Kawano, located in the municipality of Tupã, SP. The research adopted a quantitative and qualitative approach to the comparative analysis between Brazil and Russia in the fight against social inequality, with emphasis on the role of the legislative power in the republics. The training action took place both inside and outside the classroom, using discussions, reflections and meetings to explore the theme. Data, characteristics, curiosities and critical analyses were collected to support the research. Initially, the teacher divided the groups with the themes, and the leader shared the tasks with the objective of distributing them efficiently, organizing them so that there was no overload. Therefore, the members of the group carried out research based on the criteria established by the professor, in order to obtain a solid understanding of the role of the legislative power in Brazil and Russia and how it impacts social inequality, through scientific articles, bibliographic and webgraphic research for the improvement of ideas, of the work itself and to acquire theoretical foundation. This phase was crucial for the participants to deepen their knowledge and create a consistent theoretical basis. In summary, the last stage was the analysis and interpretation of statistical data to understand historical Social Inequality. Finally, the article was finalized and revised in order to clarify the importance of the legislative branch in combating social inequality in Brazil and Russia, highlighting how this institution can act to promote structural changes in both contexts.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Russia and Brazil have notorious differences, which can be observed in climate, history and even culture, however there is a similarity between the two countries, the economy. The comparison of the evolution of the GDP of Brazil and Russia between 2010 and 2017, highlighting the differences in economic trajectories. Both faced recessions, but Brazil suffered a deeper crisis, especially in 2015, while Russia, despite retractions, showed greater resilience. Russia, due to its position in the energy market, was able to recover better, unlike Brazil, which relied on more volatile commodities and faced a severe political crisis. Russia's more effective economic management, including austerity and inflation control, allowed for a more solid recovery compared to Brazil. Although Russia has been more concise during the crisis, this has not exempted the population from feeling the effects, wages have decreased and Russians have not yet been able to regain their purchasing power. Although the political system has changed since Tsarist Russia, the country still has great inequality, such inequality that is very similar to Brazil, both countries

have a large concentration of income, with a small portion of the population owning the capital while most of the population is at or below the poverty line. This shows that although the countries have completely different histories and management, inequality is something present in both.



IMF. Brazil 'ties' in inequality and takes a beating from Russia in education. São Paulo: BBC, in the preparation phase. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/portuguese/geral-44542282>. Accessed on: 10 out. 2024.

## CONCLUSION

Social and educational inequality in Brazil and Russia share similar challenges. In Brazil, the concentration of income and unequal access to education aggravate the problem. In Russia, the transition to a market economy in the 1990s increased inequality, with a concentration of wealth in an elite and limited access to education. In both countries, educational inequality reinforces social inequality. To face it, measures such as integration between levels of education, affirmative action policies and greater financial support for low-income students are suggested.



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