Regency Period of rule between April 1831 and June 1840 when Brazil was ruled by a regent (variously a group of one or three men).

Roça Garden plot of land of subsistence crops.

Sertão Interior, backlands.

Sertanejo Person from the backlands.

Sesmaria A land concession by the Portuguese monarch.

Sesmeiro A holder of a land grant.

Tapuio Polysemic term most often used to refer to detribalized amerindians, who are part of the colonial society. Also meant all nonspeaking Tupi-guarani people in Brazil, such as the Mura. Tupi speakers used the term to refer to their enemies and the people they enslaved. Still used in the Amazon in much the same way as caboclo, but is less common.

Termo Municipal district, similarly to comarca.

Ubá Dugout canoe.

Várzea Floodplain land.

Vereador Councilor in a câmara.
Key Events

1772 The end of direct control of the Amazon region (Grão-Pará and the Rio Negro) from Lisbon. From this point, the overseas administration of Portuguese America is conducted from Rio de Janeiro.

1784 Peace accord between the Mura and Portuguese Crown.

1791 Slave revolution in San Domingos (Haiti).

1795 Peace accord between the Mundurucu and Maués and the Portuguese Crown.

1799 Francisco de Souza Coutinho, the governor general of the Amazon, terminates the Directorate legislation (the obligation of Indians to work for an export economy). In its place, he creates a new army of light militia. Indians can buy themselves out by earning more than a daily soldier’s salary.

1804 Independence of Haiti.

1808 The Portuguese royal family takes up residence in Rio de Janeiro with help of British navy, escaping Junot’s invasion of Lisbon.

1808 The invasion of Cayenne by troops from the Amazon in order to prevent French expansionist intentions in the region. Troops remain until 1817. Much traffic of ideas and goods between Pará and Cayenne during this time.

1808 Brazilian ports are opened to vessels of friendly nations to Brazil; Britain leads the trade of imports and exports to the colony.

1815 The end of Napoleonic wars; transatlantic commerce develops. Britain tries to stop slave trafficking from Africa.

1817 Anti-Portuguese uprising in Pernambuco, “the confederation of the Equator.”

C. 1819 The establishment of the first British vice-consul in Belém, Henry Dickenson, a trader who sent on goods to Britain. There were at least a handful of other Britons in Pará at the time.

1820 August, liberal rebellion in Porto, Portugal, and call for constitutional monarchy.

1821 January, the Province of Pará declares itself in favor of the O Porto constitutional reforms, the first in Portuguese America.
April 24, the King of Portugal, Dom João VI, departs for his homeland from Brazil after a 13 year absence. He leaves his Portuguese born son Pedro I as prince regent in charge.

March, publication of the first newspaper printed and published in Pará, "O Paraense."

September 7, Pedro I declares Brazil independent from Portugal.

August, Pará adheres to Brazil's independence, forced by British mercenaries, and is the last province to become part of the new Empire.

October 21, death by suffocation of 252 anti-Portuguese soldiers in the hull of the Brig Palhaço, a prison ship moored just outside Belém.

November, radical liberal takeover of Cametá and subsequent bombardment of the town by Imperial forces.

Violent liberal uprisings around Santarém. Alenquer and Monte Alegre accompanied by Portuguese reaction against Independence.

Further violent takeover of council in Cametá.

Establishment of the justice of peace by liberal reformers wishing to distribute centralized powers to local districts.

Pedro I abdicates and leaves for Portugal, and Pedro II, his 5-year-old Brazilian born, son stays behind as emperor in waiting; a regency government is created.

August 7, loyal Portuguese soldiers depose the nominated President of Pará, the Viscount of Goiana, and elected vice-president, João Gonçalves Batista Campos. The soldiers ransack the city of Belém. Batista Campos sent into exile in the interior of Pará but escapes and rallies support in Santarém region.

August, the establishment of the National Guard, which in Pará, unlike the rest of Brazil came to be dominated by Portuguese loyalists.

February, Batista Campos is declared legitimate vice president of the province by the council chambers of towns in the Lower Amazon.

June, uprising in Manaus by radical liberal soldiers, burning of council buildings and loss of the official records.

April 16, Portuguese attacks in Belém resulting in 90 deaths of liberal opponents.

May, return of some towns in the Amazon to native - mission - names. Santarém become Tapajós and Óbidos, Pauxis.

Introduction of new paper currency following circulation of false copper coinage and high inflation.

Last shipment of slaves from Africa arrives in Belém, the slave trade across the Atlantic was abolished by the British.
May, retreat of radical liberals to Acara region (near Belém), where many have land and homes. Plan is hatched to overthrow the president on September 7 independence day.

October, attack on Malcher’s farm on Acara River by government forces, houses smashed up, Felix Clemente Malcher arrested, Batista Campos escapes, only to die from an infected wound in December.

January 7, storming of Belém by about 65 rebels, murder of president Lobo de Souza, and his vice president and British mercenary. Malcher released from prison and nominated president and Francisco Pedro Vinagre his vice president.

May 12, failed Imperial troops’ attack on Belém led by nominated vice-president Angelo Custodio Côrrea.

June, Francisco Pedro Vinagre, having persuaded his followers to lay down their arms, allows newly nominated president from Rio into the city, Manuel Rodrigues, to take up position.

July, Vinagre arrested and during August Belém experiences nine days of very heavy fighting. Imperial forces retreat to the boats and the declaration of Eduardo Nogueira “Angelim” as president.

October, the murder of all but one of the crew of the British schooner Clio. Its shipment of guns and other products are distributed amongst local families in the vicinity of Salinas.

March, most towns of the interior of Pará declare themselves loyal to the presidency of Angelim. The military encampment at Ecuipiranga is established near Santarém consisting of about 2000 people.

May, Angelim abandons Belém, leaving some soldiers to defend the place, but the forces of General Andréa retake city on May 13.

May 13, legal troops establish control of Belém, and General Soares Andréa is installed as president, whose first act is to lift the constitutional rights of individuals and impose martial law.

September, repression moves up river toward Santarém. Arrest of Angelim and his deportation to the South of Brazil.

October, Imperial troops retake Santarém.

March, failed attack on Santarém by rebels.

July, Imperial troops successfully destroy the fort at Ecuipiranga. Rebels disperse and regroup around Maues.

Creation by General Andréa of the “Corpos dos trabalhadores” (workers’ corps), forced conscription for all people who are without property.

Bernardo de Souza Franco, a liberal Paraense lawyer, is nominated president of Pará and more reconciliatory stance is adopted toward rebels.

November, amnesty for those in prison awaiting trial.

June, full amnesty for all rebels. Pedro II, at 14 years old, becomes the Emperor of Brazil.