

# Why Portuguese is the official language in Brazil?

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## SOUTH AMERICA

Back in 1500, South America was being discovered and colonized by the two powers in the big expeditions of those times: Spain and Portugal. To decide who was going to be the "owners" of the land, they opted for a treaty instead of a war.

## Treaty of Tordesillas

This treaty in 1494 drew a north-to-south line through South America. Spain gained territory west of the line, while Portugal retained the lands east of the line, including the east coast of Brazil.



Spain

Portugal



## Brazil was colonized by Portugal

As the territory that came to be Brazil was colonized by Portugal, and not Spain, the official language in Brazil Portuguese, not Spanish. Over the year the language evolved, adding a lot of foreign and indigenous words to the national lexicon, becoming the Brazilian Portuguese.

## But isn't Brazil way bigger than this division of the Treaty of Tordesillas?

### Yes, it is. Because of the Treaty of Madrid

As you can imagine, if it's hard to control borders today imagine 520 years ago. So the Brazilian territory started to expand the limits.

Spain noticed that Portugal was off-limits and it gave them a good reason for a new treaty. Signed in 1750, the Treaty of Madrid replaced the Treaty of Tordesillas and between other negotiations gave Brazil a shape that is almost as accurate as today.



There's a lot more history into this subject, but now you know why Brazilians speak Portuguese and not Spanish.

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