

Fernando Henrique Cardoso

President of Brazil

Fernando Henrique Cardoso was born on June 18, 1931, in Rio de Janeiro. In 1961, he received a doctorate in science from the University of São Paulo's faculty of philosophy, science and letters, where he later served as director. A professor of sociology and political science for many years, Mr. Cardoso held posts at universities in Brazil, France, Britain, and the United States. He also served as co-president of the International Foundation for Alternative Development, in Switzerland, and as president of the International Sociological Association, in Amsterdam.

A founding member of Brazil's Social Democrat Party, Mr. Cardoso was party leader in the Senate between 1988 and 1992. He has also served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance.

Mr. Cardoso took office as President of Brazil on Jan. 1, 1995, and was re-elected in 1998. He is married and has three children.

Jean Chrétien

Prime Minister of Canada

Born in Shawinigan, Quebec, on Jan. 11, 1934, Jean Chrétien studied law at Laval University. Called to the bar in 1959, he joined a Shawinigan law firm.

A candidate for the Liberal Party of Canada, Mr. Chrétien was first elected to the House of Commons in 1963. Re-elected five times between 1968 and 1980, Mr. Chrétien held a number of cabinet portfolios before being appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1984. Following the election of 1984, the Liberals formed the official Opposition and Mr. Chrétien served as critic for external affairs. In 1986, he returned to business life as a legal counsel and senior adviser.

In 1990, Mr. Chrétien was elected Leader of the Liberal Party. In the same year, he was elected to the House of Commons in a byelection and was sworn in as Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Chrétien became Prime Minister of Canada on Nov. 4, 1993. He was re-elected to serve the Quebec riding of Saint-Maurice and to lead majority governments in 1997 and in November 2000. Mr. Chrétien is married and has three children.