

opportunity to see whether it could mobilize majority support for its favorite issues. In the end, the final document represented an elaborate set of trade-offs which fully pleased no-one but which offered something to every faction. As the balance of forces in Congress changes through subsequent elections, there will be new pressures to change the text. Nevertheless, the document represents a triumph of practical democracy and is considered by all Brazilians to be an improvement over the more authoritarian constitution the civilian government inherited from the military in 1985.

The document will likely remain in its current form for at least five years, while Congress passes the complementary legislation required by many articles of the text in order to define and implement certain constitutional provisions. In October 1993, both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies will sit in a joint session. A simple majority vote at this session will be sufficient to re-open the Constitution to further revisions. Until then, any article of the constitution can be amended by a secret vote of 60% of the membership of both Chambers of Congress.

- Brief 3: Elimination of the President's power to issue laws by decree.
- Brief 1: Full Congressional powers to review and amend the budget.
- Brief 3: Congressional powers to review major sources of Presidential patronage, including appointments to major offices, awards of radio and television licenses and transfers of public lands.
- Brief 3: Senate powers of review over all foreign debt operations.
- Brief 3: Congressional power to over-ride a Presidential veto, through a simple majority vote.
- Brief 3: Separation of the offices of the Advocate-General, who represents the federal government, and the Attorney-General, who represents society's interests against the state.
- Brief 4: A phased increase in tax transfers from 33% to 47% of the federal government's total from income and industrial product taxes, to state and municipal government.
- Brief 4: The creation of three new states.
- Brief 5: A five year mandate for the President.
- Brief 8: A two round run-off electoral system for the President, state governors and the mayors of major cities.
- Brief 8: Extending the franchise to 18 year olds and illiterates.