

Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira



## Biography

He was born in Diamantina, Minas Gerais, on September 12, 1902. He studied in the Lazarist Fathers Seminary (1914). He graduated from the Medical School of Belo Horizonte (1927), and practiced medicine until the 40's. He joined the troops that fought the insurgents of 1932, since he was the doctor of the Military Hospital of the Public Force of Minas Gerais. He was head of the Civil Cabinet of Minas Gerais (1933-1934); joined the Progressive Party and was elected to Congress in 1935, where he remained until Congress was closed with the coup d'état of 1937. He was nominated mayor of Belo Horizonte (1940-1945), participated of the creation of the Democratic Social Party in Minas Gerais and was chosen as first-secretary of the Minas Gerais section of this party (1945). He was a constitutional delegate for Minas Gerais (1946). He was elected to Congress (1946-1950) and as governor of Minas Gerais (1951-1955). He ran for the Presidency of the Republic with a colligation of parties, with João Goulart as his running mate, and was sworn into office on January 31, 1956, after a serious political crisis. With the end of his term, he was elected to the Senate (1962-1964). After the coup of 1964, his mandate was revoked and his political rights were suspended for ten years. He was one of the articulators of the Broad Front, which opposed the military regime (1966). He went into exile, returning to Brazil in 1967. He signed, with João Goulart, the Montevideo Pact (1967). He was Director-President of the administrative council of the Demasa Investment Bank (1967). He definitively abandoned politic with the extinction of the Broad Front (1968). He was inducted into the Minas Gerais Literary Academy (1974). He became dedicated to his farm in Luziânia-GO (1975), was elected "Intellectual of the Year" (1975) and in 1976 he received the "Juca Pato" Award. He died in a car accident on the Via Dutra, near Resende, on August 22, 1976.

## Presidential Period

Juscelino Kubitschek began his administration when the country's population was of approximately 60 million inhabitants. His administration was marked by the Goal Plan, with the motto "fifty years of progress in five years of government", which translated mainly into industrial growth. Between 1955 and 1961, the sector's production grew 80%, underscoring the steel, mechanical, electric and communications industries, and of transportation equipment. Between 1957 and 1961, the growth rate was of 7% a year. This process, oriented

by the national-developmental project was made possible due to the existence of a large internal market, the capacity of production of iron and steel and the external desire to invest. Besides the incentive for the entrance of foreign capital, the government focused on the areas of transportation and energy, constructing an infrastructure for the expansion of the industrial park.

The sectorial state planning, articulated in work groups and executive groups linked to the recently created Development Council, was quite efficient. The groups were respectively directed towards the approval of Bills and decrees, and of business projects (such as, mixed agencies, formed by State technicians and private companies). The government also directed the investments according to the studies and projects drafted by the representatives of the Economic Committee for Latin America (Cepal) and by the National Bank for Economic Development (BNDE).

The economic policy of the JK years obtained expressive results in the area of industrial expansion, but generated contradictions, such as the facilitation of the concentration of capital, with the arrival of multinational companies to the country, which left little opportunities for the small capital. From a labor point of view, the increase of productivity resulting from the technological improvements was not transferred to the prices or to the salaries. Despite this, some salary increases and the state's subsidy for petroleum and wheat sought to meet the labor union demands. The imports, which intended to supply the internal scarcity of input, increased the external dependency of the Brazilian economy, increasing the financial unbalance and the deficit of the balance of payments, which influenced decisively for the return of the inflationary process, one of the largest problems faced by President Kubitschek.

A stabilization anti-inflationary plan was drafted by the Minister of Treasury, Lucas Lopes, and by the director of the BNDE, Roberto Campos, and was submitted to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which would vouch for a loan of 300 million dollars originating from the United States. In the face of the IMF demands for adjustment of the Brazilian economy, the government had two choices: move forward with the Goal Plan or control the internal economy, satisfying the external creditors and the Brazilian defenders of the stabilization program. There were many internal pressures, generating a debate that also involved the nationalistic intellectuals and those with a liberal tendency, represented in the Superior Institute of Brazilian Studies (ISEB). In July of 1959, President Kubitschek interrupted negotiations with the IMF.

Within the range of the international relations, the government presented the United States with the proposal of Operation Pan-America, for the multilateral promotion of the development of the continent with North American support, which was only adopted later, by means of the Alliance for Progress.

The presidential period also distinguished itself by the construction of a new federal capital, the city of Brasília, inaugurated on April 21, 1960. A symbol of the country's development, the city was designed by architect Oscar Niemeyer and by urbanist Lúcio Costa, becoming an example of modern architecture. On December 7 of 1987, Brasília was designated as a landmark by Unesco and a World Heritage Site.

## Summary

Sixteenth Period of the Republican Government - 31.01.1956 to 31.01.1961

Born: Diamantina-MG, on 12.09.1902

Died: Resende-RJ, on 22.08.1976

Profession: Medical Doctor

In Office: 31.01.1956 to 31.01.1961 (05y)

Age when assuming office: 54 years old

Type of election: direct

Votes received: 3.077.411

Inauguration: on 31.01.1956, during solemn session of Congress, presided by Senator Carlos Gomes de Oliveira

Leave of Office: 19 to 27.07.1956 period in which he visited Panama and from 05. to 11.08.1960 when he traveled with the Vice President to Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, period in which the President of Congress assumed the Presidency.