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### Bolsonaro

#### Brazilians are mobilized, militarized and ready to strike against Bolsonaro—2017 and 2019 prove.

AP 19

Associated Press (unbiased reporting society) , 6-14-2019, "AP Explains: Why is there a general strike in Brazil?," AP NEWS, https://apnews.com/0966674e639048e0a681c29248ffe0ad, // HW AW

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil kicked off a general strike Friday that is likely to paralyze major cities across Latin America’s largest country. The nationwide strike is the first since the arrival of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro on Jan. 1. While most participants will be protesting against a pension reform being discussed in Congress, others will be turning out to oppose budget cuts, a sluggish economy and the administration’s conservative agenda. Here is a look at what’s happening and why: FIRST GENERAL STRIKE IN TWO YEARS Workers in all 26 Brazilian states and the federal district of Brasilia are expected to take part in Friday’s strike, according to several unions. Actions blocking roads and public transportation are set to start early in the morning in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Turnout should be particularly strong in the northeast, the historic bastion of the opposition Workers’ Party. But general strikes are not so common in Brazil. The last one was held in 2017 against proposals in Congress to loosen labor rules and trim pension benefits. Before that, there hadn’t been a general strike in 20 years. PROTESTS AGAINST BOLSONARO While it will be the first nationwide labor strike against Bolsonaro, he has faced protests since even before he was elected on Oct. 18, 2018. A few weeks before casting their votes, women led large demonstrations across Brazil over the far-right leader’s misogynistic comments and conservative social agenda. They marched under the slogan “Not Him.” In April, indigenous leaders from over 300 ethnicities attended a march in Brasilia to denounce policies they say will facilitate the expansion of mining and industrial farming businesses into their protected lands. Then last month, thousands took to the streets to oppose a decision by Bolsonaro’s government to slash education funds in the largest protest so far. PENSION REFORM Friday’s strike is primarily against the pension reform the Bolsonaro administration is currently pushing for in Congress. The plan would raise the retirement age to 65 for men and 62 for women and increase workers’ contributions. The government says the proposal could save about 1 trillion reals ($260 billion) and that it is essential for saving the troubled social security system and hopefully giving a boost to Latin America’s largest economy. Under the current system, male and female workers can claim pension benefits after 30 to 35 years of contributions, respectively, meaning many can retire as early as 50 or 55. The reform is one of this administration’s signature promises and is currently being reviewed by a special commission in the lower house of congress. A previous pension reform bill, introduced by ex-President Michel Temer, managed to pass the commission and made it to the plenary, but was abandoned after nine months. ANGER OVER BUDGET CUTS Some Brazilians will use the strike as another opportunity to express their opposition to the government’s across-the-board budget cuts, especially to education. Professors, students and academics have protested the decision to pare $1.85 billion from funds for the public education network, from elementary schools to universities. They were particularly distressed by the suspension of some scholarship funding and a 30% freeze on federal universities’ discretionary budgets, which goes to pay utility bills, security, cleaning or maintenance work. Officials have promised to send more money toward education, thanks to an additional government funding measure approved this week by Congress. But they have conditioned even more funding on the passing of the pension reform. A SLUGGISH ECONOMY There is widespread discontent over Brazil’s sluggish economy. Gross domestic product shrank in the first quarter of 2019, while inflation hit nearly 5% in April, the highest in more than two years. Unemployment also remains high at nearly 13%, but even greater —over 30%— among Brazilians aged 18 to 24. Economy Minister Paulo Guedes recently told Brazilian magazine Veja that he would quit his position if Congress tried to pass a watered-down version of his pension proposal. Without the reform, Guedes said the country could go broke as early as next year.

#### Impeachment of Bolsonaro is essential and possible, but it will not happen in the squo, although it’s close and displays of “popular will and outrage” like general strikes and protests are key to ensure it.

Kirby 21

Jen Kirby (foreign and national security reporter @vox), 6-4-2021, "Jair Bolsonaro is facing a political reckoning in Brazil. How far will it go?," Vox, [https://www.vox.com/2021/6/4/22456981/brazil-jair-bolsonaro-impeachment-protests-coronavirus //](https://www.vox.com/2021/6/4/22456981/brazil-jair-bolsonaro-impeachment-protests-coronavirus%20//) HW AW

The panelaços — the banging of pots and pans — became a socially distanced way for Brazilians [to protest](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-51955679) President Jair Bolsonaro [during the pandemic](https://www.vox.com/2020/5/2/21245243/coronavirus-brazil-bolsonaro-response-video). But last weekend, a [year into a prolonged coronavirus crisis](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanmic/article/PIIS2666-5247(21)00095-1/fulltext), hundreds of thousands [marched in more than 200 cities across Brazil](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/29/tens-of-thousands-of-brazilians-march-to-demand-bolsonaros-impeachment) to demand Bolsonaro’s impeachment. Signs bore slogans, such as “fora Bolsonaro” (“Bolsonaro out”) and “genocida,” a reference to Bolsonaro’s mismanagement of the pandemic, which has left more than 460,000 Brazilians dead, one of the worst death rates in the world. Protesters blame Bolsonaro for it. Their case is now being backed up [by a formal Senate inquiry into Bolsonaro’s handling of the pandemic](https://theintercept.com/2021/05/01/covid-brazil-deaths-bolsonaro-investigation/). The hearings have become a public accounting of Bolsonaro’s negligence — [including testimony from a Pfizer executive](https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/pfizer-got-no-response-offers-supply-vaccine-brazil-last-year-exec-says-2021-05-13/) who said the pharmaceutical company reached out to Brazil about procuring doses last year, and Bolsonaro’s government didn’t respond for two months. These hearings are taking place as Brazil [still averages around 2,000 coronavirus deaths daily](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/brazil-covid-cases.html), with [many bracing for third wave](https://brazilian.report/society/2021/05/20/third-coronavirus-wave-economy/), and the public-health system is battered to the point of [near-collapse](https://www.bmj.com/content/372/bmj.n800). Brazil’s vaccination campaign [is chaos](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/14/world/americas/brazil-coronavirus-vaccine.html), and what is working [is largely happening in spite of Bolsonaro](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/brazil). A little more than 10 percent of the population is fully vaccinated, [according to data from Johns Hopkins University.](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/brazil) [Opinion polls](https://www.cartacapital.com.br/cartaexpressa/poderdata-apoio-ao-impeachment-de-bolsonaro-cresce-e-chega-a-57/) suggest support for impeachment is growing: 57 percent are now in favor, up 11 percentage points from three months ago. All of this would suggest Bolsonaro’s year-long pandemic blunder is finally catching up to him along with plenty of other scandals, from those [involving his family](https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/internacional/en/brazil/2021/03/all-four-of-jair-bolsonaros-sons-are-under-investigation.shtml) to his environmental minister who [was allegedly smuggling illegal timber.](https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/brazil-police-investigate-potential-crimes-related-wood-exports-2021-05-19/) Whether this is a real reckoning for Bolsonaro — one that could truly push him from power — is the larger question. The anger and frustration are real, at the handling of the pandemic, at the economic situation, and plenty of other issues. But experts said many of the groups mobilizing against him — including women, students, and labor groups — already largely opposed the president. Bolsonaro himself has remained defiant, [drawing on the unwavering support of his base](https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210501-thousands-in-brazil-rally-for-bolsonaro-ignoring-virus). And impeachment is a tricky question, in part because Bolsonaro is up for reelection [in just over a year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_Brazilian_general_election). “I think this is a kind of catharsis movement, you know — ‘I cannot stay at home seeing this anymore. So I prefer to take some risk and go to the streets,’” said Arthur Ituassu, a professor of political communication at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica in Rio de Janeiro. “But if this will have political consequences,” he added, “I don’t know.” The growing push to impeach Bolsonaro, explained Brazil’s coronavirus situation is dire, [but it’s not surprising](https://www.vox.com/2020/4/28/21228512/brazil-bolsonaro-coronavirus-moro) given that Bolsonaro downplayed the pandemic from the beginning. He called it the “[little flu](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-30/-little-flu-can-t-hurt-him-why-bolsonaro-still-shuns-lockdowns).” He shrugged at the country’s mounting death toll by saying “[we’ll all die one day](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/30/tp-captain-corona).” He undermined governors’ attempts to enforce [social distancing](https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/skeptical-bolsonaro-clashes-governors-coronavirus-spreads-brazil) and other measures, insisting economies reopen. He used a homophobic slur to refer to those who wear masks. He has continued [to tout the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine](https://twitter.com/gersonjr/status/1286451690892341252?s=20) and other [unproven drugs](https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/man-behind-brazils-search-miracle-covid-19-cures-2021-05-14/) as coronavirus cures. When it comes to Covid-19 vaccinations, Bolsonaro has sowed misinformation and doubt. In December, he said of possible side effects on the Pfizer vaccine, “[If you turn into a crocodile, it’s your problem](https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/brazil-s-bolsonaro-warns-virus-vaccine-can-turn-people-into-crocodiles-1.5237678).” He [strongly criticized](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-brazil-bolsonaro/brazils-bolsonaro-says-he-was-right-to-question-chinese-covid-19-vaccine-idUSKBN29I1YL) Chinese-made vaccines, including bashing his own government’s deal to acquire the CoronaVac vaccine. “The Brazilian people WON’T BE ANYONE’S GUINEA PIG,” [he wrote on social media last year.](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-10-21/bolsonaro-slams-chinese-vaccine-his-government-said-it-would-buy) Ultimately, Bolsonaro [had to backtrack early this year](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-brazil-china/bolsonaro-thanks-china-for-fast-tracking-covid-19-vaccine-supplies-idUSKBN29U2BH) and thank China for fast-tracking the vaccine, as Brazil faced a deadly wave of the pandemic, with few vaccines available. João Nunes, senior lecturer of international relations at the University of York, said Bolsonaro’s “denialist approach” to the pandemic contributed to its severity, which led to disarray and lack of coordination. “Denialism, botching the vaccination program, continuing to support this myth of precocious treatment based on hydroxychloroquine, denying and going against regulations of the public health authorities promoting social gatherings without masks,” Nunes said, enumerating Bolsonaro’s misdeeds. Just how serious these misdeeds are is being examined by a [parliamentary inquiry](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/27/brazil-begins-parliamentary-inquiry-into-bolsonaros-covid-response) in Brazil’s Senate. The investigation is broadly looking into [the government’s failures during the pandemic](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/24/squabbles-and-accusations-inside-brazil-covid-senate-inquiry). It is also examining the government’s blunders in its vaccination strategy, including procurement. The committee has existed for about a month. The testimony has been damning, essentially [showing that Bolsonaro planned to pursue a policy of herd immunity](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/27/opinion/brazil-covid-inquiry-bolsonaro.html), a strategy that not only prolonged the crisis in Brazil [but likely gave rise to new variants](https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/22247525/covid-19-variants-uk-south-africa-brazil-b117-why-now). Luiz Henrique Mandetta, Brazil’s former health minister who had backed social distancing [and so found himself quickly fired by Bolsonaro](https://www.vox.com/2020/4/28/21228512/brazil-bolsonaro-coronavirus-moro) last year, told the committee that the government had no communication plan. “[There was no way to do a campaign, they didn’t want to do it](https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/05/americas/bolsonaro-inquiry-intl-latam/index.html),” he said. Mandetta provided a letter, dated March 28, 2020, urging Bolsonaro to follow the scientific recommendations of the health ministry, which the president largely ignored. Bolsonaro’s former communications director, Fábio Wajngarten, testified that letters from Pfizer offering to make deals with Brazil on vaccine doses [went unanswered for months in the fall of 2020](https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/internacional/en/brazil/2021/05/wajngarten-evades-questions-and-is-threatened-with-imprisonment-in-cpi-flavio-bolsonaro-calls-renan-a-tramp.shtml). The president of Pfizer for Latin America, Carlos Murillo, also testified that the company had begun outreach to the Brazilian government in May 2020, with two formal offers made in August — [both of which went unanswered](https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/pfizer-got-no-response-offers-supply-vaccine-brazil-last-year-exec-says-2021-05-13/). The company sent another request directly to Bolsonaro and the health minister, which languished until at least December. Murillo said that if Bolsonaro had struck a deal in August 2020, Pfizer could have delivered 18.5 million doses to the country by June 2021. Instead, Brazil and Pfizer didn’t strike a deal [until March of this year](https://en.mercopress.com/2021/05/14/brazil-could-have-bought-pfizer-vaccines-much-earlier-but-bolsonaro-ignored-the-offer); as it stands now, [Brazil has received fewer than 6 million doses from Pfizer](https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/miscellaneous/covid-19/pfizer-expects-to-deliver-2-4-million-covid-19-vaccine-doses-to-brazil-this-week/). The hearings are a political spectacle, with senators accusing Bolsonaro’s [allies of lying and trying to shield him](https://brazilian.report/liveblog/2021/05/12/hearings-arrest-press-wajngarten/). Bolsonaro’s defenders, meanwhile, are accusing the hearing of being [politically motivated](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/27/brazil-begins-parliamentary-inquiry-into-bolsonaros-covid-response); though on this, they’re not totally wrong. With Brazil’s elections approaching, this public record of Bolsonaro’s dereliction is a potent tool for the opposition. But it is also a legitimate, and some argue necessary, fact-finding mission. If the outcome is incriminating for Bolsonaro, it is largely because the evidence is bearing that out. Many of these revelations are not exactly earth-shattering or even all that new, having already leaked out in news reports. And Bolsonaro’s public record alone makes apparent how he trivialized the pandemic. But the difference, experts say, is that it is all happening in one place. Witnesses are also under oath. Even those who are trying to defend Bolsonaro are [mostly just succeeding in contradicting themselves](https://apnews.com/article/brazil-pandemics-coronavirus-pandemic-health-07dee06a2e4c6ae87f5bac70cfdaefc7) or highlighting the ineptitude of the government. “I think it’s really laid naked what a lot of people suspected, what a lot of reports have said; they are now seeing the actors who were involved, who were in the room,” said Colin Snider, assistant professor of Latin American history at the University of Texas at Tyler. Bolsonaro’s mishandling of the pandemic has created ripple effects in other areas, including the economy and public health care system, all of it increasing the public’s frustration and dissatisfaction. And as some of his critics have pointed out, his mismanagement of the vaccination campaign has made it all but impossible for Brazil to emerge swiftly from this Covid-19 crisis, an irony for a guy who claimed he didn’t want to shut down the economy. “The record that is being put together of incompetence, negligence, bad faith, [and] political opportunism in the Bolsonaro administration dealing with the pandemic is overwhelming,” Paulo Barrozo, an associate law professor at Boston College, said. “But I don’t think that is going to lead to an impeachment Congress,” Barrozo added. “I think there is a record that is being built for historical purposes and also to be used in the next presidential election.” Bolsonaro’s coronavirus record is damning. But maybe don’t expect impeachment just yet. Bolsonaro has [about 130 impeachment petitions against him](https://www.brasilwire.com/29m-anti-bolsonaro-protests/). Some predate the pandemic and cover [all kinds of offenses](https://brazilian.report/cartoons/2021/04/01/the-meltdown-of-bolsonaro-as-a-president-the-brazilian-report/). But the pandemic and Bolsonaro’s handling of it have galvanized the public. “I do think we are now maybe in the worst moment of Bolsonaro’s government,” Pontifícia Universidade Católica’s Ituassu said. But it might not be enough for impeachment — at least not yet. The big thing right now is timing: Impeachment could be a long, drawn-out affair, and Brazil’s elections are just over a year away. If Bolsonaro continues to do nothing about the coronavirus and the crisis continues, voters may kick him out of the job anyway. Bolsonaro is doing what he always does in the face of criticism: doubling down. Just this week, Bolsonaro [offered to host the Copa America](https://www.espn.com/soccer/copa-america/story/4398712/copa-america-2021-brazil-new-hosts-as-tournament-moved-from-argentinacolombia) tournament, after the original hosts, Argentina and Colombia, pulled out, because of a coronavirus surge and unrest, respectively. “Since the beginning of the pandemic I have been saying, I regret the deaths, but we have to live,” [Bolsonaro said](https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/01/americas/brazil-bolsonaro-copa-america-intl-latam/index.html) at the announcement. [Brazil is still seeing about 60,000 Covid-19 cases a day](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/brazil-covid-cases.html) and around 2,000 deaths. The attraction for Bolsonaro supporters is partly the doubling down. [Bolsonaro is often compared to Donald Trump](https://www.google.com/search?q=donald+trump+bolsonaro+vox&rlz=1C5CHFA_enUS769US769&ei=luS4YLiSHsjT5NoPuPS3gAg&oq=donald+trump+bolsonaro+vox&gs_lcp=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAMyCAgAELADEIYDMggIABCwAxCGA1DgCliOEGCiEWgBcAB4AIABrAKIAZ0LkgEHMS40LjIuMZgBAKABAaoBB2d3cy13aXrIAQLAAQE&sclient=gws-wiz&ved=0ahUKEwi4teXv0_vwAhXIKVkFHTj6DYAQ4dUDCA4&uact=5), and like Trump, Bolsonaro has a steady and unflaggingly loyal base that is, give or take, somewhere around a third of the voting population. The more Bolsonaro feels under attack by the political establishment or the media or his critics, the more he goes after those institutions and the more that fires up his supporters. “He’s lost support. But what has remained is very loyal,” Barrozo said. “So in a way, he is solidifying, crystallizing, [and] firming his bases by doubling down.” And the thing about impeachment is that it can be easily sold to his base as, to borrow a phrase from a Bolsonaro pal, “[the greatest witch-hunt in the history of our country](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-14/donald-trump-says-impeachment-trial-part-of-greatest-witch-hunt/13153230)” — which is exactly what Bolsonaro and his backers feed off. Another big factor, experts say, is that Bolsonaro still retains support in Brazil’s Senate and Chamber of Deputies (kind of like the House of Representatives). They are the bodies that are ultimately going to have to take up impeachment. This isn’t ideological or even about party loyalty; in fact, [Bolsonaro doesn’t even have a party affiliation right now](https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/democraciaabierta/bolsonaro-president-without-party-strategy-depoliticize-brazil/). Instead, it’s about perks. The thing standing in the way is the Centrão (Big Center), a bloc of centrist voting parties in Brazil’s Congress. Bolsonaro has basically had to build alliances with these members of Congress, who agree to work with Bolsonaro in exchange for the president basically giving them what they want. “Bolsonaro has actually gotten pretty good at handing out goodies — like pork-barrel projects — for the members of Congress to bring home the bacon and show their voters that they’re doing their job,” said David Samuels, distinguished McKnight University professor of political science at the University of Minnesota. “And so they’re also happy to see Bolsonaro twist in the wind as long as he keeps the spigots of money going.” Experts said it’s going to take a lot for them to basically turn their back on those goodies — whether they’re cushy jobs or beneficial projects. An [investigation](https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2021/05/29/brazils-president-jair-bolsonaro-is-under-siege) by the Brazilian newspaper O Estado de S. Paulo found that Bolsonaro’s government set aside about 20 billion reais ($3.9 billion) for what are basically pork projects. “The question for impeachment becomes this: **Does popular will and senatorial and deputy outrage turn to the point where enough are willing to abandon that sort of legislative sway over the national political agenda for the sake of impeachment?” Snider of the University of Texas said. Right now, the answer looks like a big “no.” As experts said, because these alliances aren’t born from any real loyalty, they can shift pretty quickly.** But politicians also want to know exactly which way the wind is blowing before they abandon Bolsonaro. **So while** [**Bolsonaro is unpopular**](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-05-07/brazil-s-new-cash-handouts-fail-to-buoy-bolsonaro-s-popularity)**, he may need to get even more unpopular.** **The street protests matter, but they must grow even more massive and consistent. The anti-Bolsonaro coalition on the streets may need to widen to include more centrist and center-right people — folks who may have backed Bolsonaro before but now unequivocally reject him.** Otherwise, lawmakers are content to just let Bolsonaro self-destruct. “I do think they prefer a weak Bolsonaro more than anything else,” Ituassu said. That includes a weak Bolsonaro in the October 2022 election, who could very likely be facing off against former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who [just got the clear from courts to be able to run again](https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2021/0319/Brazil-s-Lula-cleared-to-run-again-Can-he-write-a-new-chapter) after corruption charges had barred him from running. Early polls suggest if Lula and Bolsonaro were to face off in a runoff — both polarizing populists in their own way — [Lula would win handily](https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/05/12/brazil-poll-shows-lula-handily-beating-bolsonaro-in-2022/). (If Bolsonaro, sigh, [accepts the results](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-10/bolsonaro-says-fraud-kept-him-from-1st-round-brazil-election-win) — but that’s a crisis for another day.) So **there is a sense of just riding this out until the election. That comes with its own risks for the country, as it continues to battle the pandemic, and those who want to see Bolsonaro defeated. Bolsonaro is not going to change — no one expects him to suddenly become a deft manager of the pandemic — but circumstances around him might**. The economy could bounce back, and the vaccination campaign could gain momentum. If that happens, Bolsonaro’s coronavirus record might not be as potent a force in October 2022. Pressure against Bolsonaro is building. But so far, nothing Bolsonaro has done has really threatened his position or destroyed his loyal base of support. The question may not be whether a reckoning is coming for Bolsonaro but whether it will actually be enough. “This is one more element in place that could lead to Bolsonaro’s downfall,” Jessica Rich, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin, said. “I don’t think they are yet all in place. But this is a real escalation of the threat against him.”

#### Bolsonaro will kill the Amazon through deforesting—now is the brink and the election fails.

Watts 7-14-21

Johnathan Watts (guardians global environment editor), 7-14-2021, "Amazon rainforest ‘will collapse if Bolsonaro remains president’," [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/14/amazon-rainforest-will-collapse-if-bolsonaro-remains-president //](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/14/amazon-rainforest-will-collapse-if-bolsonaro-remains-president%20//) HW AW

The collapse of the [Amazon rainforest](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/amazon-rainforest) is inevitable if Jair Bolsonaro remains president of Brazil, academics and environmental activists have warned amid a fresh government assault on protections for the forest. Despite evidence that fire, drought and land clearance are pushing the Amazon towards a point of no return, they say the [far-right leader is more interested in placating the powerful](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/14/bolsonaro-brazil-hospital-hiccups) agribusiness lobby and tapping global markets that reward destructive behaviour. The onslaught on forest safeguards has picked up pace. On Wednesday the lower house was due to vote on legislation that would reward land grabbers by legalising ownership of property that had been illegally invaded and cleared before 2014. The previous day, the government shifted responsibility for forest fire satellite monitoring away from the National Institute for Space Research, a scientifically-robust organisation that had carried out the task for decades. Control has been given to the National Institute of Meteorology, which is under the influence of the agriculture ministry and the farming sector. In the past few months, Congress has also diluted standards for environmental impact assessments and a committee has approved a bill – PL 490 – that has been described as the greatest assault on indigenous rights since the launch of the Brazilian constitution in 1988. All of these measures punch holes in the Amazon’s protective framework and run contrary to scientific advice and the problems on the ground. Brazil is in the midst of a widening drought that has seen water inflows at some hydroelectric plants fall to 91-year lows. This is a cause and an effect of forest clearance. Since Bolsonaro took power in 2019, deforestation and fire in the Amazon have risen to their highest levels in more than a decade. The past three months have continued that trend, though slightly behind last year’s peaks. Given the tinder-dry conditions in many parts of the Amazon, there are fears that the usual peak of the fire season in July and August could be worse than usual. Scientists suspect **the rainforest may be slipping into a series of vicious cycles**. At a local level, land clearance and burning led to extended droughts and higher temperatures, which in turn weakens the resilience of the ecosystem and leads to more fire. At a regional level, this can intensify drought because the respiration of the rainforest normally acts as a pump to drive humid weather systems across a wide area of Brazil, South America and the Atlantic. When the forest weakens, that pump is less effective. There are also global repercussions because land clearance is turning the Amazon region from climate friend to climate foe. A study published in Nature **reveals forest burning** [**now produces about three times more CO2**](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/14/amazon-rainforest-now-emitting-more-co2-than-it-absorbs) **than the remaining vegetation is able to absorb.** This accelerates global heating. Global market forces are partly responsible. [Deforestation](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/deforestation) tends to rise when the prices of soy, beef and gold are high. No government of any stripe has completely managed to stop forest clearance in the past four decades. But government policies make a difference**. Amazon deforestation reduced 80% between 2004 and 2012 under the Workers party administration of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**. Bolsonaro has steadily dismantled or discredited the mechanisms that achieved that – satellite monitoring, personnel on the ground and legislation to punish offenders and demarcate indigenous land and conservation areas. “The main thing this government has done is to undermine the capacity of the state to tackle illegal deforestation,” said Marcio Astrini, executive secretary of the Brazilian Climate Observatory, a network of 50 civil society organisations. In Congress, meanwhile Bolsonaro and the “ruralista” agribusiness lobby have put more supporters in key positions: Arthur Lira as leader of Congress, Carla Zambelli as chair of the lower house Environmental Commission and Bia Kicis as chair of the Justice Commission. These politicians have enabled the ruralistas’ agenda to go forward more aggressively. “The Brazilian government is doing exactly the opposite of what needs to be done. It is actively stimulating deforestation through its policies,” said Erika Berenguer, an expert on Amazon land use change at the Universities of Lancaster and Oxford. “Until recently this was through decrees and ministerial policy changes that cut budgets for combating deforestation. Now, they have taken more important roles in Congress so **we are seeing even more dangerous bills being passed.” This is a global concern**. The US president, Joe Biden, and the French president, Emmanuel Macron, have warned of the dangers posed by the decline of the rainforest. Supermarkets and financial organisations in the UK, Norway, Germany, France and Australia have [threatened](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/25/uk-supermarkets-will-seek-soy-alternatives-if-amazon-protections-weakened) to boycott Brazilian products unless supply chains can be guaranteed deforestation free. On Wednesday, 40 companies, include Iceland, Waitrose, Lidl, Tesco and Sainsbury’s issued an open letter warning that further erosions of environmental legislation and indigenous rights would force them to reconsider using Brazilian agricultural commodities. “We would like to reiterate that we consider the Amazon as a vital part of the Earth system that’s essential to the security of our planet as well as being a critical part of a prosperous future for Brazilians and all of society,” they said. Green groups said they now expected these companies to put their threats into effect. Among many consumers Brazil is seen as a toxic brand, and Bolsonaro looks increasingly isolated on the world stage. But this international pressure has had little impact. Last month, Bolsonaro sacked his environmental minister, Ricardo Salles, after a tipoff by the US embassy about his alleged involvement in illegal timber smuggling. But Salles had already gutted the forest surveillance and enforcement bodies, and the real power behind him – the agriculture minister, Tereza Cristina Dias – remains in place. This is partly because commodity prices remain high and demand is strong, particularly in China where the government puts resource procurement above environmental ethics and media pressure is limited by strict censorship. China is Brazil’s biggest market by a large margin. But the major reason is the nationalist ideology of the president. According to Astrini, Bolsonaro is so exclusively focused on domestic politics that he is indifferent to international reputation or global markets. “He is the first Brazilian president who has an overt agenda of destroying environmental protections for political gain. He is not concerned about the country, only his re-election. It’s all about the electoral base,” Astrini says. On a more positive note, he sees Bolsonaro as a catalyst for change. Since he took power, the Amazon rainforest has moved to the centre of political debate. Several candidates in next year’s presidential election now have zero-deforestation commitments in their manifestos. “Even Lula is saying deforestation in the Amazon can no longer be supported by any Brazilian government. He never said this before,” said Astrini. “It is now clear that a solution for the Amazon can only be possible if we change government. There is no hope if Bolsonaro is re-elected president. It is either the Amazon or Bolsonaro. There is no space for both.

#### Amazon destruction means extinction—3 warrants.

Mcfall-Johnsen 19

Morgan Mcfall-Johnsen (space and science reporter @ buisness insider) , 8-24-2019, "Earth is a spaceship, and the Amazon is a crucial part of our life-support system, creating up to 20% of our oxygen. Here's why we need the world's largest rainforest.," Business Insider, [https://www.businessinsider.com/why-amazon-rainforest-is-important-life-support-is-burning-2019-8 //](https://www.businessinsider.com/why-amazon-rainforest-is-important-life-support-is-burning-2019-8%20//) HW AW

[Record-breaking fires](https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-rainforest-experiencing-record-breaking-deforestation-2019-7) have hit the Amazon rainforest this year, [most of which were lit by people clearing land for farming](https://www.businessinsider.com/fires-in-the-amazon-rainforest-were-started-by-humans-2019-8). If too much of the Amazon disappears, that could put the rainforest on an [irreversible path](https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-losing-3-football-fields-worth-of-rainforest-per-minute-2019-8) towards [becoming a savannah](https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-fires-may-help-dieback-emit-carbon-hurry-climate-change-2019-8). If we lose the [Amazon](https://www.businessinsider.com/category/amazon-rainforest), we lose a crucial part of the world's life support system: [The Amazon](https://www.businessinsider.com/how-to-help-amazon-rainforest-what-charities-to-donate-to-2019) produces up to 20% of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere, cycles water that regulates our weather, and [hosts a wealth of undiscovered species](https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-forest-is-disappearing-2015-11) with potential for new medicines. It's also one of our best tools for keeping heat-trapping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. [Visit Business Insider's homepage for more stories](https://www.businessinsider.com/?hprecirc-bullet). Bottom of Form The Amazon rainforest is burning: Brazil has seen more than 74,000 fires this year ⁠— nearly double 2018's total of about 40,000 fires. About 10,000 new fires [started in the last week alone](https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-rainforest-experiencing-record-number-of-wildfires-this-year-2019-8), mostly [lit by people clearing land](https://www.businessinsider.com/fires-in-the-amazon-rainforest-were-started-by-humans-2019-8) for crops and grazing. David Sirota, a political commentator who writes speeches for Bernie Sanders, put the problem like this in a [tweet](https://twitter.com/davidsirota/status/1164278087564980224?s=20): "We're all on a spaceship hurtling through a vacuum. The Amazon rainforest is our spaceship's life support system. Our spaceship's life support system is on fire." It's a fitting analogy, since the Amazon plays a major role in many of the processes that make our planet habitable: water cycles, weather patterns, and the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide. The rainforest is also home to more than 30 million [people](https://www.businessinsider.com/drone-footage-reveals-tribe-amazon-no-contact-outside-world-2018-8) and over 10% of the world's biodiversity. Scientists see potential for new medicines in unstudied Amazon plants. The more than 2.5 million square miles of Amazon rainforest are also one of our greatest buffers against the climate crisis, since the trees absorb carbon dioxide, thereby keeping it out of the atmosphere. But deforestation threatens all of that. Humans have cut down nearly 20% of the Amazon in the last 50 years, according to the [World Wildlife Fund](http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/where_we_work/amazon/about_the_amazon/) (WWF). If [another 20%](https://www.nature.com/articles/35041539) of the Amazon disappears, that could trigger [a "dieback" scenario](https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-fires-may-help-dieback-emit-carbon-hurry-climate-change-2019-8) in which the forest would dry out and become a savannah. That process would release billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and raise global temperatures. A man works in a burning tract of Amazon jungle as it is being cleared by loggers and farmers in Iranduba, Amazonas state, Brazil August 20, 2019. [Bruno Kelly/Reuters](https://www.reutersconnect.com/all?id=tag%3Areuters.com%2C2019%3Anewsml_RC1AF7C54AA0&share=true) Here is what's at risk if we lose the Amazon. The 'lungs of the planet' The Amazon helps keep the atmosphere's carbon-dioxide levels in check. Plants and trees take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen back into the air through the process of photosynthesis. This is why the Amazon is often referred to as the "lungs of the planet": It produces between 6% and 20% of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere. (Estimates vary — climate scientists [Michael Mann](https://twitter.com/MichaelEMann/status/1164899653525151745) and Jonathan Foley calculated the 6% figure, while a [report](https://amazonwatch.org/assets/files/2019-complicity-in-destruction-2.pdf) from the nonprofit Amazon Watch estimated it's closer to 20%.) The Amazon produces up to 20% of the world's oxygen, as plants absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen via photosynthesis. Reuters Researchers [have calculated](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2373903/) that the Amazon holds up to 140 billion tons of carbon dioxide — the equivalent of 14 decades' worth of human emissions. "The Amazon is a major bank of carbon," Ruth DeFries, an ecology professor at Columbia University, [told Vice.](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/wjw5bb/the-amazon-wildfires-arent-natural-blame-humans) "When trees gets burned and carbon is released into the atmosphere, that exacerbates our global warming." Fires aside, deforestation in the Amazon already releases half a billion tons of carbon dioxide each year, according to [WWF](http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/where_we_work/amazon/about_the_amazon/). Last month, the Amazon saw record-breaking rates of deforestation, primarily due to [infrastructure projects](https://www.businessinsider.com/bolsonaro-plan-to-develop-amazon-rainforest-2019-1), logging, mining, and farming — much of which is not legal. Data from Brazilian satellites have [indicated](https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-losing-3-football-fields-worth-of-rainforest-per-minute-2019-8) that about three football fields' worth of Amazonian trees are falling every minute. An anchor for weather patterns A man swims with his kid on the waters of the Parana do Amana river at Vila Nova do Amana community in the Sustainable Development Reserve, in Amazonas state, Brazil, September 22, 2015. [Bruno Kelly/Reuters](https://www.reutersconnect.com/all?id=tag%3Areuters.com%2C2015%3Anewsml_GF10000234640&share=true) A [2018 report](https://www.wriorg.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/ending-tropical-deforestation-tropical-forests-climate-change.pdf) from the World Resources Institute (WRI) found that tropical deforestation disrupts the water cycle so much that it can threaten agriculture halfway around the globe. "Tropical forest loss is having a larger impact on the climate than has been commonly understood," the report authors wrote. The Amazon plays a large role in rain patterns because the moisture that its vegetation traps and releases travels as clouds for thousands of miles. [Climate models](https://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/full/10.1175/JHM406.1) show that the Amazon's moisture affects rainfall as far away as the US. If the Amazon were completely deforested, that would cut Texas rainfall by 25%, [cut the Sierra Nevada snowpack in half](https://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/10.1175/JCLI-D-12-00775.1), and reduce precipitation by up to 20% in the US coastal northwest. For that reason, large-scale deforestation in the Amazon can "pose a substantial risk to agriculture in key breadbaskets halfway around the world in parts of the US, India, and China," according to the WRI report. Villagers from the Rumao Island community paddle their canoes loaded with arapaima or pirarucu, the largest freshwater fish species in South America, while fishing in the Solimoes river, one of the main tributaries of the Amazon, in the Mamiraua nature reserve, November 24, 2013. REUTERS/Bruno Kelly The Amazon may also play a role in ocean currents, since the Amazon River accounts for over 15% of all fresh water that enters the oceans. Changes in the ocean's balance of fresh water and salt water [can slow down or speed up ocean currents](https://e360.yale.edu/features/will_climate_change_jam_the_global_ocean_conveyor_belt), which regulate weather across the globe. But scientists aren't yet sure how changes in the Amazon River would affect this complicated meteorological system. Degradation of the rainforest could also affect the biology of the Atlantic Ocean in unknown ways, since the Amazon River [dumps debris from the forest into the Atlantic](https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/7021/amazon-river-in-the-atlantic-ocean), and those nutrients feed phytoplankton that form the base of the ocean's food chain. Biodiversity that 'brims with promise' for new medicinesBrazilian researchers inspect plants in the search for new cancer drugs in Sao Sebastiao de Cuieiras in Brazil's Amazon rainforest, October 30, 2009. [Sergio Moraes/Reuters](https://www.reutersconnect.com/all?id=tag%3Areuters.com%2C2009%3Anewsml_GM1E5BH0ZOA01&share=true) The Amazon is home to at least 10% of the world's known [biodiversity](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK_vRtHJZu4) — and that's just the life that we know about. A new species is discovered in the Amazon every [two](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/08/amazon-brazil-new-species-discovered-spd/) or [three](https://www.wwf.org.uk/where-we-work/places/amazon) days. "Every species in this incredibly biodiverse system represents solutions to a set of biological challenges — any one of which has transformative potential and could generate global human benefits," ecologist Thomas Lovejoy told [the World Bank](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/05/22/why-the-amazons-biodiversity-is-critical-for-the-globe). "This rich wealth of species brims with promise, awaiting discovery." People have used Amazonian plants to produce [anti-cancer drugs](https://www.thedailybeast.com/rainforests-are-fast-becoming-a-laboratory-for-cancer-drugs) and the first anti-malarial drug, quinine. Yet scientists estimate that they have only studied 0.5% of the world's flowering plants for their [medicinal potential](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-amazon-medicine/in-amazon-a-frustrated-search-for-cancer-cures-idUSTRE5AG00V20091117). A rainbow is seen over a tract of Amazon rainforest which has been cleared by loggers and farmers for agriculture, near Uruara, Brazil on April 22, 2013. Nacho Doce/Reuters The rich array of species in the Amazon are [crucial to the rainforest's other functions](https://www.businessinsider.com/people-killed-half-of-forest-animals-on-earth-since-1970-2019-8), too. Advertisement The South American trees that absorb the most carbon dioxide rely on large birds and primates to eat their fruits and spread the large seeds inside, according to a recent WWF [report](https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/below-the-canopy). Thick vines also hold up the structures of the trees whose leaves send water vapor into the atmosphere. And a variety of animals pollinate forest plants, disperse seeds, and nourish the soil with their waste. "Amazon biodiversity also plays a critical role as part of global systems, influencing the global carbon cycle and thus climate change," Lovejoy said.

#### What happens in Brazil does not stay in Brazil—Bolsonaro’s COVID policy has made Brazil the worst breeding ground for variants in the world and covid will never end until he is impeached

Phillips 3-3-21

Tom Phillips (Latin American Correspondent @ the Guardian), 3-3-2021, "Brazil's Covid outbreak is global threat that opens door to lethal variants – scientist," [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/03/brazil-covid-global-threat-new-more-lethal-variants-miguel-nicolelis //](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/03/brazil-covid-global-threat-new-more-lethal-variants-miguel-nicolelis%20//) HW AW

Brazil’s rampant coronavirus outbreak has become a global threat that risks spawning new and even more lethal variants, one of the South American country’s top scientists has warned as it suffered its deadliest day of the pandemic. Speaking to the Guardian, Miguel Nicolelis, a Duke University neuroscientist who is tracking the crisis, urged the international community to challenge the Brazilian government over its failure to contain [an epidemic that has killed more than a quarter of a million Brazilians](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/feb/26/brazil-coronavirus-deaths-record) – about 10% of the global total. “The world must vehemently speak out over the risks Brazil is posing to the fight against the pandemic,” said Nicolelis, who has spent most of the last year confined to his flat on the west side of São Paulo. “What’s the point in sorting the pandemic out in Europe or the United States, if Brazil continues to be a breeding ground for this virus?” Nicolelis said the problem was not simply Brazil – whose far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, has repeatedly spurned efforts to combat a disease he calls a “little flu” – being “the worst country in the world in its handling of the pandemic”. He said: “It’s that if you allow the virus to proliferate at the levels it is currently proliferating here, you open the door to the occurrence of new mutations and the appearance of even more lethal variants.” [Brazil variant evaded up to 61% of immunity in previous Covid cases, study finds](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/02/brazil-variant-evaded-immunity-previous-covid-cases) Already, [one particularly worrying variant (P1)](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/01/brazil-covid-variant-p1-britain) has been traced to Manaus, the largest city in the Brazilian Amazon, which suffered a devastating healthcare breakdown in January after a surge in infections. Six cases of that variant have so far [been detected in the UK](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/02/brazil-variant-evaded-immunity-previous-covid-cases). “Brazil is an open-air laboratory for the virus to proliferate and eventually create more lethal mutations,” warned Nicolelis. “This is about the world. It’s global.” The alert came as Brazil entered the most deadly chapter of its year-long Covid crisis, with hospitals around the country collapsing or on the verge of collapse and the average weekly death toll hitting new heights. A record 1,726 deaths were reported on Tuesday, the highest number since the pandemic began. “It’s a battlefield,” a doctor in the southern city of Porto Alegre [told local television](https://g1.globo.com/rs/rio-grande-do-sul/noticia/2021/03/02/e-um-campo-de-guerra-diz-superintendente-do-hospital-moinhos-de-vento-em-porto-alegre.ghtml) after his hospital’s intensive care unit and mortuary ran out of space. Nicolelis said Bolsonaro’s failure to halt the outbreak and launch an adequate vaccination campaign had created a domestic tragedy from which Latin America’s most populous nation was unlikely to emerge until late 2022. “We’ve now gone past 250,000 deaths, and my expectation is that if nothing is done we could have lost 500,000 people here in Brazil by next March. It’s a horrifying and tragic prospect, but at this point it’s perfectly possible,” he said, predicting a traumatic month as public and private hospitals buckled. “My forecast is that if the world was appalled by what happened in [Bergamo](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/25/dread-of-history-repeating-itself-grows-in-italian-town-as-infections-rise-again) in Italy and what happened in Manaus a few weeks ago, it’s going to be even more shocked by the rest of Brazil if nothing is done.” The scientist, who has been advising state governments on their Covid response, called for the creation of a special Covid commission to fill the leadership vacuum left by Bolsonaro and an immediate 21-day nationwide lockdown. That, however, seems virtually unthinkable given Bolsonaro’s position. On Wednesday, the Brazilian president will reportedly deliver an address to the nation in which he is expected to again denounce lockdown measures. Nicolelis claimed Brazil’s crisis now posed an international risk as well as a domestic one and claimed Bolsonaro – **who has sabotaged social distancing, promoted unproven remedies such as hydroxychloroquine and belittled masks – had become “the pandemic’s global public enemy No 1”.** He said: “The policies that he is failing to put into practice jeopardize the fight against the pandemic in the entire planet.” Bolsonaro, a former army captain who swept to power in 2018 on a wave of anti-establishment rage, has defended his performance, claiming his opposition to Covid restrictions is about protecting Brazil’s economy. “I haven’t gotten a single thing wrong since March last year,” the 65-year-old [told supporters](https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/equilibrioesaude/2021/03/nao-errei-nenhuma-diz-bolsonaro-ao-insistir-em-tratamento-precoce-e-em-criticas-a-isolamento.shtml) this week. José Gomes Temporão, Brazil’s health minister during [the 2009 swine flu pandemic](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jun/11/swine-flu-pandemic-who-declares), said Bolsonaro’s response had been so lacking that he and other senior administration figures would eventually “have to be held accountable”. “To this day, Brazil doesn’t have a national plan to combat Covid-19,” Temporão complained, attacking Bolsonaro’s failure to secure sufficient vaccines by striking deals to buy shots made by companies such as Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. Just 3.3% of Brazil’s population has so far been vaccinated, compared to 15.2% in the US, 18% in Chile and 29.9% in the UK. **“I don’t think there is any other leader who is so obtuse, so backward, who has such a mistaken and warped vision of reality as the president of Brazil,”** Temporão said. “History will condemn these people.”

#### Variants mean extinction—every country secured brings the probability down and saves trillions

Duzgun 20 Eren Duzgun teaches Historical Sociology and International Relations at Leiden University, Netherlands. Capitalism, Coronavirus and the Road to Extinction, <https://socialistproject.ca/2020/04/capitalism-coronavirus-and-road-to-extinction/>

The Godzilla-like image of the virus Covid-19 has been haunting the world. Not only has the virus unraveled nightmarish possibilities leading to the extinction of millions of people, but it has also served as a quintessential case revealing the structural contradictions of and existential threats posed by capitalism on a global scale. Several researchers agree that Covid-19 is quite an unprecedented virus. Unlike seasonal influenza, Covid-19 is ten times deadlier, and we have yet to develop a medical remedy or herd immunity to slow it down; the best estimates for the development of a vaccine are at least three to six months away. The virus’s mortality rate seems much lower than earlier pandemics (such as Ebola [1994], Avian flu [1997], SARS [2002], MERS [2012]); yet the manner in which Covid-19 spreads, i.e., its mode of infectivity, seems radically different. Unlike earlier pandemics, the virus has proved infectious even before carriers display any symptoms, which renders it often undetectable during the 14-day incubation period. Facts on the Ground Given that we are unable to detect or cure it, we are completely helpless against the virus’s global march. Emergency measures such as compulsory quarantines, social-distancing and improved hygiene standards may temporarily slow down the virus’s pace, yet once these measures begin to be relaxed – as they surely will be – it is very likely that the virus will be at our door again. This grim picture gets even more complicated by the fact that the virus is likely to go through several mutations. The virus may increase its adaptability to new climatic and generational circumstances, hence targeting not only the elderly, but a broader age group even when summer arrives in the northern hemisphere. Covid-19 is not the first ‘modern’ pathogen with global consequences. The Spanish Flu (1918), for example, was sweeping in terms of its geographical span as well as devastating in terms of its death toll. As Mike Davis notes, the Spanish flu broke out at a time when billions were still in the process of being (forcibly) incorporated into the capitalist world market. The expansion of markets eliminated the very basis of safety-first agriculture, undermining local reciprocities and solidarities that traditionally provided welfare to the poor during crises. Indeed, what prepared the ground for its outbreak and exacerbated the impact of this early 20th century pathogen was the deterioration of nutritional standards under market imperatives as well as the exigencies and scarcities caused by the Great War. Covid-19, by contrast, has begun its journey and taken its biggest toll thus far in the most advanced and affluent parts of the world. This is to say, the contagion is no longer limited to the persistently undernourished, underdeveloped, and war-torn parts of the world; its impact is no longer restricted to a distant wet market or a third world country alone. Instead, it has emerged and expanded in the very heart of the capitalist world order at a time when capitalism has not only been already firmly established across the globe but has been testing the eco-biological limits of the entire planet. Should things remain the same, Covid-19 and its future cousins are likely to claim the lives of not just ‘some’ people as they did in the past, but of humanity as a whole. In this sense, perhaps for the first time in modern history, the biological blitzkrieg activated by the coronavirus has thrown into sharp relief the immediately existential and undeniably global contradictions and consequences generated by capitalism.

### Inequality

#### Inequality breeds instability and conflict and Brazil is the worst case

Maia and OI 19

Oxfam International (charitable organization working towards equality), Katia Maia (Oxfam’s brazil executive director), 2019-10-20 (date in inspect element), "Brazil: extreme inequality in numbers," https://www.oxfam.org/en/brazil-extreme-inequality-numbers, // HW AW

“Extreme inequality breeds conflict, violence, and instability. All Brazilians, regardless of social class or race, are affected by the inequality crisis. This is what unites us.” Katia Maia Oxfam Brazil’s executive director. Economic inequality in Brazil has reached extreme levels, despite being one of largest economies in the world. The last decades have seen incredible progress across Brazil. The country has been able to reduce inequality, taking millions of people out of poverty and thereby raising the base of the social pyramid. But despite this evolution, the pace has been very slow and the **Latin American giant is still listed as one of the most unequal countries on the planet**. Let’s look at the numbers: 75 yrs At the current rate inequality is decreasing in Brazil, it will take the country 75 years to reach United Kingdom's current level of income equality and almost 60 years to meet Spanish standards. Compared to its neighbors, Brazil is 35 years behind Uruguay and 30 behind Argentina. 19 yrs In Brazil, someone earning the minimum monthly wage would have to work 19 years to make the same money a Brazilian from the richest 0.1% of the population makes in one month. 28 M Brazil has lifted 28 million people out of poverty in the last 15 years, reducing poverty to less than 10 percent of the population. But the rich continue to benefit the most: between 2001 and 2015, the richest 10 percent accounted for 61 percent of economic growth. Brazil’s six richest men have the same wealth as poorest 50 percent of the population; around 100 million people. Photo: Apu Gomes/Oxfam 2047At the current pace of progress, Brazilian women will close the wage gap in 2047. Black Brazilians will earn the same as whites in 2089. Brazil is decades away from wage equality. 6 vs 50% Brazil’s six richest men have the same wealth as poorest 50 percent of the population; around 100 million people. The country's richest 5 percent have the same income as the remaining 95 percent. 36 yrs If Brazil’s six richest men pooled their wealth and spent 1 million Brazilian reals a day (around $319,000), it would take them 36 years to spend all their money. Mean while,16 million Brazilians live below the poverty line. Building a more equal and fair country Despite lifting millions of people out of poverty over the last decades, Brazil still faces a huge gap between the country’s richest and the rest of the population. Worse still, inequality threatens to reverse the progress the country has made in ending poverty. Current World Bank projections show up to 3.6 million people are expected to fall back into poverty this year in Brazil. That is why it is urgent to address some of the structural causes of inequality in Brazil, such as an unfair tax system or insufficient investments in social policies.

#### Studies in Brazil show that unions close the wage gap.

Campos and Moura PhDs 17

André Gambier Campos, Ana Carolina Moura, (PhDs doing an empirical analysis) 2017, "Union-nonunion wage gap: unexpected findings in Brazil" ipea http://repositorio.ipea.gov.br/bitstream/11058/8046/3/Discussion%20Paper\_225.pdf, // HW AW

Through a simple comparison of wage averages (direct wages, expressed in R$ of September, 2015), it is possible to find a difference between union and nonunion workers. Focusing on a point estimate, this difference equals R$ 562,18 in absolute terms, in favor of union workers (or 33,5% in relative terms) (table 1).8 Moreover, focusing on interval estimates, it is feasible to notice that **this difference is statistically significant (at a confidence level of 95,0%).** The wage interval of union workers is higher (R$ 2.157,17-R$ 2.318,55) and does not cross the one of nonunion (R$ 1.642,48-R$ 1.708,87) (table 1). Even if we take the natural-logarithm of direct wages, it is possible to encounter a difference between union and nonunion workers. Graphs 1 and 2, a box plot and a density plot, show that the **distributions of wages for both groups of workers are different. In sum, although unexpected, there is a wage differential among Brazilian workers, apparently related to their union affiliation**. And this is rather relevant (in relative numbers, not less than 33,5%). In subsection 3.2, we will try to go further in this differential, to check to what extent it is linked to union status.

#### Income inequality is the source of Brazil’s failing economy and solvency is reverse causal.

Bessarria et al 18

Besarria, C. N., Araujo, J. M., Silva, A. F. da, Sobral, E. F. M., & Pereira, T. G. (huge peer reviewed study) (2018). Effects of income inequality on the economic growth of Brazilian states. International Journal of Social Economics, 45(3), 548–563. doi:10.1108/ijse-02-2017-0039 // HW AW

The discussion about the transmission channel for the effects of income inequality on economic growth is not new, and over the years, it has drawn the attention of researchers who attempt to explain the importance of this relationship. This study, for example, uses the theoretical model proposed by Halter et al. (2014), in which a theoretical model ARDL (1, 1, 1) MG PMG DFE Education level effect (eduit) 0.02059 0.00918 0.03191 SD (0.0197) (0.00712) (0.01353) Inequality effect (dit) −0.00157 −0.0020 −0.19038 SD (0.00009) (0.0004) (0.09445) Speed of adjustment (ϕit) −0.62399 −0.53979 −1.68892 SD (0.07557) (0.06482) (0.12355) Log likelihood −133.98 −160.72 −69.45 No. of parameters estimated 77 57 17 Source: Authors Table VIII. Alternative pooled estimates 560 IJSE 45,3 Downloaded by UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND (AUS) At 19:42 30 September 2018 (PT) with a non-monotonic adjustment trajectory leads to a linear model that represents the inequality-growth relationship. The empirical results suggest that, among all of the factors studied, only the effects of education level and income inequality are analyzed in both the short term and the long term. The main conclusion drawn from these analyses is that regardless of which method is adopted (panel model with fixed effects, random effects, instrumental variables, and cointegration analysis), education level and income inequality affect economic growth positively and negatively, respectively, and that these factors are able to explain some of the differences in growth rates among different regions of Brazil. The results suggest that the dynamics of economic growth in the Brazilian states must respond positively to social policies to reduce income inequality and to encourage schooling. In recent years, Brazil has implemented a social program called “Bolsa Família,” which has as main characteristics the transfer of income linked to the maintenance of children in school. This policy, according to the results found, must have a significant impact on the economic growth of the states in the long run. However, in addition to social programs, policies should be adopted that increase the efficiency of public investments in education. The strong educational inequalities between states (see Table IV) are determinant for understanding the economic discrepancies between Brazilian regions. Thus, the success of economic growth policy is strongly associated with the educational performance of the states. A future discussion will address the effects of statistical predictability on economic growth and income inequality using the Granger test of causality. The importance of this analysis is that causality suggests that changes in economic growth are able to predict changes in inequality, and vice versa, an element that has been little explored in the literature. In addition, the Brazilian states will be divided into two groups (those with higher and lower indices of inequality) for the purpose of verifying whether the effect of inequality on growth remains valid or whether other factors become more relevant in explaining the economic growth of these states.

#### Brazilian economic success solves everything—nuke war, climate change, development, poverty, disease.

**Pascual, 07** (Carlos Pascual, Vice President and Director, Foreign Policy, The Brookings Institution, September 28, 2007)

On the **existential** question of proliferation and the risk of nuclear proliferation, Brazil has been and can be a leader. There are very few countries in the world that have given up nuclear weapons programs, a rejec­tion enshrined in the Constitution in 1988. Brazil has to be a leader in the development of a new non-pro­liferation and disarmament regime that can take into account the complexity of the global environment and which can embrace countries as diverse as India, Iran, and North Korea. Having given up its nuclear weapons program, Brazil has both **credibility** and experience to lead in this effort. On the issue of climate change, Brazil has been a leader. There is no better subject to demonstrate the global na­ture of our interdependence. It does not matter where that next ton of carbon comes from, it ends up in the atmosphere and it mixes together; we all feel the effects and the impacts. For the last thirty years, Brazil has played an important role in the development of ethanol, but that development has not turned itself into a change of practice in the United States, unlike Brazil’s change in automobiles where 80 percent of new cars now run on some form of flex fuel. The implications for the rain forests are tremendous. The rain forests and deforesta­tion actually account for 25 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, and the irony is that the more greenhouse gases that are emitted, the more negative the impact that they actually have on the forests. It was in Rio de Janeiro that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change provided the very foundation for today’s discussions on climate change. Third, on questions of conflict and peace, Latin America has not developed deep organizational capacity for in­ternational peacekeeping. However, that has started to change. Today we see a Brazilian as the Commander of UN Forces in Haiti, exemplifying the willingness of Bra­zil to take a leadership role in dedicating its military to the promotion of peace in the hemisphere. Finally, we should recognize that poverty and disease also present global threats. Here we have come to un­derstand the **power of Brazil’s engagement in the world economy** and how that has lifted millions of people out of poverty. A critical part of this strategy is the institu­tion of the “Bolsa Familia,” the targeted social program that focuses on those who would be left behind. Further­more, the role that Brazil has played on issues such as health care, especially in Africa, are important. If Brazil is playing this kind of central role international­ly, we must ask whether Brazil is given an adequate voice in our institutional and multilateral structures? By this I mean Brazil’s participation in the United Nations Se­curity Council and other structures of the international security system. Is Brazil’s present-day power and lead­ership given adequate representation in the international system? These are some of the questions that I hope we can address during our discussion and debate today. Brazil is often looked at from an inter-American or, as they call it here in the United States, a “Hemispheric” perspective. I thought that, given Brazil’s foreign policy interests in other regions of the world and its increas­ingly global reach—something that is recognized by Sec­retary of State Condoleezza Rice and others in the U.S. government—it would be interesting to look at Brazil from a wider perspective. To summarize what is specific and interesting about the present moment is that Brazil is enjoying a time of un­usual promise. We have managed to reconcile economic growth while deepening our democratic roots and di­minishing inequality. This seminar can help us showcase this promising moment and hopefully improve the un­derstanding of the American public on developments currently taking place in Brazil right now. Economic performance is the strongest in recent mem­ory. Growth has been around 5 percent for the second quarter this year; exports have gone from $60 billion in 2002, to an expected $152 to $155 billion in 2007. Infla­tion is under target at approximately 3.5 percent. The crisis associated to the foreign debt has been overcome. Reserves stand at around $160 billion. Rather than go­ing from crisis management to crisis management, Brazil finally can look to the future and plan ahead. This has opened tremendous space for diplomatic ac­tivity. President Lula’s foreign policy has not only fo­cused on the region but more broadly, worldwide, in ways that reconfigure the geographic framework within which we operate. Special emphasis is placed on MER­COSUR and the building block represented by the re­lationship with Argentina—which is today the best in recent memory. Beyond that, Brazil is working hard for South American integration at a moment when all governments are democratically elected and all govern­ments have a social agenda, so there is a **strong** com­mon **foundation** to build upon.

### Solvency

#### Text: A just Brazil ought to recognize an unconditional right for workers to strike.

#### Crackdowns are the biggest barrier to squo general strikes, which R2S solves.

Hoffmann 17

Florian Hoffmann, 5-18-2017, "The Empire Strikes Back: On the recent general strike in Brazil," Critical Legal Thinking, <https://criticallegalthinking.com/2017/05/18/empire-strikes-back-recent-general-strike-brazil/> // HW AW

And all of this was, in its own way, reflected in the strike as it unfolded here: early in the morning relatively small pickets managed to blockade both the main bridge and the ferry terminal connecting downtown Rio with its neighbouring city Niteroi, thus causing major commuter congestion. Other acts throughout the city led to further shutdowns, with especially public schools (and many private ones, too) having adhered to the strike. Overall the picture displayed that slightly surreal mixture typical of this city: one could walk along busy shopping streets that would look just like on ordinary workdays, one could encounter, on public squares, small(ish) groups of protesters representing particular constituencies or institutions, and one could, later in the afternoon, congregate towards the Cinelandia square right in the historical city center to attend the main rally of the day, organised by the principal trade unions and a host of civil society organizations around a central stage, quite like any May Day event across the world . Yet, as if to rub in that things are different now, that there is not only a new government and a new politics, but a new ruling episteme, things unfolded rather differently: early on, during an otherwise peaceful march towards the Cinelandia meeting grounds, a small group of, perhaps, twenty individuals had apparently started to turn violent against (some) police and adjacent properties – in its reporting of the incident, the **mainstream press has uniformly tended to frame it as police legitimately reacting against ‘black blocs’ a priori intent on committing acts of violence.** That they, instead, might have been agents provocateurs -as has happened here before-, or simply a pretext for police to violently dissolve the rally was not reflected in (mainstream) news coverage. That the latter might well have been the case was, however, borne out by the facts as they unfolded thereafter, for police immediately reacted with heavy use of teargas and plastic bullets against the main body of the march, which was partially dispersed though managed to regroup to eventually arrive at the designated square. There it encountered a heavy presence of riot police, but otherwise the situation seemed to have calmed down, not least in the main body of demonstrators, which reflected a colourful cross-section of Brazilian society. For a short moment the crowd radiated the calm confidence that organized labour in Europe and, to an extent, North America, had attained, after a century of struggle, during the post-War ‘economic compromise’ and which, in turn, served as one of the models for labour relations during the Lula/Dilma period. It was like a flashback to another time, when union rallies were (almost) stately affairs, when the freedom of assembly felt like the historical achievement of a distant past, and when the police could be relied upon to actually protect that freedom by ensuring that its public exercise could go ahead. This vision was, of course, an illusion, and has been one, in Brazil, since at least the heavy-handed reaction to the 2013 mass protests which happened yet under Dilma’s watch. However, as many especially elderly demonstrators would affirm later on, what happened on April 28 on Cinelandia square went a step further, so far, in fact, that the most frequent comparison by those old enough to know was with the suppression of dissent by successive military governments after the (hot) coup of 1964. For, after about ten minutes, during which nothing violent had occurred within the large main body of demonstrators massed in front of the main stage, the police, without warning and obvious provocation, simply started to shoot teargas right into that very main body as well as directly onto the stage. Unsurprisingly this sent everyone running, resulting in a generalized dispersal into adjacent streets and squares; every so often the now fragmented crowd would stop, whereupon the police would close in and launch further teargas salvoes, block after block, until, well a kilometre from the original venue, people would literally escape into the metro and head home. In this generalized ‘clearing out’ strategy, police went as far as firing teargas into restaurants, shops, and metro stations into which groups of demonstrators had fled. The feeling that pervaded during this collective retreat, inscribed on people’s faces and occasionally vented in spontaneous chanting, was a mixture of incredulity (of the fact that the police had, in fact, just simply broken up a legal and legitimate, and, in the main, peaceful rally) and a rage so strong that it made some simply cry.

#### R2s supercharges Brazilian general strikes – empowers the labor movement by changing the power balance currently struck between workers and companies.

Gourevitch, PhD, 16

(Alex, PoliSci@Brown, Gourevitch, A. (2016). Quitting Work but Not the Job: Liberty and the Right to Strike. Perspectives on Politics, 14(02), 307–323. doi:10.1017/s1537592716000049 )

We now have a way of explaining the right to strike as something decidedly more modern than just residual protection of some feudal guild privilege. The right to strike springs organically from the fact of structural domination. Striking is a way of resisting that domination at the point in that structure at which workers find themselves—the particular job they are bargaining over. It is not that workers believe they have some special privilege but quite the opposite. It is their lack of privilege, their vulnerability, that generates the claim. Structural domination makes its most immediate appearance in the threat of being exploited by a particular employer, even though the point of structural domination is that workers can be exploited by any potential employer. The sharpest form that the structural domination takes is through the threat of being fired, or of never being hired in the first place. The claim that strikers make to their job is therefore, in the first instance, a dramatization of the fact that their relationship is not voluntary, it is not accidental and contingent. They are always already forced to be in a contractual relationship with some employer or another. The refusal to perform work while retaining the right to the job is a way of bringing to the fore this social and structural element in their condition. It vivifies the real nature of the production relationship that workers find themselves in. Quitting the work but not the job is a way of saying that this society is not and cannot be just a system of voluntary exchanges among independent producers. There is an underlying structure of unequal dependence, maintained through the system of contracts, that even the “most voluntary” arrangements conceal. This is not just a dramaturgical fact about strikes, though the drama has, in many cases, been nearly Greek in its intensity and tragedy. It is a point about power. It would not have the drama if it were not a power play. By demanding the job as a matter of right workers do not just publicize their domination, they attempt to challenge the forcing to which they are subject. Limiting the employer’s ability to make contracts with others, and preventing other workers from taking those jobs, is a way of reversing the power relationship. It is a way of neutralizing the threat of losing the job, which is the most concrete, immediate point of contact with that background structure of domination. If you cannot lose your job, you are less vulnerable, less immediately economically dependent. Of course, this does not do away with the background structure itself, but a particular strike can never do that. Though even here, there are times when a strike, as it becomes a more generalized rejection of structural domination—say in large-scale sympathy strikes or general strikes—can begin to challenge the broad structure of economic control itself.60 This is a challenge to the logic of the capitalist labor market that begins from within, at the location of the strike itself. At that point in the system, strikers temporarily reverse the relationships of power by eliminating that employers’ ability to use the threat of jobloss against them. They do that not just by claiming the job but by claiming it as a matter of right. The thought is that the exploitation of workers is unjustifiable, an unjustifiability that appears in the terms of the employment itself. Workers have the right to the job, and therefore to interfere with the employer’s property rights and other workers’ contract rights, because it is unjustifiable to subject workers to exploitative conditions. To be sure, many strikes and many strikers never articulate the argument in this language. But the point is not what workers always explicitly say, but rather what they do and what that doing presupposes. I am reconstructing the ideal presuppositions of a strike, and in particular, how to think about the peculiar set of assumptions about the right to a job. We have seen that it is no atavistic recovery of traditional rights and guild privileges but is a way of resisting a thoroughly modern form of social domination from a point within that structure of domination. Again, facing a freedom to quit the job but not the work, workers assert a right to quit working but keep the job. To put this all another way, though strikes are still about bargaining, and in that sense like market exchanges, they are simultaneously a challenge to the market as the appropriate standard by which to judge the fairness of workers’ compensation. The market is unfair because of workers’ structural disadvantage. Over and against the market value, strikers can argue that there are shared, or at least shareable, standards of fair compensation that employers should adhere to. While here again we see the echoes of feudal theories of “just price” and equity jurisprudence,61 we must note that in principle the claim is not, or does not have to be, based on special privilege. Rather, it begins by challenging the view that labor“freely” finds its value on the market. Workers are always already in relationships with employers and they cannot leave the basic relationship of earning money only by selling laborpower, no matter how many jobs they might quit. The standards we use for evaluating those kinds of forced relationships, like the state, are different, based on shared conceptions of justice and human need, not private agreement.

### Pre-Empts

#### “A” implies a singular government – common usage.

**Gorsuch, 20** **(Neil Gorsuch, SCOTUS justice, 4-29-2020, accessed on 11-7-2021, *Supreme Court of the United States*, "Niz-Chavez v. Garland", https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/19-863\_6jgm.pdf) //D.Ying**

Start with customary usage. Normally, indefinite articles (like “a” or “an”) precede countable nouns. The examples above illustrate the point: While you might say “she wrote a manuscript” or “he sent three job applications,” no one would say “she wrote manuscript” or “he sent job application.” See The Chicago Manual of Style §5.7, p. 227 (17th ed. 2017); see also R. Huddleston & G. Pullum, The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language §3.1, p. 334 (2002). By contrast, noncountable nouns—including abstractions like “cowardice” or “fun”—“almost never take indefinite articles.” The Chicago Manual of Style §5.7, at 227; see also Huddleston, supra, §3.1, at 334. After all, few would speak of “a cowardice” or “three funs.” These customs matter because the key term before us (notice) can refer to either a countable object (“a notice,” “three notices”) or a noncountable abstraction (“sufficient notice,” “proper notice”). Congress’s decision to use the indefinite article “a” thus supplies some evidence that it used the term in the first of these senses—as a discrete, countable thing. All of which suggests that the government must issue a single statutorily compliant document to trigger the stop-time rule. If IIRIRA had meant to endow the government with the flexibility it supposes, we would have expected the law to use “notice” in its noncountable sense. A statute like that would have said the stop-time rule applies after the government provides “notice” (or perhaps “sufficient notice”) of the mandated information—indicating an indifference about whether notice should come all at once or by installment.

#### Prefer common usage.

**Gorsuch, 20** **(Neil Gorsuch, SCOTUS justice, 4-29-2020, accessed on 11-7-2021, *Supreme Court of the United States*, "Niz-Chavez v. Garland", https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/19-863\_6jgm.pdf) //D.Ying**

Of course this is just a clue. Sometimes Congress’s statutes stray a good way from ordinary English. Sometimes, too, Congress chooses to endow seemingly familiar words with specialized definitions. But until and unless someone points to evidence suggesting otherwise, affected individuals and courts alike are entitled to assume statutory terms bear their ordinary meaning. And when it comes to discerning the ordinary meaning of words, there are perhaps few better places to start than the rules governing their usage.

## 2NR

#### The perm solves- refusal of work k2 post work futures

Solis 21

(Marie, <https://inthesetimes.com/article/workers-covid19-business-pandemic-jobs-employment-minimum-wage>, 9-24 )

In her seminal 2011 book The Problem With Work, Kathi Weeks argues that wage labor (one of the least-questioned arrangements in U.S. culture) is actually a social convention, not an economic necessity. As workers have become more productive and automation has picked up more slack, not much serious consideration has been given in the United States to the idea of reducing work hours. Instead, people work more and more. According to Weeks, having a job confers moral goodness and other virtues upon those who perform it, which is why people rarely question whether work is, in itself, good. If they did, they might see how work limits their pleasure, creativity and self-determination. The post-work future Weeks imagines, citing the scholarship of Paul Lafargue, would allow us to expand ​“our needs and desires beyond their usual objects” — to understand how we want to spend our finite time in the world, then go do it. The refusal to work is an important step toward getting there, according to Weeks. When workers reduce the hours they spend working (or stop working altogether), they are rejecting the idea of work as our ​“highest calling and moral duty … as the necessary center of social life.” It also allows workers to organize toward their revolutionary visions while improving their present circumstances.

#### Post work alternative isn’t fast enough for climate change

Battistoni, PhD Candidate, 14

(ALYSSA BATTISTONI is a doctoral candidate in political theory at Yale and an associate faculty member at the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research. https://inthesetimes.com/article/how-the-rich-ruin-the-environment)

We need to think seriously and expansively about these kinds of work and value — and about the real costs that ​“sustainability” will impose on individuals and communities. And we need to recognize that this is a truly collective project — that individualized, atomized systems of work and reward are increasingly untenable in the face of the interdependent tangle in which we’re enmeshed. How might we do that? To begin with, by divorcing income from conventional notions of production, and by instituting a social wage in the form of universal basic income. Basic income won’t, in and of itself, solve environmental problems; it won’t replace coal plants with solar panels or ease pressure on depleted aquifers. If instituted as a justification for cuts to other social programs, it would be disastrous both socially and environmentally; robust public services are necessary if we’re to live on less. But it marks a critical starting point in rethinking the relationship between labor, production and consumption, without which environmental hand-wringing will go nowhere. More pragmatically, in providing an alternative to dependence on destructive industries and removing the threat of job blackmail from communities desperate for livelihoods, it makes change a real option, giving workers and communities more power to demand protections against environmental harms. It can start to reorient social focus away from an eternal game of consumption catch-up toward the good life. It admittedly won’t do much to curb the upper bounds of consumption, at least not right away. But it might point in that direction. Environmentalists like to point to World War II for evidence that people will accept restrictions on consumption for the sake of a shared cause, but the so-called Greatest Generation didn’t exactly accept rations with a patriotic grin. What that experience does demonstrate, however, is that while people don’t like limiting consumption under any circumstances, what they really don’t like is cutting back if everyone else isn’t doing the same. That sentiment is typically mobilized in service of anti-welfare politics: why should I have to work if someone else just gets a check? But during the war, it went the other way: More than 60 percent of the population supported capping incomes at $25,000 a year, a relatively paltry $315,000 today. Of course, the post-work future has long been over the horizon; to propose it as a solution to such time-sensitive problems may seem wildly, even irresponsibly utopian. The revolution might happen in time to avoid environmental catastrophe, but we probably shouldn’t count on it, though some African climate activists have put basic income grants, financed by wealthy nations’ payment of ecological debt, at the centerpiece of their demands.