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A second round to expand the anti-fascist pact



Sources: Rebellion / Socialism and Democracy [Image: Lula on Paulista Avenue in Sao Paulo on October 2, 2022, once the election results are known: "We are going to win the elections, it is a matter of time." Credits: Lula's website]

In this article, the author reflects on the advisability of forging in these coming days a solid anti-fascist alliance that allows brazilian society to be redemocratized and outdated.

The final results of this Sunday confirmed the triumph of former President Lula da Silva (48.43%), although he did not manage to be elected in the first round as some polls predicted, it was too little for Lula not to win on this occasion. Undoubtedly, the concerted attack of the rest of the candidates towards who led the voting intentions was successful at

the moment when many undecided voters decided to tilt their support to the candidate of the extreme right.

Some analysts from Electoral Research Institutes point out that at the end of the process, the president benefited from the so-called useful vote that came mainly from the voters of Ciro Gomes and Simone Tebet (candidates who significantly decreased their vote) fearing for various reasons that Lula would be elected in the first round. Especially Ciro Gomes helped to feed an anti-PT sentiment, vehemently attacking Lula and the PT governments throughout the final phase of the campaign. Moved by that impression, at the time of the vote part of the voters of Ciro decided to give their support to the candidate of the extreme right.

In any case, the disturbing question remains in the air of how it is possible that 50 million Brazilians continue to support Bolsonaro after all the health, economic, social and environmental collapse that has been his government. This is a question that many people are asking today, given that it is clear that these four years have been disastrous for the country in all areas. A period in which the foundations of a project of democratic erosion and destruction of the democratic rule of law and corrosion of institutions were laid.

Apparently none of that mattered to 43% of Brazilians who ratified their support for an inept and genocidal president. Bolsonaro was disrupting and eating away at the entire Brazilian political system with his illegal and corrupt acts. He did so in his life story from the time he was expelled from the army for conspiring against that institution, including with the installation of bombs in the barracks. He allowed the enrichment of his family by illicit means and transformed all his children into parasites of a State that was complacent and indolent to the onslaught of illicit favoring (as in the case of the so-called *rachadinhas*)[1]. That is, the former captain transferred his infringing conduct in the various practices of his personal life to the scope of the Republic, contaminating and corrupting all those around him.

But the former captain not only contaminated those around him, he was also erecting a hard core with militiamen and characters with a truculent and criminal mentality. Bolsonaro gave support and opened the gates for the expression of opportunistic behaviors, at odds with ethics and legality: from transgressive behaviors considered

"minor" – such as not respecting the line to use the side roads of the road when it is collapsed – to clearly corrupt or criminal actions, such as attacking indigenous communities in demarcated territories or murdering indigenist or environmental defenders. That was the case of Bruno Pereira and journalist Dom Phillips, murdered on behalf of loggers in the Javari Valley (Amazonas) at the beginning of June of this year.

This true network of groups and individuals willing to break the law have been installed in the interstices of the Brazilian State under the protection of the military and government administration officials, building a criminal network of powerful tentacles and enormous capillarity in the national territory. The expressive presence of the militias in the State of Rio de Janeiro that displaced the drug traffickers, but that operate with the same contraventor logic, represents a challenge for democracy that through the incontestable control of the populations that inhabit that space spread terror and political manipulation daily.

It is a kind of lumpen fascism, which has features of the fascist forms characterized by Umberto Eco as eternal fascism in his book *Against fascism*, but which are combined with other more backward modalities of human behavior: perversity, contempt for life, the total absence of empathy for others, feelings of hatred and revenge towards the social body, etc.

Thus, the scenario that opens up after the first round of elections is undoubtedly of enormous complexity for the democratic and progressive forces. Many candidates of the so-called "Bolsonarism of roots" were elected governors, senators or federal deputies, strengthening the bases of representation of the extreme right. However, the left and progressive parties also increased their seats in those same areas, that is, in the state governments, in the Senate and in the Chamber of Deputies. Those who experienced significant reflux were the parties of the traditional right, the moderate right and the liberal. Parties such as the Social Democrat (of former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso) are apparently on the way to extinction in the medium term.

Last week I wrote about the formation of a Broad Front to defeat fascism, for which very little was missing. The challenge now facing candidate Lula and the parties of his support base is to further expand the agreements to consolidate a democratic bloc that electorally defeats the neo-fascist project that aims to obtain its continuity in the country. Lula has

pointed out that this second turn must be seen as an opportunity to mature the proposals and build a range of alliances before winning, to show the people what is going to happen, how the country is going to be governed.

In a polarized environment – not radicalized, since the radicals are from the extreme right – between the Democratic Pact led by the Workers' Party versus the retrograde forces of the ultra-right, the tendency is that the two candidates (Simone Tebet and Ciro Gomes) who obtained the highest vote after Lula and Bolsonaro, join this great front destined to end the current administration.

The civilizational crusade is just beginning, but it is essential to – at least in this instance – remove a government that has managed to dismantle the State and destroy public policies to support the poorest and most vulnerable populations of Brazil. Four weeks are coming that will put the democratic repertoire of Brazilians to the test, transforming Lula's triumph into an imperative of survival that allows us to overcome this dark period of pain and devastation.

Note

[1] This is a crime in which Flavio Bolsonaro (deputy at the time) was accused of setting up a scheme in which phantom officials returned part of the salaries paid by the State.

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