

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم
بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

Juraima Almeida

17.10.2022

Lula, Bolsonaro, democracy, fascistization and fundamental rights



Sources: Strategy (CLAE) / Rebellion [Image: After the rally held in Sao Bernardo do Campo on April 7, 2018, Lula was carried in his arms by the people. Credits: Júlia Dolce/Brasil de Fato]

In this article, the author analyzes the agents acting in the electoral scenario for October 30: the churches (Catholic and neo-Pentecostal), the fakes, the military and the campaigns and support of Lula and Bolsonaro.

Brazil's Oct. 30 runoff election, which will see former progressive President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and current far-right President Jair Messias Bolsonaro, turned into a contest with dramatic contours for democracy and fundamental rights. And not only for Brazil.

There are just over two weeks left, worth decades for Brazilians. The elections, in their first round, showed that Brazilian politics does not only follow global political polarization. Civilizational regression became a policy that allowed the resurgence of fascism and all kinds of reactionary ideologies.

It is a second round in which the artillery of the electoral agenda increased, both in duration and intensity. The slogan of Bolsonarism is to insist on "Lula thief". Bolsonaro said in Recife that Lula "is going back to jail," after noting that he defends free trade, as opposed to the "oppressive state," supposedly preferred by his opponent.

The main strategy of the Bolsonarista campaign is to reinforce the association between Lula and the PT governments to corruption cases in the attempt to expand the rejection of the former president. The Lulist campaign entered Bolsonaro's rhythm, but it does not face what is not only the PT's greatest taboo, the issue of corruption.

Voters, more than newspaper clippings talking about their innocence, want to see documents. Uninformed or with distorted information, the voter, to this day, does not know that Sergio Moro, the corrupt judge who convicted Lula for the so-called Operation Car Wash, was also Bolsonaro's justice minister.

Today, Bolsonarism is the political vanguard of the extreme right and a serious risk to democracy and to the social conquests that workers have obtained as a result, precisely, of democracy. The possibility of Bolsonaro's victory in this runoff is a message that terrifies. Jorge Branco, executive director of Democracy and Fundamental Rights, points out that there are two reasons why the repercussions of this election are much greater than the simple election of a four-year government, since "in the case of the victory of the candidate of the reaction, its implications will be dramatic and will produce harsh repercussions on the economy, the politics and culture of Brazilians."

There are reasons why a sector of society supports reactionism. The cumulative sequence of the governments of Michel Temer and Bolsonaro almost completely destroyed the country's labor legislation. The bonus, paid holidays, the distinction of overtime and the limitation of the working day, for example, were social conquests and not natural rights.

The continuation of the elimination of labor rights is an objective that the business sectors have achieved from their support for the Bolsonarist candidacy. It is no coincidence that

now there are complaints of harassment by employers about workers who may eventually vote or support Lula in this second round.

For this fascist/lumpen-bourgeois bloc to achieve its goal of diminishing or eliminating social rights, it is necessary to eliminate or reduce the instruments of resistance of the workers and the poorest. Therefore, measures to reduce democracy are essential for this bloc.

Incapacitating unions, suffocating universities or eliminating policies of social reparation, make up a "basket" of dedemocratizing policies that will involve the alignment of the justice system and the STF in particular, the political persecution of opposition leaders, alteration of electoral legislation, concealment of government measures, elimination of spaces for participation, favoring communication companies aligned with fundamentalism and reaction, says Branco.

Military

While discussing the possibility of a military coup in case Lula wins, it should be remembered that far-right ideas have become the majority among the general officers of the Armed Forces who move in public circles producing revisionist content about the military dictatorship, the coup of 1964, revitalizing dark and abstract theses against communism and the communist danger.

These guidelines pave the way for Bolsonarism and fascism to co-opt great support among the military, including the base of the Armed Forces and military police, and taking important political positions in the Bolsonaro government. However, there is no unanimity in the alignment with Bolsonarism.

If Lula wins, he will have to agree with the constitutionalist and democratic sectors of the high officialdom to restore a policy of rebuilding the role of the military.

Fakes

In a second round in which the artillery of the electoral agenda increased, in duration and intensity, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) seems to have surrendered in the war of *fake news*. Among other reasons, because in the terms signed with digital platforms no clear mechanisms were adopted to prohibit content and sanction infringements.

As ineffective, the agreement ended up allowing the avalanche of fake news that the TSE fails to stop. Also the authority of the magistrates of the TSE, so eloquent at other times of the pre-campaign, has disappeared, despite some attempt such as that of magistrate Paulo de Tarso Sanseverino, who determined that Bolsonaro's campaign must take out of the air

the electoral propaganda in which former President Lula is described as "corrupt" and "thief".

Since the pronouncement on the eve of the first round, the president of the TSE, Alexandre de Moraes, made mutis for the forum. But he wasn't the only one to shut up. In the week, Bolsonaro threatened 15 magistrates of the Supreme Federal Court, the Supreme Court of Justice...

Between Moraes' pronouncement and the current avalanche of *fake news*, a Senate capable of getting into several messes with the Supreme Federal Court (STF) was elected. And the referee's withdrawal helped push PT into foul play, despite the disadvantage on a pitch where the opponent has more experience and fewer scruples.

Campaigns

As political scientist Emir Sader points out, Lula's interventions, in the massive rallies throughout the country, in his struggle for the politicization of the campaign, run through television programs. There he makes his diagnosis of the reasons for the crisis facing Brazil, followed by how his government faced it and how he intends to return to govern Brazil.

Bolsonaro develops a completely different strategy convinced that he loses if both governments are compared. He chooses an extremely aggressive discourse as his general orientation, with the aim of criminalizing the PT, inciting hatred against the members of the adversary party, which has already left the balance of at least 10 PT militants killed.

Lula's campaign team is forced to deny a number of fake news spread by Bolsonaro's campaign (there is talk of millions of *fake news* throughout Brazil. Behind, a network of robots financed by Brazilian and foreign entrepreneurs who sponsor the worst invented Cambridge Analytica system, with experience in the Brexit campaign (the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union) or in the campaigns of Donald Trump in 2016 in the US and that of Bolsonaro in 2018.

Despite reactions such as that of the Federal Public Ministry, which gave a deadline for Senator-elect Damareo Alves (Republicans-DF) to prove the accusations of eschatological pederasty, the control institutions are not able to clean the wastewater of the campaign

The Superior Electoral Tribunal determined the removal from social networks of a video recorded by the Bolsonarista federal deputy of Minas Gerais Nikolas Ferreira, which associates Lula with the use of drugs, murder, censorship, abortion and closure of churches. The TSE gave a deadline of 24 hours for the removal of the video, but in that period millions more people saw the video. The evil was done, the electoral objective of

slander was reached and while electronic communication is instantaneous, the law always arrives late

Dilma's optimism

"The Brazilian dictatorship took 21 years to be metabolized by Brazilians. Because society digests it. And we managed to do that process in less time. In six years, we are in the middle of an election, and now we can elect President Lula at the end of this month, and that I think represents a victory for Brazilian society," explains former President Dilma Rousseff.

Despite the advance of the extreme right in the National Congress, with openly Bolsonaroist names, elected to both Deputies and the Senate, Dilma believes that the candidacies of black, indigenous and trans women who won in this election will make an important fight against conservatism.

This Lula

The writer Cristina Serra points out that the market did everything possible to sell a third-way candidate, to someone clean, who knew how to use cutlery, to deepen the ultraliberal agenda of Paulo Guedes, owner of an *offshore* fortune, which fell into convenient oblivion in the pages of the press.

As it did not work, now, in the tone of ultimatum, the market tries to impose its own logic and agenda on Lula, trampling on dynamics of politics, at a time when the candidate seeks to expand his base of support, not only to be elected, but to govern the fractured country that will come out of the polls, in case of being victorious.

Serra indicates that it is regrettable that *Folha de Sao Paulo* assumes the role of spokesman for foolishness, demanding from Lula the recognition that "the liberal agenda of recent years has brought lasting progress" and demanding that the candidate indicate who will be his Economy Minister.

Maria Cristina Fernandes, an analyst at *Valor*, recalls that when, in April 2018, Lula got on the sound truck, in front of the Metalworkers' Union of São Bernardo, for his last speech before the arrest, everyone expected him to raise the flag of Brazil and say 'I'm not worried about what's going to happen to me, but what's going to happen to Brazil.'

But he chose the path of deification: "my heart will beat for your hearts... I am no longer a human being, I am an idea mixed with your idea."

Stop suffering

For the sociologist Orlando Calheiros, there is a theocracy in Brazil, from the moment when Christian (or rather Pentecostal) values became confused with the values of society

itself and the State without it being necessary to have an officially instituted religious leadership.

It's not just *fake news*, it's also explicit coercion, it's a threat of a curse, it's moral siege, open persecution by Pentecostal church leaders. In which many frightened faithful join, afraid to manifest any discontent, afraid of being discovered. These are not people afraid to say they will vote for Lula, but those who are uncomfortable with the ways Pentecostal churches are embracing Bolsonaro.

Winner of the first electoral round on October 2, Lula was at ease when he toured a favela of the Complexo do Alemão, in Rio de Janeiro, where the inhabitants - with flags of all colors, also red of the PT - greeted the leader in a white shirt.

Without much religious boast, the former president showed an image of Nossa Senhora de Aparecida, patron saint of Brazil, before neighbors in one of the most violent communities in the country subjected to the hostility of drug distribution gangs and the Militarized Police. In several of these poor neighborhoods the evangelical population exceeds the Catholic population. This irritated the Bolsonarist extremists.

Soon after, they were again irritated by a religious's sermon dealing with poverty and inequality. In the Bolsonarist canon such comments on the reality of a country with 19 million fellow citizens suffering from hunger amount to a confession of communism.

Currently 53% of Brazilians are Catholic and about 30% are evangelical. A recent Datafolha poll showed that Lula has 55% among Catholics against his rival's 38%. And among evangelicals Bolsonaro leads with 62% against 31% for the center-left politician.

Neo-Pentecostalism, an Anglo-Saxon religious-ideological product, proposes the the theology of consumerist and unequal Prosperity that encourages war against religions of African descent and hostility to progressive Catholicism.

Juraima Almeida is a Brazilian researcher, associate analyst at the Latin American Center for Strategic Analysis (CLAE).

Source: <https://estrategia.la/2022/10/14/lula-bolsonaro-la-democracia-la-fascistizacion-y-los-derechos-fundamentales/>

Rebelión has published this article with the author's permission under a Creative Commons license, respecting her freedom to publish it in other sources.

Rebellion 15.10.2022