

# BRAZILIAN REVOLUTION INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

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## A PERSISTING POLITICAL CRISIS AMONG BRAZILIAN RULING CLASSES

As a result of the persisting world and local capitalist crisis, the national Brazilian situation has been marked by an intense dispute among reactionary classes. In 2018, even though the different strata of the Brazilian ruling classes unified themselves around Jair Bolsonaro candidacy, that would not mean that, after electorally defeating Fernando Haddad's candidacy, from the reformist "Toilers' Party" ("Partido dos Trabalhadores", PT, in Portuguese), these strata were not about to fall, once again, into fratricide disputes that were already seen during the governments of Dilma Rousseff and Michel Temer.

After the end of the payment of the emergency relief during the late 2020, Jair Bolsonaro already sees his popularity melting down, and thus fears the consequences it might bring about during the 2022 presidential elections. As a mean to counter this trend, he has been making demagogic statements for the return of the emergency relief, upsetting his Minister of Economy, Paulo Guedes, who sees the return of the emergency relief in a negative way, even though the latter seizes this opportunity as a form of bargain to stick down his neoliberal agenda through the Brazilian people's throat. In January 2021, Jair Bolsonaro has faced the threat of a new strike of truck drivers to elapse. Nevertheless, gathering up with Right-wing trade union bureaucrats and leaders of transport companies' asso-

ciations, he has managed to empty the strike under the promise of reducing the prices of fuel and raising the prices of road shipping.

Such commitment, however, is impossible to fulfill under the conditions of a pro-imperialist pricing policy that prevails in the state-owned PETROBRAS ("Petróleo Brasileiro S.A.", in Portuguese, or "Brazilian Oil S.A."), that favors the import of means of production from imperialist countries. On February 19, Bolsonaro has dismissed Roberto Castello Branco, the then Chairman of PETROBRAS, and named the reactionary general Joaquim Silva e Luna to replace him. There is strong evidence that this naming suggests that Bolsonaro intends to change PETROBRAS' pricing policy to save his own neck, and furthermore, to keep up the perspective of encroachment of the Brazilian state by fascist military. With an ever more demagogic speech, Bolsonaro has stated his "social stand" towards PETROBRAS' pricing policy.

Nevertheless, Bolsonaro will not manage to save his neck without intensifying the disputes among reactionaries more and more. Since February 19, the stocks of PETROBRAS have shrunk 15,15%, and the stockholders are not seeing these statements with good looks.

The Brazilian people must take the disputes among reactionaries as an opportunity to move forward with its own struggles.

**DOCUMENTARIES AND MOVIES ON THE BRAZILIAN REALITY.** As we stated in our first issue, released in June 2020, the Brazilian Revolution International Bulletin is a monthly publishing by the Communist Reconstruction Union (CRU), that aims to form up an international web of solidarity with the struggles of the Brazilian people and with the perspectives of resuming the Brazilian revolution, acquainting the friends of the Brazilian people from abroad about the features of the Brazilian society and on how its people has been struggling against imperialism and local reactionary classes. To attain the aim set by the Brazilian Revolution International Bulletin, the CRU has been writing articles on different subjects about our reality. To deepen this work, we took the initiative to translate, to English and Spanish languages, subtitles of documentaries about the Brazilian reality and about the struggles of our people, broadcasting them from this current issue of the Bulletin. The reader will be able to see them on the page 7 of each issue.



# On neoliberalism and the so-called “autonomy” of the central Bank

Amid one of the toughest moments of the sanitary, economic, and social crisis faced by Brazil, the Chamber of Deputies has approved, under urgency regime, the Supplementary Draft Law of the so-called “autonomy” of the Central Bank. On February 24, Jair Bolsonaro has sanctioned the Draft Law.

The main change, with the approval of this draft, is that the Federal Government will no longer have the right to dismiss and name the Chairman of the Central Bank and eight other directors of this institution. The draft also sets that the main task of the Central Bank is to “fulfill inflation targets”, to ensure the “stability of financial system”, and to “promote investments” and full employment.

According to the speech of the so-called Orthodox economists, ideologues of the so-called neoliberalism, this change would be benefic because it would exclude the possibility of political interference in the Central Bank, and it would allow decisions on monetary policy to be taken under a “technical” standpoint.

In fact, it only excludes the possibility of the Federal Executive Government to establish changes in its monetary policy according to the demands of the country, and it hands over all the decisions to financial market agents – those who occupy the

chairs of the board of directors of the Central Bank are, invariably, people with a long career on financial market and private institutions, as stockholders or senior officials.

Other change made by the draft is the allowance, by the Central Bank, to open bank accounts with dollar currencies on national territory. Some changes were also made to favor exporters to keep foreign currencies abroad. These measures undermine the capacity of Brazilians in assuring sovereignty over their monetary policy, they favor the foreign exchange flight and make the country more vulnerable to the fluctuations of international markets.

Such deeply anti-national and anti-people changes unify all strata of reactionary classes that currently dispute the administration of the Brazilian state, from the allegedly more traditional and “civilized” Right-wing to the fascist gang of Jair Bolsonaro and the many groups that gather up the caste that sustains his government.

Despite the differences concerning how to carry on the dismantle of the country and the suppression against the people, they do not diverge on the fundamental issue: they are all minions of foreign monopolies, landlords and the local big bourgeoisie.



**BANCO CENTRAL DO BRASIL**



# BANCO DO BRASIL



## Further steps are taken in the privatization of Bank of Brazil

As usual as in the history of Brazilian privatizations over the last thirty years, successive governments have been taking measures to stifle the services provided by state-owned companies, thus opening path for further privatization.

Entirely aligned with the pro-business aims of Jair Bolsonaro's government, the leading body of the state-owned Bank of Brazil has announced, on January 2021, a "restructuring" of the company, which is nothing more than a "Voluntary Layoff Program" (PDV) that intends to remove 5.000 employees from its staff and to shut down 361 bank units all over the country. Such measure will be only useful to sell out illusions about an "advantageous" way out for the workers who accept the layoff program. In fact, we will only see worsening work conditions and a larger exploitation of bank workers.

Another predictable consequence of the shutting down of the units, especially the bank agencies, will be the worsening service provided for the population, especially in small towns and in the regions that are far from South and Southeastern Brazil. The only ones who will benefit from this will be the stockholders and board directors, who shall have even more obscene profits than the ones registered in 2019, that has reached 18.6 billion reais (USD 3.35 billion), 41% more than in 2018.

As an answer to the crackdown against this state-owned company, the workers have decided to

stop working to protest the measures taken by Bolsonaro's government and carried forward by his minion André Brandão. The work stoppage took place on February 10.

Bolsonaro, by seeing the thaw of his popularity in the opinion surveys, has initially and supposedly stated his disagreement with the changes, and has supposedly even threatened to dismiss Brandão. Nevertheless, Brandão remains in his post, and the PDV is about to reach its target of 5.000 layoffs.

Besides, in a door-shut ministerial meeting held in April 2020 (however, this meeting came to be publicly broadcasted), Bolsonaro has shown concern with the 2022 elections, and has stated that only in 2021 he would discuss the privatization of the bank. In other words, this demand is a close by one.

Under the aim of privatization, there are some immediate tasks to be fulfilled. Among them, the dismantle of the Bank of Brazil, currently carried on through layoffs and through the shutting down of units that provide services to the population. These changes intend to raise the profitability of the company through cuts of expenditures in maintaining physical agencies and harshening the exploitation of workers, who will be compelled to perform the tasks of the ones who accepted the PDV. A favorable "environment" for the privatization of Bank of Brazil is thus created.



# The return of in-person classes and the struggle of educational workers in Sao Paulo



On February 5, teachers of São Paulo state have held a meeting through which they approved the stage of a strike against the return of in-person classes, due to the rising wave of infections by Covid-19. The strike recently set by APEOESP (Official Schooling Teachers' Trade Union of the State of São Paulo) has begun on February 8, under the slogan "Schools closed, lives preserved." According to underestimated figures that were released only two weeks ago by the state secretary of Education Rossieli Soares, the schools of São Paulo have (public and private ones) registered, since the beginning of this year, 741 confirmed cases of infection by Covid-19.

It is not a recent fact that teachers in São Paulo are subject to inappropriate work conditions. Under the current situation, however, the conditions are unsustainable: Brazil has recently completed 15 following days with an average of more than a thousand daily deceased by Covid-19. In São Paulo, the units of intensive care have reached almost 70% of occupation – the highest average of occupation of hospital beds since May 2020.

As the teachers get back to their work routines, there will be risks of infection not only in the classrooms, but also during travels in the overcrowded public transports of metropolitan regions.

With the return of the students' body to in-person classes, then, consequences would be devastating. In Campinas municipality, for instance, Jaime Kratz School, that has opened its doors on January 25, has already registered, on February 3, 42 cases of infection by Covid-19, and it had to shut its doors right away. Besides, it took place in a private school, which, according to its directive body, was operating with a shift of 35% of students a day and fulfilled all sanitary protocols. Even this was not enough to prevent the upsurge of infections from Covid-19 in this school.

São Paulo state governor João Dória and his clique make no effort to hide their genocidal agenda. They put themselves as gravediggers of toilers by subjecting to risky situations at least 160.000 teachers in the more than 5.000 public schools of São Paulo.

The demand of the strikers is to maintain online classes, just like in 2020, not attending the schools, neither taking part in in-person classes, until all workers are inoculated. They are also for the lives that will be certainly slaughtered in an eventual in-person return. The strike holds, thus, claims of strong people's appeal, which we must support and spread to achieve the adherence of other strata of the proletariat and to strengthen the strikers' movement.



# CLASS STRUGGLES IN BRAZILIAN RURAL AREAS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2021



Far from the drums of media conglomerates, the beginning of 2021 has been marked by the persistence of reactionaries' death policy towards Brazilian peasants and indigenous peoples. Amidst this reactionary offensive, the Brazilian rural toiling masses have been carrying on actions of resistance as well.

On January 14, 2021, Bolsonaro's government has issued a decree that authorizes the permanence of the National Force of Public Security for 45 more days in Dourados and Caarapó municipalities, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Center-West region of Brazil. These municipalities are inhabited, in a great extent, by Guarani-Kaiowá national minority, whose ancestral domains find themselves, in their overwhelming majority, encroached by agro-industrials and landlords who carry on capitalist farming for producing cash crops like soybeans, sugarcane, and to raise cattle. The permanence of the National Force in these municipalities reveals the intents of the Brazilian state in safeguarding the interests of rural oligarchies and suppressing the struggle of Guarani-Kaiowá people for claiming and regaining their ancestral lands.

In the state of Piauí, Northeastern region of Brazil, on January 14, 2021, military policemen invaded Morro D'Água village, in Baixa Grande do Ribeiro municipality, with the intention of displacing the

inhabitants of Gamela national minority. It was only at the 5th day of the attacks that the Judicial Power of Piauí state has suspended the order of eviction. One must consider that such eviction directly benefits foreign capitalists who grab lands in this region to produce soybeans and other cash crops.

In Rondônia, Northern region of Brazil, military policemen have attempted to conduct, on February 4, 2021, the eviction of more than 380 farm families (about 1.500 people) of Alta Floresta Settlement Project, which began in 1992 over Amorim estate, a huge idle latifundia of about 20.000 hectares. Such eviction would directly benefit the landgrabber and former Senator Ernandes Santo Amorim. Even though the Federal Public Ministry has remarked the illegal nature of this operation, the military policemen have torned down many houses and burned down farm instruments of the peasants.

The Brazilian farmers, nevertheless, have been carrying on their struggles. On February 01, about 150 farm families have occupied Santa Rosa estate, in Frei Inocência municipality, Minas Gerais state, Southeastern region of Brazil. In Alagoas state, Northeastern region of Brazil, peasant families of Marielle Franco village, in Atalaia municipality, have blocked BR-316 highway on February 22, to denounce the attempt of the city Hall to displace them from the land they occupy.





## **Neocolonial laws slash national and food sovereignties of the Brazilian people**

To paint colonialism with colors of modernity is an old practice of imperialists and Brazilian reactionaries.

Five years ago, right after the impeachment of Dilma Rousseff, the then Minister of Agriculture, Blairo Maggi, a soybean magnate, used to state that the fact that Brazilian landlords and agro-industrials did not have the possibility of handing their lands as a collateral hindered them from borrowing money from international financial institutions. During that period, Draft Law 4059/2012, that allowed the purchase and leasing, respectively, of up to 100.000 hectares of farmland in Brazil, by foreign natural persons or legal entities, was under debate. Blairo Maggi and other reactionaries asserted that such draft law would solve the “problem of financing the Brazilian agriculture”, that it would carry on a “modernization” of rural areas, and it would open path

for the entry of Brazil at OECD. It is important to remark that countries like Congo, Palestine, and others, in the extent they had their lands encroached by foreign powers, have faced no modernization, but rather colonialism and underdevelopment. Unlikely, countries like the United States and China, which have really undergone modernization, strictly protect their lands from foreign control.

In the end of 2020, Federal Senate has approved the country-selling Draft Law 2963/2019, that allows the purchasing of up to 25% of the farmlands of Brazilian municipalities by foreigners. The draft law remains to be voted by the Chamber of Deputies.

Facing an eventual possibility of handing his lands to a foreign owner, a Brazilian landlord may borrow some hundreds of millions, or even billions of dollars from foreign financial institutions. We will be able to burn this amount sumptuous consumption, or to spend only minor parts of the borrowing on effective production, if he gives as a collateral the huge idle latifundias of some dozens of thousands of hectares. Therefore, this law will have no other consequence rather than sumptuous consumption and the intensifying of the trend towards the raising of land-grabbing and idle latifundias. Between 2003 and 2013, according to figures of the National Institute of Settlement and Land Reform (INCRA), the idle latifundias have raised from 133 million hectares to 228 million hectares in Brazil.

The revisionists and reformists of the “Communist Party of Brazil” (PCdoB) and the “Labor Democratic Party” (PDT) could not be more wrong in considering the country-selling landlord class as “nationalists”, and in spreading illusions that landlords could oppose Jair Bolsonaro government, for the sole reason the latter had diplomatic troubles with countries like China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and others who import Brazilian rural production.

Since the end of 2020, parliamentary opposition, and the mass movements of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Southern region of Brazil, have been struggling against the approval of Draft Law 260/2020, that allows this state to import pesticides that are banned in their countries of origin. Rio Grande do Sul is the only Brazilian state that, up to now, forbids such practice. In the rest of Brazil, however, foreign capitalist conglomerates receive super-profits by selling, under monopoly prices, pesticides that are banned in their countries of origin, harshly harming the health of Brazilians and the work conditions of agricultural laborers.

# DOCUMENTARIES



In “**Tucuruí - The Saga of a People**”, produced by the “Movement of People Affected by Dams” (MAB), we can see the situation experienced by the population that was impacted by the building of Tucuruí Hydroelectric Plant, in the state of Pará, Northern region of Brazil, that was built in Tocantins River between 1974 and 1985, during the fascist-military regime that ruled Brazil in its period. It was built to serve the interests of Japanese and American aluminum industries. The building and operation of the dam became a torment for the native populations, who had to deal with the loss of their land and livelihoods, with the diseases that were brought by the environmental impact, with violence by the Brazilian State and the exploitation imposed by multinational companies to ensure their overwhelming profits.



**Denounces slave labor in cocoa producing regions of Brazil.** In Brazil, the word “slave labor” is used in a broad sense to name pre-capitalist forms of exploitation, or the more backward forms of capitalist exploitation. In 2019, Record bourgeois press conglomerate has directed documentaries that turn eyes over the pre-capitalist forms of exploitation that prevail in cocoa plantations in our country, especially in the states of Bahia and Pará. Even though it has a bourgeois and paternalistic stand, the documentaries emphasize important features of prevailing relations of production in Brazilian rural areas, as well as on how these backward relations of production bring about the degrading living conditions of poor peasants and farmworkers. Those who are interested on having a better look over agrarian issues in Brazil will find a good source of thinking in these documentaries.