

CHAPTER XIV – BRAZIL’S ELECTORAL DICTATORSHIP AND DEADLY CORRUPTION

^(1st) Brazil is a huge and wealthy country, which is why it is highly desired by global powers. As a result, it was turned into a colony for exploitation from the moment it was discovered, stripping its people of peace and freedom. The United States, on the other hand, were settler colonies and became successors to England and its imperialism.

^(2nd) In the U.S., land was divided among many people, helping to decentralize power. In Brazil, land was handed out to a few, concentrating power in their hands. This way of distributing power created an oligarchy⁵¹⁰ that controlled the country together with the Catholic Church and Freemasonry — and always working to serve imperialism. However, since the United States began with slavery and accepted social exclusion instead of working to uplift everyone, they face political problems similar to ours.

^(3rd) Freemasonry, the Catholic Church, and those who control economic power act like nations above nations. They reach across countries and build a network of protected individuals who form a pyramid of power that leads up to the wealthiest. Through this way of distributing power, a huge oligarchy of big corporations and multinational companies is created. It stands not only above national identities, but also above political systems like capitalism and communism—even though these systems may fight each other at other levels.

^(4th) Today, the power of the Catholic Church has been split up with the rise of many other Christian churches competing with it. But these churches still follow a similar ideological path, staying silent together on issues they should address, or getting involved in matters that are not really their responsibility. Freemasonry also kept its influence over different churches. It is controlled by the Illuminati, an even more secretive group. The Illuminati gather the leaders of major corporations and governments.

^(5th) During the Brazilian Empire, the influence of the Freemasons was well known. Dom Pedro I and the advisors of Dom Pedro II were Freemasons. Even though Dom Pedro II was not a Mason himself, he often showed that the real power was not in his hands, but in the hands of the wealthy. And when he challenged the oligarchies by abolishing slavery, he was overthrown by the republic, which those same oligarchies supported.

^(6th) Today's political candidates are a continuation of that same system, as Freemasons still influence their selection through a network of connections. The problem is that these choices are made with the goal of profiting off the population, and when that's the case, domination becomes sick and destructive — hurting others in order to control them. That's why, throughout its political history, Brazil has continually suffered from acts of destruction driven by foreign interests.

^(7th) During the military dictatorship, João Goulart, known as Jango, was removed from the presidency because he broke away from the controllers' plans and was about to give real power back to the Brazilian people. Contrary to what many

⁵¹⁰ *Oligarchy* — means “rule by a few” in Greek. It is a form of government in which political power is held by a small group of people, often from the same family, political party, economic elite, or professional corporations.

claim, he was actually very popular. In fact, at that time, elections for president and vice president were held separately, and he received more votes for vice president than Jânio Quadros did for president.

^(8th) After Jânio Quadros resigned in 1961, Jango became president and served until 1964. On March 13, 1964, after signing a few decrees, he held a rally at Central do Brasil in Rio de Janeiro, gathering around 130,000 people, where he announced the “Base Reforms”⁵¹¹ aimed at bringing social and economic changes to the country. Because of this, just a few weeks later, on March 31, 1964, the military coup took place and removed him from office. On April 1, 1964, the military officially took control of the government. Jango was then forced to leave the country and went into exile in Uruguay.

^(9th) João Goulart passed away in 1976 in Argentina. I, like many others, believe he was poisoned, despite the official report saying he died of a heart attack. After all, he was the main target of imperialist forces who see themselves as the real owners of Brazil. He wasn't a communist, but fighting the big trusts and defending our resources and people had become a common cause at the time, thanks to the work of Monteiro Lobato. In his book *The Oil and Iron Scandal*⁵¹², Lobato exposed how imperialists, with the help of the government, tried to take over Brazil's riches. One proof that the imperialists were not really fighting communism, but rather fighting the Brazilian people, is the fact that during the military dictatorship, our films were censored — yet many ideas from our movies were later used by the United States, among other things.

^(10th) Meanwhile, all resistance leaders and potential leaders among the people were being suppressed. A notable exception was Leonel Brizola, who, despite being Jango's brother-in-law, survived the military coup and even went on to win important political positions. However, his public image was heavily attacked by the Globo TV network. A trace of this conflict was the right to respond publicly, which he won years later, on March 15, 1994⁵¹³.

^(11st) During the military dictatorship, presidential candidates were chosen by the armed forces and voted on by the Electoral College, which was formed within the National Congress after opposition leaders to the coup were removed. Through Institutional Act No. 2 (AI-2) in 1965, all political parties were dissolved, and only two new ones were created. ARENA (National Renewal Alliance) was the government party, and MDB (Brazilian Democratic Movement) was the tolerated opposition. In 1979, President General João Batista Figueiredo signed the Law on Political Parties, bringing back a multi-party system. The political opening process began in 1984, when Tancredo Neves was chosen as the candidate for the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), a successor to the MDB, and Paulo Maluf was chosen as the candidate for the Social Democratic Party (PDS), a successor to ARENA.

^(12nd) Mass media gave huge coverage to these elections, pushing public opinion to see Tancredo Neves as the "good guy" and Paulo Maluf as the "bad guy." This psychological strategy got people very involved with the election, even though it was still an indirect vote. In the end, Tancredo Neves won, but before he could take office, he got seriously sick with diverticulitis⁵¹⁴ and passed away, causing deep sadness across the country.

⁵¹¹ João Goulart intended to implement agrarian, tax, administrative, banking, and educational reforms.

⁵¹² This book is best discussed between paragraphs 209 and 213 of Chapter XVI.

⁵¹³ Cited in a footnote in paragraph 37 of Chapter XIII.

⁵¹⁴ Diverticula — are pouch-like bulges or sacs that form in the walls of the intestine. Diverticulitis is the inflammation of these sacs, which can rupture and spread fecal contamination throughout the body.

^(13rd) The truth is that all the excitement created around this situation worked perfectly for those in power, because it helped people forget about the military dictatorship and focus happily on the upcoming elections. It made people less suspicious and helped give more legitimacy to the next candidates. In reality, the population was being led into a dictatorship that simply had elections.

^(14th) In the next elections, Fernando Collor was elected, thanks largely to heavy promotion by the mass media. Many images showed him swimming, practicing martial arts, and running. Right after he was elected, TV aired an image of a woman dancing samba naked in a carnival-themed clip — the character called "Globeleza." This was part of a gradual process where sometimes sexualized content distracted people from politics, and sometimes politics distracted them from the ongoing sexualization.

^(15th) Fernando Collor's election campaign taught me that dominationists legitimize their actions by making them seem like popular victories. After all, Fernando Collor had a shady past, and people didn't really have strong reasons to vote for him. The dominationists win people's sympathy to get what they want. This matches what Foucault teaches about "docility and usefulness," as discussed in Chapter IV.

^(16th) Because of this, when the rulers don't grant something, people tend to accept it, feeling like they failed because of their own lack of action or that of others. But that's not what really happens. The will and rights of the people have been violated since the country was founded. When people react, either their reaction is isolated, or they are killed. One way to isolate people is by blocking information to prevent others from joining. As a result, most people aren't even motivated to try to react because they feel like it would just be a lonely, pointless effort.

^(17th) Fernando Collor had an extremely well-funded campaign — very lavish. His photo was everywhere — on walls and poles all over the country — and hypocritically, his main political promise was to fight against the so-called "marajás" (corrupt elite bureaucrats)⁵¹⁵. At the time, people had no idea we might be getting manipulated by imperialist powers because there was no public information linking the United States to the military coup. However, Collor's actions showed his hostility toward the people. He practically approved mass media hypnosis when he revoked Decree No. 51,009/61⁵¹⁶.

^(18th) From the very first civilian elections after the coup, with strong support from the mass media, our politics became polarized between the right and the left⁵¹⁷. The right was associated with capitalism, and the left with communism. However, I believe these labels mainly serve to confuse and divide the population, since this is more of an economic split than a political one. After all, both capitalist and communist governments have imposed economic dictatorships on their people. For

⁵¹⁵ *Marajás* — was the nickname given by Fernando Collor at the time to government officials and retirees in political power who received millionaire salaries from the state.

⁵¹⁶ Decree No. 51.009/61 — prohibited performances or standalone acts involving hypnosis and lethargy, in any form, in clubs, auditoriums, theaters, or radio and TV stations. Unfortunately, this was repealed by Decree No. 11, dated January 18, 1991, under then-President Fernando Collor.

Source: Camara. Available at: <https://www2.camara.leg.br/legin/fed/decret/1960-1969/decreto-51009-22-julho-1961-390635-publicacaooriginal-1-pe.html>.

⁵¹⁷ The political left-right spectrum is a system for classifying political positions, ideologies, and parties based on issues of social equality (left) versus social hierarchy (right). The terms "left" and "right" originated during the French Revolution (1789–1799), when members of the National Assembly seated themselves as supporters of the king (Ancien Régime = domination) to the right of the president, and supporters of the revolution (equality, liberty, fraternity = liberation) to the left.. Source: Wikipedia. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left%E2%80%93right_political_spectrum

example, the freedom that capitalism has given to populations has not protected them from corporate and government abuses. On the other hand, Cuba, despite being communist, has much better social indicators than the U.S. in health and education, even while facing all the blockades imposed by that power.

^(19th) In my view, the correct definition is that the right supports greater government control over the population, while the left supports greater direct participation of the people in government decisions. Based on that, our *Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988* is left-leaning, because it defines our government as a democracy and aligns with the ideals of equality, freedom, and fraternity. It still has mechanisms to remove contradictions and to turn the guarantees for the people into unchangeable clauses⁵¹⁸ — so that they cannot be altered.

^(20th) But our governments are right-wing because they don't obey the law and even create smaller laws that go against the *Constitution*. We are living under a kind of dictatorship, and being dictatorial is being right-wing — despite many philosophical texts that try to confuse this issue.

^(21st) Look at how our system is dictatorial: if I'm missing the spare tire from my car, the police can tow it to their lot or to a private one. Now, what's more unsafe — being without a spare tire or being without a car? One time, because I didn't have a spare tire, the police took my car at night on a rural road, miles away from the city, during a health crisis. I was alone, and I have health problems. That was a coordinated act of oppression that violated higher laws, including moral ones, putting my health and safety at risk. The police suddenly showed up on the dark road as if it were an ambush and even bullied me.

^(22nd) Current traffic rules create opportunities for the police and the government to act in a dictatorial way, but people rarely think about it. Traffic control is a strategic tool for a dictatorship, because even though we have *habeas corpus*, we are still detained by other, more arbitrary means that *habeas corpus* doesn't cover. This is made worse by the lack of external records of police actions.

^(23rd) The expressions we use in Brazilian Portuguese reveal a lot about our untold history. One example is the speech patterns from Minas Gerais⁵¹⁹, which hint that, during colonial times, domination in Brazil also involved the English.

^(24th) “Uai,” for example, is such an old expression from Minas Gerais that its origins are unclear. But to me, it seems obvious that it comes from the English word “why”, since in Brazilian Portuguese it's an interjection that expresses questioning. Another expression that supports this idea is “That's for the English to see”, meaning following a protocol just for appearances, even if it's pointless. Both expressions suggest that the English had authority over Brazilians — who were constantly questioned and pushed to follow protocols by the English.

⁵¹⁸ *Federal Constitution of Brazil*, Article 60, § 4 — “A proposal of amendment shall not be considered if it aims to abolish: I - the federal form of the State; II - direct, secret, universal, and periodic voting; III - the separation of Powers; IV - individual rights and guarantees.”

⁵¹⁹ Native of the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais.

^(25th) A century ago, the big debate in Brazil was about how our elections were fraudulent, from the selection of candidates to the actual voting. Today, voting in Brazil doesn't represent democracy but rather dictatorship. That's why many people distrust the electronic voting system and the electronic ballot boxes. I myself, in the first edition of this book, expressed an opinion against electronic voting.

^(26th) João Goulart was the first truly democratic president of Brazil — something that didn't fit the plans of the imperialist powers — and that's why the military coup happened. The goal was to take control of our electoral system again and reshape it so it wouldn't be democratic. The changes were designed to make corruption part of the system and to take away the guarantees of so-called democratic rights. The kind of politics we see in Brazil today seems more focused on keeping people uninformed than helping them understand what's going on. That's one reason why presidential elections happen in the same year as the World Cup. The games distract people and leave little time for them to think about who the candidates are. For elections to be more fair and meaningful, this schedule would need to change.

^(27th) So far, Brazil's electronic voting machines haven't shown signs of being open to fraud. And officially, the switch to electronic voting was made to fight fraud. However, this topic isn't discussed with the public — but it should be. At the very least, people should be informed about the security features that make electronic voting safe.

^(28th) Some countries that either stopped using electronic voting or chose not to use it widely include the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Today, in Spain, Italy, and Portugal, electronic voting is only used in pilot tests that have no legal value⁵²⁰.

^(29th) On March 3, 2009, in Germany, the Federal Constitutional Court ruled that the law allowing electronic voting machines was unconstitutional. The reason was that the machines didn't let ordinary citizens verify the vote counting process without needing technical knowledge⁵²¹. This was considered unconstitutional because elections are supposed to be public acts, and if the vote counting isn't transparent, it becomes a private matter.

^(30th) In the United States, a documentary called *Hacking Democracy*⁵²² was released in 2006. It shows a three-year investigation carried out by US citizens. The film talks about the irregularities and problems with electronic voting systems during the 2004 presidential election. It focuses especially on issues with machines made by the company Diebold.

^(31st) In France, electronic voting machines are called “voting machines” (Machine à voter). In 2007, they were used in 81 towns during the presidential election, which caused a lot of controversy. There were many public protests and legal actions against this type of voting. After all the backlash, the number of towns allowed to use these machines was frozen, and the Ministry of the Interior created a task force to deal with the issue. By 2015, they were in use in only 65 towns, and one of the most common problems was that the number of votes cast was higher than the number of signatures recorded⁵²³.

⁵²⁰ Source: Sénat. Available at: https://www.senat.fr/lc/lc176/lc176_mono.html

⁵²¹ Source Wikipedia. Available at: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vote_%C3%A9lectronique

⁵²² Source: Wikipedia. Available at: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hacking_Democracy

⁵²³ Source: Interstices.Info. Available at: <https://interstices.info/le-vote-electronique-10-ans-apres/>

(32nd) Here in Brazil, these debates have not been supported by technical or logical reasons so far. They’ve mostly been used to stir up people’s anger. In this country, it’s common to see families divided over politics, while politicians from opposing sides often hug each other in private as if they were close friends. But if we can understand that all politicians — no matter their side — are working together for a bigger truth, we can start healing our anger about politics.

(33rd) Any politician who takes office is just a public employee. It’s our job to make sure we get the most out of their work, no matter which party they belong to. The real problem is when people only complain without looking for a solution.

(34th) From my point of view, under current conditions, Brazilians actually need to weaken the political continuity in the Legislative and Executive branches in order to strengthen the Judiciary. If we strengthen career judges in the judicial system, there’s a good chance we can at least make sure the Executive and Legislative branches follow the law — and stop making illegal laws. That doesn’t mean the Judiciary is perfect, as I’ve said before, but strengthening it helps restore the balance we need.

(35th) The dictatorship we live under — even though we have elections — is exposed by events like those involving the group “Freedom for the 23.” This group worked on grassroots education in poor communities and spoke out against the failure of our representative system. In 2013 and 2014, they organized protests against the government’s abusive actions during the World Cup. For doing this, they were treated like terrorists, persecuted by the government, and sentenced to seven years in prison — including Dr. Camila Jourdan⁵²⁴, one of the members. All of this happened just because they dared to challenge the control of wealthy countries and expose imperialist corruption. This group also warns that social movements are being treated like criminal activity, as part of a broader wave of authoritarian repression.

(36th) Abuses against the population are carried out publicly, but in a hypocritical way — like the amnesty granted to the military officers involved in the coup. Actions like this are the reason why social activists from that time still suffer the consequences of the military dictatorship. It was a strategy to keep military crimes off the record. Because of this, we still see torture in prisons, unlawful arrests, home invasions, illegal infiltration of protests, wiretapping of lawyers’ phones, and large bribes offered in exchange for plea deals, among other abuses.

(37th) The military intervention in Rio de Janeiro in 2018 and the abusive behavior of police forces show that the door to oppression is still open. This demands constant vigilance from the public to defend their freedoms and rights.

(38th) So far, many deaths have been caused both by the government’s actions and by its failures to act. The population ends up becoming a co-author of this control, because people often complain, speak negatively — even about themselves — and criticize their own people. They repeat the narrative of dominationists without

⁵²⁴ Dr. Camila Jourdan — professor of philosophy at UERJ, author of the book 2013 – Memories and Resistance and anarchist activist. She speaks on behalf of the group on their YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYqUYs1zH8jKr8NxBr_ssYA.

trying to understand what's really going on. And this population has a lot to be understood, because it holds universal traits.

^(39th) For example, whenever a political scandal comes up — which happens often here — people's first reaction is to blame the population for not knowing how to vote, as if the problem were only about education. But we have a system where someone is always elected in every election — even if it's by a minority — as long as they get more valid votes than the other candidates. So, refusing to vote because there are no honest candidates doesn't change anything, since elections are never canceled. So, the election of corrupt politicians isn't the people's fault — it's the fault of the groups who choose the candidates.

^(40th) At the same time, everyone knows that dominationists aren't interested in education. Today's governments use institutionalized anti-feminism as a tool to fight it. They portray the teaching profession as if it were only made up of women, and they devalue women's income as if it were only used to buy perfume. So, while in the military dictatorship teachers were violently killed, in today's so-called electoral democracy, their voices are economically weakened in order to be silenced.

^(41st) In 1991, in the state of Minas Gerais, the governor at the time, Hélio Garcia, spent a large sum on TV ads that indirectly spoke out against the teachers' strike. That amount was actually more than what was needed to meet the teachers' salary demands, proving that the issue wasn't economic. Still, the public was heavily influenced by the ads, which played a role in preventing teachers from achieving their goals.

^(42nd) If the public doesn't support teachers — and ends up going against its own interests — it's because it's directly influenced by broadcast media and the internet. And ever since Fernando Collor lifted the ban on the use of hypnosis in entertainment and opinion-based programs⁵²⁵, who can truly say their opinion is free from psychological manipulation? Most people claim it is, but the truth is that if they watch TV, use the internet, or play electronic games, they really can't be sure. It's true that hypnotic influence was already widespread before the ban was lifted — but after that, the practice stopped being questioned at all.

^(43rd) Given the long-standing political continuity within the parties, election security actually benefits the dominationists. In fact, the security of the process goes far beyond the voting machines themselves — they're just one part of it. The old manual system was highly vulnerable, and fraud was common. The electronic voting system was created and has been under development since 1996, with the goal of preventing fraud, and it has increasingly taken the shape of a security system.

^(44th) Encryption and electronic signatures ensure that the data processing remains unreadable to anyone outside the Electoral Court system. They also link each stage of the process to those responsible, sealing every phase. This enables thorough oversight of the entire procedure.

^(45th) The voting machine software receives hash codes, which allow its authenticity to be verified in a way considered tamper-proof. The software is audited at least twice: once during the Public Security Test and again during the Digital Signature and System Sealing Ceremony. Both are public events, attended by watchdog entities from various backgrounds, and the systems are sealed at the end.

⁵²⁵ Repeal of Decree 51.009/61 by Decree No. 11 of January 18, 1991

^(46th) The Public Security Test takes place right after the voting machine software is generated and one year before the elections. In this test, security experts and hackers (system intruders) who have been selected through public calls, either individually or in teams, attempt to break into the voting machine system. If they succeed or identify any vulnerabilities that could allow a breach, the system is then adjusted to fix the problem.

^(47th) The Digital Signature and System Sealing Ceremony occurs twenty days before the election, right after election officials load the data⁵²⁶ into the machines. During this ceremony, public tests are conducted again for oversight purposes, and any citizen over 18 years old can attend. The physical seals on the machines are inspected by party representatives on election day.

^(48th) In another type of audit, some voting machines are randomly selected and sent to the capital, where they are filmed during a parallel voting session on election day to verify the accuracy of the vote count. This procedure is also carried out at local electoral offices. In addition, these offices can use audit software to investigate any suspected fraud at any point in the process.

^(49th) When the voting machines are loaded with data, they receive a new security number generated by the system. They are then linked — through their hardware ID and digital ID — to a specific voting zone and section. This unique identification is how the system recognizes each machine, and the Electoral Court does not accept vote transmissions from machines that do not match this registration. This is one of the features that prevents machines from being swapped or replaced.

^(50th) It's important to note that the voting machines have no external access ports — only the power button and the voting keys. They do not accept a mouse, keyboard, or any hardware or software input. The machine only recognizes software developed by the Electoral Court, which is closed-source. If someone tries to tamper with it, the machine locks itself, as it does not accept external commands. It only operates according to its programmed functions and schedule. If it's turned off, when restarted, it continues exactly where it left off. Therefore, any physical tampering would only succeed in damaging the machine.

^(51st) The voter list is registered in the voting machine 150 days before the election. This is the cutoff date. Any changes made after that are not recorded. The names on this list are the ones that will appear in the official voter roll. Anyone whose name is not included in the machine's program will not be able to vote at that polling station.

^(52nd) The main security measures protect the source code, the voting machine hardware, and the vote tally transmission. The machines are also not connected to the internet.

^(53rd) When it comes to transmitting and counting the votes, three control systems are used, and they monitor each other. To function together, they must not be exposed to any external interference.

^(54th) As an additional security measure, local electoral offices are disconnected from the internet starting the day before the election and remain offline throughout election day. All data transmission is done through a private network (intranet).

⁵²⁶ This means to enter or upload the necessary information.

^(55th) Before voting begins, a *zerésima* report is printed to confirm that no votes have been registered on the machines. This report is repeated at each level of the election. It is a written document printed in multiple copies and posted at the polling place as a guarantee for the voters.

^(56th) After voting ends, a ballot box report is printed — a report showing the votes recorded in that specific machine — and it must match the number of voters. To protect vote secrecy, the system also creates a digital record where the votes are shuffled so no one can link a specific vote to a specific voter. The unsealing of the machine and the printing of the reports are done in plain sight, under the supervision of election monitors, without any internet connection and without moving the machines from the polling place.

^(57th) There is also no way to swap the voting machine's USB drive, because in addition to party observers being present, the drive contains records that confirm the software on it is the same as that from the Electoral Court. The report issued by the Electoral Court (TSE) confirming vote transmission must match the printed report from the voting machine. A copy of the ballot box report must be provided to any party or coalition representative who requests it — and this must be done within one hour of the report's printing, if requested.

^(58th) All of these measures create widespread public oversight. So, for election fraud to happen, it would take much more than the will of a TSE minister — it would require the involvement of a whole network of people and methods from various sources. It would also have to happen in a very short period of time. That's what makes fraud practically impossible. However, since all these security tools are integrated, the removal or trivialization of any one of them would already put the system under suspicion, especially concerning the public reports.

^(59th) What makes our elections illegitimate isn't the electronic process or the voting machines — it's the deep inequalities involved in the electoral campaign itself. One key issue is the dominance of political parties: politicians are bound to their parties and can even lose their seats in the legislature if they go against party interests.

^(60th) In election campaigns, the free broadcast time given to parties is unfairly distributed. Ninety percent of the allocated airtime is divided among the six largest parties, based on how many seats they hold in the House of Representatives. Only the remaining ten percent is distributed equally among all other parties. Alongside that, there's a spending limit in election campaigns, which makes candidates rely on government-provided advertising to get elected.

^(61st) This might even seem fair at first, but in practice, it keeps the dominant political system inherited from the military dictatorship, even though the parties have changed names over time. The fact is that the politicians who were part of the government during the dictatorship had more visibility in earlier elections. Because of that, they formed parties and political successors who, since they already had representation in Congress at the start of the reopening of our electoral system, are now much larger and much wealthier than the others.

^(62nd) On the other hand, it's important to point out the lack of political independence in the Judiciary, because the justices of the higher courts are chosen directly or indirectly by politicians. This is the case with the justices of the Supreme Federal Court (STF), the highest court in the Judiciary, where all members are appointed by the President of the Republic, as well as with the justices of the Superior Electoral Court (TSE). This contrasts with the situation of career judges, who must

meet strict requirements to remain politically neutral, which leads people to assume they are impartial.

(63rd) But the TSE is responsible for approving the registration of new political parties, so it should be completely free from political influence. Ideally, judges should go through internal selection exams to compete for positions as justices, appellate judges, and judges in the higher courts, where merit and seniority would also, of course, be taken into account. These processes would also take into account their qualifications and seniority. It would be a good way to encourage judges to keep studying and improving.

(64th) For now, this situation doesn't pose a specific problem for elections, since, as we've mentioned, the system is protected by broad public oversight. However, it does create problems for the judiciary as a whole, since the Executive and Legislative branches often refuse to comply with its rulings. Even worse, they often don't follow the law and end up being taken to court. So they shouldn't have any influence over the highest positions in the Judiciary.

(65th) The process of granting some welfare benefits shows this systemic problem, where the Executive branch only does its duty after going through the courts, which makes the process take longer—when, in this case, it should be quick.

(66th) This policy kills the population in an indirect way, making our society fragile, because it becomes dominated by insecurity, which leads to selfishness. Everyone focuses on the importance of money, since those who don't have it are exposed to many risks — including when they get sick. In today's public healthcare system (SUS – Unified Health System), it's relatively easy to schedule appointments with common specialists, get basic tests, and receive cheaper medications. But beyond that, unless a person goes to court, it's very hard to get the care they actually need. Still, according to some accounts, our public health system is better than some health insurance plans in the U.S., especially considering they don't have a nationwide public healthcare system like we do in Brazil.

(67th) Another major political problem we face is the lack of land ownership by farmers — or people who want to become farmers. After all, food comes from the land, and without producing it ourselves, we're at the mercy of whoever does. Owning land is a form of power, and a country where the people have power is a powerful country. This is a political failure that's existed in our country since its very beginning.

(68th) Agrarian reform was one of the main changes proposed by the president who was overthrown in 1964 — and maybe that was the biggest reason for his removal, even though he was willing to give up his own land for redistribution⁵²⁷. Big landowners and imperialist powers see themselves as the true owners of the country. They don't want that to change — and they're willing to kill to stop it.

(69th) However, the way land redistribution happens today resembles a kind of social terrorism. It often targets the wrong people and spares the powerful. On top of that, the government pays far less than the land is worth and takes too long to do it. A gradual program to buy and distribute land near roads and water sources — like

⁵²⁷ This fact was reported on the front page of *Jornal do Brasil* on March 15, 1964. Available at: https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=0qX8s2k1RwC&dat=19920614&b_mode=2

João Goulart once proposed — would bring much better results. The beneficiaries of the program would be monitored by the government, required to take annual training courses and actually work the land. Their production would be enough to cover the property payments, but the process of acquiring the permanent property title would only begin after 5 years of proven production.

^(70th) In this program, the government could deploy agents to provide free services using machinery and equipment for these new producers, helping with plowing and land management. It could also buy their crops and livestock to supply schools, hospitals, and even pharmaceutical industries. That way, this would be an investment that pays off for the State through domestic supply. And transporting this production would also be cheaper, since the farms would be located near highways and focused on supplying nearby areas first.

^(71st) But instead of supporting fundamental agricultural production, the government also manipulated it in harmful ways. That's because we've only had imperialist political leaders so far, even though the wealthy parties sometimes call themselves right-wing and other times left-wing. At certain times, the government handed out agricultural incentives unfairly, helping some while hurting others.

^(72nd) In fact, the biggest problems we discuss in this book are caused by imperialist politics — like manipulating education to produce functional illiterates or using broadcasting to miseducate the public. Politicians are persuaded to act against the people, but that's also the reason they go along with it: they themselves were miseducated and misinformed. In the end, poorly educated politicians tend to be less intelligent and end up acting against the people out of dishonesty — even though they could help everyone, including themselves, get richer by living in a prosperous society without having to spend money on security.

^(73rd) The change in retirement rules is another example of the harmful influence of imperialist politics, which weakens the population. There's probably nothing that resembles slavery more than being forced to work too much — and that's exactly what this policy promotes. Among the poor, many start working young — legally at 14. But in 1998, Constitutional Amendment No. 20⁵²⁸ raised the minimum retirement age and eliminated the option for early, proportional retirement. This hurt everyone, especially rural workers in Brazil, who often start working much earlier than other groups and do physically demanding jobs.

^(74th) And you know what's worst about all this? Our political system is carefully designed to make the people turn against each other, keeping control in the hands of imperialist forces. Wealthy parties, often funded by foreign oligarchies of business, promote polarization by offering candidates — both on the right and the left — who have high disapproval rates. But both sides serve imperialist interests. This tricks the public into choosing one candidate just to block the other, and in the end, imperialism — which is basically another word for corruption — always wins.

^(75th) Because these candidates get the most media coverage and attention, the public ends up playing along with this psychological game of polarization, believing that the other candidates have no real chance of winning. This leads to more focused and more hostile disputes among people.

⁵²⁸ Constitutional Amendment No. 20. Available at:
http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/constituicao/emendas/emc/emc20.htm

(76th) This process speeds up because of opinion polls about voting intentions. When a candidate from one side leads in the polls, the candidate from the other side gains more supporters. And because that second candidate gets more support, the first one gains even more, and this cycle continues until the election. So, people end up ignoring their side's early rejection just to focus on fighting the other side.

(77th) Now, it's easy to influence polls dishonestly without any obvious fraud. All the pollster needs to do is inform and invite people from their preferred party to show up at the places and times where the polls will be done, so they can make their opinions known. Sometimes this only needs to happen at the beginning, since the process can keep going on its own after that first push. And I believe that's what's happening.

(78th) As a result, people vote out of frustration, not because of political beliefs. They just want to vote against the other candidate. Many say they voted for the one nobody likes because they had no one else to vote for. But if someone doesn't trust any candidate, the right thing to do is not to vote.

(79th) This system makes people live based on anger, not on love for ideals. The dominationists make the public believe their vote doesn't matter, so they stop caring about politics. If people could also express their rejection and even cancel an election when necessary, rejection wouldn't be a problem. In reality, information about rejection rates is watered down. Maybe politicians are getting elected by just 10 or 20% of the population—those are the valid votes—while the rest of the people actually reject them. That's why today's dictators prefer to manipulate the results instead of blocking elections—this way, rejection is tolerated instead of leading to real consequences.

(80th) Even coups are supported by a large part of the population. The military coup in Brazil was backed by the elite and the military, who controlled the media. That way, many people believed it was the will of the majority and gave in, because people tend to go along with social consensus. It was easy to believe that, especially because right after the coup, we no longer had popular elections.

(81st) Another common saying is that “every people gets the government it deserves.” But that's not true for our country. Our corruption doesn't rise from the bottom up—it comes from abroad and from the top down. This situation goes on until poor people see no value in their vote beyond getting a bag of cement or a basket of food. Sometimes, the benefit of selling a vote is simply getting a break from work, because many Brazilians work without any time off, paid vacations, or holidays.

(82nd) All the ways the people could reject an election through disapproval have been blocked, because that possibility isn't written into the law. The law only counts valid votes, even if they are very few, and ignores all other situations. During election periods, the obligation to vote is heavily promoted, along with the penalties for not voting—like being barred from public job exams or losing wages if you're a public employee.

(83rd) The big illusion created by this legal, political, and psychological system is the idea that voting is truly mandatory. After all, the fine for not voting is extremely low. In fact, if there were no fine to take the place of voting, Brazil couldn't even call itself a democracy. The fine can be paid on any business day, and that cancels out any punishment for not voting.

(84th) One way to fix this kind of manipulation would be to regulate campaign ads more fairly. Ideally, free broadcast ads should be split equally among all candidates, with a slightly larger share going to candidates running for executive positions.

(85th) Campaign ads should also be short and simple—just showing the candidate’s photo (the same one used on the voting machine) and real footage of their past work. The ads would include only the candidate’s résumé, their key government priorities, and the party’s website address. And these priorities should be specific, such as: cutting politicians’ benefits by 99%, slashing the political party fund by 95%, ending “parliamentary amendments,” and doubling teachers’ salaries. The websites would be open to public oversight and subject to penalties for false advertising or baseless attacks on other candidates. There, candidates could explain their plans in more detail and be openly evaluated by the public.

(86th) Opinion polls about voting intentions should simply be eliminated. Any poll like that should be viewed with suspicion, even if there are many promises to fight fraud. Those who manipulate our society launch an idea and make society bring it to life. So, removing voting intention polls would be a way to prevent that.

(87th) The excess number of candidates is another factor that causes a lot of confusion during elections. This happens mainly because there’s no pre-election to choose who should actually run. For executive positions, the more candidates there are, the better the chance of discovering an ideal and honest leader.

(88th) Before the elections, political parties would invite all their members to vote for candidates according to their political district. For national elections, there would be a nationwide call; for local ones, a local call. Voters would need to be registered party members, and the voting could even be done online. This model would create space for new leaders to emerge.

(89th) In each election, there would be two types of votes: for and against. This would start from the candidate selection phase, which is a strategic step in solving our political problems. That way, voters could express both their approval and their strongest rejection, and a candidate’s negative votes would cancel out their positive ones. And so, with simultaneous votes of approval and disapproval, we would put an end both to political duels — which are, in reality, thrilling mechanisms of social division — and to governments formed by the candidates most rejected by the people.

(90th) Finally, for a candidate to be elected, the votes they receive should represent a significant portion of the population — at least 20% or 30% — for the election to be considered valid. If no one is elected due to low voter turnout, the legal substitute for the current office would temporarily take over the vacant position while a new election is held, this time with different candidates from the original race.

(91st) In the Legislative branch, there are currently too many candidates, which disrupts the voting process. But this happens because there’s an even worse excess—too many members in the National Congress. It’s just too many people! This harms citizens’ ability to be properly represented. So, the number of lawmakers should also be reduced.

(92nd) Parliaments are not crowds—they are meant to be selective groups. Today, the high number of members is justified by the idea that diverse interests across the population need to be represented. But in reality, just a few people are enough to

represent all the interests of a state's population. After all, elections are meant to unify opinions and reduce conflict. Whoever gets elected must be held accountable by all social groups, and a small group can still represent them all.

^(93rd) If the social body is treated like an organic body, it will grow and become more balanced as a whole—because every part of the body matters. Even a small cut or puncture affects the whole body. In the same way, social development must be approached as something that benefits everyone. If we follow that path, over time, we can build a more balanced society.

^(94th) But instead, because there are too many members, it becomes impossible to properly monitor Congress. As a result, we see lawmakers acting for their own interests and against the public good. This would be much harder if the National Congress had only 100 members—a number that would still be enough for decision-making and would make it easier to track how each one votes.

^(95th) The abusive lack of control in Congress could start to be fixed if lawmakers were required to follow a chronological order when voting on bills. This system is already used in the Judiciary and leads to more transparency and honesty. If members of Congress had to follow this rule, they would need to catch up on their legislative duties before voting on their own salaries. This would make it easier for the public to follow what's going on and increase pressure in case of any wrongdoing.

^(96th) It's important to remember that both the Executive and Legislative branches must follow all the core principles of public administration⁵²⁹ — just like the Judiciary already does. These principles are more important than their internal rules. When they don't follow these principles, it's as if they see themselves as being above the law. This is actually one of the main signs that we're more like a dictatorship, because in a real democracy, no one is above the law.

^(97th) The five most important principles of public administration are: legality, impartiality, morality, transparency, and efficiency.

^(98th) The principle of cost-effectiveness should force politicians to give detailed explanations for how they spend office funds and government allowances. It's worth noting that just the fact these allowances are used in full—considering how absurdly high they are—is enough for us to suspect dishonesty from politicians⁵³⁰. In fact, this could even work as an indirect way to spot corrupt politicians through the transparency portal⁵³¹. But things have gotten so bad that people already assume all of them are corrupt and try to fight what they hate the most with someone just as bad.

^(99th) At the same time, poor communities are often drawn to sympathize with politicians and their bad habits because of small financial benefits offered by the government. In many small towns, politicians win public support during campaigns by throwing public parties and handing out lots of free alcohol. Sometimes people are

⁵²⁹ *Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988*, Article 37 — “The direct and indirect public administration of any of the Powers of the Union, the States, the Federal District, and the Municipalities shall follow the principles of legality, impersonality, morality, publicity, and efficiency, and also the following: (...)” (Wording given by Constitutional Amendment No. 19, of 1998)”.

⁵³⁰ Information about members of the legislative branch can be found on the official website of the Chamber of Deputies. Available at: <https://www.camara.leg.br/deputados/quem-sao>.

⁵³¹ Parliamentary spending transparency. Available at: <https://www.camara.leg.br/transparencia/gastos-parlamentares>

even “bought” with just ice cream or popsicles. There are also those who get paid to campaign for a politician, and then feel obligated to vote for them with their whole family—just because they think the candidate is “a nice guy.”

(100th) And the peak of absurdity when it comes to embezzling public money and buying votes? Just look at the sequence: the “*Mensalão*”, the *secret budget*, and the *rapporteur’s amendments*. The Brazilian budget, which should look like a chart drawn with a ruler and compass, ends up looking more like a cake that’s been torn apart—where the people are left with nothing but crumbs. Honestly, I don’t see much difference between the *mensalão*, the *secret budget* under the last government, and the current *rapporteur’s amendments*. What’s ironic is that this scheme started with a president labeled “left-wing,” then moved to one considered “right-wing,” and then went back again to that same left-wing president.

(101st) If I were to narrate this match—where the budget is the ball—I’d say: “Lula comes in from the left, steals the people’s ball, and commits a foul. The ref stops the game to call the penalty, but the people aren’t allowed to take the shot. Instead, Bolsonaro, playing on the right—on the same team as Lula—grabs the ball and... goooo! Now there’s no one defending the goal—not the TCU, NO ONE! And Congress storms the penalty area, scoring goal after goal. Too many to count! The ref says the goals shouldn’t count and the ball needs to go back to the people. But the players suddenly change the rules of the game—and now it counts! Madness! Madness! Madness! Either the ball’s going to explode or the net’s going to rip! And the people GA-VE UP playing, folks! They just gave up! Everyone went to the stands to drink and party, cheering wildly for the other team’s strikers! The politicians are paying for the party.”

(102nd) Well, for those who don’t remember, the *Mensalão* case — or Criminal Case 470 — was a vote-buying scandal involving lawmakers during Lula’s first term in 2005. Back then, this was judged a crime⁵³².

(103rd) The crisis reached its peak with a clash between the President and Vice President of the Supreme Federal Court (STF), Justices Joaquim Barbosa and Ricardo Lewandowski. The former believed that the lawmakers convicted in Criminal Case 470 (the *Mensalão* case) should automatically lose their seats by decision of the Court, while the latter argued that this was the responsibility of Congress.

(104th) Honestly, I fully agree with Joaquim Barbosa, and to me, it’s just common sense — someone convicted in a criminal case should never be allowed to keep serving as a member of Congress. But in the end, the opposing view won, and it all led to Justice Joaquim Barbosa’s retirement in 2014, officially due to health issues.

(105th) Yeah... when the understanding of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are disregarded, it’s like discrediting the entire judiciary. So stepping down quietly was probably the most dignified option. And that idea — that Congress has supremacy over the Judiciary — still holds to this day, putting lawmakers legally above the law.

(106th) The worst part of these budget abuses isn’t just the money — it’s the mechanism behind it. It becomes a pyramid-like structure for buying votes, completely destroying what

⁵³² Criminal Case 470 — Active corruption, passive corruption, embezzlement, money laundering, fraudulent management, criminal conspiracy.

Source: Supreme Federal Court (STF) Portal. Available at:
<https://www.stf.jus.br/arquivo/cms/noticiarnoticiastf/anexo/relatoriomensalao.pdf>

could be called a democracy. The President releases public funds so lawmakers can carry out projects in their home districts. That way, lawmakers buy support from voters with those projects — or who knows in what other ways?

^(107th) In 2020, under the following government of President Bolsonaro, a right-wing leader, the secret budget was created. This was orchestrated by the presidential palace with support from the Centrão group. The tool they used was the *rapporteur's amendment* (RP-9)—a type of budget amendment that, incredibly, doesn't show *who requested it, where the money is going, how much it is, or what it will be used for*. In other words, it's a black box full of millions⁵³³.

^(108th) And then we see how governments keep passing the ball back and forth as if they're on the same team—not left or right. What started as *mensalão* became *secret budget*, which became *parliamentary amendments*. But I could give this a much more “technical” name. Parliamentary amendments are divided into three types: *individual, caucus-based, and rapporteur amendments*.

^(109th) The individual amendments are those proposed by each senator or representative—these must be carried out by law, according to Constitutional Amendment 86/2015. But the rapporteur's amendments—the ones we're talking about here—still lack transparency. Now they're just hidden under new labels like “committee amendments” or “parallel amendments”⁵³⁴. In short, the secret budget became a budget with no name or face. In 2024, over R\$8.5 billion was spent this way—with unclear criteria and no public oversight⁵³⁵.

^(110th) It's important to remember: according to Article 2 of the Constitution, “the branches of government are independent and must work in harmony.” But vote-buying directly breaks this principle—because the Legislative ends up acting like the Executive, spending public money that should be used with transparency and technical planning. A lawmaker wasn't elected to pave roads—that's the mayor's or federal government's job. Simple as that.

^(111th) In fact, the Supreme Federal Court (STF) ruled this kind of practice unconstitutional in 2022, with a 6–5 vote, saying it violates the principles of transparency, impersonality, and morality in public administration⁵³⁶.

^(112th) But what happened after that decision? Nothing. Congress kept operating the same way—just under different labels. In 2024, Justice Flávio Dino ordered a halt to these amendments until clear rules were set. But of course, Congress was already planning a comeback⁵³⁷. When the Supreme Court tried to limit Congress's power, it was threatened with an investigation, impeachment, and political pressure. The result? The court backed down.

⁵³³ Source: CNN Brazil; Available at: <https://www.cnnbrasil.com.br/politica/stf-julga-suspensao-das-emendas-do-relator-ao-orcamento-entenda/>

⁵³⁴ Source: Senate News Agency. Available at: <https://www12.senado.leg.br/noticias/materias/2023/01/10/emendas-parlamentares-o-que-sao-e-qual-a-diferenca-entre-as-deputados-e-de-senadores>

⁵³⁵ Source: Terra. Available at: <https://www.terra.com.br/noticias/brasil/politica/governo-e-congresso-criam-emendas-paralelas-e-turbinam-novo-orcamento-secreto-diz-transparencia>.

⁵³⁶ CF/88, art. 37. Source: CUT. Available at: <https://www.cut.org.br/noticias/stf-acaba-com-orcamento-secreto-e-exige-transparencia-para-distribuicao-de-dinhe-41ee>

⁵³⁷ Source: Brazil Agency. Available at: <https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/justica/noticia/2024-10/dino-mantem-suspensao-de-emendas-do-orcamento-secreto>.

(113th) As a result, in 2024, the Annual Budget Law (LOA) included over R\$50 billion in parliamentary amendments—money that should have been used based on technical planning, not political deals. Lula tried to cut part of that early in the year, limiting it to R\$30 billion, but Congress passed an increase. And this keeps repeating year after year, like it's normal⁵³⁸—always growing.

(114th) If it all sounds like a big web of blackmail and cover-ups, that's probably because it is. Meanwhile, people still have no idea where the money is going, who's making the decisions, or why certain public works suddenly show up “out of nowhere” right before elections.

(115th) So even this kind of situation — which is, in fact, illegal — could maybe be prevented with a simple measure: enforcing a chronological order for voting on bills. That alone would slow down the process, giving the Judiciary enough time to step in and block these proposals before they even get approved.

(116th) At the same time, massacres, torture, and shocking oppression that happen here are not taught to students. This has made the people withdrawn, acting like beggars in front of a rich government. But the country would actually be rich if it weren't for the dishonesty of its politicians.

(117th) Politicians' salaries should be set as a fixed number of minimum wages—no more than ten. It's important to note that using the minimum wage as a reference doesn't mean the salary is directly tied to it, but that it's just a way to measure it⁵³⁹. Politicians should also be required to use public services—schools, hospitals, transportation, everything. Only then would they stop seeing benefits in harming the population to rise above it, because they wouldn't be any different from it.

(118th) Instead of that, today, politicians are a financial burden on the population due to the high costs of their salaries, office budgets, allowances, the election fund, and especially parliamentary amendments. They find ways to make it happen because taxes aren't always tied to specific purposes, like the Motor Vehicle Property Tax (IPVA) is. If all taxes were properly linked to their intended uses, there wouldn't be “extra” money for politicians while basic needs go unmet.

(119th) The law does not require the vehicle tax (IPVA) to be used for maintaining roads or other paving projects. So often, after the government fixes the roads, it hands them over to private companies that charge tolls. But it would only make sense to charge the IPVA if it were really for paving—and no extra charges should be allowed on top of that.

(120th) I believe that if all of us contributed to society—whether through work or money—we might not even need much from a government to manage us.

(121st) Our people still don't act in their own best interest because, unfortunately, they get angry about the politicians' inaction and end up reacting selfishly. But these efforts could be a much more effective form of pre-campaign than handing out gifts to voters. For example, when I plant along the sides of public roads, I get attention from both the public and politicians. Many politicians even try to stop me because they see it as competition—but I'm not trying to compete with them; I just want to take action.

⁵³⁸ Source: Transparência Internacional. Available at: <https://www.transparencia.org.br/posts/congresso-aprova-proposta-que-perpetua-orcamento-secreto/>

⁵³⁹ The 1988 *Federal Constitution of Brazil*, in Article 7, item IV, prohibits linking the minimum wage to any purpose.

(122nd) Meanwhile, imperialist forces still act like a mafia, manipulating society as if they were putting pressure on a single individual. And the population remains under their control because they can't cancel an election, which makes them believe they have to accept one of the "major candidates".

(123rd) I believe that the way we can try to change this situation is by refusing to be influenced by opinion polls. So, we should vote for someone we truly believe in, or for a candidate outside the major parties — or, if necessary, choose not to vote at all as a group. The Brazilian political machine is not working properly, and it will only start working again if we break the continuity of this cycle of political domination. We must be persistent in seeking out people who are not part of this network of political insiders that controls our system. And that also means confronting the influence of entities like Freemasonry, which leads to imperialist domination.

(124th) Look, if there are Masonic monuments at the entrances of cities — which are government areas, not private — then we have to suspect that it is also present in government. But, in general, no one dares to confront this truth. We need to learn from Gandhi⁵⁴⁰ and the *Satyagraha*⁵⁴¹ method, which is about nonviolent civil disobedience and standing firm in the truth. First and foremost, he was a spiritual leader, because spiritual intelligence must be present in every part of our lives. And spiritual intelligence makes us care about the whole, not just the parts.

(125th) To me, no government is greater than God's. Anyone in a political position is just part of His plan. We should pray for God to move people's hearts and change our political reality—because nothing is impossible for Him. If you're an atheist, believe in a great mental wave that, once activated, spreads into all minds. That's why nothing can block it, and it can change everything.

(126th) At the same time, I suggest that we don't depend on politics to build a better world. Instead, let's do everything we can to improve the world around us through good actions. And more than anything, I propose that each of us stay persistent in pushing for the political changes that need to happen.

POST-CHAPTER — THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

(1st) At the beginning of my mission, I realized I needed to stay away from entertainment media and news in general, because we were entering a time of deep ideological confusion. I couldn't let that affect me. In the earliest version of this book, there were fragments of a story where a "crazy woman" character was telling women

⁵⁴⁰ **Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi** (1869 -1948) — was Indian and one of the most notable pacifists in human history after Jesus. He was a lawyer and promoted India's independence from British rule. The honorific Mahātmā (Sanskrit: "great soul," "venerable") was first applied to him in 1914 in South Africa and is now used worldwide. Source: Wikipedia. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahatma_Gandhi.

⁵⁴¹ *Satyagraha* — Sanskrit: satya: "truth," āgraha: "insistence" or "holding on to") means holding to the truth or the force of truth. It is a specific form of nonviolent resistance or civil resistance. The term is a compound of the Sanskrit words satya (meaning "truth") and āgraha ("polite insistence" or "holding firmly"). Source: Wikipedia. Available at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satyagraha>.

living in conflict areas in Palestine to leave with their children. I started talking about the Arab-Jewish war like the one in 1967, even though, in 2017, the war in Palestine hadn't started yet.

(2nd) The current war is, in a way, a continuation of the 1967 war, when Israel captured the Gaza Strip, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), and the Golan Heights. The occupation of these areas set the stage for the current Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

(3rd) Still, I had a hard time understanding the feelings I was having, especially after this war began and I first heard the term “war of narratives.” That means there are different versions of the story, and both sides are being accused of committing war crimes. Thousands of civilians have been killed while doing basic things like looking for food or medical help, showing how deep this crisis of inhumanity is. At the same time, we're also seeing a global crisis of trust in governments, where leaders don't keep their word and sometimes do exactly what they promised not to do.

(4th) It's important to remember that Jesus was Jewish and lived in that region. In fact, there are Bible passages where I, like many others, believe He was speaking about these conflicts involving Israel. Matthew shows Him talking about this on the Mount of Olives before His crucifixion; Luke says He mentioned it on His way to the cross. He even talked about babies⁵⁴², which reminds us of one of the most shocking parts of this war — it started with the kidnapping and murder of Israeli babies on camera⁵⁴³.

(5th) And now, I've only been able to understand what's really happening in this war because of my intuition and the warnings Jesus gave on His way to the cross. What those warnings meant was that women and children would be used as human shields and political tools by Hamas. This group stayed in power in Palestine after its supporters were democratically elected in 2006, but no democratic elections have happened since then.

(6th) Because of all this, I believe the Islamic conservatism in Palestine has reached its worst point when it comes to women. It's worth saying that Islamic extremists like Hamas are among the most intolerant people toward other religions, and they fight any kind of freedom. I look forward to the day when Islamic leaders will speak out against these extremists and say they don't belong to Islam, for reasons that are clearly stated in the Quran. After all, the Quran says that killing one innocent person is like killing all of humanity⁵⁴⁴. And what we see is that when a people don't control their worst instincts, it's like they're all responsible. So, many Islamic extremists have mistreated women and killed in the name of Islam, giving the religion a primitive and violent image around the world.

(7th) Also, like all psychopaths, Hamas manipulates public opinion by staging attacks and using images of those moments — situations they create and then blame on Israel. They are marketing experts, which is something many terrorists have in common. Sometimes they create these scenes to cause fear, like on 9/11, and other times just to get something in return.

⁵⁴² BIBLE, *Luke* 23:28,29.

⁵⁴³ BIBLE, *Matthew*, 24:6-14; *Luke*, 21:9-28, and also *Mark* 13:7-10.

⁵⁴⁴ Qur'an, Surah 5 (Al-Ma'idah), verse 32 (common translation) — “Whoever kills an innocent person... it is as if he had killed all of humanity. And whoever saves a life, it is as if he had saved all of humanity.”

^(8th) So, we end up seeing many Christians passionately defending these terrorists or their supporters — even though these are the same groups that kill Christians in extremely cruel ways. And the worst part is: no one talks about it. It's like Christian lives don't matter.

^(9th) The truth is that terrorism needs to end, because its very existence is already an attack on peace and brings insecurity to the entire world. However, the right way to fight it is to confront the terrorist ideas. Machismo, for example, which is the main terrorist ideology, is fueled on all sides with the approval of the whole world... not to mention that we actually live in a society that feeds terror.

^(10th) So, under human law, Israel acted in self-defense⁵⁴⁵ — even though Jesus does not preach violence, not even for self-defense⁵⁴⁶. And it's no surprise: if peace were truly built through ideas, no one would need to use force to keep it. In fact, if the people of Palestine are suffering, it's partly because they protect the terrorists. If the population worked together and reported Hamas, Israel could be more accurate and cause fewer deaths. But of course, even those who don't protect Hamas are also at risk of being killed.

^(11th) I see this war as if the terrorists had come across someone stronger than them—a natural consequence of their abuses, just as we see in the words of Jesus: *“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it.”* (BIBLE, *Matthew* 11:12) So, the balance of the world is still being achieved through violence, when simply confronting machismo might already be enough. That's why my main message in the story of the “crazy woman” was that the women should leave that place with their children to avoid the massacre. And according to the story, that would end the war, because not even the men would stay there without the women. But that's exactly why she was called “crazy.” The women believed they couldn't change that reality. And actually, that's often how people treat me too.

^(12th) Now, notice that the Jewish people have also faced conflict and persecution throughout their entire history. At this moment, they are losing the narrative war and facing pressure from all over the world. These disasters happen because they brought a curse upon themselves regarding the blood of Jesus—who was not only their pure and blameless king, but also the Messiah. They said His blood should be on them, taking responsibility for His death so that Pilate could wash his hands: *“And all the people answered, ‘Let His blood be on us and on our children!’* (BIBLE, *Matthew*, 27:25). And Jesus wasn't the only messenger from God who fell victim to their pride as a people⁵⁴⁷.

⁵⁴⁵ Article 25 of Decree-Law 2,848, Brazilian Penal Code — “A person is considered to be acting in self-defense when, using the necessary means in a moderate way, they repel an unjust aggression—whether current or imminent—against themselves or someone else.” (Wording given by Law No. 7,209, of July 11, 1984). (See ADPF 779). “Sole paragraph. As long as the requirements listed in the main section of this article are met, a public security agent is also considered to be acting in self-defense when repelling aggression, or the risk of aggression, against a victim held hostage during the commission of a crime.”

⁵⁴⁶ BIBLE, *Matthew* 26:52 — “‘Put your sword back in its place’, Jesus said to him, ‘for all who draw the sword will die by the sword’.”

⁵⁴⁷ BIBLE, *Matthew* 23:37 — “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.”

(13th) Therefore, as Christians, we have every reason not to take sides in this conflict, because these are peoples who do not listen to us. But here in Brazil, we’re seeing a political polarization taking shape: the political right supports Israel — aligned with the capitalist imperialist bloc — and the political left supports Palestine — aligned with the communist imperialist bloc. Anyone who reads the news from 1967 can see that there’s nothing new about this.

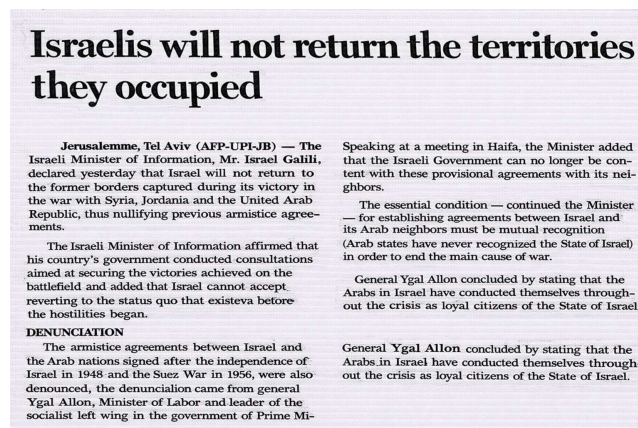
(14th) No war truly belongs to us — and most of the time, it doesn’t even belong to the people involved in it, but only to their leaders. A true Christian doesn’t think about killing or dying, but about going into war only to help save lives and get people out.

(15th) Above all, we should give more attention to the massacres of Christians around the world, so that people can offer them help and shelter too. But that definitely doesn’t mean we can’t also help those suffering in this war and the refugees affected by it.



Images XIV

Below is an adapted English translation of a news article published in *Jornal do Brasil* on June 11, 1967, First Section, page 4.



The sequence of newspaper clippings that follows refers to reports published by *Jornal do Brasil* during key moments of the Brazilian military coup. Below, the front page from March 14, 1964, covering President João Goulart's rally held the previous day at the Central do Brasil Station square in the city of Rio de Janeiro, where he announced plans to implement structural and political reforms in the country.

Goulart decrees the expropriation of land, nationalizes refineries and calls for new Constitution

Goulart decreta a desapropriação de terras, encampa refinarias e pede nova Constituição

A PRAÇA MARAVILHOSA



O Presidente João Goulart, depois de assinar, no Palácio das Laranjeiras, o decreto da Supra — passo inicial para a reforma agrária — e o da encampação de refinarias participativas do petróleo, anunciou ontem no comício da Central do Brasil o tabelamento, dentro de

horas, dos aluguéis, e prometeu lutar pela reforma da Constituição, a fim de promover o "desenvolvimento" do País com justiça social".

— Nenhuma força será capaz de impedir que o Governo continue a assegurar absoluta liberdade ao povo brasileiro. E para isto podemos declarar, com orgu-

ho, que contamos com a compreensão e o patriotismo das bravas e gloriosas Forças Armadas — disse o Sr. João Goulart em seu discurso na Praça Cristiano Ottoni, à noite, perante multidão calculada em 130 mil pessoas, e ao lado de sua esposa, Sra. Maria Teresa.

Protesto com velas

Durante o meeting, cuja ordem foi garantida pela maior demonstração de força bélica já vista em atos dessa na-

ção, o Governador de

Alagoas, Sr. João Goulart, prometeu lutar pela reforma da Constituição, a fim de promover o "desenvolvimento" do País com justiça social".

Next, the newspaper from March 31, 1964, First Section, page 13, marking the beginning of the Brazilian military coup and revealing the political crisis in which Brazil found itself.

CGT threatens general strike to guarantee Goulart in Government

CGT ameaça greve geral para garantir Goulart no Governo

O Comando-Geral dos Trabalhadores, num manifesto lançado ontem, denunciou os Governadores Carlos Lacerda, Ademar de Barros, Magalhães Pinto e Ildo Meneghetti como articuladores de um dispositivo golpista destinado a depor o Presidente João Goulart, advertindo, entretanto, que já montou um esquema capaz de paralisar o País, a qualquer instante.

O documento distribuído pelo CGT afirma ainda que "a crise na Marinha se deve, exclusivamente, às articulações de oficiais golpistas, derrotados nos seus objetivos, com a serena solução, encontrada pelo Presidente da República, que é o Chefe Supremo das Forças Armadas do Brasil, nos termos constitucionais".

É o seguinte o texto preparado pelo CGT, após uma reunião extraordinária, feita, ontem, no Rio:

— As forças reacionárias inconformadas com o avanço democrático do nosso povo e com os recentes decretos patrióticos do Presidente da Republi-

ca — o da Supra, dos aluguéis e gêneros alimentícios e encampação das refinarias de petróleo — articulam-se, publicamente e notoriamente, visando a deposição do Presidente da República, para anular as conquistas e impor ao nosso povo restrições às liberdades democráticas e sindicais.

A crise na Marinha, que se deve, única e exclusivamente, às articulações de oficiais golpistas, foi derrotada nos seus objetivos, com a serena solução, encontrada pelo Presidente da República, que é o Chefe Supremo das Forças Armadas, nos termos constitucionais.

Toda via, desmascarando os seus propósitos golpistas, insistem, os mesmos oficiais que a promoveram, através agora de pronunciamentos desrespeitosos e atitudes insubordinadas, em solapar a autoridade do Presidente da República, tentando sensibilizar outras áreas militares, com o objetivo de depor o Sr. João Goulart.

— O esquema do golpe está sendo articulado politicamente pelos Governadores Carlos La-

cerda, da Guanabara; Ademar de Barros, de São Paulo; Magalhães Pinto, de Minas Gerais; e Ildo Meneghetti, do Rio Grande do Sul. Esse esquema, que conta, inclusive, com apoio de oficiais golpistas do II e III Exércitos e da Força Pública de Minas Gerais, articula-se com as lideranças inhumanas do Congresso Nacional que estão convocando os parlamentares para discutir a seguinte ordem do dia: projeto do Deputado Anísio de Faria (que é uma falsa reforma agrária) para aprovação; instalação de uma Base Naval dos Estados Unidos da América do Norte em território brasileiro; anistia dos sargentos, para reatá-la com o objetivo de lançar argêntos contra marinheiros.

REFORMAS

— Na impossibilidade de combater, frontalmente, as reformas de base, sugeridas na mensagem presidencial de 15 de março, os golpistas procuram explorar os sentimentos religio-

sos de nosso povo, sobre o falso pretexto de anticomunismo. Nesse sentido a Marcha para o dia doze de abril na Guanabara, constitui importante peça na articulação do golpe, cujo esquema já aponta o Ministro Ribeiro Costa, Presidente do Supremo Tribunal Federal, ou o Marechal Eurico Gaspar Dutra como substituto do Presidente da República.

— O CGT e todas as forças populares responderão, por todos os meios, a qualquer tentativa de golpe que vise a enfraquecer a autoridade do Presidente João Goulart para atingir o seu mandato. Aos golpistas, civis e militares, advertimos que a classe trabalhadora brasileira não permitirá nenhum entrave no caminho que já iniciamos pelas conquistas das reformas sugeridas na mensagem presidencial e pela imediata constituição de um Governo nacionalista e democrático. Nota luta, contamos com a maioria do povo brasileiro, integrada de civil e militares patriotas.

— O Comando Geral dos Trabalhadores neste momento que pode ser decisivo para os destinos da Pátria, consciente da importância da posição da classe trabalhadora nesta emergência, concita os sindicatos, a todos os trabalhadores da cidade e do campo, a manterem-se preparados para, desfechar a greve geral em todo o território nacional na defesa das liberdades democráticas e sindicais, determinando que o golpismo do mandato e autoridade do Presidente João Goulart seja imediatamente respondido com a total paralisação do trabalho.

— Preparados e unidos os trabalhadores barrarão o golpe e exigirão as reformas de base. Em todos os setores de trabalho os seus combates a reação e o golpe, usando as forças de luta que o momento compar-

tar, além da greve geral, nossa primeira iniciativa.

O Secretariado do CGT.
Rio de Janeiro, 30 de março de 1964.

Next, the newspaper from April 1, 1964, page 4, first section, reports that the military began to interfere with communications by taking over radio and newspaper stations.

Marines with machine guns invade JB and take Radio off the air

Fuzileiros com metralhadoras invadem JB e tiram Rádio do ar

Um choque do Corpo de Fuzileiros Navais invadiu na noite de ontem as dependências do JORNAL DO BRASIL, quando desceram para o ar e desmantelaram os equipamentos da estação de rádio, que ficou interrompida por cerca de meia hora. Os fuzileiros navais entraram até o quinto andar do edifício para desmontar e tirar do ar o JORNAL DO BRASIL, em seguida entraram no prédio da Rádio para desmontar e tirar do ar o rádio.

HISTÓRIA
O Superintendente do JORNAL DO BRASIL, Sr. Bernard Campos, foi chamado ontem cerca das 12 horas pelo Coronel Brito, Diretor do Conselho de Telecomunicações, a fim de prestar assistência técnica a uma transmissão de rádio da 11ª Divisão Militar, que estava sendo feita pelo JORNAL DO BRASIL.

O Sr. Bernard Campos se dirigiu ao prédio do Conselho de Telecomunicações, onde se encontrou com o Coronel Brito, e foi informado de que os fuzileiros navais estavam invadindo o prédio do JORNAL DO BRASIL, para desmontar e tirar do ar o rádio.

O Sr. Bernard Campos se dirigiu ao prédio do Conselho de Telecomunicações, onde se encontrou com o Coronel Brito, e foi informado de que os fuzileiros navais estavam invadindo o prédio do JORNAL DO BRASIL, para desmontar e tirar do ar o rádio.

Rádio ocupada
O JORNAL DO BRASIL, voltou ao ar. Os fuzileiros navais, depois de entrar no prédio do JORNAL DO BRASIL, desmontaram os equipamentos da estação de rádio, que ficou interrompida por cerca de meia hora. Os fuzileiros navais entraram até o quinto andar do edifício para desmontar e tirar do ar o JORNAL DO BRASIL, em seguida entraram no prédio da Rádio para desmontar e tirar do ar o rádio.

SOLIDARIEDADE
Ainda se chegaram de noticiários, numerosos populares se reuniram em frente ao edifício do JORNAL DO BRASIL, para prestar assistência técnica a uma transmissão de rádio da 11ª Divisão Militar, que estava sendo feita pelo JORNAL DO BRASIL.

Um engano
O Superintendente do JORNAL DO BRASIL, Sr. Bernard Campos, foi chamado ontem cerca das 12 horas pelo Coronel Brito, Diretor do Conselho de Telecomunicações, a fim de prestar assistência técnica a uma transmissão de rádio da 11ª Divisão Militar, que estava sendo feita pelo JORNAL DO BRASIL.

Below, scenes of protests during the military coup⁵⁴⁹ and images from the 1968 International Song Festival, in which singer-songwriter Geraldo Vandré⁵⁵⁰ was prevented from receiving the first prize—despite his song *Pra Não Dizer que Não Falei das Flores* (*Not to Say That I Didn't Speak of the Flowers*) being acclaimed by the audience.



⁵⁴⁸ All reports available at:

https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=0qX8s2k1IRwC&dat=19920614&b_mode=2

⁵⁴⁹ Images taken from the links https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ditadura_militar_brasileira e <https://biblioo.info/censura-o-fantasma-que-volta-a-assustar-as-bibliotecas-brasileiras/>. AI-5 banned popular demonstrations of a political nature, suspended *habeas corpus* for political crimes, and imposed prior censorship on newspapers, magazines, books, theater plays, and songs.

⁵⁵⁰ **Geraldo Vandré** — is the stage name of Geraldo Pedrosa de Araújo Dias (João Pessoa, September 12, 1935). He is a Brazilian lawyer, singer, songwriter, and poet.

Source: Wikipedia. Available at: https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geraldo_Vandr%C3%A9.