

DEMOCRATIZING BRAZIL

IN 1999-

FACED WITH A SPECULATIVE ATTACK ON ITS CURRENCY...



AND A CAPITAL FLIGHT (PANIC) DEPLETING ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES...



RATS DESERTING A MIXED METAPHOR

...BRAZIL DEVALUED ITS CURRENCY & NEGOTIATED A RESCUE (CONDITIONAL LOAN) BY THE IMF.

I WILL RESCUE YOU IF YOU PROVE YOURSELVES WORTHY!



THE CONDITIONS OF THE LOAN (& A SIMILAR ONE NEGOTIATED IN 2001) - BUDGET CUTS, HIGH INTEREST RATES, TIGHT MONEY SUPPLY - THREATEN TO "DEVALUE" FURTHER A COUNTRY SUFFERING FALTERING PRODUCTION, SEVERE INEQUALITY & WIDESPREAD MISERY.

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

BRAZIL'S RULING ELITE ACCEPTS THESE TERMS, WHICH SHIFT COSTS AWAY FROM THEMSELVES.



OPPOSITION COMES FROM THE HARD-PRESSED ORDINARY BRAZILIANS WHO WILL BE PAYING THE BILL.

MAYBE WE WON'T!



THEIR VOICE IN THIS DEBATE - AND THE MAIN REASON THERE IS A DEBATE - IS THE PARTIDO DOS TRABALHADORES (WORKERS PARTY) - OR →



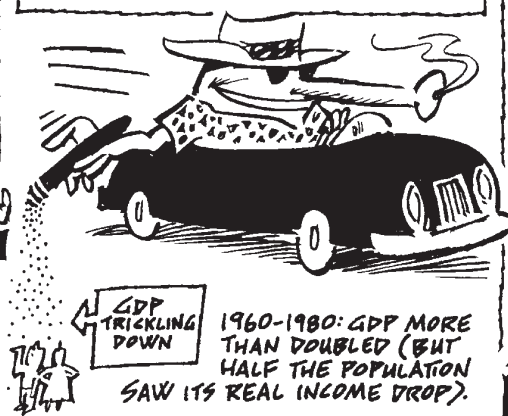
MANY COUNTRIES HAVE "WORKERS PARTIES" - BRAZIL HAS SEVERAL - BUT FEW ARE ACTUALLY STRONG ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE THE ELITE NEOLIBERAL CONSENSUS. HOW DID THE PT GET THIS FAR?

IN 1964-

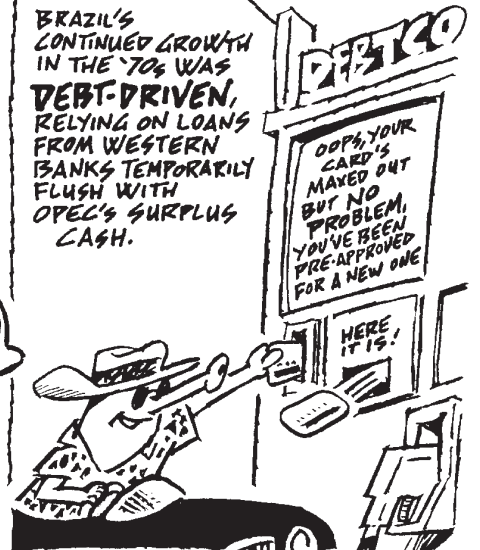
WHEN BRAZIL'S MILITARY TOOK OVER TO PREVENT AN AGRARIAN REFORM...



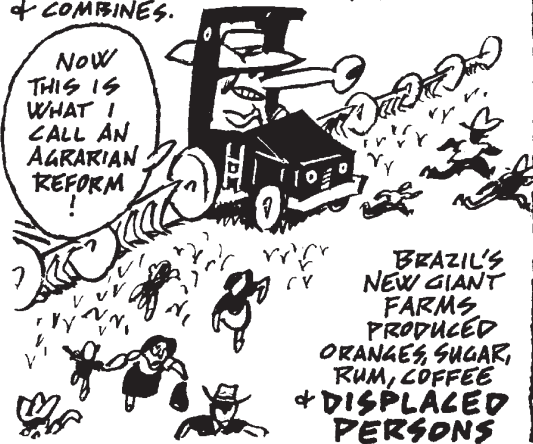
THE U.S. & ITS ALLIES REWARDED THE MILITARY WITH INVESTMENTS & MARKETS. EXPORT-ORIENTED INDUSTRIAL GROWTH SPARKED THE "BRAZILIAN MIRACLE"



BRAZIL'S CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE '70s WAS DEBT-DRIVEN, RELYING ON LOANS FROM WESTERN BANKS TEMPORARILY FLUSH WITH OPEC'S SURPLUS CASH.



SOME OF THE BORROWED MONEY WAS USED TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY WITH PESTICIDES, FERTILIZER & COMBINES.



IN ONE DECADE BRAZIL BECAME AN URBAN NATION. MILLIONS MIGRATED FROM THE COUNTRY-SIDE TO SAO PAULO & ITS INDUSTRIAL SUBURBS IN HOPES OF SNAGGING SOME OF THE GOOD JOBS THERE.



BUT GALLOPING INFLATION THREATENED TO WIPE OUT WORKERS' GAINS.



LUI S INACIO DA SILVA ("LULA"), A SAO PAULO AUTOWORKER FROM THE NORTHEASTERN COUNTRYSIDE, WORKED WITH HIS UNION ON A 1977 CAMPAIGN TO EXPOSE THE EXTENT OF INFLATION, & RECOVER THEIR LOST INCOME.

LET THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

OUCH!

YOW!

OOH!

UHH!

THIS WAS A BREAK FROM THE PASSIVE ROLE UNIONS HAD BEEN FORCED TO PLAY SINCE 1964.

IN 1978 LULA & THE METALWORKERS LED A GENERAL STRIKE THAT TOOK EVERYONE BY SURPRISE -INCLUDING THE WORKERS.

AW COME ON BACK

WE'LL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT- WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I GUESS THEY REALLY NEED US.

80,000 STRIKERS WON A 24.5% WAGE INCREASE

BUT WHEN THEY TRIED TO REPEAT THEIR SUCCESS IN 1979...

WE'RE READY FOR YOU THIS TIME

..EVEN THOUGH 3 MILLION WORKERS WENT OUT, THE STRIKE WAS THWARTED BY POLICE REPRESSION, WITH THE BLESSING OF THE SO-CALLED OPPOSITION PARTY.

YES, THERE WERE POLITICAL PARTIES UNDER THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP:

MY COUSIN & HIS COUNTRY CLUB PALS WILL BE THE PARTY OF THE RIGHT-

WAGES DOWN! PROFITS UP! SHOOT TO KILL!

OF COURSE I AGREE BUT I'M MORE PERSONALLY VIRTUOUS!

-AND MY NEIGHBOR & HIS SOCIOLOGIST FRIENDS WILL BE THE PARTY OF THE LEFT

AS THE "BRAZILIAN MIRACLE" COLLAPSED IN THE WAKE OF A U.S. RECESSION, THE MILITARY LOOKED FOR WAYS TO GET THE CIVILIAN PARTIES TO ASSUME POWER (& TAKE THE HEAT) WITHOUT DIMINISHING THE AUTHORITY OF THE BRAZILIAN ELITE.

LULA & THE UNIONS (WITH ELEMENTS OF THE LEFT, FARMWORKERS, ETC.), FRUSTRATED BY THEIR POWERLESSNESS IN '79, HAD A BETTER IDEA:

WHY NOT A WORKERS PARTY?

HEY! I'LL SPEAK FOR THE WORKERS!

NO, NOT A PARTY FOR THE WORKERS, A PARTY OF THE WORKERS!

COMMIES! PERVERTS! TREE-HUGGERS!

SECTARIANS! COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES! SPOILERS!

DEMOCRATIZE DON'T PRIVATIZE

CONTROL CAPITAL, LIMIT SPECULATION

REPUDIATE DEBT

THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE, DO THEY?

WELL ACTUALLY...

IMF

AS THE ECONOMY DETERIORATED, THE WORKERS PARTY (PT) GREW. LULA CAME CLOSE TO WINNING BRAZIL'S FIRST TWO FREE & DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, IN '89 & '92.

WIN OR LOSE, THE PT HAS AN IMPACT

IN '94, THE ELITE WAS FORCED TO BACK A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT TO HEAD OFF LULA.

YOU CAN SLANDER MY NAME ALL OVER THE PLACE

JUST DON'T YOU STEP ON MY BLUE CHIP STOCKS

JUSTICE IS A FINE IDEA IN THEORY

OKEY-DOKE

THE PT NOW RUNS MANY OF BRAZIL'S BIGGEST CITIES WHERE, DESPITE CRUSHING POVERTY, COMMUNITY PEOPLE ARE SETTING PRIORITIES.

FAVORED TO WIN IN THE 2002 ELECTION, THE PT HAS BEEN SOFTENING ITS TONE. WHILE SOME FEAR (AND OTHERS HOPE) THAT THIS REPRESENTS A RETREAT FROM ITS DEMOCRATIC PROMISE...

VOTE FOR LULA

HE'S MORE PERSONALLY VIRTUOUS

..THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE PT HAS OPENED UP BRAZILIAN POLITICS, INHIBITING THE ELITE & CREATING SPACE FOR POPULAR RESISTANCE. (NEXT: THE LANDLESS MOVEMENT)