Pepe Escobar: Brazil Defeated the Mother of All Hybrid Wars

Pepe Escobar is a journalist, a political analyst, and author. Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: https://glenndiesen.substack.com/ X/Twitter: https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen Patreon: https://www.patreon.com/glenndiesen Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glenndiesen Buy me a Coffee: buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng Go Fund Me: https://gofund.me/09ea012f Buy Diesen merchandise: https://diesen-shop.fourthwall.com/en-nok Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL 00:00 Glenn Diesen introduces Pepe Escobar and Brazil's election 05:48 WhatsApp networks and voter mobilization 09:30 Brazil's election in the Western Hemisphere context 14:27 Why Escobar says Brazil is strategically important 17:02 The coalition Escobar sees behind Bolsonaro's campaign 21:13 Digital organizing, street protests, and political resistance 23:11 Brazil's role in BRICS and multipolarity 26:08 Escobar's account of Flávio Bolsonaro's departure 34:21 How US election politics could shape the next chapter 36:10 Lula, Brazil's foreign ministry, and BRICS policy 40:28 Brazil's political identity and Lula's domestic challenges 44:05 Possible pressure on Brazil and closing remarks

#Glenn

Welcome back, everyone. We are joined today by Pepe Escobar, a journalist and political analyst. It's great to see you again. I hope that China's treating you well. Always a pleasure, Glenn. So, you're not just a journalist and a political analyst. You're a Brazilian journalist, and you follow events there quite carefully. I was hoping that you would be able to shed some light on what is going on, because some very weird things are happening. As we all know, the former president of Brazil, Bolsonaro, is currently under house arrest for an attempted coup.

His son, Flavio Bolsonaro, ran for president and lost the election to the incumbent, Lula da Silva. And now the son, who lost the election, has fled the country. For an outsider, it can be a bit hard to follow exactly what is going on there. So I was wondering if you could unpack some of this. I mean, why is Brazil essentially a geopolitical battleground? And you describe the Brazilian election as the mother of all hybrid wars. So, can you unpack this? I mean, who are the main political forces involved? What methods did they employ? And why is Brazil so important here?

#Pepe Escobar

Thank you, Glenn. Well, let's bring a little bit of a bossa nova swing to this whole story. With everything related to Brazil, there's always swing involved: music, contradictions, jokes. It's a very dynamic and creative society, even politically. The latest example of Brazilian creativity is something that is now being copied all across Europe. It's how you're able, through popular and digital

mobilization, to create what we could describe as a digital infantry all across the country, using the tools of techno-feudalism. This was created in the form of a WhatsApp channel, which in the beginning had fewer than 50,000 subscribers.

And then a very, very smart young man—who was elected as a congressman, by the way, in these latest elections—came along. He's from a lower-middle-class background. He had a very difficult upbringing, the son of a domestic worker. He paid for his law degree by, you know, basically working as a bus conductor. But he understands social networks like that. It's instinctive. Brazil as a whole, and in fact a great deal of the world, was stunned by the results of the first round, where Eduardo Bolsonaro, one of the clan's sons—this is a criminal dynasty, by the way, starting with the father, who is now, by the way, in jail because of health problems.

He's under house arrest, essentially. But this is a very, very dangerous criminal organization, very similar to the way the Trump criminal organization works. But, of course, since Jair Bolsonaro's first term, they have managed to build an army of brainwashed people all across Brazil. That explains how Jair Bolsonaro won the first election. In the next election against Lula, he was not so far off. It also explains the success of one of his sons, who is not particularly bright. The brightest son, by the way, is Eduardo Bolsonaro, who has been living in the U.S. since last year and is accused of corruption. He has very close relations with the Trump administration. Really, really close.

He was already received by Trump at the White House, etc. He lives in Texas now. And Flavio has been a senator for quite a while, for over 20 years. He hasn't done anything remarkable, and I'm trying to be very diplomatic here. But, of course, the weight of the name, of the dynastic name in Brazil, is all that matters. And he was involved in a lot of dodgy dealings, including dealings that are being investigated. We'll be back in a few minutes to explain the context, which is immensely important, and why he fled Brazil. So, between the first and the second round, the Bolsonaro clan was practically sure that they had already bagged it.

They started to behave like, "Okay, that's it. We won." On the other hand, Lula's camp finally woke up, because before the first round, Lula's campaign and the Workers' Party campaign were abysmal, totally ineffective. And that explains, to a great extent, why he lost the first round. So, from day one, they woke up and devised a new strategy. And the guy who actually coordinated this strategy is this smart young man, Janones. And he basically came up with this idea: I would say, essentially, a digital version of the Ho Chi Minh Trail during the Vietnam War. Guerrilla warfare on the net, using WhatsApp, using the tools of techno-feudalism, especially Twitter, turning the whole thing upside down, which is outstanding.

Because Meta, which owns, as you all know, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, is immensely popular in Brazil. And Brazil is one of the most wired nations on the planet. If you go to the middle of the Amazon in a fishing boat, everybody is on WhatsApp. Literally. So they turned WhatsApp upside down, and basically, Janones was sending tasks every day to his digital infantry, which soon numbered 10 million people. In a matter of a few days, they reached 10 million people. So, you

know, you have to convince people in your neighborhood. You have to convince your parents and your grandparents. On voting day, you have to take your grandparents to the polling stations to vote. Everything. You have to organize enormous demonstrations all across Brazil, from small cities to big, big cities.

Just to give our audience an idea, two or three days before the vote in the second round, there were one million people in the streets of São Paulo and two million people on Copacabana Beach in Rio. Not to mention the demonstrations that came before. São Paulo is the city where I was born. My friends were telling me, "Look, you have no idea what's going on here. We've never seen anything like it. Every second day, you find practically one million people in the streets." So this was the popular mobilization angle. The digital mobilization angle was multiplied by a factor of 10, at least. Because when you have 10 million people in a group on WhatsApp, the way this spreads all over the Internet is absolutely outstanding.

That's exactly what happened. So these two processes converged on election day in the second round. And they largely explain why Lula had 10 million more votes in the second round compared to the first. Flávio Bolsonaro had 3.4 million more votes. So Lula not only got votes from the other candidates, but he also got votes from that enormous mass of people who did not even bother to vote in the first round. Okay, so this sets the context for what happened before the election, right up until election day. But Glenn, I suggest that you ask me another question, because now we immediately enter Tom Clancy territory, which is exactly what happened after the election results were announced.

#Glenn

Well, we can first get a bit into the wider geopolitical context, I think, because, as we know, we've already moved into a multipolar world—that is, many centers of power. A key priority for the United States moving forward has been to cement control over the Western Hemisphere, its own backyard. And we've seen this with what was done against Venezuela and the threat of invading Cuba. Yeah, you can put Nicaragua, Colombia, and all these other threats in there. Panama—that was the first one. Also, that's part of the reasoning behind getting greater control over Greenland. But of course, Brazil is an important piece. So how do you see the U.S. role in this? Because obviously, this is not simply a domestic issue. And what does this mean for the multipolar world vis-à-vis U.S. efforts to restore global primacy?

#Pepe Escobar

Well, Glenn, I was saving the big geopolitical game for the end of our interview. So, okay, all right, we can talk about it. I'm dying to talk about the great escape of Flávio Bolsonaro because this is one of the most striking sagas in modern political history. But yes, okay, let's go to the big picture. First of all, Brazil is one of the founding members of BRICS. I have been tracking BRICS from the beginning, even though I left Brazil a long time ago. My area of work is essentially Eurasia, just like

yours, and, of course, the connection between Europe and Eurasia, NATO and Eurasia—what I call NATOstan. That is, by the way, the title of my book published in the U.S. two and a half years ago, Eurasia Against NATOstan. And, of course, I follow Brazil from afar, but I still have some very, very good sources over there.

And, of course, São Paulo, where I was born, studied, and worked for the top two newspapers, is the center of information and basically the real center of power in Brazil. And, of course, what I was hearing from people in São Paulo these past few years is that everything, even with the Lula government, was going down the drain. And in terms of Brazilian foreign policy, real progressives and top intellectuals in Brazil did not agree with the way Lula was handling, for instance, Venezuela. Brazil, by the way, vetoed Venezuela's entry into BRICS. The repercussions were horrible among progressives, of course.

And, of course, this was Lula's third term. He had two back-to-back terms in the past. He was essentially aligned with the Biden–autopen administration in the U.S. So obviously, this was not the Lula that many of us were used to, or grew up with, or learned to recognize, you know. Obviously, this was the price that he had to pay for the Americans actually intervening to release him from jail in Brazil. When I interviewed Lula in jail, this was before COVID, in 2019. Two colleagues and I went to Curitiba. We interviewed him in jail for over three hours. And at the time, he said, "Look, I don't know how long I'm going to be here, but when I come back, I will prove that I was right from the beginning."

And he was essentially put in jail through a very complex scheme, with the Bolsonaro clan right in the middle of it. And he left jail essentially because the American administration stepped in. And, of course, indirectly, as Marco Rubio likes to put it. Marco Rubio said a few days ago, "Oh, we did not do anything about the escape of Flavio Bolsonaro. We may have done something indirectly." Okay, so indirectly, the Joseph Biden administration managed to get Lula out of jail. Well, why is Brazil so important to what we can describe as the empire of chaos, piracy, lies, secondary sanctions, bombing—"If I don't like it, I'll bomb you"—etc., which is the incarnation of the empire under the Trump administration?

Because Brazil has everything that the United States needs. So if you cannot get Russia for obvious reasons—Russia is the number one nuclear power, the number one hypersonic power, and the Russians know how to win wars—and if you cannot get Iran, where you're being strategically defeated by a mid-sized power that has been under sanctions for 47 years, and they have a lot of stuff that you also need, well, you look at your own Western Hemisphere, which, according to your own national security doctrine, means, "This is our backyard." And you look at the backyard and say, "Wow, why do we have to go across the world to get what we need? It's over here, down south, and they have everything we need: the second-largest rare earth reserves on the planet, lots of unexplored oil. You name it."

Everything. By the end of this year, Brazil is going to be the number one agricultural power on the planet, surpassing the United States. It has 210 million people, which is an enormous market, and it's strategically located in the South Atlantic. So, in terms of Lebensraum—and I'm using that term on purpose—metaphorically and physically, Brazil is the real deal for the empire. So it's no wonder that the Trump administration put all their efforts into winning these elections. You know, the column that I wrote a week ago was titled "Brazilians, in Fact, Defeat the Mother of All Hybrid Wars." The mother of all hybrid wars was launched by a very toxic coalition, where you find not only the full force of the United States government, represented by the Trump administration, the cronies, acolytes, etc., but also techno-feudalism.

Meta campaigned for Flavio Bolsonaro directly, and this was proven in Brazil. X and Elon Musk did as well. X lost a lot of followers or accounts in Brazil, and it's still not as popular as Meta—WhatsApp specifically, or even Facebook and Instagram. But a lot of Brazilians still follow X. And Elon Musk was also campaigning for Bolsonaro. The comprador elite in Brazil is one of the most nefarious on the planet. It's not only old money—Brazilian old money—but also new money, which is basically tied to agribusiness. Once again, Brazil is going from the number two to, soon, the number one agricultural power on the planet. And agribusiness is an enormous source, of course, of foreign currency. Then there's the local mainstream media, which, once again, is among the most nefarious on the whole planet.

I know these people from the inside because I used to write for the newspapers when I started my professional career. Of course, there's Wall Street, for obvious reasons, and its offshoots in São Paulo—the São Paulo Stock Exchange, directly linked to Wall Street. If you put this all together, this is an enormously toxic coalition that basically wanted Bolsonaro because "he is our bastard," literally. He may not be very bright, but he carries the name of the clan, which already had a presidential mandate. They are willing to execute all the orders coming from the usual suspects. And, of course, the key link in this toxic coalition is the evangelicals. This is a process that started in Brazil in the 1970s, when the CIA decided to evangelize and neo-Pentecostalize one of the largest Roman Catholic countries in the world.

And they were extremely successful. Brazil nowadays is as much evangelical as Roman Catholic. So it took only 50 years, which is absolutely nasty. And guess what? All the evangelicals vote for Bolsonaro. So, you know, this is really toxic. We can disagree a lot about the new incarnation of Lula. Of course, fair enough. But in the end, there was nobody else to fight this toxic coalition because other cadres from the Workers' Party don't have Lula's charisma, experience, and competence at the very top. And, of course, they didn't have enough time to prepare themselves. And another aspect: Lula never gave anybody else enough time to prepare themselves as leaders.

He ruled without competition inside the Workers' Party. So can you imagine having to turn this whole situation upside down in less than three weeks? They pulled it off, essentially. But when I say "they," I'm not talking about Lula per se or the machinery of the Brazilian government. It was

Brazilians who organized themselves. This is popular mobilization at an absolutely staggering level. And, of course, this brilliant digital infantry strategy. I would say that it was a postmodern version of Mao's dictum. And I am in China now, so obviously I am surrounded by Mao everywhere. The revolution is not a dinner party. The revolution—you have to go out in the streets and do it.

And, of course, also the Viet Cong ethos. You are fighting the largest empire on Earth. You go the guerrilla way. You go underground. I started using many metaphors from my postmodern past, when I was deep into French theory—Deleuze, Guattari, everybody—to explain it. And it explains it very well: the rhizomatic movement, the underground movement, you know, the concept of the war machine incorporated by people, and people becoming war machines. So you saw this in Brazil, from teenagers to 80-year-olds. Like, you know, I saw some comments on some of my podcasts about Brazil, and there were a lot of old ladies basically saying, "Yes, we were all in the streets, and we all went to vote, and we were campaigning 24/7, all of us." So this was absolutely extraordinary.

And it's no wonder that Europeans, especially people in France, Spain, and Italy, are already starting to study what happened in Brazil and how it's possible to win against this techno-feudalist ethos, even using their tools, which was the case. But, you know, wrapping up the big-power angle, Russia and China were, of course, just observing Brazil from afar. But the leadership in Moscow and Beijing knew that if Brazil fell literally into the lap of the Trump administration, just like Argentina, the B in BRICS would be gone, and BRICS would be undermined from the inside. And especially in this particular year, 2037, when China holds the BRICS presidency. The Chinese are already starting to organize the summit because this is the make-or-break BRICS summit.

Especially considering what kind of resolution we can have for the forever war on two different battlefields, in Ukraine and in West Asia. So Brazil, in terms of the Western Hemisphere, is, of course, the voice of BRICS. And it helps that Lula has enormous political capital, not only in the Global South, where he is widely respected, but in the Global North. Lula shows up in Europe, and everybody is in awe of him, everywhere he goes. So it helps, of course. We're not talking about what he did not do during his third term. That's another story. What's very, very important from now on is the fact that he remains in power in Brazil. In terms of the organic coordination of the top BRICS members in this drive towards a multinodal and multipolar world, Brazil is absolutely essential for all of them.

#Glenn

Well, with Trump, I keep thinking he has made quite a few comments that he wants to destroy BRICS. Well, in his lingo, he already did destroy BRICS. This is, of course, how he talks. But it kind of begs the question, though: what is the next phase or the next stage of this hybrid war? You know, defeating Bolsonaro at the ballot box doesn't mean that the U.S. has now given up on this prized possession. So what are the other forms of economic, political, or geopolitical pressure that might be used against Brazil next? Because, again, it's a long process. It's not as if the whole thing is over.

#Pepe Escobar

Of course not. This is just the beginning, Glenn. There was one battle that this toxic coalition lost, but this is a very, very long war. And this new chapter of the war is starting now. And that brings me to one of my favorite topics these past few days, which is the Tom Clancy-style escape from Brazil by the fugitive loser of the elections, Flávio Bolsonaro. Now, it's almost a week, because everything happened between Tuesday and Wednesday last week. Now we're on Monday, and the pieces are more or less falling into place. So, first of all, Marco Rubio and Donald Trump are lying. Flat out. Both of them.

Marco Rubio said, "We were maybe involved indirectly." No, the United States government was directly involved in the extraction, CIA-style, of Flávio Bolsonaro, his wife, and two daughters from Brazil. And Trump, as we speak, has said at least four times, if not more, these past few days, that the Brazilian elections were terrible, a disgrace, shameful, a horrible thing, that they treat him very badly, etc. He did not congratulate Lula on his victory, which is standard diplomatic procedure. The whole planet did. The only two who did not are Trump and Milei in Argentina. But Milei is a vassal of Trump, so that explains it. This operation was very, very well planned.

And it was the plan B that they had just in case. They were absolutely sure that they would win. On Saturday morning here in Asia, before polling day on Sunday, I received a Polymarket prediction—and they had been spot on in the first round—that Bolsonaro had an 82% chance of winning. So when I saw that, I said, "Oh, shit, that's it. You know, it's over." And then I was talking to my friends in Brazil. They said, "No, you have no idea what's happening here in the streets. No, no, no. It's impossible. Not with this level of mobilization. And it's not only in the big cities. It's literally all over the country." So, okay. The election results are announced.

And a few minutes later, one of the justices of the Supreme Court orders Flávio Bolsonaro to hand over his regular Brazilian passport and his diplomatic passport as a senator because he was considered a flight risk. He was under serious, ongoing investigations involving money laundering, currency evasion, criminal association—you name it. Well, that's when Plan B started to be put in place. Everything, Glenn and all of you—all the elements of every good Netflix series: decoy cars and vans, decoy planes, decoy private jets, different itineraries, decoys. Information being distributed to the media, leading them on wild goose chases. And meanwhile, Bolsonaro left his house in Brasília in one of these vans.

There were at least four vans. They drove 1,600 kilometers to near the border between Brazil and Argentina. On the Argentinian side is Puerto Iguazú. They crossed the border with direct involvement from Argentine authorities. Now, this has already been proved. The Argentinian government was directly involved in basically setting aside all the border procedures to make sure that he could cross with no problem. And he crossed the border with his Italian passport. So, you know, the problem is, okay, hand over your passport. So what if you have another one? No problem.

So, for all practical purposes, he could be an Italian tourist in Brazil entering Argentina. That's how he crossed. There was direct involvement by Santiago Caputo, who is one of President Milei's top advisers.

This was already proven by Argentine investigations. There was direct involvement by a Mossad asset who then got an American passport and who was in Brazil days before the extraction, coordinating it. And this Mossad guy was in the van with Flávio Bolsonaro when they crossed the border and entered Puerto Iguazú. And the Gulfstream that was rented for $150,000 one way—Puerto Iguazú to Guayaquil, Guayaquil to Miami—guess who facilitated the whole thing? Jason Miller. Part of the Trump clan, specializing in communications, and very good friends with the Bolsonaro family. So Argentine and Brazilian investigations proved over and over again, through different means, that there was direct involvement by the Argentine government and direct involvement by the U.S. government.

So Flávio Bolsonaro arrives in Miami. Guess what? The first thing he actually does in public is release a letter. We could see right away, even from the grammar, that this letter was written by ChatGPT or something similar. Well, I speak both languages. You can tell right away that this was a fake letter. It was written in English and then translated into Portuguese. And in this letter, he proclaims himself president-elect of Brazil. He got a phone call a few minutes later from the Americans saying, "Whoops, no, no, no, no, no." So then the letter went through four different drafts. It was rewritten to say that he is the leader of Brazil. So he's already starting to position himself as the leader of the opposition in exile. Then there are the official American reactions.

Trump said over and over again, "I don't know where he is. I heard that he was in Argentina." Typical Trump, of course. Then, once again, every time he opens his mouth, he describes the elections as unfair, shameful, a disgrace, terrible, etc. Typical Trump. Why? That's the most important thing. He is already preparing the terrain for what's going to happen in the midterms. So he already has a plan A for the midterms. He will say that these elections were completely rigged, just like the Brazilian elections. And the guy who was supposed to be the Brazilian president is here now. So he can use Flávio Bolsonaro any way he wants. So Flávio Bolsonaro, at the moment, is a hostage of the Trump grifter cabal. He can be used any way Trump decides—and by the grifters around Trump as well.

Or he can just be discarded. Like Trump also said, "Look, I didn't take any sides in the election." That's not true. He said, "Lula asked me not to take sides." That is true. Lula actually asked Trump, "Please don't take sides in the election." But he did take sides in the end. And, of course, because his candidate lost, he had to come up with a different plan. So the plan is to instrumentalize Flávio Bolsonaro. And we're going to see how, depending on the results of the midterms. So the Brazilian elections are directly linked to the American elections. And from a Trumpian point of view, that's the only thing that matters: "How can I use this guy to bolster my case that the elections in the United States are going to be rigged?" Okay, a little break. I know it's crazy, Glenn, but I try to be as factual as possible.

#Glenn

Well, I'm just wondering, what will all of this mean? I mean, how will it change the status quo? Do you think Lula will shift course a little bit with Brazil as a result of this? I mean, does it change Brazil's commitment, for example, to BRICS? Because I know you've been one of the people who have been critical in the past about Brazil, you know, not putting both feet inside BRICS. But how do you see all of this drama impacting Brazil's foreign policy?

#Pepe Escobar

I hope things change, Glenn, because this has to do with the Brazilian foreign ministry, which is a very complex institution full of Atlanticists. In my experience, when I still bothered to visit Brazilian ambassadors all over the world, especially in Asia, they were all Atlanticists. And the ones who were based here in Asia many years ago were dying to go back to Europe. You know, if you met a Brazilian ambassador in Singapore, he was complaining. He hated Singapore. He wanted to go to Paris. So this gives you an idea of, you know, the dominant thinking in the foreign ministry.

And in fact, the foreign ministry actually recommended, suggested, or practically imposed on Lula: no Venezuela in BRICS. And a lot of people in the foreign ministry have absolutely no clue whatsoever about Iraq, or West Asia as a whole, for that matter. So this is very complicated. So Lula will have to find, I would say, the spark that he had at the time of the foundation of BRICS and in its first years. And the fact that he's immensely respected by President Putin, by President Xi, and by President Modi as well, not to mention the Iranians, will help a lot. But he has to get rid of this Atlanticist veneer of his own foreign ministry. We don't know how this is going to play out.

But this would be the number one thing to do. That's the task ahead: don't listen to your foreign ministry. Follow your gut, which is what he always did in the beginning of BRICS, and even before he was sent to jail. For instance, this is something that, in fact, landed him in tremendous trouble, because when Obama was in power, Lula was telling Obama, "Why do I need to do all our trade in U. S. dollars?" Unfortunately, this was one of the reasons why, in the end, he was thrown in jail. You don't say that kind of stuff to the leader of the empire and the people who run the empire geoeconomically and financially, right? But this was the old Lula that everybody knew and loved.

So now he has learned a lesson, and obviously he owes it to Brazilians, to average Brazilians, to no one else. So there could be a back-to-the-roots element in terms of Lula and how Lula is going to see himself, not only in terms of political coordination inside Brazil, which is going to be very hard. He's going to govern with the Senate completely against him, and Congress is the same thing. They have a majority of far-right and right-wing members. And internationally, of course, what everyone expects from him is to be one of the leaders of the drive towards multipolarity. And this means, of course, working very, very closely, especially with Russia and China.

#Glenn

Well, this is the last question. If you take a few steps back in terms of how Brazilians look at their own country and the world, I mean, besides the geopolitics of it, how do you see the competing visions of Brazil—that is, its position in the world? And there's some struggle between political, cultural, and religious identities. As you suggested, religious identity taps into politics, of course. But how do you see this, I guess, manifesting itself in a wider ideological conflict?

#Pepe Escobar

It's a very good question, Glenn, because we really don't know. In fact, Brazil is going to have to restart from scratch now. The country was almost broken because of these elections. If Bolsonaro had won, it would have been an absolute disaster internally, obviously, because he would have destroyed what's left of the Brazilian welfare system, pensions, etc., and the minimal efforts to help the more disadvantaged sector of the population, which is the majority, by the way. And internationally, Brazil would have become Argentina 2.0. Brazil would have become an extractivist neocolony completely dominated by the American government, techno-feudalists, and Wall Street. So now Lula's task is something I would call superhuman, in fact. Well, he's 81, and he seems to have recovered some of the spark.

But age, of course, is a factor. And he's going to have to work 48 hours a day, literally, to put the country back together first, to learn how to govern the country when he knows that this toxic coalition is still the majority. They are extremely powerful, and they still have the full force of the United States government behind them, at least for the next two years. And of course, internationally, Brazil has to reinvent itself as one of the natural leaders of the Global South and the drive towards multipolarity. So, you know, they have to restart from scratch. It's going to be very difficult. If there is one politician in the Global South who could pull it off, it's Lula. No one else could. But once again, is he tired because of this campaign? For an 81-year-old man, that was quite something.

Will he have the right people around him, especially people with experience? The people around him in this government are immensely mediocre. So he will need more. Where is he going to find these people? That's an extra problem. And, of course, he will need foreign help, especially from other BRICS members, to bring Brazil back into the fold. And I'm talking specifically about President Xi and President Putin. Well, he can be sure that he has the support, the full support, of both to help him. And, of course, how does he preserve Brazilian sovereignty while facing this empire, completely out of control and run by a sociopath, without provoking serious retaliation from the American government? Because it's already there, Glenn.

It's not a conspiracy theory that the so-called Brazilian dossier is already on the table at the State Department. And obviously, a redacted copy, an augmented copy, or the full copy will land on Trump's desk soon after the midterms. So he's going to start harassing Brazil again: sanctions,

tariffs, you name it, going after the Brazilian judicial system, you name it. Everything is on the cards. And Lula knows that this is coming. So it's going to be very, very hard. Even before he comes to power, he will be facing the full force of the American government under the Trump administration. So this is going to be tougher than ever.

#Glenn

Pepe, thank you so much for your time. I know it's late over there in China, so I appreciate it.

#Pepe Escobar

Just starting. Good. Keep up the good work.