

## Screw Brazil

### The subliminal message

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For a long time we have heard that Brazil would be the country of the future, but recent years have increased the number of those who think Brazil has no chance of success. The current moment lends itself to fostering, on part of some segments of our society, the most negative and bleakest of tones.

We have just elected a president with a very clear mandate from the Brazilian people: change our reality; modify the status quo, albeit disruptively, but we do not want more of the same that held during the last decade. The main agent of the country, in the use of its attributions, is tasked to shake the foundations and to assert the will of the people.

Thus, he brought into the administration his experts in their respective areas of knowledge. By doing that, he outlined in a very short period of time programs and proposals appropriate to our reality, but whose reflections are quite unpopular - if not antagonistic - even for those who must approve them.

In this sense, in sending these proposals for evaluation and adjustment, our representatives of the legislature seem to require more than explanations and justifications from those who studied and developed them. They want reverence in the old fashioned way, with a face-to-face "negotiation" that usually led to an intimacy between independent powers that is not always quite republican. The rub lies between those who understand to have played its part to develop the proposals and delivered them (even though making themselves available to provide further explanations), and those that champion the previous way of leading throughout the whole process with the Deputies and Senators.

The result of this "disagreement" in assessing the

responsibilities, rights and duties of each branch of government (and above all how to lead the process), is an imbroglio that few want to admit the exact message that it conveys us: Screw Brazil! It hardly matters what precious time we are losing and the inherent risks it carries. Yes, and the only one who seems to hear this message and shouts back in its own way is the financial market. The stock market plummets, interest rates and the exchange rate skyrocket, and country risk leaves no doubt that the gringos have their eyes wide open.

How good it is that we have "lead indicators", and so we can recognize that the situation must be circumvented. The problem is that the story lacks a leading character. Not necessarily a leader or savior of the motherland, no. We need an appropriate element and structure to coordinate these conflicts and tantrums. Someone with competence and skill, density and support to gather, understand, filter and prioritize the main themes of the country and articulate them between the Executive Power and the other Brazilian institutions. It is not a Chief of Staff, GSI or even the Special Assistant to President, but perhaps a single governmental body that replaces (at least in part) all the former so as to act with more focus and objectivity. In this realm, even the organizational structure of the US executive branch can be quite insightful.

Let's keep in mind: we voted for a new agent to do things differently and better. We have not only the best economic team Brazil has ever had, but we also have the best ideas and proposals for our serious and pressing problems. We are at the beginning of administration and again, doing business as usual will produce the same results. The class that wants Brazil to screw itself will not prosper. Let's make way for change!

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