



BOLSONARO // LULA

CLASH OF THE TITANS





The former left-wing president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (2003-2010), is back in action against the current head of state, the right-wing populist Jair Bolsonaro. Shot during the four months leading up to the presidential election in Brazil, the film deciphers this high-tension duel that has the country and the world on tenterhooks.

While former president Lula was in prison, accused of corruption, the 2018 election brought to power Jair Bolsonaro elected largely thanks to the votes of the evangelicals, the military and powerful landowners. Cleared by the Supreme Court, Lula is back in the fight. The polls show him to be the favourite for the 2022 presidential election, but he is also the most threatened candidate. Bolsonaro, who is seeking a second term, is multiplying his attacks on the institutions, suggesting that the elections will be rigged. The shadow of a Trump-like scenario hangs over Brazil...

Two narratives in Brazil

What choice do voters have, especially the 40 million people in the Northeast who thought they would escape poverty when, thanks to Lula's reforms, their children had access to university, and whose decline, amplified by the Covid crisis, has since been brutal?

If they fear the consequences of Bolsonaro's environmental policy for their business, the rich industrialists hate Lula and do not forgive him, among other things, for his social policy.

And what attitude will the evangelicals, the military and the 20% of radicalised Brazilians adopt? Should we take the threat of the latter seriously? In the four months leading up to the election, the first round of which takes place on 2 October, Laetitia Rossi and Ingrid Pionot followed the candidates' campaigns alongside their close advisers. They look back at the careers of two men with radically opposed visions, who embody two histories of the country: that of the struggle of the working class for Lula, and that of white people nostalgic for the dictatorship for Bolsonaro.

The film deciphers the issues at stake in this extraordinary election and gives the floor to political analyst Marcos Nobre, sociologist Tulio Custódio and journalist Thais Bilenky, who tell the story of a polarised, fractured Brazil whose democratic system is now seriously undermined.

Producers and Broadcasters:

BABEL DOC/ Arte France/ Al Jazeera

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