



The Aftermath of President Bolsonaro's Visit to Washington and Prospects for Economic Reform

Bolsonaro's visit to Washington was a significant event in the relationship between Brazil and the United States. It marked the first time a Brazilian president had visited the White House since the end of the Cold War. The visit was characterized by a series of high-profile meetings, including a meeting with President Trump and a meeting with Vice President Mike Pence. Bolsonaro also met with several members of the Trump administration, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The visit was seen as a signal of a new era of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the areas of trade and security. However, the visit also raised concerns about the impact of Bolsonaro's policies on the Brazilian economy and the environment. The agenda for the event included a panel discussion on the view from the IMF, an assessment of Bolsonaro's visit to Washington, and a discussion on the political environment back home.

AGENDA

Panel I: The View from the IMF: Boom, Bust, and the Road to Recovery in Brazil

Antonio Spilimbergo, Assistant Director, Western Hemisphere Department, International Monetary Fund; Krishna Srinivasan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Trade Representative; Anna Prusa, Assistant Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Trade Representative

Panel II: Assessment of President Bolsonaro's Visit to Washington and the Political Environment Back Home

Roberto Simon, Director, Center for Strategic Studies, American Enterprise Institute; Nicholas Zimmerman, Director, Brazil Program, Woodrow Wilson Center; Thiago de Aragão, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Trade Representative; Mauricio Moura, Assistant Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Trade Representative; Paulo Sotero, Director, Brazil Program, Woodrow Wilson Center

Q: What role do public enterprises, especially Brazil's development bank (BNDES), have to play in economic reform?

BNDES is a public enterprise that has played a significant role in Brazil's economic development. It has provided financing for various sectors, including infrastructure, industry, and services. The bank has been instrumental in supporting the growth of the Brazilian economy, particularly in the areas of infrastructure and industrial development. Its role is expected to continue to be important in the future, as Brazil continues to pursue economic reforms and development.

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Q: One notable thing about Brazil is that the best and brightest of the country gravitate towards

Q: What is your opinion on the Boeing-Embraer merger and the new government's move towards privatization? Will this help jump-start the economy?

The Boeing-Embraer merger is a significant event in the Brazilian aviation industry. It represents a consolidation of resources and expertise, which could lead to increased efficiency and competitiveness. The new government's move towards privatization is also a key element of its economic reform agenda. Privatization can help to reduce the government's fiscal burden and improve the efficiency of public enterprises. However, it is important to ensure that the privatization process is transparent and that the interests of the public are protected.

Q: How can these reforms be made inclusive—by region, class, and sector—and how does that relate to making them politically palatable?

Ensuring that economic reforms are inclusive is a critical challenge for Brazil. Reforms should be designed to benefit all regions, classes, and sectors of the economy. This can be achieved through targeted investments in infrastructure, education, and social services. Making reforms politically palatable requires a focus on transparency, accountability, and communication. The government should engage with the public and stakeholders to build trust and support for the reform process. Inclusive reforms are essential for sustainable economic growth and social stability in Brazil.

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