

39th President of Brazil: Lula takes over

January 1, 2023

Sunday, January 1, 2023: Workers Party leader **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva** was sworn in for a third term as Brazil's President in the Brazilian Congress in Brasilia.



King Felipe IV of Spain, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and the Presidents of Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Portugal and delegations from fifty countries were present in Congress for the swearing-in ceremony.

In his speech after the ceremony, Lula told supporters that Brazil doesn't need to deforest the Amazon rainforest for agriculture — a key criticism of Bolsonaro's tenure.

The Presidential sash is normally presented to the incoming President by the outgoing President. But Jair Messias Bolsonaro of the Conservative Party chose to remain absent. So after the ceremony, Lula rode by open-top Rolls-Royce to the Planalto palace to don the presidential sash before a crowd of supporters from his Workers' party.

It was a remarkable return for Lula as the President of Brazil. He had been the President from 2003-10. In 2011, he handed over power to Dilma Rousseff, his chosen successor. Dilma faced a rough weather due to a severe down-turn in the Brazilian economy. She was impeached on 31st August 2016 and the Vice-President Michel Miguel Elias Temer Lulia of PMDB, the largest party of Brazil, took over as the President. He was in the Presidential palace till 31st December 2018. On January 1, 2019, Jair Bolsonaro was elected as the President. However, when Bolsonaro stood for re-election in 2022, in the most divisive election in Brazil's history, Lula won by 50.9% of vote to Bolsonaro's 49.1%.

On Saturday, Lula, the President-Elect, had met with the Speaker of Russia's Federation Council, Valentina Matvienko. He also met separately Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko. Both Matvienko and Yulia Svyrydenko were in Brazil to attend the ceremony.

Today every major South American economy is governed by the far Left for the first time ever. **Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico** are all led by presidents who have advocated stronger economic and diplomatic ties with the Cuban, Venezuelan and Nicaraguan dictatorships.
