CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Lula Claims Fourth Term, Bolsonaro Demands Annulment Over Two-Hour Poll Extension

Politics · Oct 26, 2026 · 3 min read

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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Brazil's electoral court confirmed Lula as the winner of the presidential runoff, and pollster Datafolha validated the result showing he captured 51.7 percent against Bolsonaro's 48.2 percent. Bolsonaro rejected the outcome outright, demanding the ballot be annulled on grounds that a nationwide extension of voting hours tilted the contest unfairly. That extension came after Supreme Court judge Cristiano Zanin added two hours to the polls, following complaints from Lula's campaign about transportation disruptions in three cities in Bahia.

2 In his victory address, Lula declared that Brazil would not accept being treated as a subordinate territory of any foreign power — a pointed message directed at Washington's influence across the region. He also pledged to regulate big tech platforms, citing claims that Meta had played a role during the campaign. Bolsonaro's son Flávio had campaigned on tighter alignment with the United States, while Lula held firm on national sovereignty against external pressure.

3 The heads of state in Chile, Mexico, Uruguay, Paraguay, Panama, Bolivia and Cuba each came forward with public remarks celebrating Lula's triumph. Tensions between Brasília and Washington

worsened further in 2025 when the US imposed tariffs on Brazil as retaliation over court proceedings involving former president Jair Bolsonaro.

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2 Key words

annulled /əˈnʌld/ *verb*

To declare something legally invalid or void, especially a decision, agreement, or election result, as if it never existed.

The constitutional court annulled the controversial referendum after finding procedural irregularities in the count.

outright /ˌaʊtˈraɪt/ *adverb*

In a complete and total manner, without any qualification or partial concession.

She rejected the proposal outright, refusing even to consider a compromise.

tilt /tɪlt/ *verb*

To cause a situation, competition, or balance to shift in favour of one side, often through a decisive or unfair intervention.

The unexpected resignation of the lead candidate tilted the race decisively in favour of the challenger.

subordinate territory /səˈbɔːdɪnəˌtɛrɪtəri/ *noun*

A region or nation treated as inferior to and controlled by a more powerful one, lacking full autonomy or equal standing.

The ambassador's remarks suggested the smaller state was being treated as a subordinate territory rather than a sovereign partner.

retaliation /rɪˌtæliˈeɪʃən/ *noun*

A punitive action taken in response to a perceived wrong or attack, intended to make the other side suffer a comparable harm.

The imposition of retaliatory tariffs sparked fears of a prolonged trade war between the two economies.

held firm on /hɛld fɜːm ɒn/ *idiom*

To maintain a resolute and unchanging stance on a position or principle despite external pressure or opposition.

The government held firm on its commitment to net-zero emissions despite industry lobbying against the timeline.

3 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Detail Extraction and Inference

Answer each question in one or two sentences using only information from the text.

1 What specific action did Lula take regarding big tech in his victory address, and what was the stated justification?

2 What caused the nationwide extension of voting hours, and who authorised it?

3 What did the US do in 2025, and why, according to the text?

4 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 2 Precise Word Choice and Formal Structures

4 points

Complete each gap using the word or form indicated. Pay attention to register and collocation.

1 Bolsonaro demanded that the election result be _____ (annul) on the grounds that the voting extension had tilted the contest.

2 Lula declared Brazil would not accept being treated as a _____ (subordinate) territory of any foreign power, a pointed rebuke of Washington's regional influence.

3 The US imposed tariffs as _____ (retaliate) over court proceedings involving the former president.

4 Flávio Bolsonaro campaigned on closer _____ (align) with the United States, while Lula maintained a stance of national sovereignty.

EXERCISE 3 Put the sentences in order

3 points

These sentences are from the story. Put them in the order they appear.

A Bolsonaro's son Flávio had campaigned on tighter alignment with the United States, while Lula held firm on national sovereignty against external pressure.

B The heads of state in Chile, Mexico, Uruguay, Paraguay, Panama, Bolivia and Cuba each came forward with public remarks celebrating Lula's triumph.

C He also pledged to regulate big tech platforms, citing claims that Meta had played a role during the campaign.

Correct order: _____ _____ _____

EXERCISE 4 Match the Words

5 points

Match each vocabulary term with its correct definition.

1 annulled _____

2 outright _____

3 tilt _____

4 subordinate territory _____

5 retaliation _____

A To cause a situation, competition, or balance to shift in favour of one side, often through a decisive or unfair intervention.

B To declare something legally invalid or void, especially a decision, agreement, or election result, as if it never existed.

C A punitive action taken in response to a perceived wrong or attack, intended to make the other side suffer a comparable harm.

D A region or nation treated as inferior to and controlled by a more powerful one, lacking full autonomy or equal standing.

E In a complete and total manner, without any qualification or partial concession.

5 Discussion

Talk with a partner, then share one idea.

EXERCISE 5 Speaking

1 The text says Bolsonaro demanded the election be 'annulled' because a two-hour extension 'tilted the contest unfairly.' In what situations — if any — might a legitimate administrative adjustment to polling hours be considered grounds for annulling an entire election, and where should the line between administrative accommodation and electoral manipulation be drawn?

2 Lula's victory speech framed foreign influence using the language of 'subordinate territory.' Does the choice of such strong colonial-era terminology change how we interpret his message about big tech regulation and US influence, or is it primarily rhetorical? Discuss the effect of register and word choice on political credibility.

3 The text notes that the US imposed tariffs as 'retaliation over court proceedings' involving a former president. Can one country's domestic judicial process legitimately provoke trade retaliation from another, or does this undermine the principle of sovereign jurisdiction?

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Detail Extraction and Inference

1. In his victory address, Lula pledged to regulate big tech platforms, citing claims that Meta had played a role during the campaign. The text states: 'He also pledged to regulate big tech platforms, citing claims that Meta had played a role during the campaign.'
2. The extension came after Lula's campaign complained about transportation disruptions in three cities in Bahia, and Supreme Court judge Cristiano Zanin added two hours to the polls. The text directly states the cause (transportation disruptions in Bahia) and the authority (judge Zanin).
3. In 2025 the US imposed tariffs on Brazil as retaliation over court proceedings involving former president Jair Bolsonaro, worsening bilateral ties. The text states: 'the US imposed tariffs on Brazil as retaliation over court proceedings involving former president Jair Bolsonaro.'

Exercise 2 Precise Word Choice and Formal Structures

1. annulled After 'demand that', the subjunctive/should form uses the base verb; in passive voice it becomes 'be annulled'. The past participle 'annulled' is required.
2. subordinate 'Subordinate' is the adjective used in the text to modify 'territory', conveying political inferiority and lack of autonomy.
3. retaliation After 'as', a noun is required. 'Retaliation' is the correct nominal form of 'retaliate', fitting the formal diplomatic register.
4. alignment After 'on', a noun is needed. 'Alignment' is the correct nominal form used in the text, typical of geopolitical discourse.

Exercise 3 Put the sentences in order

C, A, B He also pledged to regulate big tech platforms, citing claims that Meta had played a role during the campaign. Bolsonaro's son Flávio had campaigned on tighter alignment with the United States, while Lula held firm on national sovereignty against external pressure. The heads of state in Chile, Mexico, Uruguay, Paraguay, Panama, Bolivia and Cuba each came forward with public remarks celebrating Lula's triumph.

Exercise 4 Match the Words

1. B. To declare something legally invalid or void, especially a decision, agreement, or election result, as if it never existed.
2. E. In a complete and total manner, without any qualification or partial concession.
3. A. To cause a situation, competition, or balance to shift in favour of one side, often through a decisive or unfair intervention.
4. D. A region or nation treated as inferior to and controlled by a more powerful one, lacking full autonomy or equal standing.
5. C. A punitive action taken in response to a perceived wrong or attack, intended to make the other side suffer a comparable harm.