

Special Topics in Brazilian Studies

Brazil's Lula Government's Active Middle East Diplomatic Strategy*

Feng Guangyi Zhang Changan Liu Wenhui

Abstract: From 2003 to 2010, with the support of three factors: the good domestic economic situation, the pursuit of great power status, and the maintenance of diplomatic independence, the Brazilian Lula government actively developed relations with third world countries, which not only improved its heavy dependence on exports. The passive situation in the US and European markets has also greatly enhanced Brazil's prestige and influence in third world countries. The Middle East, which has been neglected by previous Brazilian governments for a long time, has become a major player in the Middle East due to its important international strategic position and large scale of developing countries. It provides a perfect stage for the Lula government to realize its diplomatic philosophy. After three stages of bold contact, intensive interaction, and active mediation, the Lula government is based on economic and trade cooperation, making full use of the cultural ties between Brazil and Middle Eastern countries, and looking at political cooperation and great power status. Improvement has greatly promoted relations with Middle Eastern countries. Lula achieved the first century-old visit to the Middle East by a Brazilian head of state, actively promoted the South American-Arab Summit, used deep humanistic ties with Arab countries to participate in mediating the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and actively Mediating the Iranian nuclear issue not only provides political guarantee for Brazil's deepening economic and trade exchanges with Middle Eastern countries, but also greatly enhances Brazil's international image as a responsible power. At the beginning of the new year in 2023, the new Lula government is expected to seize the diplomatic opportunities of Middle Eastern countries. The profound changes that are taking place in the field are accelerating the advent of a multi-polar world pattern in the post-epidemic era. Keywords: Brazilian Lula government, Middle East diplomacy, head-of-state diplomacy, author introduction: Feng Guangyi, Associate Professor, School of Foreign Languages, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Researcher, Asia-Europe Research Center, Zhang Chang'an, Professor, School of Foreign Languages, Xi'an Jiaotong University; Liu Wenhui, Master's student, School of Foreign Languages, Xi'an Jiaotong University;

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Before Lula became president in 2003, although the Cardoso government proposed a "diversified" foreign policy strategy, Brazil's economy relied heavily on the United States and Europe and other countries, and its relations with developing countries developed very slowly. From 2003 to 2010, he served as President. During the Brazilian presidency, as the domestic economic situation continued to improve, Lula unwaveringly implemented the "change" slogan proposed during the campaign and participated in international affairs with a more active attitude. No matter in terms of discourse, style or priorities, Lula was consistent with the Brazilian president. The Dozo government showed obvious differences. On the one hand, the Lula government emphasized the core position of South America in Brazil's diplomacy and actively promoted the integration of South America. On the other hand, it actively developed relations with developing countries in Africa, Asia and other regions, providing Brazil with Winning a broader international stage and economic development space. During his eight-year term, President Lula carried forward the "presidential diplomacy" launched during the Cardoso administration, and personally led Brazil to become a dazzling star in the global governance arena, among which Timor-Leste's diplomatic performance was particularly outstanding, and it was even once called a "diplomatic giant" by The Economist magazine. During this period, the Lula government transformed the "self-esteem improvement" brought about by domestic economic growth into a more active and proactive approach on the international stage. A proactive expression, the continuous upgrading of its relations with Middle Eastern countries is a concrete manifestation of this strategy.

The background of the Lula administration's active diplomacy in the Middle East

During the Cardoso administration, Brazil's trade deficit continued to increase, its international balance of payments was severely imbalanced, its diplomacy relied heavily on the United States and European countries, and its domestic economic development was highly dependent on foreign investment. The unemployment rate remained high, and the economy fell into the "lost five years." As of On the eve of Lula's election, the Brazilian currency, the real, devalued by 64% and the stock market fell by 27%. The annual economic growth is expected to drop to 1%. The people strongly demand to adjust the current economic policies and change the economic development model. Therefore, they have high hopes for Lula, who advocates "reform". After Lula came to power, he launched a series of changes in the domestic and foreign affairs fields. Its high-profile and flamboyant foreign policy is in sharp contrast with previous governments. It has not only changed Brazil's diplomatic tradition of relying heavily on the United States and Europe, but also significantly improved its economic and trade relations with developing countries, fully demonstrating Brazil's status as a major developing country. status, expanding its international influence. Strengthening relations with developing countries is an important symbol of the Lula government's foreign policy, and resuming dialogue and cooperation with Middle Eastern countries is an important part of it. During Lula's term, Middle Eastern countries For the first time, he entered the diplomatic vision of the Brazilian president and played an important role in the expansion of Brazil's international influence.

He Luyang: «Brazil's participation in global governance: a comparative analysis of the Lula and Bolsonaro governments», published in «Journal of Southwest University of Science and Technology» (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition), Issue 5, 2020, Pages 7-16.

Sean Burgers The Cold War's Florida: Universe Press of Flo rida 2011, pp 169 - 171 Xu Shicheng: "Why was Lula elected President of Brazil",

published in "Foreign Theoretical Trends", Issue 12, 2002, Page 5, Page 27 Page

The economic development of Brazil made it an industrialized country, which further stimulated its desire to gain greater decision-making power in international affairs. At the beginning of the 21st century, with the changing international situation and the formation of multi-polar trends, Brazil began to play an important role in world politics and play a more important role on the economic stage. On the one hand, Lula

the government through the Southern Common Market (referred to as "Mercosur" G20, MERCOSUR), "South

BRICS (BRICS), "India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum" (IBSA), (G20), Regional organizations led by developing countries such as the US-Arab Summit (ASPA) have built a broader platform for Brazil's economic development. In fact, during this period, Brazil was active in everything from finance to trade, from climate to disarmament. Brazil's presence can be felt in various international negotiation occasions, and in many international organizations dedicated to global governance. On the other hand, the Lula government has also taken clear positions and positive actions on major international affairs, such as condemning the US invasion of Iraq, supporting Palestine in regaining lost territory, actively mediating and mediating the Iranian nuclear issue, supporting developing countries to become permanent members of the United Nations, and actively participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Asia, Africa and Latin America to demonstrate Brazil's image as a major country, and has been generally recognized by the international community. These all reflect the great attitude of the Brazilian people and political elites.

National sentiment

(2) Major changes have taken place in Brazil. The

active performance of the Lula government on the international political stage should also be attributed to the major changes that have taken place in Brazil. After entering the 21st century, the democratization process in Brazil has developed steadily, and the social legal system has been greatly improved. The economic performance has been strong and stable. In addition, Lula has adopted a "bold and active" flexible foreign policy with his personal political charisma, which has well adapted to the current development status of his country, fully tapped the potential of the country's development, and "extremely "imaginative" diplomatic activities have opened up a new diplomatic dimension for Brazil.

pattern

In January 1985, Tancredo Neves, the candidate of the Brazilian "Democratic Alliance", was elected president, ending the 21-year military regime and thus starting a new process of Brazilian democratization. The Salvein people subsequently established The regime has once again led the steady development of Brazilian political power from centralization to decentralization. The foreign policy-making process that was previously mainly dominated by the political elite has increasingly shown a diversified development trend among its participants. The Brazilian Workers' Party represented by Lula, as a An "open" political party puts more emphasis on the broad masses of

ÿ Gladys Lechini, Clarissa Giacaglia: «The Rise of Brazil in the Lula Era: Regional Leadership or Global Engagement Author?» Published in "Latin American Studies", Issue 4, 2011, pp. 69-76.

ÿ When evaluating the foreign policy of the Lula government, the French newspaper Le Monde used the word "imaginative" to describe its active performance on the international stage.

The working class and lower-class people widely participate in the country's political life and foreign policy-making. This provides an important foundation for all strata of society represented by the working class to actively participate in the country's foreign policy-making. With the development of Brazil's market economy, the diversity of social interests has The trend of globalization has become increasingly prominent. Individuals and organizations that were previously excluded from the decision-making process have actively participated in the country's domestic and foreign affairs decision-making through democratic procedures such as elections, fundamentally changing the previous top-down decision-making process.

In addition, the development of Brazil's "presidential diplomacy" provided a solid foundation and platform for Lula to display his personal charm and diplomatic wisdom. Before 1994, the formulation of Brazil's foreign policy was highly dependent on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and most major foreign affairs were handled by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Or directly decided and implemented by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The president rarely participates in foreign affairs and rarely visits abroad. Ernesto Geisel, the most influential president during the military government period, only visited twice during his five-year term. The number of foreign visits during President Cardoso's eight-year term soared to 92. President Lula further broke this record, making more than 60 foreign visits in his first term alone, with special emphasis on visiting Asia, which has long been ignored by the Brazilian government. , Africa, the Middle East and other regions, which has greatly enhanced the president's important role in Brazil's foreign policy decision-making and implementation process.

Unlike President Cardoso who attaches great importance to developed countries such as the United States and Europe, the Lula administration places more emphasis on cooperation with developing countries, through South-South alliances including regional alliances, and with non-traditional cooperation with China, Asia-Pacific, Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Partners sign agreements to abide by international norms and principles, minimize the asymmetry in diplomatic relations with powerful countries, and strive to change the distribution of power in the world and reconstruct Brazil's international trade geography. This "diversified autonomous diplomacy" on the one hand It can make Brazil become "the leading country in the third world, rather than the last country in the first world". On the other hand, it can greatly reduce Brazil's market risks in developed countries. Africa and the Middle East have long been blind spots in Brazil's foreign strategy, but these Most countries in the region not only have a similar experience of being colonized by foreign powers as Brazil, but also have abundant natural resources and huge market potential. There are obvious complementarities and broad space for cooperation with Brazil economically. Only in the first term, During the period, Lula's visit lasted more than 200 days. The Lula government's active participation in regional and international affairs has won Brazil widespread attention from the international community. While highlighting the president's personal charm, it has also greatly enhanced Brazil's international influence. Not only does it enhance the goodwill and trust in Brazil in the countries and regions visited, it also

Zhang Fan: "Review of the Institutional Construction and Organizational Development of the Brazilian Workers' Party", published in "Latin American Studies", Issue 5, 2007, Issue 29 - 34 pages

[Brazil] Written by Duluviyani and Gabriel Separuni, translated by Li Xiangkun, Liu Guozhi and Zou Cuiying: «Brazilian Foreign Affairs Foreign Policy: The Road to Autonomy from Sarny to Lula», Beijing: Social Sciences Literature Press, 2015, p. 118.

Zhang Baoyu: «Brazilian election and the policy direction of the Lula government», published in «Latin American Studies», Issue 1, 2007, Issue 16 - 20 pages

It has also become the fastest growing region for Brazilian exports. Frequent "presidential diplomacy" not only changed Brazil's tradition of relying heavily on the United States and Europe in diplomacy, but also won Brazil "moral prestige" internationally. ¶

(3) The development of the world's multi-polar pattern.

After entering the 21st century, the development trend of economic globalization and world multi-polarization has become increasingly prominent, promoting the formation of a new trend in the world economy and international politics, represented by the "BRICS" The economies of emerging countries have developed rapidly, and their status and role in international relations have significantly improved. They have become an important force in promoting the accelerated development of world multipolarity and an important feature of the multipolar trend in today's era. On the one hand, the world with the United States as its core Unilateralism is becoming increasingly unpopular internationally. On the other hand, multilateralism led by emerging countries is on the rise in various parts of the world. With the joint efforts of developing countries, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Six-Party Talks Mechanism on the North Korean Nuclear Weapon, and the South American-Arab Cooperation Not only have many new multilateral organizations such as state summits been formed, but the scale of existing multilateral organizations has also continued to expand. According to incomplete statistics, there are more than 200 multilateral activities

in the security field in the Asia-Pacific region alone every year. Economically, The status and influence of developing countries in the world economic structure have further increased. From 2003 to 2007, the per capita GDP of developing countries represented by the "BRICS" increased by nearly 30%. The development of emerging countries represented by the BRICS countries has made the G20 play an increasingly important role in global affairs, which has greatly weakened the power of the G7 to dominate the international political and economic order. The United States is the dominant country. The situation is gradually being broken, and the voices and actions of major political forces around the world to unite to resist hegemony have significantly increased. Some scholars even believe that with the economic stagnation of the Eurozone and the United States, the BRICS countries are gaining more wealth, expertise, and consumption. capabilities and political influence, and re-arrange the world system in a way that is beneficial to them. ¶ The cooperation mechanisms of developing countries represented by the "BRICS" continue to develop. With their huge population base and economic aggregate,

such as the BRICS Substantive cooperative institutions such as the National Development Bank of China have been established and strengthened one after another, seriously impacting the existing international financial and trade system dominated by the United States and Europe, and posing challenges to the hegemony of the United States. As the most important emerging country in the 21st century One, Brazil plays a very active core role in the BRICS mechanism, which fundamentally reflects its growing international political ambitions and its tendency to fully integrate into economic globalization to achieve its national development goals. BRICS mechanism

in ¶Zhou Zhiwei: "Analysis of the Lula Administration's Foreign Policy and Future Foreign Policy Trends", published "Latin American

¶ Studies", Issue 6 , 2006, Pages 44 - 50, Dorothy - Grace Gu error¶ The Rise of China and BRICS: A Multipol ar World in the Marking?¶ Focus on the Global Sout h¶ March 2¶ 2013 <https://focusweb.org/the-rise-of-china-and-brics-a-multipolar-world-in-the-making/> [2023 - 01 - 19]

It enables Brazil to establish clearer partnerships with other developing countries in the field of innovation and research, providing Brazil with opportunities to obtain higher potential returns, and at the same time greatly reducing the risks it may face. The Lula government firmly grasps the economic global in line with the trend of globalization, making full use of regional and multilateral cooperation mechanisms such as Mercosur, BRICS, the G20, and the South American-Arab Summit not only provides Brazil with good economic development opportunities, but also positions Brazil on the international stage. It has played a more active role. As Amorim, the Foreign Minister of the Lula government, said, "Although Brazilian diplomacy at the beginning of the 21st century failed to set off a huge wave in the ocean of international politics, it at least understood how to stand bravely on the tide in the stormy waves, and move forward through the waves." At the beginning of the 21st century, the world's multi-polar pattern

has developed in depth, and Brazil's economic situation has continued to improve. Especially under the leadership of the Lula government, Brazil's rise has once again gained strong momentum. The power of the movement has attracted global attention and rekindled the dream of becoming a great power among Brazil's center-left political elites represented by Lula. They seek to become a permanent member of the United Nations, consolidate their leadership position in South America, and challenge the world dominated by U.S. unilateralism. A series of international political demands aimed at realizing its dream of becoming a great power, such as changing the political landscape and serving as a "leader" for developing countries, have begun to become the focus of the Lula government's foreign policy. The independent diplomatic style of a rising power has been demonstrated everywhere. In addition, left-wing political forces swept through most of Latin America like a prairie fire and formed a powerful anti-American "pink tide" in the "backyard" of the United States. It not only weakened the leadership of the United States in the international situation, but also provided Brazil with an important influence on the international political stage. Provides good opportunities

After the end of the Iraq War in 2003, the United States became increasingly unable to control the Middle East. In addition, its strategic focus shifted to the Asia-Pacific region. The stability in the Middle East originally achieved under the "one superpower and dominance" pattern was broken. No other major power could control the Middle East. With the United States replacing the United States in the short term, many conflicts in the Middle East broke out. At this time, the Middle East, which had long been ignored by the Brazilian government, naturally entered the Middle East due to its important international strategic position and large scale of developing countries. It has captured the Lula government's vision and become an important part of its dream of realizing Brazil's great power.

The evolution of the Lula administration's active diplomacy in the Middle East

The Middle East spans the three continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa, connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean, and is the transportation hub between the East and the West.

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The hub of the Middle East has been an important region where world powers have competed since ancient times and has an extremely important strategic position. At the same time, the rich oil and gas reserves and frequent ethnic and religious conflicts make the Middle East not only have unlimited economic value, but also It has become an excellent stage for world powers to compete to demonstrate their strength and international influence. For any country that expects to play an important role on the international stage, the Middle East is of great strategic significance. As an emerging power that continues to rise in the 21st century, Brazil has strengthened its cooperation with The diplomatic relations of countries in the Middle East can not only obtain huge economic benefits, but also enhance their influence and international status in developing countries.

During his eight-year tenure, Lula made major adjustments to Brazil's foreign policy, actively carried out bilateral exchanges with Middle Eastern countries, and used the South American regional platform to carry out exchanges with the Middle East. Relations between Brazil and Middle Eastern countries have achieved significant development. , has become one of the highlights of its diplomacy. Brazil actively promotes relations with Middle Eastern countries, and is completely different from the Middle East strategy of Western countries such as the United States and Europe. It neither relies on the oil resources in the Middle East, nor is it a major arms exporter in the Middle East. There is no baggage of colonialism or Cold War confrontation in the Middle East. Although Brazil regards the importance of the Middle East to world peace as the focus of its Middle East diplomacy, Brazil has never been as worried about the turmoil in the Middle East as countries such as the United States and Europe are. pose a threat to its domestic security.

The Lula administration's Middle East diplomacy can be divided into bold contacts (2003) and intensive interactions (2004-2004). 2005) and active mediation (2006-2010).

(1) The first stage (2003): Bold contacts After taking office as

president, Lula changed the previous government's policy of neglecting the Middle East and boldly turned his attention to this region. From December 3 to 10, 2003, he visited Syria, The five Arab countries of Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Libya have achieved the first visit by a Brazilian head of state to the Middle East since Pedro II visited the Ottoman Empire in 1876. This data also illustrates the historical relationship between Brazil and Middle Eastern countries. Communication is very limited

The purpose of Lula's visit is to enhance bilateral cooperation and trade and enhance Brazil's image as an ideal investment target. However, since these five countries have their own characteristics in the Middle East, the specific purposes and reasons for Lula's visit to each country are different. As the first two stops and the top priority of Lula's visit, Syria and Lebanon have profound historical and cultural origins with Brazil. About 10 million of the 12 million Arab immigrants in Brazil are from Syria and Lebanon. They are in Brazil Arabs played an important role in the political, social and economic life of Brazil at that time. Arabs accounted for 9% of the members of the Brazilian Congress at that time. Even the speakers of both houses were once held by Arabs. Among them, Lebanese had the greatest influence, so much so that Lula It is proposed that "Lebanon should be used as a bridge to the Arab world" to strengthen political and economic ties between the two sides through cultural proximity.

The platform effectively implemented the in-depth exchanges between the two parties. Since then, the relationship between the two parties has developed rapidly, and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, humanities, science and technology has been further strengthened, paving the way for the smooth convening of the South American-Arab Summit.

On May 10-11, 2005, the first South American-Arab Summit was successfully held in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. 17 heads of state and government and 60 ministers from 12 South American countries and 22 Arab countries attended This summit was held. This is the first time in the history of South America and Arab countries that such a large-scale summit has been held. It is of great significance to promoting the development of relations between the two regions and promoting South-South cooperation. This meeting first focused on promoting trade exchanges and The theme of economic cooperation was discussed in depth. The Cooperation Council of the Gulf Arab States (referred to as "GCC") and Mercosur held detailed discussions on the specific form and content of cooperation, and signed a framework agreement to establish a free trade area. South America expanded This has opened up the export market for traditional products. Agricultural and animal husbandry products such as beef, chicken, cane sugar and fruits are continuously exported to the Middle East. Arab countries, on the other hand, bypass the United States and Europe and directly import agricultural and animal husbandry products with favorable prices from South America. In addition, In addition, since the Arab countries insist that "you cannot talk about economics without talking about politics," and the economies of the participating countries are all controlled by the United States to varying degrees, economic issues are actually political issues. Therefore, the topics of this meeting also widely involve the situation in the Middle East, The Palestinian issue, counter-terrorism, opposition to US unilateral sanctions on Syria, United Nations reform and other political issues, and called for the establishment of an Arab-South American anti-imperialist front to counter the control of the economies of developing countries by powerful countries.

The summit unanimously adopted the "Brasilia Declaration" aimed at strengthening bilateral political and economic cooperation, marking a new stage in bilateral relations. The "Declaration" pointed out that all countries will pursue development, fairness and international peace for the purpose of pursuing development, fairness and international peace. Strengthen ties between the two regions, expand cooperation, and establish partnerships, emphasize that Arab and South American countries should strengthen cooperation and exchanges, strive for positive results in multilateral trade negotiations, continuously narrow the gap between the North and the South, politically condemn terrorism, and call for the establishment of a Palestinian state ÿ Achieve fair, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, call for the establishment of a fair and transparent international trade order in economics and trade, require developed countries to reduce export subsidies, and increase assistance to developing countries. ÿ

Although South America and the Middle East are thousands of miles apart, and there are huge differences in political, economic and social forms, the two sides are highly complementary in terms of capital and resources. The two regions have a total population of 700 million and a gross national product of 700 billion. With a value of more than 7 trillion U.S. dollars, it has formed a huge commercial and trade market, which has laid an important foundation for economic cooperation between the two sides. By promoting the first South American-Arab Summit, Brazilian President Lula not only further demonstrated his extraordinary

ÿTang Yong: «Brazil summit worries the United States», published in Global Times, Page 7, May 16, 2005.

His personal political charm has maintained Brazil's independent diplomatic stance and dignity, enhanced Brazil's voice and influence in Arab countries and the world, and opened up a broader space for its economic development.

Four years later, the Second South American-Arab States Summit was successfully held in Doha, the capital of Qatar, on March 31, 2009. Heads of representatives from 34 countries in the two regions participated. The meeting signed the "Doha Declaration". It involves issues such as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the situation in Iraq, the Sudan issue, the fight against terrorism, international cooperation, and response to the global financial crisis. On the Palestinian-Israeli issue, the declaration adheres to the United Nations' "land for peace" principle to promote the realization of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Peace. On the issue of Iraq, we advocate respecting its independence and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, and allowing the Iraqi people to freely choose the future of their country. On the issue of Sudan, we welcome the agreement between the Arab League and the African Union ("AU") on resolving the Darfur issue. initiative on the issue, calling on all factions in Sudan to unite and eliminate differences. In addition, the "Doha Declaration" also emphasizes further strengthening cooperation between the two regions in culture, environment, science and technology, education, society and other aspects, and jointly promotes cooperation among developing countries. Cooperation. The successful convening of this summit made the relationship between South America and Arab countries become closer and more active, and promoted the establishment of a fair and just international order

and the formation of a new framework for international cooperation. On October 2, 2012, the third session The South American-Arab Summit was held in Lima, the capital of Peru. Countries in the two regions showed their desire to strengthen the bilateral integration process and reached consensus on many major political and economic issues. The meeting signed the "Lima Declaration" and will The perspective turns to Syria, which is in turmoil, and calls for the international community to take measures to politically resolve the Syrian crisis. In addition to continuing to strengthen cooperation between the two regions in the fields of economy and trade, finance, investment, tourism, energy, high-tech and other fields. In addition, all countries also committed to actively create a good investment and trade environment and jointly explore new prospects for economic and trade cooperation on the premise of equality and mutual benefit. This meeting coincided with the outbreak of the "Arab Spring" and was originally scheduled to be held in 2011. However, it was postponed due to the turmoil in the Arab world. In addition, the new Brazilian President Rousseff was no longer as firm in promoting South-South cooperation as Lula in foreign policy. The effect of the summit was also greatly reduced. However, in any case, the cooperation established under Lula Within the framework, relations between Brazil and even South America and Arab countries have continued to improve, and great progress has been made in both political and economic and trade cooperation fields. The fourth summit held in Saudi Arabia in 2015 further proposed the goal of promoting the "strategic partnership" between the two parties. Construction, strengthen capital flows and technology transfer in the fields of trade, electricity, information industry, tourism, agriculture, infrastructure and other fields, and enhance cultural and social exchanges between each other.

When Lula stepped down as Brazilian president, it coincided with the "Arab Spring" intensifying. The prospects for the South American-Arab summit were bleak for a time. However, in the end, at the insistence of the successor President Rousseff, both parties

He is a new participant in the process and can continue to contribute new wisdom and fair and effective solutions to the Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation. In fact, since 2005, Brazilian Foreign Minister Amorim has visited Israel and Palestine five times. On the one hand, he has deepened the understanding of the dire situation in Palestine; on the other hand, it has strengthened communication and interaction with Palestine and Israel without giving up any principled position; it not only publicly condemns the heavy disaster that Israel's actions in Gaza have brought to the Palestinian people, but also solemnly declares The Brazilian government firmly opposes any violence, including terrorism. In frequent dialogue with Palestinian officials and Arab League leaders, President Lula called on the two main Palestinian political factions, Fatah and Hamas, to reach reconciliation. The basic conditions for peace with Israel played a positive role in promoting the reconciliation reached by both parties in April 2011 to a certain extent.

In addition to its active political mediation, Brazil has also unwaveringly supported the development of Palestine through specific actions. In 2007, Brazil provided US\$10 million in aid to invest in Palestinian education, public health and urban infrastructure construction. In 2009, in Shamsha, Egypt, At the Gaza reconstruction conference held in Iraq, Brazil once again pledged to provide US\$15 million in aid. In addition, Brazil also joined forces with India and South Africa to proactively build a hospital for Palestine. All these efforts are aimed at promoting economic development and political stability. The formation of the Palestinian state will ultimately completely resolve the Palestinian-Israeli issue and better demonstrate Brazil's status and influence on the international stage. However, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has a long history, and the situation is complex and ever-changing. In addition, the United States and Europe and other world powers have their respective Political calculations are difficult to completely resolve in the short term.

Secondly, actively participating in alleviating unrest is an important measure for the Lula government to strengthen cultural ties with Arab countries. Arab countries have strong cultural ties with Brazil, and their culture has a great influence on Brazilian society, literature, food, etc., and is tolerant, accepting of differences, and respectful. Othering and transcending racial and religious differences have become the basic values for Brazilians in dealing with domestic and international affairs. In December 2003, as the Brazilian head of state who visited the Middle East for the first time in 127 years, Lula regarded Syria and Lebanon as the two countries in the Middle East. This is the first stop of the tour, which shows that it attaches great importance to these two countries. Brazil has 12 million Arab descendants, of which Lebanese and Syrians account for 7 million and 3 million respectively. It is the country with the largest Lebanese and Syrian populations outside the two countries. Therefore, Strengthening diplomatic relations with Arab countries, especially Lebanon and Syria, will not only win more domestic and foreign supporters for the Lula government, but will also help Brazil realize its self-identity on the world stage.

Lula not only attaches great importance to the development of bilateral relations with Palestine and Syria, but also believes that Syria can play a decisive role in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and the peaceful resolution of the Lebanese-Israeli conflict. Even when the "Arab Spring" broke out and Syria fell into turmoil, it had no time to take care of itself. ÿ Lula still firmly believes that once the domestic situation in Syria stabilizes, he will become a key player in the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese-Israeli conflict.

In July 2010, Lula's invitation to President Bashar al-Assad to visit Brazil was a clear manifestation of this belief, and Foreign Minister Amorim's six visits to Damascus were a perfect interpretation of this belief. In the process of strengthening dialogue with the Syrian government In China, the Lula government has greatly enhanced its voice and influence on sensitive issues involving the Golan Heights. After President Lula visited the Middle East in 2010, the Brazilian government was invited to participate in the upcoming peace talks between Syria and Israel. Specific manifestations of the increase in its voice and influence.

Brazil has a close relationship with Lebanon. The political stability of Lebanon has a direct impact on Brazil, not only because there are as many as 7 million Lebanese immigrants in Brazil, but also because more and more Brazilians come to Lebanon to live, study, do business, etc. When the Lebanese War broke out in 2006, the Brazilian government took active action and urgently relocated more than 3,000 Brazilians in Lebanon. After the war, the Brazilian government actively assisted the reconstruction of Lebanon and assisted the Lebanese government in actively participating in cooperation projects. Brazilian generals also served as naval officers in the Lebanese peacekeeping operations. Commander-in-Chief, Lebanese President Michel Suleiman was also invited to visit Brazil in April 2010. The strong cultural ties with Lebanon and its own dream of becoming a great power prompted Brazil to proactively participate in Lebanon's political stability and reconstruction process, and in has played a more important role in the peace process throughout the Middle East.

Finally, actively participating in resolving the Iranian nuclear crisis is the Lula government's masterstroke in shaping Brazil's image as a major country. The Iranian nuclear issue is one of the most thorny and sensitive issues in the world today. Iran regards the peaceful use of nuclear energy as a symbol of its status as a normal country and advocates a complete solution to the Iranian nuclear issue on the basis of a political, economic and diplomatic package solution reached by the United States and Iran. The United States believes that only by subverting the current Iranian regime can the Iranian nuclear issue be finally resolved. But in fact, the Iranian nuclear issue itself has long transcended the boundaries of bilateral relations between the United States and Iran. It is related to the entire Middle East regional pattern, geopolitics and world economy. It involves major power competition and major political problems that affect world stability. Since 2006, the Six-Party Talks mechanism composed of Britain, France, China, the United States, Russia, and Germany has dominated the solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. However, due to the failure to establish a sufficient relationship with Iran, communication and trust, leading to a deadlock in the solution of the problem. As one of the few countries that has established good mutual trust with all parties, the Brazilian government is keenly aware that this deadlock creates opportunities for itself to participate in solving major political problems in the world and enhance international cooperation. Influence has brought excellent opportunities. The Lula government believes that the reason why the Iranian nuclear issue has reached a deadlock is, on the one hand, because of the deliberate actions of the Western powers led by the United States, and on the other hand, because of the lack of support from the international community for Iran's peaceful use of nuclear energy. recognition of qualifications, and as time goes by, Iran cannot be permanently deprived of this qualification.

In October 2009, after the Geneva talks, the Obama administration proposed a specific plan for nuclear fuel exchange.

However, Iran believes that this plan will cause Iran to lose most of the achievements of its nuclear program and is a disguised denial of Iran's right to peaceful use of nuclear energy. Therefore, the response is very cold. Just as the two sides are at a stalemate, the Lula government wastes no time in seizing the opportunity. In 2009 In November 2016, the Lula government conducted intensive interactions with the visiting Iranian President Ahmadinejad, publicly supported his right to peaceful use of nuclear energy, and fully won Iran's trust. In fact, the Lula government had already The international community has called on the international community to respect Iran's right to peaceful use of nuclear energy on many occasions. These remarks have not only become the basis for the continuous strengthening of political and economic relations between Brazil and Iran, but also become the prerequisite for the Lula government to participate in the solution of the Iranian nuclear issue. ̣ May 2010 In August, Lula visited Iran on the occasion of attending the Ministerial Meeting of the "South-South Consultation and Cooperation Summit" (also known as the "Group of Fifteen") held in Tehran, and held talks with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. ̣ Discuss the solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. On May 17, Iran, Brazil, and Turkey jointly issued the "Tehran Joint Statement". With the joint efforts of Brazil and Turkey, Iran accepted the energy alternative plan proposed by the United States. This result made The whole world was astonished, and by promoting this result, Brazil's great power status was once again fully demonstrated. At this moment, Brazil's voice in the Middle East and major international security issues has reached an unprecedented height, and its international prestige has also reached its peak.

Unfortunately, on the one hand, sanctioning Iran is a long-term policy of the United States, and the result of Iran accepting the mediation of Brazil and Turkey will be extremely embarrassing for the United States, a superpower. On the other hand, the United States does not want emerging countries like Brazil to participate in the Iranian nuclear issue. and other major international issues, in order to prevent its international status and influence from challenging its hegemony. On June 9, 2010, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1929 proposed by the United States, imposing the most severe new round of sanctions on Iran in history. sanctions, the Iranian nuclear issue has reached a complete deadlock. At the same time, the Lula government is also deeply aware that in the absence of strength, any high-level None of the diplomatic skills can really bring Brazil to the status of a world power.

Characteristics of the Three Lula Administration's Middle East Diplomacy

Lula's Middle East diplomacy is mainly based on four considerations: promoting economic and trade ties between Brazil and Middle Eastern countries to diversify Brazil's export market, strengthening political cooperation with Middle Eastern countries to seek their support for Brazil's "membership", and making full use of Brazil's Deep cultural ties with Middle Eastern countries to enhance mutual recognition, and actively mediate Middle East crises to expand international influence in the region.̣

̣ Brazilian Ministry of External Relations Brazilian Foreign Policy Handbooḳ Brasilia: A Lexandre de Gusmão Foundation 2008 p 195
 Zhou Zhiwei: «The Rise of Brazil and the World Pattern» Beijing: Social Sciences Literature Press, 2012, page 141.

(1) Economic interests are the fundamental starting point and pragmatic motivation of Lula's active diplomacy in the Middle

East. After entering the 21st century, trade between Brazil and developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America has developed rapidly. In addition, Brazil's domestic economy has grown rapidly, and large domestic enterprises have The acceleration of the internationalization process and the relative decline in the economic strength of traditional trading partners such as the United States and Europe have greatly stimulated the Lula government to attach importance to non-traditional trading partners in the Middle East. The Lula government hopes to promote economic and trade relations with Middle Eastern countries and expand Diversified channels for Brazil's export market, thereby improving the passive situation of heavy reliance on the US and European markets. Brazil and the Middle East have strong economic and trade complementarity. Many products of both parties are of strategic importance to each other. Brazil's oil imports from the Middle East, Products such as kerosene and gasoline have become important resources that promote the rapid development of Brazil's domestic economy. In fact, for a long time, oil has been an important baton in determining Brazil's Middle East policy. At the same time, the Middle East is Brazil's meat, dairy products, and cane sugar. It is an important export market for agricultural products such as agricultural machinery, construction, aviation and other products. Brazil's exports of meat, cane sugar, wheat and other commodities ensure the food security of Middle Eastern countries. 80% of Saudi Arabia's chicken and 90% of its cane sugar imports come from Brazil. Iran is the largest importer of Brazilian beef and other foods. Brazil's iron ore, aircraft, weapons and other products provide diversified guarantees for the industrial development and national defense construction of Middle Eastern countries. The Lula government hopes to expand the sales of domestic products in the Middle East as soon as possible exports, and attract petrodollars from Middle Eastern countries to promote investment in domestic infrastructure construction to solve the dilemma of domestic capital shortage. Not only that, the Lula government also hopes to ensure that the Middle East becomes a reliable source of Brazilian oil and natural gas imports to meet the needs of Brazil. Its rapid economic development requires energy.

The economic and trade cooperation between Brazil and Middle Eastern countries is based on mutual respect, mutual benefit and complementarity, and is destined to bring win-win results. This is indeed the case. Since 2003, trade between Middle Eastern countries and Brazil has grown rapidly, becoming an important factor in the growth of Brazilian exports. It is one of the fastest sources and one of the important sources of trade surplus, thus becoming an important factor in Brazil's foreign trade balance. In 2000, Brazil's exports to the Middle East were only 19.5 billion U.S. dollars, and in 2011 they were as high as 17.63 billion U.S. dollars. The growth rate was 804%. During the same period, Brazil's exports to the United States only increased by 938% (see Figure 1). Brazil's imports from the Middle East also increased from US\$30.7 billion in 2000 to US\$10.7 billion in 2011. The increase was to 249% , and

He Shuangrong: "Brazilian President Lula's Middle East Trip", published in "Latin American Research", Issue 25, 2003, Pages 1-3.

Before the 1970s, Brazil relied on imports for 80% of its oil. After the outbreak of the world oil crisis, Brazil began to increase the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas resources, and put it into production in 1977. Since then, Brazil's oil imports have decreased year by year, while its oil exports have grown from scratch. In 2006, Brazil's oil exports were as high as Oil imports remained flat. After 2007, Brazil's oil exports exceeded its imports, and Brazil completely realized oil independence.

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The Brazilian Arab Chamber of Commerce has strengthened people-to-people exchanges and business cooperation with Middle Eastern countries, and has become an important force in actively implementing and promoting the cooperation agreements reached at the South American-Arab Summit.

(4) Great power status is the ultimate goal of Lula's active diplomacy in the Middle East.

In the 1960s and 1970s, with the rapid rise of the economy, Brazil began to long for the goal of becoming a world political power. From the political elite to the ordinary people, they firmly believed that Brazil should become a world political power. Playing an important role in the world. Entering the 21st century, President Lula is more actively promoting Brazil's great power strategy, hoping to firmly grasp this "new era belonging to Brazil." Brazil's population and area rank fifth in the world, and it is the largest country in Latin America. It is the most powerful country and has great influence in economy, politics, military, science and technology, culture and other aspects. Its rich mineral and agricultural resources provide great potential for Brazil's economic development, and its independent foreign policy and its influence in South America Geopolitical advantages allow Brazil to play an important leading role in regional affairs. However, the Lula government's great power ambitions are not satisfied with this. Participating in decision-making on major international affairs is his ultimate goal, and the turbulent Middle East region happens to be a good place for it. The Lula government provides a good venue for expressing its clear position.

After the outbreak of the Iraq War in 2003, Lula publicly condemned the United States' unilateral hegemony and its atrocities that trampled on the territories and sovereignty of developing countries, and called for the establishment of a just and equal world order in which developing countries have a say. Although at this time, Issues of global economic governance have gradually opened up to emerging powers, but issues involving global peace and security are still firmly in the hands of Western powers such as the United States and Europe. Lula's move clearly shows that Brazil is trying to change this long-standing oligarchic system. In addition to making public statements on the Iraq issue, the Lula government also actively mediates the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. On the one hand, it maintains traditional friendly relations with Israel, and on the other hand, it strengthens partnerships with Arab countries. to mediate the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on the basis of trust. In addition to Foreign Minister Amorim's five visits to Palestine and Israel, Lula himself also visited both parties to the conflict in 2010 to promote their reconciliation and fully demonstrated to the world that Brazil is a neutral and impartial mediator. This stance is in sharp contrast to the United States' long-term bias toward Israel, and it has won a good reputation in the Middle East and even around the world.

The Lula government was not satisfied with merely participating in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, a major security issue in the Middle East. The Iranian nuclear issue was another stage for the Lula government to demonstrate its status as a great power. In 2010, Lula and Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan worked together to persuade Iran Signing the "Tehran Joint Statement", accepting the energy alternative plan, fully demonstrating

He Shuangrong: «United Nations reform and Brazil's "entry into the permanent membership" issue», published in «Latin American Studies», Issue 4, 2005, Issue 17 - 20 pages

As of the end of 2019, Brazil's population has long been ranked fifth in the world. In 2020, it was overtaken by Pakistan and slipped to sixth place. Brazilian Ministry of External Relations book Brasília: Alexandre de

The Bama government's interventionist posture in South America began to become more aggressive, and it rebuilt close ties with Latin America's conservative military and economic elites. Faced with such a turbulent Middle East situation and tremendous pressure from the United States, the Bama government, which originally lacked diplomatic experience, President Rousseff has adopted diplomatic concepts and policies that are very different from Lula's. She no longer recognizes the Lula government's positive Middle East foreign policy that has both high returns and high risks. She only emphasizes bilateral economic and trade cooperation and development with Middle Eastern countries and remains silent. Ideology and values. Especially when the "Arab Spring" is in full swing, Rousseff firmly emphasized Brazil's position of non-interference in other countries' politics and its support for Arab countries to solve problems through joint consultation at the South American-Arab Summit. This view has greatly disappointed those Arab countries that had high hopes for Brazil and this summit. Although the economic and trade cooperation between Brazil and Middle Eastern countries has basically continued the growth trend during the Lula era, it is difficult for the political trust between each other to return to the previous level. "Honeymoon" status

The Lula government's active role in major security affairs in the Middle East has aroused high vigilance from the U.S. government. Without the support of the United States and Europe, Brazil lacks the leverage to make its foreign policy in the Middle East work. It is neither a permanent member of the Security Council nor the U.S. Europe's strength and influence. When the "Tehran Joint Statement" jointly issued by Iran, Brazil, and Turkey was overturned by the United States, Lula had realized that Brazil's strength was not enough to support its ambition to lead major international security affairs, nor could it shoulder the responsibility. The status of a world power comes with international responsibilities, so the succeeding Rousseff government began to significantly shrink its Middle East diplomacy under pressure from the United States.

In November 2018, after Bolsonaro, the far-right candidate of the Social Liberal Party, was elected President of Brazil, he announced with a high profile that he would move the embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. In January 2020, Qasim, the commander of the Iranian "Quds Force" was assassinated in the United States. After Soleimani, Bolsonaro and the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately stated that Brazil supports the United States' "anti-terrorism" actions. In addition, he pursues a diplomatic stance of fully following the United States and the radical proposition of "Brazil above all else". All of this has cast a thick shadow on the relationship between Brazil and the Middle East. Although Brazil did not move its embassy to Jerusalem in the end, President Bolsonaro also visited Arab countries in the Middle East twice in 2019 and 2021, repairing the situation to a certain extent. However, this kind of diplomatic breakthrough based on economic, trade and investment cooperation is not the same as the active Middle East foreign policy of the Lula government. In addition, under the impact of the epidemic, Brazil's national strength and international influence have declined rapidly. As a result, its role and status in the Middle East have declined significantly. Brazil has begun to drift away from the Middle East countries.

Yi Jiang Shixue: "New changes in Brazil's diplomatic strategy after Bolsonaro came to power", published in "Contemporary World", Issue 9, 2020, pp. 39-46.

This major and profound change will surely accelerate the in-depth development of the multi-polar world in the post-epidemic era and provide an important diplomatic stage for emerging countries including Brazil. In order to better practice "restoring Brazil's role in global affairs" With the campaign slogan "Great Power Status", the new Lula government will inevitably further strengthen its relations with Middle Eastern countries, reshape Brazil's great power status in the process of actively mediating Middle East affairs, and strengthen economic, trade, and political cooperation with Middle Eastern countries. to expand Brazil's national interests. At the beginning of the new year of 2023, Iranian Vice President Mohammad Hussein and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal met in Brazil, kicking off the Lula government's mediation of Middle East affairs. At the same time, Brazil's Embassy in Israel The dismissal of Ambassador de Freitas became the first step for the Lula government to correct the pro-Israel foreign policy of the Bolsonaro government and achieve a more "balanced and traditional" stance on the Palestinian-Israeli issue. The Lula government's Middle East policy will be Where to go? It remains to be seen whether the glory of the "active and decisive" Middle East diplomacy of the past can be restored.

(Editor-in-charge Wang Shuai)