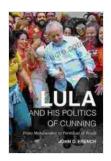
From Metalworker to President of Brazil



Lula and His Politics of Cunning: From Metalworker to		
President of Brazil by John D. French		
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The Extraordinary Journey of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

The life of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is a testament to the power of determination, resilience, and the unyielding pursuit of social justice. From humble beginnings as a metalworker, Lula rose to become one of the most influential leaders not only in Brazil but also on the global stage.

Early Life and Career

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was born on October 27, 1945, in the impoverished northeastern Brazilian town of Garanhuns. At the age of seven, he moved with his family to the industrial city of São Bernardo do Campo, São Paulo, where he began working as a metalworker at the age of 14.

Lula's early experiences with labor exploitation and poverty fueled his passion for social justice. He became actively involved in the trade union

movement, and in 1975, he was elected president of the São Bernardo do Campo Metalworkers' Union.

Rise to National Prominence

Under Lula's leadership, the Metalworkers' Union became a powerful force for change in Brazil. Lula played a pivotal role in organizing strikes and protests against the repressive military dictatorship that ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985.

In 1980, Lula co-founded the Workers' Party (PT),a left-wing political party that advocated for social justice, economic equality, and democratic reforms. Lula's charisma and ability to connect with ordinary Brazilians made him a popular figure, and he was elected to the Brazilian Congress in 1986.

Presidential Campaigns

Lula ran for president three times before finally being elected in 2002. In his previous campaigns, he faced opposition from the Brazilian elite, who feared his socialist policies. However, in 2002, Lula successfully appealed to a broad coalition of voters, including the poor, the working class, and even some members of the middle class.

Presidency

Lula's presidency was marked by significant social and economic reforms. He implemented a series of social programs aimed at reducing poverty and improving the lives of marginalized Brazilians. These programs included Bolsa Família, a conditional cash transfer program that provided financial assistance to low-income families, and Fome Zero, a program that aimed to eradicate hunger in Brazil. Lula also oversaw a period of economic growth and stability. He adopted pragmatic economic policies that promoted foreign investment and social development. Under his leadership, Brazil became a major player in the global economy.

Legacy

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva left office in 2011 with high approval ratings. He is widely credited with transforming Brazil into a more just, equitable, and prosperous society. Lula's legacy includes his tireless advocacy for social justice, his ability to unite Brazilians from all walks of life, and his role in strengthening Brazil's democracy.

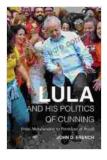
Political Comeback and Imprisonment

In 2017, Lula was convicted of corruption and money laundering charges and sentenced to 12 years in prison. His supporters maintained that the charges were politically motivated and part of an attempt to prevent him from running for president again.

In 2019, Lula's conviction was overturned by the Supreme Court, and he was released from prison. In 2022, he ran for president again and was elected to a third term.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's journey from metalworker to President of Brazil is a story of hope, perseverance, and the triumph of the human spirit. His legacy as a champion of social justice and economic empowerment continues to inspire Brazilians and people around the world.

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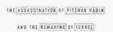
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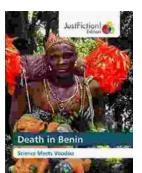


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