1. Record Nr. UNINA9910819725203321

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Titolo Lula of Brazil: the story so far // Richard Bourne

Pubbl/distr/stampa Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2008

ISBN 1-282-75944-2

9786612759444 0-520-93252-8

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (309 p.)

Disciplina 981.06092

В

Soggetti Presidents - Brazil

Brazil Politics and government 2003-

Brazil Politics and government 1985-2002

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- ILLUSTRATIONS -- PREFACE AND

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- 1. A Tough Start in Life -- 2. Strike Leader -- 3. The PT, the Workers' Party -- 4. Persistent Candidate for the Presidency -- 5. Overview of the First Term -- 6. Domestic Policy -- 7. International and Economic Policy -- 8. Corruption and Scandal -- 9. The Elections of 2006 -- 10. Lula So Far: An Interim Assessment --

NOTES -- SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX

Sommario/riassunto Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's dramatic life story has captured the

imagination of millions, and his progressive politics have brought hope and excitement to Brazil-and the world. This compelling work is the first major English-language biography of the metalworker who became president of Latin America's largest and most powerful country. In a clearly written, vividly detailed narrative, Richard Bourne describes Lula's childhood hardships in an impoverished family, his days as a revered trade unionist, and the strike movement that brought down Brazil's military dictatorship. The book chronicles Lula's campaigns for the presidency, his first term in office beginning in 2002, a major corruption scandal, and his reelection in 2006. Throughout, Lula of

Brazil connects this charismatic leader's life to larger issues, such as

the difficulty of maintaining a progressive policy in an era of globalization. Brazil's contemporary history, parallels with other developing countries and other world leaders, the conservatism of Brazilian society, and other themes provide a rich backdrop for assessing the struggles, achievements, and failures of this major figure on both the Brazilian and the world stage.