Brazil Institute
Annual Report 2006-2007
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Message from the President of the Woodrow Wilson Center

Lee H. Hamilton

Woodrow Wilson was a man of unceasing skill, intellect and curiosity. The Woodrow Wilson Center honors his memory by bridging his two passions—scholarship and policy. At the Woodrow Wilson Center, we bring together the thinkers and the doers—policymakers, scholars and business leaders—in the hope that a frank and open dialogue will lead to better understanding, cooperation and public policy.

The Woodrow Wilson Center launched the Brazil Institute last year, expanding the work and vision of the Brazil Project which began in 2000, in recognition of Brazil's growing international influence and the importance of strong relations between the United States and Brazil. Like other programs at the Wilson Center, the Brazil Institute does not have a legislative or policy agenda. The Institute is dedicated to open dialogue, in-depth discussions and better understanding of the complex public policy issues of relevance to Brazil and Brazilian-U.S. relations. The Center is committed to bringing together policymakers, scholars, journalists, businesspeople, and civic leaders in order to encourage informed dialogue, assess Brazil’s public policies and build effective policies for the bilateral relationship.

Message from the Co-Chairs of the Brazil Institute’s Advisory Council

Mr. Alain J. Belda and Ambassador Anthony Harrington

We are pleased to chair the Advisory Council of the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Brazil Institute, a committed body of prominent leaders in business, journalism, scholarship, and public life that meets biannually to help guide the work of the Institute. We believe that both Brazil and the United States have much to gain from developing a better understanding of one another and creating new opportunities for greater cooperation. History has shown that, despite the disagreements that emerge from time to time between our two countries, both have recognized that their permanent national interests are convergent and both nations benefit from policies that bring them closer together.

Since its inception, the Brazil Institute has distinguished itself as the preeminent forum for analysis on Brazilian affairs and creative dialogue between stakeholders in Brazilian-U.S. relations. The Institute offers a non-partisan environment for key decision-makers and opinion-leaders on both sides to engage. Its mission is to develop innovative approaches to gauging and solving the public policy challenges Brazil faces and for improving cooperation between Brazil and the United States. We target the most pressing Brazilian issues and generate new thinking and understanding on issues of bilateral interest.

This report shows the concrete results the Brazil Institute has achieved in the past year and the aspirations for the future. We invite you to join us in this effort to further build upon the vital work of the Brazil Institute.
The mission of the Brazil Institute is to foster informed dialogue on key issues important to Brazilians and of bilateral concern to Brazil and the United States. The Institute is part of the Latin America Program, founded in 1978 to serve as a bridge between the United States and Latin America, encouraging a free flow of information and greater communication between the two regions. The Program provides a non-partisan forum for discussing key issues of democratic governance, international relations, hemispheric security policy, energy, and poverty alleviation. The Brazil Institute and the Mexico Institute are the only Latin American Program initiatives focusing on individual countries.

As we work to promote detailed analysis of Brazil’s public policy and advance Washington’s understanding of contemporary Brazilian realities, we are mindful of the long history that binds the two most populous nations of the Americas.

The first country to recognize Brazil’s independence from Portugal in 1822, the United States honored its South American neighbor with the first ever visit abroad made by an American Secretary of State, Elihu Root, in 1906, to attend the Third Pan American Conference held in Rio de Janeiro. The Institute honors this history and attempts to further bilateral cooperation by seeking to promote informed dialogue between these two diverse and vibrant multiracial societies in five ways: convening policy forums to stimulate non-partisan reflection and debate on critical issues related to Brazil; promoting, sponsoring, and disseminating research; participating in the broader effort to inform Americans about Brazil through lectures and interviews given by its director; appointing leading Brazilian and Brazilianist academics, journalists and policy makers as Wilson Center Public Policy Scholars; and by maintaining a comprehensive website devoted to Brazil-focused news, analysis, research and reference materials.

The past year has been particularly active. The Institute convened 23 high-level conferences, focusing especially on issues relating to social, economic, and trade policies and governance, as well as Brazil’s regional and international relations.

Our activities are strengthened by the Brazil Institute’s Advisory Council members who oversee and contribute to these many initiatives. We work in close collaboration and coordination with our fellow programs and institutes at the Wilson Center and partner organizations. We also rely on a network of authors, researchers and accomplished professionals from business, civic organizations, government and academia to guide our work.

We believe that promoting a more active and engaged dialogue about Brazil in the United States enhances Brazil’s profile and is an essential ingredient in any effort which aims at better understanding and more fruitful cooperation between the two countries.
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Special thanks to Daniel Budny, Program Assistant (2005-2007) and interns, Flavia Carbonari, Aaron Melaas and Priscilla Yeon.
Brazil's Regional and International Relations

Divergent views over the direction of Brazil’s foreign policy have generated an important discussion within the country. Challenges to Brazil’s approach to hemispheric integration—particularly in energy—and setbacks the country experienced in international venues have complicated the debate. A proposed plan of bilateral cooperation on biofuels with the United States announced in March 2007 by Presidents Lula and Bush gave new impetus to relations between the two countries.

The Brazil Institute organized, hosted and co-hosted six major events on the topic, including a Director’s Forum with Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, R. Nicholas Burns and a conference on the “New Direction of Brazil’s Foreign Policy”, co-sponsored by The Brookings Institution. (A list of all conferences and publications by the Brazil Institute is detailed on page 10).

Business, Trade and the Brazilian Economy

Brazil is the largest economy in Latin America. Inflation has remained under control. Economic growth is edging up and is projected to reach 5 percent this year. Exports have doubled since 2003. Interest rates have fallen steadily, public debt is more manageable, and the country is now a net foreign creditor. Brazil is closer than ever to obtaining investment grade status from credit rating agencies and is better prepared to face international financial shocks. Most importantly, stark social inequalities for which the country has long been infamous are being reduced. Much, however, has yet to be done to improve the business climate and resolve the inefficiencies that are generally referred to as the “Brazil cost”.

To recognize and evaluate new challenges produced by Brazil’s changing economic landscape, the Institute organized a series of activities around the traditional themes of economic policy reforms, trade and business strategies, and newer topics such as biofuels and innovation.

Biofuels

As the world’s largest producers of biofuels, the United States and Brazil pledged in March 2007 to work on a joint strategy of energy cooperation to promote technology-sharing and to encourage ethanol production and consumption globally. Brazil’s distribution network, use of technology and energy-efficient production process makes it the ethanol industry’s model and a potential strategic ally for the United States in the push to develop an international standard and create a commodity market for this biofuel.

On February 20, 2007, the Brazil Institute brought together leading experts from both countries to assess the agricultural impact of increased production of biofuels as an alternative to hydrocarbons. The discussion led to a research project on the policy, environmental and social implications of mass production of biofuels and plans for the creation of a Global Biofuels Policy Research Network to be housed at the Wilson Center in close cooperation with partner institutions.

One of the panelists, economist Marcos S. Jank, who was then president of the Institute for Foreign Trade Negotiations (ICONE), and has since assumed the leadership of the São Paulo Sugarcane Agroindustry Union (UNICA), gave an exclusive interview to the Wilson Center’s weekly radio and television program dialogue. Jank discussed the Brazilian experience with ethanol and biodiesel production.

Other activities included a one-day conference with representatives of the U.S. and Brazilian ethanol industry, governments and the environmental community. These seminars served to dispel myths and assess the distinct environmental, economic and social challenges posed by the current and projected expansion of Brazilian sugarcane-ethanol production.

Panelists from both conferences included Bruce Babcock, Paulo Sérgio Strini Barbosa, James Boyd, Brian Dean, Jon Doggett, Roberto Gianetti da Fonseca, Marcos S. Jank, Emerson Kloss, Gregory Manuel, Carlos Alfredo Lazary Texeira, and Wallace Tyner.
Business in Brazil

The proven creativity and capacity of Brazilian companies for technological and managerial innovation has brought a new set of challenges to the country’s policy-thinkers and policymakers. In June 2007, the Institute convened a distinguished eight-member panel of Brazilian and American experts to discuss how public policies, governmental institutions and the adoption of intellectual property rights laws and regulations affect efficacy and the use of innovation throughout Brazil’s economy.

Panelists also analyzed the dynamics of knowledge-based business models and the role of capital markets in advancing innovation-driven development strategies. The second conference will be held this fall in Brazil. Critical issues raised in the event will carry the debate over to second conference in this series, to be held in November 2007 in São Paulo. On October 16, the Institute hosted a conference on bilateral trade relations focusing the outlook of America’s trade policy in 2008 and the administration that will take office in January 2009.

Panelists from the conferences included Robert Atkinson, Jorge Ávila, I.M. Destler, José Goldemberg, José Botafogo Gonçalves, Flavio Grynszpan, Christopher Hill, Jon Huenemann, Ricardo Camargo Mendes, William Marandola, Kellie Meiman, Timothy M. Reif, Henrique Rzezinski, and Pedro da Motta Veiga.

ONLINE RESOURCES

The Brazil Institute’s website is a comprehensive resource, offering access to all of the Institute’s publications, event summaries, past projects and access to streaming video of select events and conferences. This year, the website launched two specialized webpages. The two pages serve as reference points for academics, policymakers and researchers seeking information on issues relating to Brazil. Portal to Brazil is devoted to contemporary political, economic, and regional developments in the country. Biofuels Central offers diverse analysis, economic statistics, and specialized information on the potential impacts of alternative energy sources in Brazil and the United States.
Social Policies and Governance

Twenty-two years after the reestablishment of civilian rule, Brazil has emerged as a stable and vibrant democracy. A plural, diverse and tolerant society, the country has made visible progress in key areas. Close to 100 percent of children ages 7 to 10 are now in school. An expanded federal income program that reaches one in every four Brazilians has significantly improved the daily lives of millions.

Yet, complex social and political challenges remain. Quality of education continues to be a major problem. Crime and violence in major cities have created a widespread sense of insecurity. A more active campaign against white-collar crime has revealed a numbing problem of political corruption, which goes largely unpunished. Laws adopted to help organize urban space in more democratic ways and bring about social justice have in some respects produced the opposite of the intended outcomes.

In an effort to address these complex issues of social policy and governance in Brazil, the Institute convened eight separate conferences as well as published several articles and reports. Most notably, the Institute called attention to two important topics: Brazil’s 2006 presidential elections and the country’s education system.

Brazil’s 2006 Elections

On October 29, 2006, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was re-elected president with over 60 percent of the popular vote, beating Geraldo Alckmin in a second-round runoff. The Institute organized two conferences to assess the government programs and electoral prospects of each presidential candidate, as well as the country’s most pressing challenges.

In addition, the Institute created a specialized webpage and published a special report as a part of a series of activities covering the 2006 elections. The webpage provided English-language coverage of the Brazilian elections, including news, analysis, polls, special features, and original analysis from several conference participants.


From Left to Right: Amaury de Souza, Jeffrey Cason and Aline Machado
Education in Brazil

Education at all levels poses distinct challenges as Brazil strives to emerge as an important economic actor and influential voice in regional and world affairs. Higher education is increasingly perceived as the key to the country’s successful insertion into the global economy. Quality primary education is vital to development and economic growth. Yet, while Brazilian universities provide top-quality education, less than 20 percent of Brazilian students have access to it. Conversely, although Brazil has successfully achieved universal access to elementary education, its quality remains stubbornly low.

The Institute convened two conferences and published two reports in an effort to assess the root causes of these two critical issues troubling education in Brazil and find potential policy solutions. A sample conclusion produced in these important discussions suggested that Brazil develop innovative safety programs to curb violence and decentralize the management of schools to improve both quality and graduation rates in its primary education system.

Conference participants included Elizabeth Balbachevsky, Ricardo Paes de Barros, William K. Cummings, Norman Gall, Patricia Guedes, and Jeffrey M. Puryear.

BRAZIL INSTITUTE’S OUTREACH

On September 19 2007, Brazil Institute’s director Paulo Sotero testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, at a hearing on “U.S.–Brazil Relations”. He also co-authored with the Council on Foreign Relations’ Ted Alden a column titled “Building a Biofuels Alliance,” which appeared in the Washington Post on March 8 2007.

In addition, Sotero spoke at conferences and seminars on Brazil at the Inter-American Dialogue, the World Affairs Councils of Peoria (Illinois), Juneau and Anchorage (Alaska), the Foreign Service Institute of the State Department, the University of Miami, as well as Harvard, George Washington, Brown and Yale universities.

He was interviewed on the Brazilian presidential elections on October 2006, President Bush’s March 2007 trip to Latin America and the Brazilian-U.S. partnership on biofuels by the Washingtonpost.com, CNN International, CNN en Español, Foreign Exchange with Fareed Zakaria, the WealthTrack with Consuelo Mack, Foro Interamericano, Al Jazeera, the Diane Rehm Show, Voice of America, American University Forum (WAMU), BBC Brasil, Energy Tribune and the Washingtonpost.com. He has been quoted in The Economist, in reports from news agency Reuters and the following newspapers and magazines: Sacramento Bee, Aberdeen American News, Chatanooga Times Free Press, Buffalo News, Wilkes Barre’s Times Leader, Modesto Bee, Monterey County Herald, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Miami Herald, Berliner Morgenpost, and Die Welt.
Scholars

The Institute hosted Public Policy Scholars-in-residence, Elizabeth Balbachevsky, Associate Professor of Political Science at the Universidade de São Paulo, who conducted research on the evolution of Brazil’s system of higher education and the impact of recent reforms, and Leonardo Avritzer, Associate Professor of Political Science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, who deepened his comparative study of participatory budgeting in Brazilian state capitals governed by the Workers Party.

Frances Hagopian, Grace Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, began her residency as a Wilson Center Fellow in the Fall of 2007 and is researching political representation in Brazil, Chile, Argentina, and Mexico.

In addition to dedicating continued attention to innovation policies and biofuels, the Brazil Institute has plans for conferences, seminars and studies of relevant contemporary issues. The controversy generated by the proposed Statute of Racial Equality and affirmative action policies will be the subject of a one-day conference in 2008, with Brazilian and American scholars as well as policymakers.

The Institute is also looking to commission studies on the problems of the country’s judicial system. Given the importance of the issue and its significance to Brazil’s political structure, the Brazil Institute seeks to make it a permanent area of study and debate.

The February 2007 “Global Dynamics of Biofuels” conference led to plans to create a multiyear research project with Purdue University, Institut d’ Etudes Politiques de Paris, and ICONE, to expand knowledge on world biofuels focusing on the policy, environmental and social implications of expanded production of ethanol and biodiesels.

The Brazil Institute seeks to collaborate with diverse institutions, businesses, and individuals interested in advancing the understanding and study of Brazil and Brazilian-U.S. relations and welcomes input for future projects and areas of research.
New Publications
(June 2006-September 2007)

Most prominently, the Institute commissioned a bilingual report, which includes essays on the United States by Brazilian scholars. It is the result of a collaborative effort to advance the tradition of U.S. Studies in Brazil.


*Authors:* Roberto Abdenur, Jacques d’Adesky, Carlos da Fonseca, Carlos Eduardo Lins da Silva, Cristina Soreanu Pecequilo, Paulo Sotero and Antonio Pedro Tota.

The Institute also published two joint publications, four reports and five bulletins:

- Joint Publication with the Science, Technology, America and the Global Economy Program: “Brazil’s Innovation Challenge”
- Special Report 3: “The Global Dynamics of Biofuels: Potential Supply and Demand for Ethanol and Biodiesel in the Coming Decade”
- Special Report 2: “Brazil Under Lula and Prospect for the 2006 Elections”
- Special Report 1: “Trade and Regional Integration Initiatives in the Americas”
- Eduardo Suplicy, Latin American Program Special Report: “Citizen’s Basic Income”
- Thinking Brazil 26: “Jaques Wagner Reflects on Brazilian Politics and Democracy”
- Thinking Brazil 25: “Basic Education in Brazil - What’s Wrong and How to Fix It”
- Thinking Brazil 24: “Economic Policy and Prospects for Reform - Lula’s Second Administration”
- Thinking Brazil 23: “Brazil’s Higher Education Responses to the Challenges of the 21st Century”
- Thinking Brazil 22: “Brazil’s President as Working Class _Raposa_ (Fox) - Understanding Lula the Politician”
“Brazil has seen the largest decrease in inequality in the last 30 years... more than 5 million people have emerged from impoverished conditions in the last three years alone.” – Professor Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida

Previous Publications

**MERCOSUR and the Creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas**, edited by Fernando Lorenzo and Marcel Vaillant, Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center, 2003
- **Authors:** Fernando Lorenzo, Marcel Vaillant, Rosa Osimani, Silvia Laens, Inés Terra, Alvaro Ons, Andrés Lopez, Gastón Rossi, Paulo Fracalanza, Adriana Nunes Ferreira, Marcos Fava Neves, Julio Berlinski, Fernando Masi, Carol Wise, João Bosco Mesquita Machado, Galeno Ferraz

- **Authors:** Astrid Arrarás, Clóvis Brigagão, Ralph H. Espach, Eduardo A. Gamarra, Thomas Guedes da Costa, Margaret Keck
Events
(June 2006-September 2007)

The Brazil Institute also convened numerous conferences with internationally renowned scholars, policymakers, and specialists from the United States, Brazil, and the rest of the world. Seminar topics and speakers during the grant frame are listed below, by issue, in reverse-chronological order:

GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS

**Breakfast Discussion** (September 11, 2007) with Governor Jaques Wagner of Bahia.

**Economic Policy and Prospects for Reform under a Second Lula Administration** (November 1, 2006) with Otaviano Canuto, The World Bank; and Paulo Leme, Goldman Sachs Latin America

**Outcome of Brazil’s General Elections** (October 6, 2006) with Aline Machado, TV Câmara; Jeffrey Cason, Middlebury College; Ted Goertzel, Rutgers University; and Alexander Kazan, Bear Sterns

**October’s Presidential Elections** (September 15, 2006) with Wendy Hunter, University of Texas at Austin; Barry Ames, University of Pittsburgh; Carlos Pio, Universidade de Brasília; Eliana A. Cardoso, Fundação Getulio Vargas; and Leticia Pinheiro, PUC-RIO

**Brazil Under Lula** (September 15, 2006) with Timothy J. Power, Oxford University; Amaury de Souza, MCM Consultores Associados; Kathryn Hochstetler, University of New Mexico; Maria Hermínia Tavares de Almeida, Universidade de São Paulo; and Thomas Trebat, Columbia University

SOCIAL ISSUES

**Promoting Democracy and Rights at Work: Making a Difference, Co-Sponsored with the International Labor Organization** (September 12, 2007) by Gomercindo Rodrigues; with discussant Thomas E. Lovejoy, The Heinz Center

**Innovations in Urban Development** (May 17, 2007) with Teresa Caldeira, University of California at Berkeley; Marcia Leite Arieira, Inter-American Development Bank; and Bryan McCann, Georgetown University

**Urban Crime and Violence** (March 21, 2007) with Diane Davis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Rubem Fernandes, Viva Rio; and Caroline Moser, Brookings Institution

**Basic Education in Brazil** (January 29, 2007) with Ricardo Paes de Barros, Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada; Norman Gall, Instituto Fernand Braudel de Economia Mundial; Patricia Guedes, Instituto Fernand Braudel de Economia Mundial; and Jeffrey M. Puryear, Inter-American Dialogue

**Higher Education in Brazil** (July 24, 2006) with Elizabeth Balkachevsky, Universidade de São Paulo; and William K. Cummings, George Washington University

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Brazilian Foreign Policy, Co-Sponsored with the Brookings Institution** (September 28, 2007) with Carlos Pascual, The Brookings Institution; Michael Van Dusen, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Antonio Patriota, Embassy of Brazil in Washington, D.C.; Amaury de Souza, Institute for Studies on Labor and Society (IETS) Mônica Herz, PUC-Rio; Antonio Barros de Castro, National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES); Riordan Roett, Western Hemisphere Studies, SAIS; Eduardo Campos, State of Pernambuco; Sergio Amaral, Formerly with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Development; Peter Hakim, Inter-American Dialogue; and Paulo Sotero, Brazil Institute

**Director’s Forum** (August 3, 2007) with Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns, chaired by Anthony Harrington, Stonebridge International

**Strategic Scenarios and Interstate Relations in MERCOSUR Co-Sponsored with the Latin American Program** (May 15, 2007) with Leila Rachid, formerly with the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Paraguay; Rubens Barbosa, formerly with the Embassy of Brazil in Washington, D.C.; Félix Peña, Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero; Sergio Abreu, formerly with the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Energy in Uruguay; Roberto Bouzas, Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires; and Eric Farnsworth, Council of the Americas
“There is no more important partner for the United States in Latin America than Brazil…” – Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns
WOODROW WILSON
AWARDS

The Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship celebrates the civic commitment of prominent business leaders around the world. The Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service honors individuals committed to improving the communities in which they live.

Woodrow Wilson Awards 2007
On October 23, 2007, the Brazil Institute will host an Awards dinner in the Hotel Unique, in São Paulo, to honor two of Brazil’s most notable citizens. Dr. Zilda Arns Neumann will receive the Award for Public Service and Mr. Jorge Gerdau Johannpeter, the Award for Corporate Citizenship. These awards not only recognize the accomplishments of both Dr. Arns and Mr. Gerdau, but also praise the virtues of Brazil’s vibrant democracy and the country’s rich and diverse society.
Woodrow Wilson Awards 2006

Ruy Mesquita, director of the newspaper O Estado de S. Paulo, received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service, and Mauricio Botelho, CEO of Embraer, was given the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship at a dinner in São Paulo on June 1, 2006.

The event was attended by various high-level officials, including former president Fernando Henrique Cardoso, vice-chairman of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, David Metzner, Brazilian Ambassador to the United States Roberto Abdenur, and former Brazilian Ambassador to Washington, Rubens Barbosa, who was instrumental in establishing the Institute’s predecessor, the Brazil Project at the Wilson Center. The co-chairs of the Institute’s Advisory Board, ALCOA chairman Alain Belda and former U.S. ambassador to Brazil and president of Stonebridge International, Anthony Harrington, presented the awards to the honorees. The ceremony’s success, which led to the creation of the Brazil Institute, was ensured by the dedication of Robert and Sandra Mangels, with the assistance of the event’s planner and coordinator, Jeane Capelli Pen, and the generous contributions of the companies and individuals listed below.

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From left to right: Robert Mangels, Ruy Mesquita, Mauricio Botelho and Sandra Mangels
ABOUT THE WILSON CENTER

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Lee H. Hamilton, President and Director

The Woodrow Wilson Center was established by Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a living national memorial to President Wilson. The Center’s mission is to commemorate the ideals and concerns of Woodrow Wilson by providing a link between the worlds of ideas and policy, while fostering research, study, discussion, and collaboration among a broad spectrum of individuals concerned with policy and scholarship in national and international affairs. Supported by public and private funds, the Center is a nonpartisan institution engaged in the study of national and world affairs. It establishes and maintains a neutral forum for free, open, and informed dialogue. Conclusions or opinions expressed in Center publications and programs are those of the authors and speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center staff, fellows, trustees, advisory groups, or any individuals or organizations that provide financial support to the Center.

The Center is the publisher of The Wilson Quarterly and home of Woodrow Wilson Center Press, dialogue radio and television, and the monthly newsletter “Centerpoint.” For more information about the Center’s activities and publications, please visit us on the web at www.wilsoncenter.org.

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