

International Relations Final

20 B	21 A Western Hem Map Quiz	22 B	23 A Practice for Map Final	24 B
27 A Map Final for ALL IR students Senior Current Events Due	28 B	29 Senior Class Trip	30	31 All Missing Work Due
3	4	5 Current Events Due for ALL	6	7

Current Events - Final Portfolio/ Summaries



Choose any 8 Current Events from This Semester.

Chosen Events Should Be:

1. Global (affecting countries in addition to or other than the US)
2. Significant (having impacts that were covered by all major media outlets and had impacts that were lasting beyond a few days & were connected to larger issues in International affairs or security.)
3. Covered in our Class (we should have talked directly or tangentially about the topic at some point in our class)
4. Included in your Summaries Booklet (you may only choose stories you covered at least once in your Current Events Summaries).

Create a Portfolio of these events

Portfolios should include:

- **Include a 100-200 word summary of the story.**
- **Include a 200-300 word “why it matters” summary**
- **Include a 4-quadrant “Interests” image of how the issues are of interest to the US.**
- **Credit New Sources from your current events summaries during the Semester.**

Portfolios Must:

- Be Typed
- Be Free of Spelling/Grammar/Capitalization Errors
- Be ENTIRELY the original work of the author.

BONUS OXFORD DEBATERS?

If you did a bonus Oxford Debate you may choose to do only 5 of the summaries.

DUE AT THE START OF YOUR FINAL EXAM PERIOD

Jair Bolsonaro Sworn In as Brazil's President

Summary:

In October, far-right candidate for President Jair Bolsonaro was elected by a wide margin in Brazil's national Presidential elections. The win for Bolsonaro comes after a long and heated campaign in which Bolsonaro became famous for his use of racial slurs and sexist comments. His far-right attacks aimed at critics gave him the nickname "The Trump of Brazil".

Nevertheless, Bolsonaro maintained popular support throughout the election cycle promising an end to corruption and a return to economic stability, something many Brazilians are looking forward to after successive administrations of leftist rule that left Brazil embroiled in scandals ranging from corruption and bribes to suspicion that there was widespread assassinations carried out by powerful politicians to maintain power.

Bolsonaro's strong-handed approach to leadership comes with a promise that he will bring law and order to Brazil. However, the cost of this "order" may be a loss of rights and freedoms for the press and minorities such as the gay community which Bolsonaro has called "repulsive."

Why it Matters:

The importance of this story is multifaceted. First, Brazil is the largest country in South America and as such the political and economic conditions there impact the US and the world in a variety of ways. Therefore, if Brazil makes large-scale changes to its political positions on things such as democracy, corruption, treatment of minorities or access to rainforest lands there are reasons why the US might want to pay attention. However, the most significant reason why this story matters is that most commentators and people watching the elections in Brazil have pointed to the move to the far right that the election of Bolsonaro signals. The election of a person so openly anti-gay and anti-feminist as well as his strong alliance with the military sends a signal to some that Bolsonaro will join leaders in places such as Hungary in moving the social and political policies of Brazil to a hard far right position. This could lead to a withdrawal from leftist globalist agreements such as those that have made Brazil more economically tied to the US. Some worry this could mean that Brazil will join in closer alliances with nations such as Russia, Venezuela in their criticism of the US and its policies.

US Interests:

ECONOMIC	SECURITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brazil is a big US trading partner• Withdrawal from international trade agreements could lead to tensions with the US• US companies could lose access to Brazilian raw goods and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns regarding Venezuela and the growth in tensions between these nations?• Could this lead to military tension along the border?
POLITICAL	HUMANITARIAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could lead to closer ties with President Trump due to their similar styles• Could the volatility of Bolsonaro's personality make it difficult for the US to work with him?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns over the political and humanitarian rights of minorities such as<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Homosexuals/Gay Community◦ Indigenous people of the rainforest regions

Citations From Current Events Summaries

Summary # 34

Al Jazeera. (2018, October 27). Is Brazil's democracy under threat? Retrieved January 2, 2019, from <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/upfront/2018/10/brazil-democracy-threat-181027121631865.html>

Summary #45

Londoño, E. (2019, January 1). Jair Bolsonaro Sworn In as Brazil's President, Cementing Rightward Shift. *New York Times*. Retrieved January 2, 2019, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/01/world/americas/brazil-bolsonaro-inauguration.html>