



Written by [Warren Mass](#) on December 11, 2019

Brazil's President Dares to Call Greta Thunberg a Brat

Apparently losing patience over young Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg's assertions that indigenous people were murdered because they were defending the Amazon forest, Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro (shown) referred to her as a "pirralha" — the Portuguese word for brat.



"Greta said that the Indians died because they were defending the Amazon," Bolsonaro told a group of journalists. "It's impressive that the press is giving space to a brat like that."

Following Bolsonaro's comments, Thunberg changed the bio on her Twitter profile to read "Pirralha."

"Indigenous people are being literally murdered for trying to protect the forrest [sic] from illegal deforestation," Thunberg had tweeted. "Over and over again. It is shameful that the world remains silent about this."

In fact, the world has not "remained silent" about crimes against indigenous people in the Amazon. Britain's *Guardian* reported on December 8 that Brazil's federal police are investigating the killing last month of two indigenous leaders in Brazil's Maranhão state, and the justice minister, Sergio Moro, said on social media that he is evaluating the possibility of dispatching a National Guard team to the state.

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Bolsonaro's annoyance was no doubt prompted more by the inordinate amount of attention being lavished by the world media and other institutions on a teenager who has not even completed high school than by her tweets about alleged indifference to the murders of indigenous people in the Amazon. After becoming a media phenomenon in her home country of Sweden and other parts of Europe, it was the American media's turn to shower the young woman with lavish attention when she arrived in New York to address the Climate Action Summit in the United Nations General Assembly, at UN headquarters on September 23. It was at this forum that the upstart "activist" delivered her by-now-famous "How dare you!" speech to world leaders, emotionally stating: "Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money, and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!"

Thunberg's message of impending climatic collapse is contrary to scientific evidence. John F. McManus noted in his article about Thunberg for *The New American* on September 28:

Ms. Thunberg and millions of others captivated by unreliable environmental claims need a wake-up call. On July 25th at the 13th International Conference on Climate Change held in our nation's capital, Dr. Roy Spencer, a highly credentialed University of Alabama (Huntsville) meteorologist, delivered one:

There is no climate crisis. Even if all the warming we've seen in any observational dataset is due to increasing carbon dioxide, which I don't believe it is, it's probably too small for any person to feel in



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their lifetime.

As we write, it was just announced that Greta Thunberg has been named *Time* magazine's person of the year for 2019.

A caption on *Time*'s cover reads "The Power of Youth." It would be more accurate for it to read: "The power of the establishment mass media."

Photo of Jair Bolsonaro: [Wikimedia](#)

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Warren Mass has served The New American since its launch in 1985 in several capacities, including marketing, editing, and writing. Since retiring from the staff several years ago, he has been a regular contributor to the magazine. Warren writes from Texas and can be reached at wmass@thenewamerican.com.



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