

Bolsonaro Beams as Putin Praises His 'Masculinity'

By [AFP](#)

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Putin lavished praise on Bolsonaro in an address to the BRICS group of emerging economies. **Edu Chaves / ZUMA / TASS**

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was beaming Wednesday after his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin praised his "masculinity" in a speech, triggering a flood of jokes online about a budding "bromance."

Putin lavished praise on Bolsonaro Tuesday in an address to a virtual summit of the BRICS group of emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), saying the far-right president was an example of "courage" for his management of the coronavirus pandemic.

Embed:

– Palavras do Presidente da Rússia, Vladimir Putin, ao término do encontro do BRICS.

. Link no YouTube: <https://t.co/DR60KPr7CJ> [pic.twitter.com/DmQ3SbLAML](https://t.co/pic.twitter.com/DmQ3SbLAML)

— Jair M. Bolsonaro (@jairbolsonaro) [November 17, 2020](#)

"You were even infected personally by this disease, and withstood the ordeal with great courage," Putin said of Bolsonaro's July illness, according to a transcript that the Brazilian himself posted on Facebook.

"I know that moment must not have been easy, but you faced it like a real man and showed the best qualities of masculinity, such as strength and willpower," he added.

Besides posting the video and transcript online, Bolsonaro proudly brought up the speech with a group of supporters outside the presidential palace.

"Anyone see the Russian president's speech yesterday? Did anyone catch that?" he asked.

The episode gave birth to a flood of memes poking fun at the Russian strongman and the Brazilian populist.

In one, a bare-chested Bolsonaro sits behind an also-shirtless Putin atop his horse.

Embed:

Putin elogia o Bolsonaro e eu só consigo pensar nessa imagem:

[pic.twitter.com/B8jtovAqql](https://t.co/pic.twitter.com/B8jtovAqql)

— Geriston Silva's Sebastião (@geristonsilvas) [November 18, 2020](#)

Others joked that Bolsonaro was apparently flirting with a new partner after "breaking up" with his political idol, U.S. President Donald Trump, after the latter lost his re-election bid two weeks ago.

Despite Putin's praise, public health experts have sharply criticized Bolsonaro's handling of Covid-19, which he has sought to minimize even as it has killed more than 166,000 people in Brazil — the second-highest death toll worldwide, after the United States.

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