

Inner, Outer and Cross-Country People's Perceptions

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Intro

The Economics of Happiness is a relatively new field in economic analysis, which seeks a subjective evaluation of people's welfare, from a variety of perspectives (individual/collective, present/future and cross-country). In this article data is presented regarding Brazilians' social perceptions, compared internationally and related to the literature on the Economics of Happiness and Human Development.

Objective data related to people's subjectivity are used, derived from polls carried out in a hundred countries by Gallup World Poll. Its international character allows us to differ between Brazilian and other countries' points of view. Besides this data, the Social Perceptions Indicator System (*SIPS*) by IPEA, began, in 2012, to repeat the same kind of question to a representative sample of the country and its regions, which allowed for the assessment of this kind of perception throughout the Brazilian territory.

The three major forms of perceptions used in these polls are:

- People's satisfaction regarding their own lives/individual;
- People's satisfaction regarding life in the country/collective;
- Cross Country People's Perception.

This article is divided in this introduction and three sections. Section one explores compared data reported by Brazilians regarding present happiness, as well as their relation with income, and makes international comparisons. Section two analyzes data about future happiness and their implications. Section three shows data related to Cross Country People's Perception.

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1. Present happiness and income¹

The Gallup World Poll data on satisfaction with life are based on a sample of 150 thousand respondents. Regarding current satisfaction with life, Brazil placed 18th among 160 countries in 2012, obtaining an average of 6.9, on a scale from 0 to 10. As seen in the table below, showing data from 2006 to 2012, Brazilians report a higher level of happiness than the other BRICS members and European countries, behind Mexico alone among Latin American countries in the poll.

Comparing data before and after the crisis, we can notice a sharp fall in satisfaction with life in all European countries in the poll. On the other hand, in Latin American countries, the perception of happiness, which already used to be high, did not fall; it has increased in the period.

Table 1 – Current satisfaction with life today – a selection of European, Latin American and BRICS countries - 2006 – 2012

	201	12	201	1	201	0	200)9	200	08	2007		2006		Change	Overall
	level	rank	2010-12/	Mean												
															2006-08	
Portugal	4,99	82	5,22	75	4,87	80	5,32	59	5,72	37			5,41	51	-9,67%	5,22
Italy	5,84	49	6,06	41	6,35	31	6,33	25	6,78	21	6,57	18	6,85	19	-9,65%	6,33
Greece	5,10	75	5,37	68	5,84	47	6,04	33			6,65	16	6,01	36	-14,11%	5,73
Spain	6,29	31	6,52	33	6,19	36	6,20	29	7,29	8	6,99	11	7,15	12	-11,34%	6,62
Brazil	6,93	18	7,04	16	6,84	20	7,00	11	6,69	23	6,32	24	6,64	21	5,90%	6,77
Russia	5,62	56	5,39	66	5,38	64	5,16	69	5,62	40	5,22	51	4,96	73	3,73%	5,37
China	5,09	76	5,04	79	4,65	92	4,45	93	4,85	76	4,86	66	4,56	95	3,57%	4,82
South Africa	5,13	73	4,93	90	4,65	93	5,22	64	5,35	53	5,20	54	5,08	70	-5,89%	5,09
! Latin Americ	:a															
Chile	6,60	24	6,53	32	6,64	26	6,49	20	5,79	35	5,70	34	6,06	34	12,65%	6,30
Colombia	6,37	28	6,46	35	6,41	29	6,27	28	6,17	30	6,14	27	6,02	35	4,96%	6,28
Mexico	7,32	7	6,91	20	6,80	22	6,96	12	6,83	19	6,53	19	6,58	23	5,47%	6,91
Peru	5,82	50	5,89	44	5,61	54	5,52	47	5,13	63	5,21	53	4,81	77	14,32%	5,48

Source:SAE/PR from micro data by Gallup World Poll

Since developed countries do not report a higher level of happiness, it becomes important to investigate the connection between income and happiness. Angus Deaton (2007), based on Gallup World Poll data, analyzes this connection by comparing GDP *per capita*, adjusted by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) and perceived happiness. Results

¹This section is based on NERI, M. C. A FELICIDADE ACOMPANHA A RENDA? In: NERI, M. C. and SCHIAVINATTO, F. (Orgs.). SIPS 2014: percepções da população sobre políticas. Rio de Janeiro: Ipea, 2014.

show us that there is a positive relation between these two variables and that Brazilian citizens are above the trend line.

Ipea conducted research² using same questions used by Gallup World Poll to analyze how happiness and income are related in the Brazilian case. Results show that there is a direct positive relation between present happiness and income in Brazil, controlled by several

Chart 1 – Relation between present happiness and internet coverage (%)

5

Source: CPS/FGV, from Gallup World Poll data

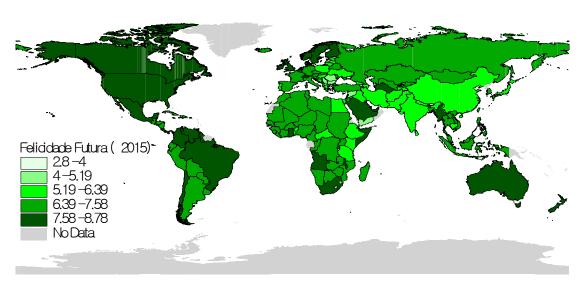
 $^{^2}$ NERI, M. C. e SCHIAVINATTO, F. (Orgs.). SIPS 2014: PERCEPÇÕES DA POPULAÇÃO SOBRE POLÍTICAS. Rio de Janeiro: Ipea, 2014.

2. Future and external happiness³

Regarding present happiness with life, Brazil has been around 20th among all the countries in the research since 2006; on future happiness, five years from now, Brazil has the highest score in all editions of the poll, among all countries. In order to get a better view of this empirical regularity, the odds of this happening in a random draw are twenty in a trillion, even rarer than matching all the six lottery numbers.

Thus, it is possible to understand sentences like "Brazil is the country of the future"; that is how we face the future – optimistically. This optimism is not necessarily a quality, but an attribute; it is certainly bad for savings and possibly helps to explain why Brazilian interest rates are so high.

In the international scenario, Brazil is in the same group as Australia, New Zealand, United States, Canada and European developed countries in terms of future happiness, as seen in the map below.



Map 1 – Future happiness – 2015

Source: CPS/FGV from Gallup World Poll data

As seen above, Brazil is seven times champion in future happiness; also, the average Brazilian future happiness in the 15-29 year old group, is 9.29, also higher than any

³ This section is based on NERI, M. C. O FUTURO, O PAÍS E A AGENDA DO "PAÍS DO FUTURO". In: NERI, M. C. and SCHIAVINATTO, F. (Orgs.). SIPS 2014: percepções da população sobre políticas. Rio de Janeiro: Ipea, 2014.

other country in the study. In other words, Brazil is world champion in future happiness, or in "young attitude". So it is possible to balance two monikers often assigned to Brazil: "country of the future", for some, and "young country", for others. More than a country of young people in its demographic composition, Brazil is a country inhabited by young spirits.

Despite being optimistic about the future, there is a large difference when comparing individual happiness reported by Brazilians and the nation's general happiness. The results of another Gallup poll, in 2008, show that the expectation for national general satisfaction for the next five years was still 6.8, while individual happiness expectation for the same period was 8.68. In the interpretation proposed here, this second element has a higher importance attributed, in the national context, to troubles related to collective actions, like inequality, inflation, informality, violence and lack of democracy, among others; problems that make the whole less than the sum of its parts, requiring mobilization and coordination of society.

Brazilian population in general is very optimistic about their own life and the future, but not the surrounding environment. Besides being less optimistic about the collectivity represented in national polls, average Brazilians also have a low level of satisfaction regarding their cities.

Compared to other BRICS countries, Brazil is in a lower degree than Russia and India, which tended to fall in recent years, but much higher than South Africa. China leads among the BRICS and is the only country in the group that grew in a comparison between the periods of 2006-2009 and 2010-2012.

Europeans in general have higher levels of satisfaction with their own cities than other countries, even with the decrease seen in the years after the 2008 crisis. Latin American countries also show high rates of satisfaction, with an emphasis on the significant rise in Chile and Peru in the last few years.

The table below shows that only 3 countries among the 14 selected have grown in the periods of 2006-2009 and 2010-2012, which means a general reduction of people's satisfaction regarding their cities of residence.

Table 2 – People's perception about the satisfaction with their cities of residence – Are you satisfied with your city of residence?

	2009	rank		2010	ra	nk	2011	ra	nk	2012	rank		var
		absolute	relative	2010	absolute	relative	2011	absolute	relative		absolute	relative	2006-09 x 2010-12
Brazil	76,33%	75	65%	79,31%	69	57%	78,35%	83	56%	73,25%	96	74%	-2,26%
Russia	80,07%	66	57%	76,24%	81	66%	73,40%	103	70%	76,70%	86	66%	-4,86%
India	83,93%	45	39%	82,28%	56	46%	83,21%	65	44%	76,42%	89	68%	-7,60%
China	75,86%	77	67%	77,78%	78	64%	79,29%	77	52%	80,83%	69	53%	0,68%
South Africa	54,75%	109	95%	58,66%	116	95%	62,86%	136	92%	55,11%	127	98%	-11,08%
Portugal	89,34%	23	20%	89,33%	27	22%	89,15%	32	22%	88,66%	33	25%	-1,47%
Italy	83,07%	51	44%	79,72%	67	55%	77,82%	88	59%	76,51%	88	68%	-3,16%
Ireland	92,77%	9	8%	90,76%	16	13%	93,89%	11	7%	91,09%	25	19%	-1,94%
Greece	81,92%	57	50%	81,23%	63	52%	74,96%	98	66%	80,51%	71	55%	-4,10%
Spain	91,95%	15	13%	88,63%	29	24%	88,34%	39	26%	88,67%	32	25%	-3,63%
Chile	83,11%	50	43%	81,76%	60	49%	81,19%	72	49%	83,30%	60	46%	4,95%
Colombia	84,33%	43	37%	82,40%	55	45%	83,95%	63	43%	85,56%	47	36%	-0,33%
Mexico	80,19%	65	57%	72,91%	89	73%	78,20%	85	57%	81,01%	68	52%	-6,19%
Peru	73,94%	84	73%	77,45%	79	65%	76,14%	93	63%	75,12%	94	72%	4,52%
first	96,88%	Turkmenistan 9		95,10% Luxembourg		bourg	97,72%	Turkm	Turkmenistar		Turkm	enistan	
last	41,53%	Seneg	al	44,51%	Sierra L	.eone	25,36%	Seneg	al	39,85%	Syria		
total number		115			122			148	·		130		

Source: SAE/PR from Gallup World Poll data

The relative disappointment of Brazilians with their cities helps to explain, partially, the occurrence of a complex phenomenon about social manifestations which happened in the country during June 2013. Some of the main demands of these manifestations were related to issues directly related to life in the cities, especially in the larger ones. Among these issues are urban mobility and access to quality public services, like education and health.

3. Crossed perceptions

So far, people's perception about their own lives have been discussed, as well as their cities of residence and the country as a whole (collective), but what is the perception with regard to external matters, related to other countries?

The *Gallup World Poll* research also shows cross-country people's perceptions. Here we will show Latin Americans' assessments of President Lula's performance in Brazil and Venezuela's leadership and, from a sample of the global population, perceptions about USA's, China's and European countries' governments.

When asked about President Lula's performance, most Latin Americans indicated their approval. The percentage of approval in South America, in 2010, was above 70% in 8 out of 9 researched countries; only Ecuador had a smaller value, 66.26%, and the Uruguayan approval percentage was 88.59%. The variation between 2008 and 2010 was also positive in 7 out of 9 South American countries.

The evaluation of Central Americans is less positive. It is possible that the result may be affected by lack of information. Only 38.51% of Honduran people have evaluated Lula's performance positively, while 76.16% of Haitians have done so, probably due to Brazil's activity in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

Table 3 – Performance of President Lula, evaluated by other Latin American countries

<u>Yes</u>	2008	rank		2009	rank		2010	ra	nk	var
	2008	absolute	relative	2003	absolute	relative	2010	absolute	relative	2006-09 x 2010-12
Argentina	73,93%	8	44%	76,28%	1	11%	78,57%	5	28%	4,62%
Bolivia	74,84%	7	39%	71,73%	3	33%	79,57%	4	22%	8,58%
Chile	60,05%	14	78%	64,77%	5	56%	73,41%	7	39%	17,62%
Colombia	78,52%	4	22%	62,82%	6	67%	80,39%	3	17%	13,76%
Costa Rica	63,28%	11	61%	69,72%	4	44%	68,28%	12	67%	2,67%
Dominican Republic							71,09%	11	61%	#DIV/0!
Ecuador	66,70%	10	56%	56,10%	8	89%	66,26%	13	72%	7,91%
El Salvador	54,42%	17	94%	73,10%	2	22%	72,78%	8	44%	14,14%
Guatemala	60,05%	13	72%	59,42%	7	78%	63,64%	14	78%	6,55%
Haiti	55,78%	15	83%				76,16%	6	33%	36,54%
Honduras	54,43%	16	89%	39,64%	9	100%	38,51%	18	100%	-18,13%
Mexico							62,15%	17	94%	#DIV/0!
Nicaragua	67,33%	9	50%				62,61%	16	89%	-7,01%
Panama	63,00%	12	67%				62,74%	15	83%	-0,42%
Paraguay	79,20%	3	17%				71,40%	10	56%	-9,85%
Peru	82,39%	1	6%				81,55%	2	11%	-1,02%
Uruguay	81,49%	2	11%				88,59%	1	6%	8,71%
Venezuela	75,48%	6	33%				71,84%	9	50%	-4,82%
first	82,39%	Peru		76,28%	Argentir	na	88,59%	Uruguay	,	
last	23,88%	Trinidad	and Tob	39,64%	Hondurd	75	38,51%	Hondurd	ıs	
total number of countries		18			9			18		

Source: SAE/PR from Gallup World Poll micro data

The perceptions of the same group of countries related to Venezuelan leadership (in this case, the variable was the country itself and not their president) are less positive. Among 18 countries, only Uruguay (67.61%) and the Dominican Republic (60.45%) had rates higher than 60%. On the other hand, Peru (23.43%) and Mexico (21.68%) made the worst evaluations. There is not a clear tendency in the variation of people's

perceptions between 2006 and 2007; in any case, during the whole period of analysis, the Venezuelan President was Hugo Chavez.

Table 4 – Approval or disapproval of Venezuelan leadership

<u>Yes</u>	2006	rank		2007	ra	nk	2008	rank		2010	rank		var
	2006	absolute	relative	2007	absolute	relative	2008	absolute	relative	2010	absolute	relative	2006-09 x 2010-12
Argentina	58,70%	4	22%	52,98%	4	24%				78,57%	5	28%	25,41%
Bolivia	55,61%	5	28%	51,09%	6	35%	42,06%	7	41%	79,57%	4	22%	44,36%
Chile	42,73%	11	61%	25,64%	16	94%	33,81%	10	59%	73,41%	7	39%	75,89%
Colombia	33,19%	15	83%	36,58%	9	53%	16,36%	17	100%	80,39%	3	17%	115,89%
Costa Rica	30,21%	16	89%	21,56%	17	100%	27,04%	13	76%	68,28%	12	67%	83,88%
Dominican Republic	60,45%	3	17%	44,81%	7	41%	64,03%	2	12%	71,09%	11	61%	25,98%
cuador	49,96%	8	44%	59,58%	2	12%	50,12%	5	29%	66,26%	13	72%	22,84%
l Salvador				40,18%	8	47%	33,69%	11	65%	72,78%	8	44%	48,55%
Guatemala	52,25%	7	39%	26,72%	15	88%	50,27%	4	24%	63,64%	14	78%	34,94%
laiti	34,15%	13	72%				80,23%	1	6%	76,16%	6	33%	33,16%
Honduras	53,73%	6	33%	33,64%	10	59%	36,04%	8	47%	38,51%	18	100%	-5,53%
Mexico	21,68%	18	100%	32,94%	11	65%	24,98%	14	82%	62,15%	17	94%	134,22%
Nicaragua				59,27%	3	18%	55,79%	3	18%	62,61%	16	89%	8,82%
Panama	44,66%	10	56%	28,04%	14	82%	24,56%	15	88%	62,74%	15	83%	93,50%
Paraguay										71,40%	10	56%	#DIV/0!
Peru	23,43%	17	94%	28,26%	12	71%	30,79%	12	71%	81,55%	2	11%	196,61%
Jruguay	67,61%	2	11%	51,84%	5	29%	44,99%	6	35%	88,59%	1	6%	61,63%
/enezuela										71,84%	9	50%	#DIV/0!
irst	83,11%	Jamaica		72,27%	% Belarus		80,23%	Haiti		88,59%	Urugua	У	
ast	21,68%	Mexico		21,56%	Costa F	Rica	16,36%	Colom	bia	38,51%	Honduras		

Source: SAE/PR from Gallup World Poll micro data

From a more comprehensive sample, involving countries from all continents, it can be concluded that the assessment of USA leadership is less positive than Latin Americans' in relation to Lula and Venezuela, but it grows significantly in the 2006-2010 period. This phenomenon may be associated with Barack Obama's election. There is a clear tendency for growth between the George W. Bush (2001-2009) and Barack Obama (2009 to date) administrations. However, this positive perception has not held throughout the years and in 2012 there was a tendency for drop. However, in general, levels were higher than 2006 and 2008. The most critical countries in terms of North American leadership are Cyprus, Syria, Serbia and Pakistan, and the countries with the highest rates of approval are Cambodia, Burkina Faso and Albania.

Table 5 – Approval or disapproval of North American leadership

Do you app	rove o	r disap	prove	of the	job p	erforn	nance	of the	leade	ership (of the	United	States?
<u>Yes</u>	2006	rank		2008	rank		2010	ra	nk	2012	rank		var
	2006	absolute	relative	2008	absolute	relative	2010	absolute	relative	2012	absolute	relative	2006-09 x 2010-12
Brazil	28,02%	91	78%	34,86%	74	66%	68,85%	63	55%	54,41%	85	70%	96,03%
Russia	22,38%	99	85%	19,22%	94	84%	43,64%	99	86%	23,12%	118	97%	60,48%
India	56,47%	41	35%	71,28%	32	29%	70,99%	56	49%	57,87%	76	62%	0,87%
South Africa				88,40%	7	6%	92,18%	9	8%	83,82%	14	11%	-0,45%
Portugal	29,96%	83	72%	16,54%	97	87%	88,75%	15	13%	75,12%	34	28%	252,41%
Italy	35,11%	71	61%	34,22%	75	67%	83,27%	22	19%	74,31%	35	29%	127,30%
Ireland	39,27%	64	55%	20,62%	91	81%	83,25%	23	20%	76,70%	28	23%	167,10%
Greece	11,17%	112	97%				36,22%	103	90%	30,72%	112	92%	199,72%
Spain	15,39%	105	91%	12,28%	107	96%	72,86%	48	42%	53,26%	86	70%	355,84%
Chile	29,85%	85	73%	40,55%	66	59%	78,75%	33	29%	64,10%	64	52%	102,90%
Colombia	50,47%	47	41%	69,93%	35	31%	75,53%	44	38%	67,81%	55	45%	19,05%
Mexico	33,49%	75	65%	38,13%	68	61%	56,65%	88	77%	57,25%	79	65%	59,04%
Peru	44,24%	58	50%	52,62%	55	49%	70,92%	58	50%	56,83%	80	66%	31,88%
first	96,05%	Camboo	dia	92,97%	Cambo	odia	96,44%	Burkin	a Faso	92,43%	Albani	а	
last	8,11%	Cyprus		5,66%	Syria		15,40%	Serbia		12,82%	Pakisto	an	
total number		116	·		112	•		115	·		122		
Avg Above	32,98%			41,55%			70,91%			59,64%			
Avg All	46,25%			50,80%			68,13%			61,70%			

Source: SAE/PR from Gallup World Poll micro data

The evaluation of European Union leadership shows a positive peak of different proportions among non-European countries, in 2010, compared to 2009, and a fall to lower levels than 2008, in 2012. For European residents, the fall seen in 2010 was possibly caused by 2008 financial crisis and is strongly emphasized in 2012. Pakistan and Egypt were the countries most critical of European leadership, having approval rates lower than 20%.

Table 6 – Approval or disapproval of European leadership

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the following countries? The European Union. <u>Yes</u> var rank 2008 2010 2012 absolute absolute 2006-09 x 2010-12 Brazil 43,83% 47,53% 63,11% 12.49% 96 86% 61 58% 97 80% Russia 54.72% 60.23% 38.02% -10.22% 88 79% 72 68% 103 84% India 35,96% 43,45% 91% 34,29% 8,09% 106 95% 96 115 94% South Africa 78,61% 80,35% 12 11% 66,78% -6,42% Portugal 78,31% 35 31% 74,45% 28 26% 48,38% 85 70% -20,98% Italy 69,11% 71,99% 52,97% -9,59% Ireland 82,70% 19 17% 67,56% 51 48% 50,49% 65% -29,58% 38,74% Greece 101 95% 21,86% 121 99% <u>67,7</u>8% Spain 83,18% 18 16% 51,45% 62% -28,33% Chile 62,26% -2.04% 77,09% 44,88% 76 68% 19 18% 96 79% Colombia 78,17% -13,95% 80.19% 54.34% 36 32% 13 12% 63 52% Mexico 66,45% 64 57% 68,29% 48 45% 47,44% 91 75% -12,93% Peru 68,16% 75,40% -6,41% 23% 52,20% 59% first 90,57% **Botswana** 90,58% Mongolia 88,53% Albania last 18,38% Pakistan 18,44% Pakistan 13,58% Egypt total number of countries 112 106 122 Avg Above 67,10% 66,82% 46,69% Avg All 66,77% 65,79% 56,69%

Source: SAE/PR from Gallup World Poll micro data

Perceptions on Chinese leadership do not have a defined tendency during the years analyzed. Among the BRICS, there is a fall with a high range of variation in India, South Africa and Russia, and a small increase in Brazilian perception. Compared to other evaluations, it is possible to notice that the critics of Chinese leadership are more radicals, as shown by the fact that less than 10% of Slovaks and Austrians have rated Chinese leadership positively.

 $Table\ 7-Cross\ Perception-approval\ or\ disapproval\ of\ Chinese\ leadership$

Do you app	rove o	r disa	appro	ve of th	ne jol	perf	ormano	e of	the le	adersh	ip of	China	?
<u>Yes</u>	2006	rank		2008	rank		2010	rc	ınk	2012	rank		var
	2006	absolute	erelative		absolute relative			absolute	relative		absolute relative		2006-09 x 2010-12
Brazil	44,32%		71%	43,51%	81	76%	41,18%		72%	48,41%	69	56%	2,01%
Russia	56,73%	59	53%	64,37%	53	50%	60,40%	43	39%	53,40%	59	48%	-6,03%
India	37,46%	93	83%	50,94%	73	68%	40,66%	79	72%	39,02%	85	69%	-9,86%
South Africa				57,49%	62	58%	47,78%	72	66%	52,55%	62	50%	-12,74%
Portugal	32,90%	99	88%	26,45%	89	83%	23,66%	99	91%	28,97%	105	85%	-11,33%
Italy	26,38%	102	91%	9,17%	104	97%	11,95%	109	100%	19,49%	114	93%	-11,56%
Ireland	42,98%	82	73%	18,13%	98	92%	33,43%	87	80%	40,33%	82	67%	20,70%
Greece	55,99%	63	56%				47,42%	74	68%	43,39%	76	62%	-18,90%
Spain	26,34%	103	92%	13,25%	103	96%	29,62%	92	84%	22,42%	110	89%	31,46%
Chile	56,46%	60	54%	48,83%	74	69%	49,35%	67	61%	40,83%	81	66%	-14,36%
Colombia	55,72%	64	57%	67,43%	46	43%	56,73%	54	50%	49,39%	66	54%	-13,83%
Mexico	46,76%	74	66%				61,64%	40	37%	46,67%	71	58%	15,82%
Peru	67,97%	36	32%	68,83%	43	40%	67,61%	26	24%	54,80%	58	47%	-10,52%
first	88,10%	Seneg	gal	89,70%	Sri La	nka	92,68%	Mali		94,70%	Mali		
last	4,65%	Slova	kia	6,49% Austria		ia	11,95%	Italy		7,74%	Austr	ia	
total number		112			107			109			123		
Avg Above	45,83%			42,58%			43,96%			41,51%			
Avg All	55,74%			56,67%			52,95%			51,35%			

Source: SAE/PR from Gallup World Poll micro data

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