

China News Digest

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LATEST NEWS

China's investors target Brazil in hunt for growth

<https://www.ft.com/content/01972f58-ae62-11e6-a37c-f4a01f1b0fa1>

3 December 2016, *The Financial Times*

Abstract:

The article focuses on the increasing mutual interest by Chinese and Brazilian firms in investment and economic opportunities. Slowing economic growth has forced China to become an international investor, looking for returns on investment.

Chinese firms have spent \$11.9 bn acquiring Brazilian counterparts. The article details Chinese investment in Brazilian energy and infrastructure; the finalizing of a \$20 bn Sino-Brazilian bilateral investment fund; and the Latin American departure from commodity exports to move towards high-end manufacturing, and renewable energy.



RECENT BACKGROUND

China's perceived level of influence over Latin America questioned in Stanford expert's research

<http://news.stanford.edu/2016/12/08/chinas-perceived-level-influence-latin-america-questioned-stanford-experts-research/>

8 December 2016, *The Wall Street Journal*

Abstract:

This is a review of a Stanford scholar's research about the question of perceived levels of Chinese influence over Latin America versus the reality. The quotations are from Harold Trinkunas:

- "I find instead that the China-Latin America economic relationship is largely win-win and the scope for detrimental Chinese leverage on Latin American governments is limited to a small number of vulnerable cases."
- "China so far lacks the extensive set of relationships with domestic political actors that would allow it to indirectly influence domestic policy of Latin American governments."
- "A growing Chinese economic role in Latin America is a natural outcome of China's changing role in the global economy. Also, Latin America badly needs infrastructure, and China is very good at building it. The relationship is not necessarily bad for Latin America or for the United States."



Trump is making China angry. Could China undermine the U.S. in Latin America?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/12/03/trump-is-making-china-angry-could-china-undermine-the-u-s-in-latin-america/?utm_term=.4258197535e4

3 December 2016, *The Washington Post*

Abstract:

This is an editorial analysis of claims that Trump's antagonistic position towards China, as well as his protectionist stance, will undermine the U.S. in Latin America. The editorial focuses on the argument that the Chinese political and economic position is not strong in the face of a Trump presidency, and is inhibited by a number of factors. These factors include: Chinese-Latin American investment is not new; Chinese political gains will be limited due to Latin American diplomatic acknowledgement of Taiwan; Chinese economic slowdown in the face of declining commodity trade with Latin America; and American difficulties do not necessarily mean Chinese opportunity.



China Charts Deeper Focus on Latin America

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/china-charts-deeper-focus-on-latin-america-1480096963>

25 November 2016, *The Wall Street Journal*

Abstract:

This article details a Chinese policy document, released after President Xi Jinping concluded his South American trip in late November. The document focuses on China's plans to focus on Latin America, presumably spurred by demand for commodities as well as reaction to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's position on trade agreements. As Trump desires to renegotiate NAFTA and withdraw from the Trans Pacific Partnership, China is well positioned to step into the economic vacuum left by the U.S. Skepticism about Chinese expansion into South America arises from China's past record with Africa, where Chinese companies extracted natural resources but hired few locals and did not encourage existing industries. Obama administration officials have been voicing their concern with Trump's desire to disengage from South America economically.



Spotlight: Closer ties with China can alter LatAm's economic course: experts

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-12/03/c_135878462.htm

3 December 2016, *Xinhua News Service*

Abstract:

This short article explains Latin America's economic position in the event of closer Chinese ties. Chinese regional investment in Latin America could transform it from a "mere exporter of raw materials" to an assumed economic partnership, with great investment in infrastructure and transportation. Journalists in the article detail the shifting geo-economics towards the Asia-Pacific region, and away from the Western- dominated Atlantic.



What's new about Xi's 'new era' of China-Latin America relations?

<https://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/9415-What-s-new-about-Xi-s-new-era-of-China-Latin-America-relations>

22 November 2016, *chinadialogue*

Abstract:

This editorial focuses on the significance of Xi Jinping's visit to Chile, Ecuador, and Peru in late November. The objective of the visit is framed in the context of the end of the Chinese commodity boom, and China's high demand for new sources of natural resources in commodity-rich South America. The discussion by both South America and China, in pursuing new trade relations based on commodities, is sobered by South American reluctance to be economically dependent on commodity trade (given the economic situation of Venezuela, following the oil bust). Other areas of concern for increased Chinese commitment to South America include China's record of local environmental and social protocols, and motives behind China's proposed transportation and energy infrastructure investment.

