

# China News Digest

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Leite, Tosto e Barros  
A D V O G A D O S

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## LATEST NEWS

### China firms in talks to bid in Brazil's grain rail auction

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-rail-auction/china-firms-in-talks-to-bid-in-brazils-grain-rail-auction-idUSKBN1CW2W1>

27 October 2017, *Reuters*

#### Abstract:

A group of state-owned Chinese firms plan to form a consortium to bid in an auction for the right to build and operate a railroad known as Ferrogrão, Brazil's secretary for the government's public-private partnerships program, Adalberto Vasconcelos, said on Friday.

With 1,100 kilometers (683 miles), Ferrogrão will connect grain producing regions in Brazil's center-west to the port of Miritituba, in the northern Pará state. The railroad is expected to be an alternative to BR-163 road, currently the only way to take grains from central Brazil to northern ports.

## **Brazil, Latam well-positioned for growth amid Fed rate tightening**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/emerging-investors-rates/corrected-brazil-latam-well-positioned-for-growth-amid-fed-rate-tightening-idUSL2N1MS208>

24 October 2017, *Reuters*

### **Abstract:**

Latin America and Brazil, in particular, are well-positioned among developing countries to withstand expected rate increases by the U.S. and European central banks in coming months, investors and economists said, while Turkey looks particularly vulnerable.

In the months after May 2013, when then-Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke announced plans to reduce monetary stimulus, the JPMorgan Emerging Markets Global Bond Index dropped nearly 15 percent from its May high to its low for the year in September. MSCI's index of emerging market stocks dropped 17.4 percent from its May high to its low point of the year in June.

## **China Development Bank to approve restructuring plan for Brazilian group Oi**

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2017/10/17/pt-banco-de-desenvolvimento-da-china-devera-aprovar-plano-de-reestruturacao-do-grupo-brasileiro-oi/>

17 October 2017, *Macauhub*

### **Abstract:**

The China Development Bank is expected to sign a document on Tuesday that supports the restructuring plan presented by Brazilian telecoms group Oi, the Bloomberg news agency reported.

Sources quoted by the agency said the Chinese bank has been discussing with judicial authorities how it could recover a US\$1.2 billion loan it granted to the Oi group, about six months before the operator went into the biggest ever receivership process in Latin America.

## Trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries exceeds US\$78 billion from January to August

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2017/10/17/pt-comercio-entre-a-china-e-paises-de-lingua-portuguesa-ultrapassa-78-mil-milhoes-de-dolares-de-janeiro-a-agosto/>

17 October 2017, *Macauhub*

### Abstract:

Trade between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries totaled over US\$78 billion between January and August 2017, according to official Chinese figures released by Forum Macau.

The exact figure of US\$78.419 billion was 30% higher than the US\$60.231 billion recorded in the same period of 2016, according to the same figures, and China exported goods worth US\$23.311 billion (+25.68%) and imported goods valued at US\$55.108 billion (+32.21%).

Angola and Brazil were responsible in the first eight months of the year for 93.5% of trade between China and the eight Portuguese-speaking countries, with Brazilian trade accounting for more than three times the trade recorded with Angola.

## RECENT BACKGROUND

### China's outward public investment—good news for the environment and tackling poverty?

<http://www.eco-business.com/opinion/chinas-outward-public-investment-good-news-for-the-environment-and-tackling-poverty/>

26 October 2017, *Eco-Business*

#### Abstract:

In April, the Chinese-hosted BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB), with its US\$100 billion capitalization, had its second annual meeting. In May, over 20 heads of state attended the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, which will invest up to US\$900 billion of land and sea-based infrastructure across Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. In July, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), with its initial capital of US\$100 billion of investment, had its second annual meeting.

Many of these investments have been to counter a perceived Western bias in existing development investment, as well as address many developing countries' infrastructure needs. For China, there's the added advantage of increasing its political and economic power.

## Chile, China scale new heights in relations

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1071590.shtml>

23 October 2017, *Global Times*

### Abstract:

For those with their eye on trade, 2016 was especially significant for Chile-China relations. Amazing as it may sound, Chile became the No.1 exporter of fruit to China, with \$1.2 billion, meaning that one out of every four pieces of fruit imported by China by value (\$5 billion) came from Chile, the farthest country from China. It was also the year in which China became the No.1 market for Chilean wine, with some \$197 million. The year 2017 is not doing too badly as the negotiations to deepen the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between both countries have been successfully concluded and the new upgraded version of the FTA is expected to be signed during the APEC summit in Hanoi in November.

But trade is only part and parcel of a much broader picture of enhanced Chile-China links. Since 2014, official visits at the highest level - either heads of state or heads of government - have taken place every year. Both Chile and China have been great beneficiaries of globalization and free trade and are firm supporters of multilateralism, which brings them closer together on a variety of issues, including the need to combat climate change.

## China-Panama Links: Is Beijing Poised to Take on US in Latin America?

<https://sptnkne.ws/fJUc>

22 October 2017, *Sputnik News*

### Abstract:

China and Panama continue to develop ties, with a number of projects in the pipeline and others already being implemented. In addition to obvious economic benefits, this trend is apparently driven by Beijing's intention to expand its political and economic presence in the region.

## Mexico and China see continuing progress in relations

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1071472.shtml>

22 October 2017, *Global Times*

### Abstract:

As Mexico and China celebrate the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations and enter into the fifth year of the implementation of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, we can certainly attest to unprecedented progress registered in every field of our bilateral relationship.

In the political arena, the personal rapport and frequent encounters between our two leaders demonstrate that dialogue at the highest level is key to giving additional impetus to economic and social exchanges. As a result, we have witnessed the strengthening of the institutional framework giving support to our cooperation, namely the Binational Commission, three High Level Groups dealing with Economic, Investment and Business matters, and specific dialogue mechanisms on political, strategic and multilateral matters.

## The Demarche of Chinese foreign policy in Xi's Era

[http://moderndiplomacy.eu/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=3082:the-demarche-of-chinese-foreign-policy-in-xi-s-era&Itemid=135](http://moderndiplomacy.eu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=3082:the-demarche-of-chinese-foreign-policy-in-xi-s-era&Itemid=135)

22 October 2017, *Modern Diplomacy*

### Abstract:

As China is driven by the millennium glory and the centenary shame from the beginning of the 20th century, its people have struggled consistently and persistently for realizing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Considering this, Xi admitted that now China has entered the crucial phase of its rise to a global power since Deng initiated the reform and openness-up in the late 1970s. He vows to continue upholding the fundamental goal of preserving world peace and promoting common development with all countries. Simultaneously, Xi reaffirmed that it is Chinese ruling party's abiding mission to make greater contributions for building a community with a shared future for mankind in the globalized era.

## How China is charming the world

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/how-china-is-charming-the-world>

21 October 2017, *The Straits Times*

### Abstract:

China's global image has improved in recent years because of the "Chinese miracle" it has worked to better its people's lives and the fulfilling of its responsibility as a major power, said an official.

"China is not only the largest contributor to world economic growth but also a big contributor to its response to global challenges, such as climate change, cyber security, public health and poverty alleviation," said Mr Sun Zhijun, deputy chief of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) publicity department.

He added that China has also been promoting cultural and people-to-people exchanges with other countries, through media cooperation and by developing cultural services and trade.

## Is Foreign Aid Flow a Political 'Competitive Tool' for US and China?

<https://sptnkne.ws/fJvS>

20 October 2017, *Sputnik News*

### Abstract:

A recent report revealed that 'in just a few decades, China has gone from aid recipient to net aid donor and one of the most important foreign policy players in the world', which is set to soon outmatch the US. Mei Xinyu, Chinese researcher in international trade has told Sputnik that the findings reveal foreign aid is a political tool.

## **Chinese steel products exports to Latin America reached to 5.0 million tons during Jan/Aug 2017**

<http://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/chinese-steel-products-exports-to-latin-america-reached-to-5-0-million-tons-during-janaug-2017/>

17 October 2017, *Hellenic Shipping News*

### **Abstract:**

China exported to the world 52.6 million tons (Mt) of steel. Of that amount, 5.0 million tons (Mt) were shipped to Latin America.

Chinese steel received by Latin America increased 1% compared with Jan/Aug 2016. The flow to the world contracted 30%.

The region's share of Chinese steel exports reached 9.5% (vs. 6.6% in Jan/Aug 2016).

## China unveils US\$15bn mega bridge

<http://guardian.co.tt/news/2017-10-16/china-unveils-us15bn-mega-bridge>

17 October 2017, *Trinidad and Tobago Guardian*

### Abstract:

The idea of building a bridge over the Caribbean Sea to connect Trinidad with Tobago is not a new one.

However, it may not be one that the current administration is troubling itself with at the moment.

As Opposition Leader in 2015, Dr. Keith Rowley said no amount of money in the Western Hemisphere and no engineering known to man could pay for or build such a bridge which would have to at least be 30 kilometers long.

Two years later, the Chinese Government is mere months away from opening such an engineering marvel in the Eastern Hemisphere. It's called the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

## **Trump's Trade Threats Have Pushed Mexico and China Closer Together**

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/trend-lines/23420/trump-s-trade-threats-have-pushed-mexico-and-china-closer-together>

19 October 2017, *World Politics Review*

### **Abstract:**

With talks to renegotiate NAFTA deadlocked this week over the hard-line positions of the Trump administration, Mexico was again left pondering the fate of its biggest trade relationship. Negotiations over the trade deal will now extend into next year, heightening both the economic uncertainty and Mexico's desire to branch out, as countries like China look to expand their stake in the Mexican economy. In an email interview, Carin Zissis, editor-in-chief of AS/COA Online, the website of the Americas Society/Council of the Americas, discusses the evolving nature of Mexico's ties with China, how a change in NAFTA could affect them, and why Mexico is looking to wean itself off the U.S. market.

## **China's Investments in Latin America Could Turn into Military Assets Against US, Says Expert**

[https://www.theepochtimes.com/chinas-investments-in-latin-america-could-turn-military-assets-against-us-says-expert\\_2337148.html](https://www.theepochtimes.com/chinas-investments-in-latin-america-could-turn-military-assets-against-us-says-expert_2337148.html)

19 October 2017, *The Epoch Times*

### **Abstract:**

China's rapidly growing economic influence and frantic purchase of infrastructure in Latin America could be readily turned into critical assets to be used against the United States in the event of a military conflict, according to a researcher studying China's involvement in the region.

Latin America has increasingly been an important focus of China's attempt to build a foothold in the Western Hemisphere, said Evan Ellis, a research professor in Latin American studies at the U.S. Army War College's Strategic Studies Institute.

Speaking at a Hudson Institute event on Oct. 18, Ellis said that while China's stated goals and much of its observable activities in Latin America thus far have been focused on economic items, the sheer scale and extent of China's involvement there could be motivated by military considerations.

## China Is Quietly Reshaping the World

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/10/china-belt-and-road/542667/>

17 October 2017, *The Atlantic*

### Abstract:

The Pakistani town of Gwadar was until recently filled with the dust-colored cinderblock houses of about 50,000 fishermen. Ringed by cliffs, desert, and the Arabian Sea, it was at the forgotten edge of the earth. Now it's one centerpiece of China's "Belt and Road" initiative, and the town has transformed as a result. Gwadar is experiencing a storm of construction: a brand-new container port, new hotels, and 1,800 miles of superhighway and high-speed railway to connect it to China's landlocked western provinces. China and Pakistan aspire to turn Gwadar into a new Dubai, making it a city that will ultimately house 2 million people.

China is quickly growing into the world's most extensive commercial empire. By way of comparison, after World War II, the Marshall Plan provided the equivalent of \$800 billion in reconstruction funds to Europe (if calculated as a percentage of today's GDP). In the decades after the war the United States was also the world's largest trading nation, and its largest bilateral lender to others.

**Ambassador: Base China-U.S. relations on cooperation, not confrontation**

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/10/17/chinas-cooperative-vision-productive-china-u-s-relationship-cui-tiankai-column/766450001/>

17 October 2017, *USA Today*

**Abstract:**

Today's world is profoundly and increasingly interconnected by unprecedented globalization. The zero-sum mentality is outdated, and it is misleading to interpret the relationship between China and the U.S. through the lens of the power shifting theory.

To build trust and mutual benefit in a globalized world we need more – not less – engagement, especially when globalization faces challenges, such as populism and protectionism. No one can opt out. Touched by these realities, and to address that anxiety, China has put forward its own ideas, namely to nurture a fair and just world order, to foster a new model of relationship with the U.S., and to build an international community with a shared future. These ideas aim to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people.