

China News Digest

December 08, 2018



Leite, Tosto e Barros
ADVOGADOS

Contents

Latest news 01

Panama first in Latin America to join China's Belt and Road Initiative	01
Brazil Lacks Power to Pursue Isolationism, Temer Warns Successor	02
Panama awards China US\$1.4 billion to build bridge for Belt and Road Initiative	03
Brazil expected to see record soy export year in 2018	04
China likely to resume U.S. soy deals, but action on tariffs uncertain: USDA chief	05
Latin America is China's second trade partner	06
US-China trade war: Deal agreed to suspend new trade tariffs	07
China-US spat now a global threat: Scott Morrison	08
Brazil Backs Out of Hosting 2019 Climate Change Meeting	09
China, vying with U.S. in Latin America, eyes Argentina nuclear deal	10
Crop drop: China swine fever outbreak to curb its soybean imports	11

Recent background 12

Brazil future unclear amid opposing ideologies of ministers	12
A U.S.-China Trade War Offers Brazil Tough Choices	13
Why the China-US trade war truce could be a raw deal for Brazil's soybean farmers	14
With new allies, Argentina reassesses its relationship with China	15
While in Argentina for the G20, Trump should spare some attention for South America	16
Latin America's Double Dependence	17
How to Respond to Chinese Investment in Latin America	18
China's Venezuela Policy Is Losing Popularity - in China	19
Trump-Style Foreign Policy Tantalizing Idea for Broke Brazil	20

LATEST NEWS

Panama first in Latin America to join China's Belt and Road Initiative

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/panama-first-in-latin-america-to-join-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative/>

7 December 2018, *New Europe*

Abstract:

China's attempts to flex its increasing international clout scored a major victory earlier in December when the strategic Central American nation of Panama became the first in the region to officially agree to take part in Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

Brazil Lacks Power to Pursue Isolationism, Temer Warns Successor

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-12-06/brazil-lacks-power-to-pursue-isolationism-temer-warns-successor>

6 December 2018, *Bloomberg*

Abstract:

Brazil lacks both the economic and political power to isolate itself from the rest of the world, President Michel Temer told a gathering of foreign journalists in Brasilia on Thursday.

Panama awards China US\$1.4 billion to build bridge for Belt and Road Initiative

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2018/12/05/panama-awards-china-us1-4-billion-build-bridge-belt-road-initiative/>

5 December 2018, *Hong Kong Free Press*

Abstract:

The government of Panama gave a Chinese consortium a US\$1.4 billion contract to build a bridge over the Panama Canal, a day after a visit by President Xi Jinping on Tuesday.

Brazil expected to see record soy export year in 2018

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2018/12/04/pt-brasil-com-ano-recorde-de-exportacao-de-soja-em-2018/>

4 December 2018, *Macauhub*

Abstract:

Brazil is set to end 2018 with a record 82.5 million tons in soy exports, up from 68 million tons in 2017, the National Association of Grain Exporters (ANEC) announced on Monday.

China likely to resume U.S. soy deals, but action on tariffs uncertain: USDA chief

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-agriculture/china-likely-to-resume-us-soy-deals-but-action-on-tariffs-uncertain-usda-chief-idUSKBN1O229K>

3 December 2018, Reuters

Abstract:

China will probably resume buying American soybeans around Jan. 1 because of limited supplies in Brazil after slashing imports from the United States due to the U.S.-China trade war, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said on Monday.

Latin America is China's second trade partner

<https://santiagotimes.cl/2018/12/03/latin-america-is-chinas-second-trade-partner/>

3 December 2018, *The Santiago Times*

Abstract:

Latin America ranks second in Chinese investment abroad, only after Asia, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said, adding that China has become Latin America's second largest trading partner.

US-China trade war: Deal agreed to suspend new trade tariffs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46413196>

2 December 2018, BBC

Abstract:

US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have agreed to halt new trade tariffs for 90 days to allow for talks, the US says.

China-US spat now a global threat: Scott Morrison

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/chinaus-spat-now-a-global-threat-scott-morrison-20181129-h18io8>

29 November 2018, Australian Financial Review

Abstract:

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has implored China and the US to use this weekend's G20 leaders' summit to end their trade war, saying the dispute is now posing a real threat to the global economy.

Brazil Backs Out of Hosting 2019 Climate Change Meeting

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/28/world/americas/brazil-climate-meeting.html>

28 November 2018, *The New York Times*

Abstract:

Brazil this week pulled out of hosting next year's United Nations global summit meeting on climate change, the latest signal that Latin America's largest nation no longer aspires to be an influential player in efforts to mitigate the effects of a warming planet.

China, vying with U.S. in Latin America, eyes Argentina nuclear deal

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-argentina-china-insight/china-vying-with-u-s-in-lat-in-america-eyes-argentina-nuclear-deal-idUSKCN1NXOFE>

28 November 2018, *Reuters*

Abstract:

Argentina and China are aiming to close a deal within days for the construction of the South American nation's fourth nuclear power plant, a multi-billion dollar project that would cement Beijing's deepening influence in a key regional U.S. ally.

Crop drop: China swine fever outbreak to curb its soybean imports

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-soybean-demand/crop-drop-china-swine-fever-outbreak-to-curb-its-soybean-imports-idUSKCN1NWOPH>

27 November 2018, *Reuters*

Abstract:

China's imports of soybeans are set to drop as an outbreak of African swine fever hits its huge pig herd and saps demand for the animal feed ingredient, making it easier for buyers to keep shunning U.S. cargoes amid the Sino-U.S. trade war.

RECENT BACKGROUND

Brazil future unclear amid opposing ideologies of ministers

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/brazil-future-unclear-amid-opposing-ideologies-of-ministers/2018/12/07/93b20f20-f9dd-11e8-8642-c9718a256cbd_story.html?utm_term=.c25fad86418b

7 December 2018, *The Washington Post*

Abstract:

With his inauguration just weeks away, Brazilian President-elect Jair Bolsonaro is assembling a Cabinet of ministers with starkly different views on key issues like climate change, the economy and China that is raising questions about the direction the far-right leader will take Latin America's largest nation.

A U.S.-China Trade War Offers Brazil Tough Choices

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2018-12-06/u-s-china-trade-war-offers-brazil-tough-choices>

6 December 2018, *Bloomberg*

Abstract:

Brazil's historical ties to the U.S. vie with its newfound, if uneasy, reliance on Chinese capital and customers.

Why the China-US trade war truce could be a raw deal for Brazil's soybean farmers

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/2176373/why-china-us-trade-war-truce-could-be-raw-deal-brazils-soybean>

4 December 2018, *South China Morning Post*

Abstract:

Beijing's pledge to buy more American agricultural products could turn a bumper Brazilian harvest into a global glut, analyst says.

With new allies, Argentina reassesses its relationship with China

<https://dialogochino.net/with-new-allies-argentina-reassesses-its-relationship-with-china/>

3 December 2018, *Diálogo Chino*

Abstract:

Despite agreeing a roadmap for cooperation over the next five years, Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Argentina ended without advancing many strategic goals, casting doubt on the future of several key infrastructure projects, including a controversial nuclear plant.

While in Argentina for the G20, Trump should spare some attention for South America

<https://theglobalamericans.org/2018/11/while-in-argentina-for-the-g20-trump-should-spare-some-attention-for-south-america/>

30 November 2018, *The Global Americans*

Abstract:

"U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Buenos Aires takes place at a moment of international turmoil... He'll [also] sit down with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the midst of a bilateral trade war and economic global uncertainty triggered by Asia-Pacific and European (Brexit) negotiations, subjects that he will also have to discuss with a variety of other leaders."

"In this context, the media has understandably downplayed one central aspect of this trip: this will be Trump's first visit to Latin America. Yet there are several reasons why this should remain a front and center issue of the trip."

Latin America's Double Dependence

<https://intpolicydigest.org/2018/11/29/latin-america-s-double-dependence/>

29 November 2018, *International Policy Digest*

Abstract:

Latin America is gradually losing influence in world affairs and seems destined to increasingly diverge intra-regionally. The first fact leads to weakness and the second to fragmentation: the mix of weakness and fragmentation worsens its dependence. Some indicators, among many others, exemplify this reality.

How to Respond to Chinese Investment in Latin America

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/28/how-to-respond-to-chinese-investment-in-latin-america/>

28 November 2018, *Foreign Policy*

Abstract:

“The United States can compete without making things worse.”

China's Venezuela Policy Is Losing Popularity - in China

<https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/change-coming-chinas-venezuela-policy>

27 November 2018, Americas Quarterly

Abstract:

Amid hyperinflation and declining oil production, skepticism surrounds China's bet on Venezuela.

Trump-Style Foreign Policy Tantalizing Idea for Broke Brazil

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-11-27/trump-style-foreign-policy-tantalizing-idea-for-broke-brazil>

27 November 2018, *Bloomberg*

Abstract:

Brazil's next government wants an assertive, Trump-style foreign policy. It's just not entirely sure how.