



CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE

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**Evaluating China's Presence in South
America**

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Abstract

China is poised to become Latin America's largest trading partner and primary influence due to the steady rising of deals, economic financing, investments, and cultural exchanges implemented by China in the region. As such, China has used different tactics to ensure that it will continue to exert influence and gain access to strategic energy assets in the region. This thesis analyzes how Chinese engagement and presence has impacted South America's export basket. Consequently, China's presence has positioned Latin America back into a world of primary product dependency, limiting the development of high value-added exports, and adding consequences such as environmental and social conflicts across the region. The final section recommends proposals on how the region can better respond to and invest in the relationship, so that both China and Latin America can benefit from what is now an asymmetric relationship.