

The implications of China's activities in Latin America on the hegemonic position of the US in the region in the early 21st century

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Abstract

In the last two decades, China has significantly changed the balance of power in international relations. The question is whether a similar pattern can be observed in the context of Latin America, which would imply a disruption of the US hegemony in the region. This thesis seeks to answer this question by assessing the Chinese involvement in Latin America in the period between 2000-2019 in three areas - economic, military and cultural. Special focus is given to the definition of the concept of hegemony and the identification of the basic features of the US hegemony in Latin America. This thesis concludes that China has become an important economic player in the Latin American region, however its influence in the two other fields (military and cultural) has not been so significant. Also, China's economic impact is limited to a few South American countries and does not threaten the overall hegemonic position of the United States in Latin America.