



## CHINA'S ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

September 2021

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on China's presence and activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in September 2021. This is not a complete list of media reports on China's activities in Latin America but are some of the most relevant articles and reports selected by SFS researchers and fellows. The monitor does source a limited amount of media reports from state-owned or -controlled media outlets, which are carefully selected and solely intended to report on news that is not reported on by other media and is relevant for understanding VRIC influence in the region. This report is produced as part of our VRIC Monitor published monthly by the Center for a Secure Free Society (SFS), a non-profit, national security think tank based in Washington D.C.



- State media reports Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed his willingness to promote China-Mexico ties to a new level and bring benefits to the two countries and their peoples. - [CGTN on 16-SEP](#)
- Taiwan accused China of seeking to use the Honduran election to "create controversy" and undermine Taiwan's long-standing ties with the country, saying it would strive to win support for Honduras' relations with Taipei. - [Reuters on 10-SEP](#)
- State media reports the Vice Minister of Connectivity of the Ministry of ICT, Walid David, said that the arrival of the fifth generation of mobile internet connectivity (5G) will be a sophistication tool for Colombian industrial development. The official recalled

that in Colombia six 5G technology pilot plans are being executed in the 3.5 GHz band in the cities of Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Cali, Medellín, and Tolú, which are developed by Comcel, ETB, Tigo, Colombia Telecomunicaciones and Xiro Investment Group. - [Colombian Ministry of Communications on 08-SEP \(content in Spanish\)](#)

- State media reports Uruguay's President Luis Lacalle Pou announced his country had begun negotiations with China to reach a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which has been regarded as the beginning of the end of Mercosur. - [Merco Press on 08-SEP](#)
- The China National Petroleum Corporation is preparing to return to Venezuela after the Maduro government finalizes legislation seeking to attract more foreign capital to the industry. According to a Bloomberg report citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter, CNPC is sending engineers and other staff to Venezuela and talking to local companies for maintenance operations at an oil-blending plant that the Chinese company operates together with PDVSA. - [Yahoo News on 02-SEP](#)
- State media reports the Chinese car maker Great Wall Motors agreed to a the plant from Daimler Group in Brazil and transform the facility to begin production of 100,000 vehicles and create 2000 new jobs each year. Buying a plant in Brazil is important for the company to establish its presence in South America. The strategy is to use the plant in Brazil to produce cars for the whole South American region. - [CGTN on 31-AUG](#)
- China's pork investment has sparked criticism in Argentina. On Wednesday, Argentine environmentalists launched a protest in Buenos Aires. They opposed a possible agreement with China to install mega pig farms in their country. - [NTD News on 27-AUG](#)
- 'China remains the primary country of origin for illicit fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances,' US-China Economic and Security Review Commission says. Rather than ship directly into the US, Chinese manufacturers now send raw materials to Mexico, where cartels make the drug then deliver it across the border. - [Borderland Beat on AUG-25](#)
- 'Distressed' crude from Venezuela, Iran stacks up off Singapore: Oil stored in ships has been piling up off key Asian ports as a crackdown in China on private crude oil processors has blunted purchases and disrupted flows, including some US-sanctioned barrels from Iran. - [Energy Voice on 24-AUG](#)
- Argentine president Alberto Fernández has decided to reactivate a project to build a new nuclear power plant in Argentina. The new plant in Buenos Aires province will generate 1,200MW and help meet the country's energy needs, but is questioned for its high costs and potential risks. The project was originally presented in 2015 by Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, who was president from 2007-2015. - [Dialogo Chino on 20-AUG](#)

- US national security adviser Jake Sullivan raised concerns about Huawei (HWT.UL) equipment in Brazil's 5G telecoms network during his visit to the country last week, a White House official said on Monday, but Brazil made no promises about whether it would use products from the Chinese company. - [Reuters on 09-AUG](#)