

The role of Latin America in China's global strategy:

Which are the PRC's interests, perceptions and policies in the region?

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China's national goal: “rejuvenation”(复兴),
= to build “comprehensive national power” (综合国力)
= economic growth plus political stability

China's international goal: to keep a stable international scenario,
in order to achieve economic development

Tool for the domestic arena:

- The opening and reform policy (改革开放政策).

Tools for the international arena:

- The building of an “harmonious world” (和谐世界) = establishing a new political and economic world order,
- The adoption of a “big power mentality” (大国心态) and a “responsible power stand” (负责任的大国).

Ensuing policy towards the Third World:

Go Out strategy (走出去)

= promote PRC corporations build supply chains in order to assure the access to badly needed raw materials

Role of Latin America: central, because of *abundance of natural resources*, despite geographical, cultural and political distance.

How China perceives Latin America?

As a *provider of raw materials*,
buyer of manufactured goods,

battlefront in the diplomatic recognition race with Taiwan, and
ally to build a new political and economic international order;

But also

As a *complex ground to conduct business*, and
source of frictions with the US.

Which are the main policies of China's relations with Latin America?

Economic:

Trade, investment, loans, FTAs;

Political:

“White Paper”, high level visits, recognition of preferential status, consultation and cooperation in international issues, participation in regional IGOs, contacts with local governments and parties;

Cultural and Technological:

Cooperation programmes;

Military:

High level visits, cooperation, peace-keeping.

Consequences for Latin America of the growing relation with China

Political:

*Use of the “China card” with the US,
deepening of the Anti-US discourse,
distancing from Taiwan;*

Economic:

*Diversifying foreign partners,
commodities export boom,
but also
deepening the primary goods export-based model, and
increasing the flow of Chinese manufactured goods in the local market;*

Cultural and technological:

*Diversifying the sources of technology transfer,
widening the understanding of an inscrutable culture;*

Military:

Frictions with the US.