

Latin America Power Map

Who holds power in Latin America — and which way it is moving. Every day.

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▲ Costa Rica +2	▲ Colombia +2	▲ Bolivia +2	▲ Panama +1	▲ Ecuador +1
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STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	↔
2	Mexico	72	↔
3	Argentina	67	↔

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	36	↔
13	Venezuela	30	↔
14	Bolivia	21	▲

The Power Board

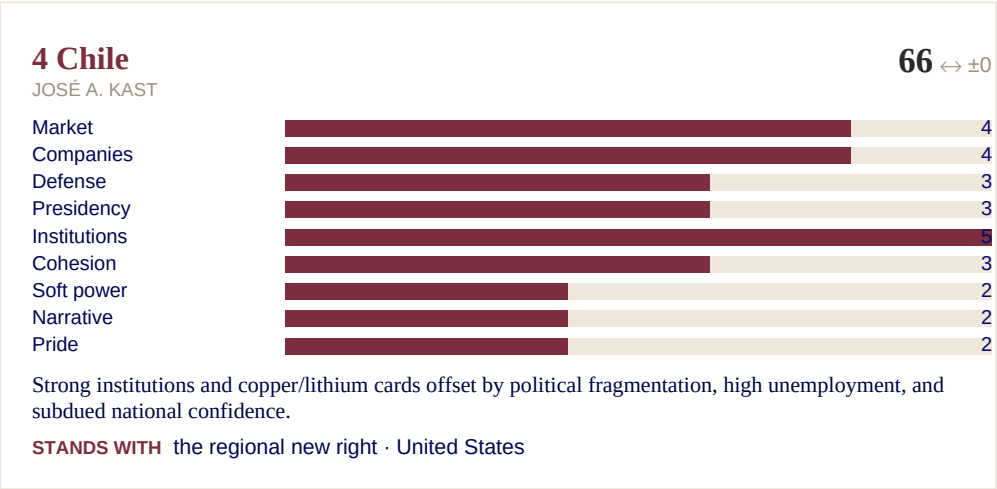
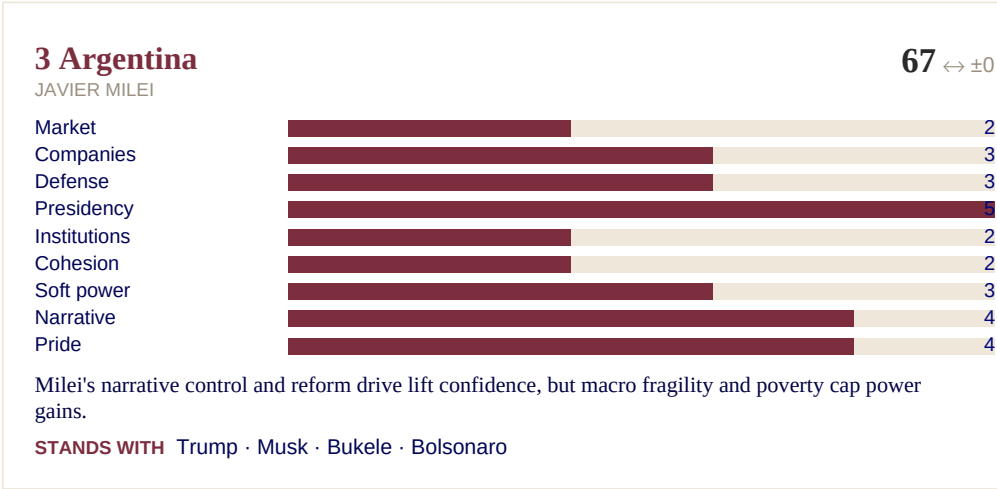
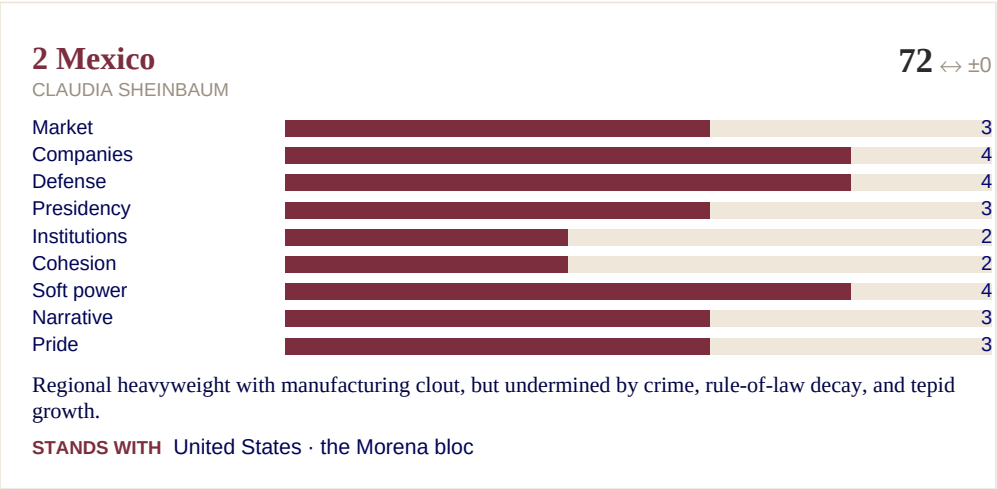
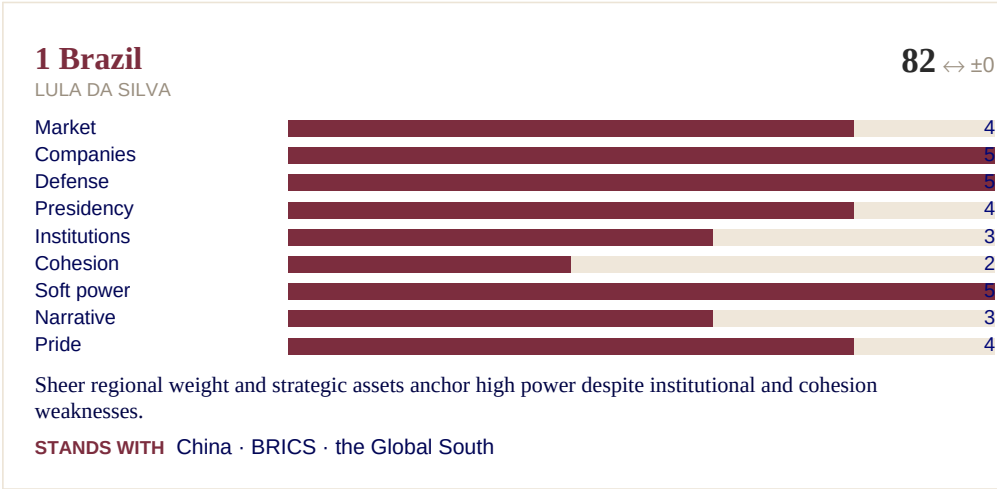
Fourteen nations, ranked by power — with today's move and the thirty-day trend.

SINCE YESTERDAY					
#	COUNTRY & LEADER	POWER · TODAY	30-DAY	POWER SIGNATURE Mkt·Co·Def·Pres·Inst·Coh·Soft·Narr·Pride	WHAT'S MOVING
1	Brazil LULA DA SILVA	82 ↔ ±0			Sheer regional weight and strategic assets anchor high power despite institutional and cohesion weaknesses.
2	Mexico CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM	72 ↔ ±0			Regional heavyweight with manufacturing clout, but undermined by crime, rule-of-law decay, and tepid growth.
3	Argentina JAVIER MILEI	67 ↔ ±0			Milei's narrative control and reform drive lift confidence, but macro fragility and poverty cap power gains.
4	Chile JOSÉ A. KAST	66 ↔ ±0			Strong institutions and copper/lithium cards offset by political fragmentation, high unemployment, and subdued national confidence.
5	Costa Rica LAURA FERNÁNDEZ	57 ▲ +2			Stable institutions and soft power loom large, but lacks defense and heavy economic leverage to push regionally.
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	56 ▲ +2			Large military and U.S. alliance are assets, yet governance and cohesion strains from insecurity cap durable power.
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	50 ↔ ±0			Reserves and mining wealth provide ballast, but chronic presidency weakness and fractured narrative drain power.
8	Uruguay YAMANDÚ ORSI	48 ↔ ±0			High institutional strength and cohesion, but small scale limits regional weight and strategic footprint.
9	Panama JOSÉ RAÚL MULINO	46 ▲ +1			Canal is the ultimate strategic asset; stable democracy and services hub, but tiny defense and demographic weight.
10	Cuba MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL	42 ↔ ±0			Narrative resilience and diplomatic reach persist, but economic collapse and institutional vacuum severely limit real power.
11	Ecuador DANIEL NOBOA	39 ▲ +1			Dollarization anchors markets, but narco-violence and institutional erosion have plunged the nation into crisis mode.
12	Paraguay SANTIAGO PEÑA	36 ↔ ±0			Steady growth and hydro-assets, but opaque institutions and minimal diplomatic weight keep a low power ceiling.
13	Venezuela DELCY RODRÍGUEZ	30 ↔ ±0			Oil reserves are vast but trapped by sanctions, institutional collapse, and a coercive but isolated presidency.
14	Bolivia RODRIGO PAZ	21 ▲ +2			Reserves depleted, growth negative, lithium potential unrealized, and deep factionalism strip all facets of durable power.

Power Index 0–100, with today's move · ■ Market · Companies · Defense · Presidency · Institutions · Cohesion · Soft power · Narrative · Pride

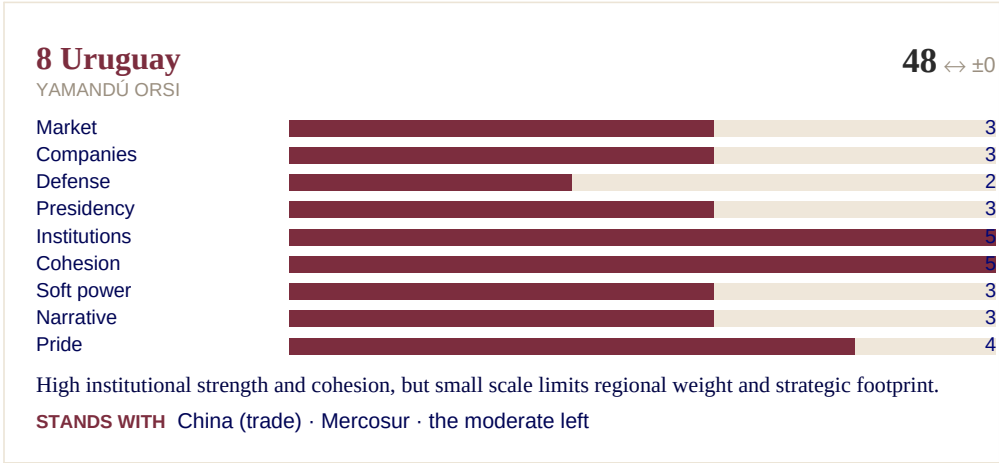
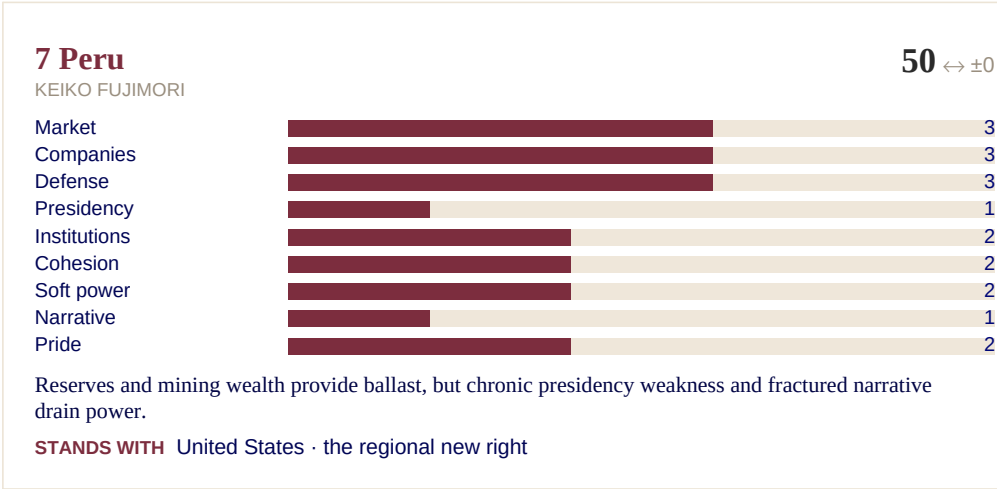
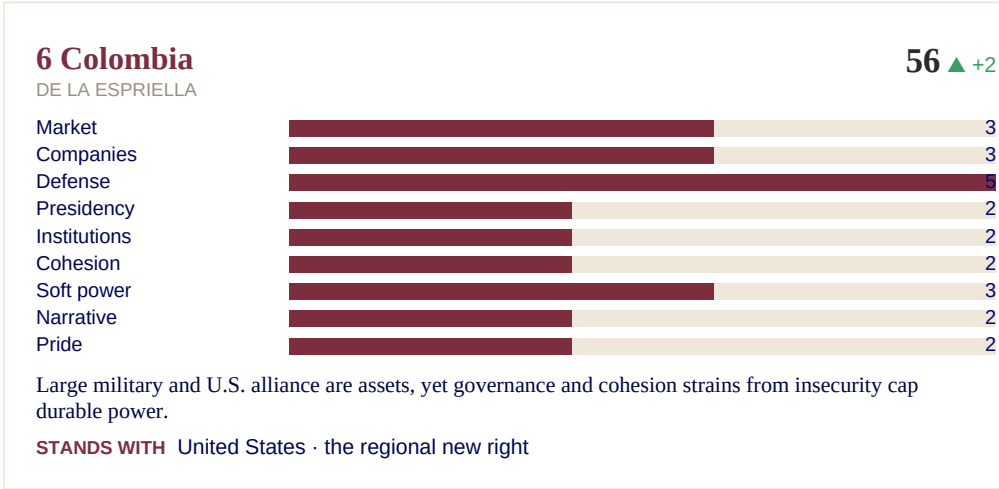
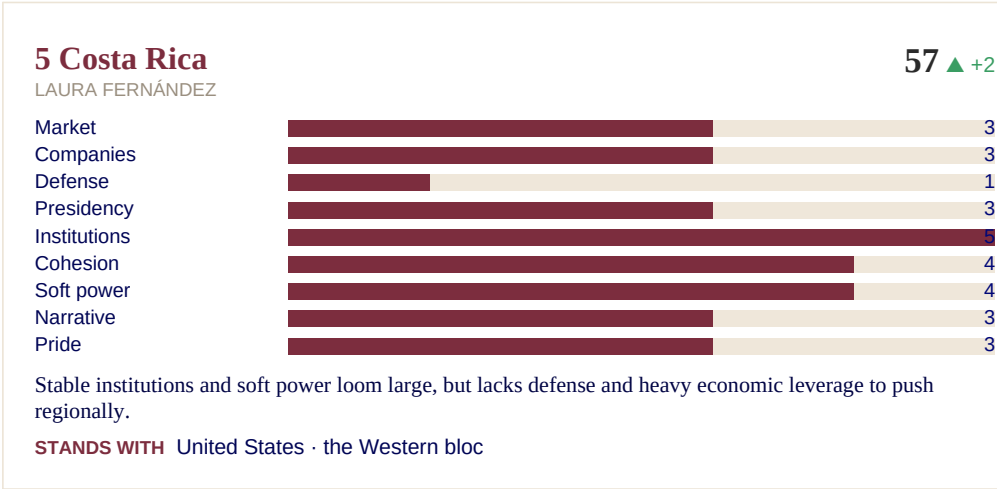
Country power profiles

How each nation's nine powers stack up — 1 of 4.



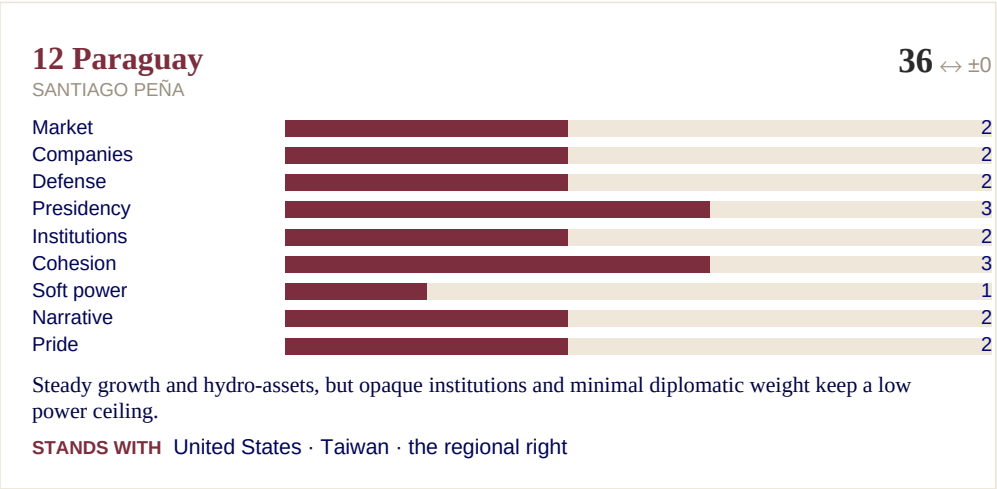
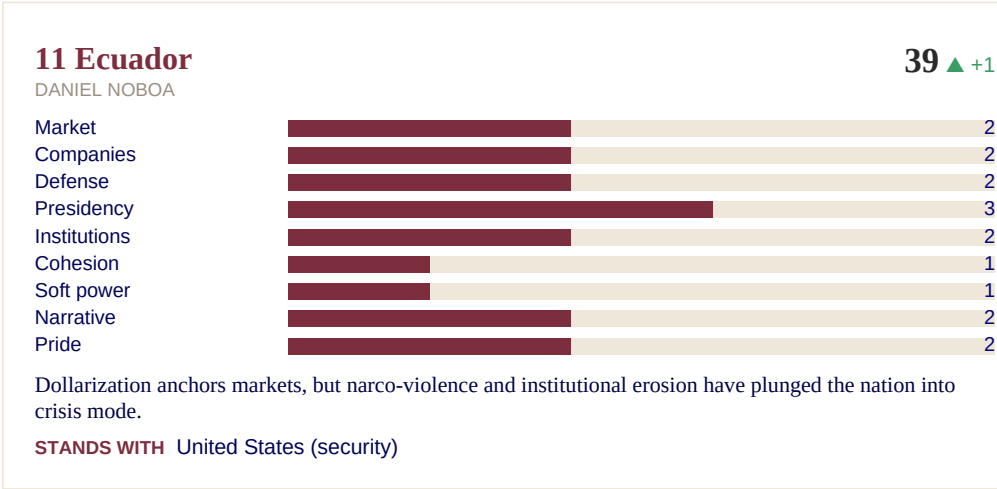
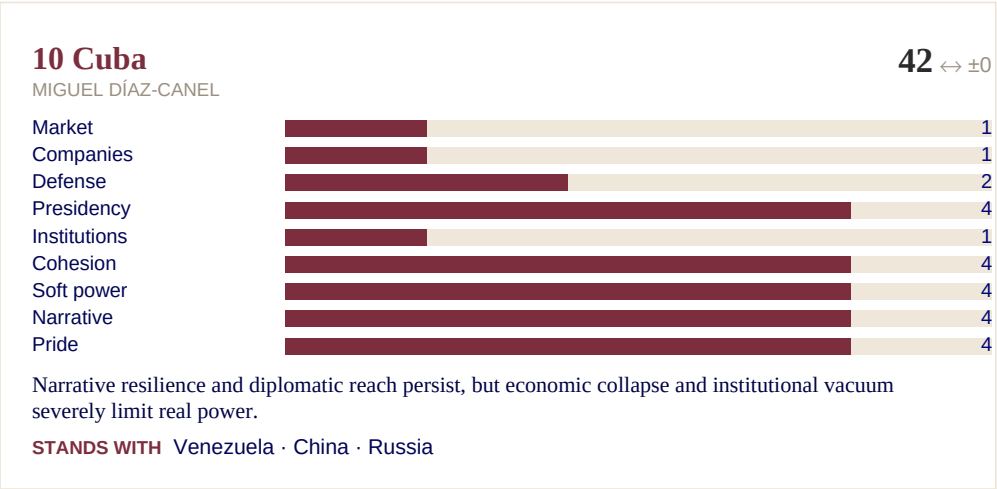
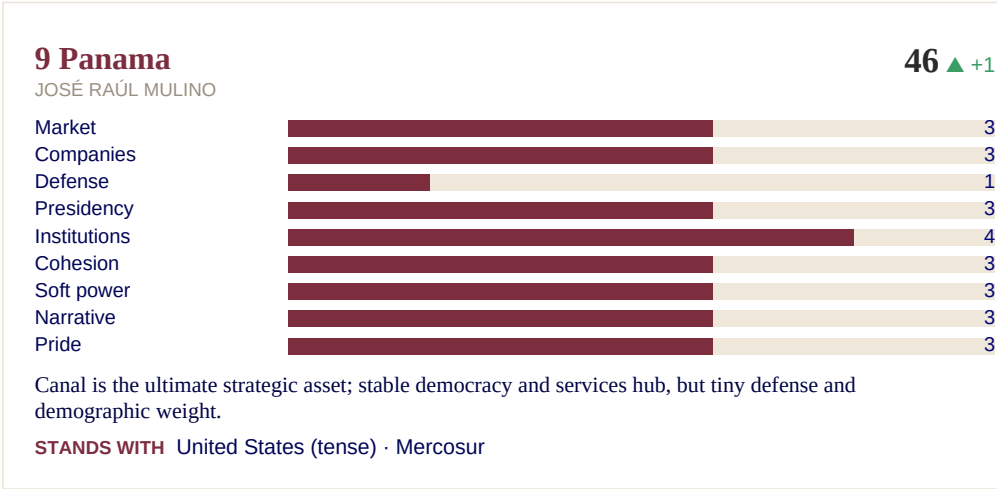
Country power profiles

How each nation's nine powers stack up — 2 of 4.



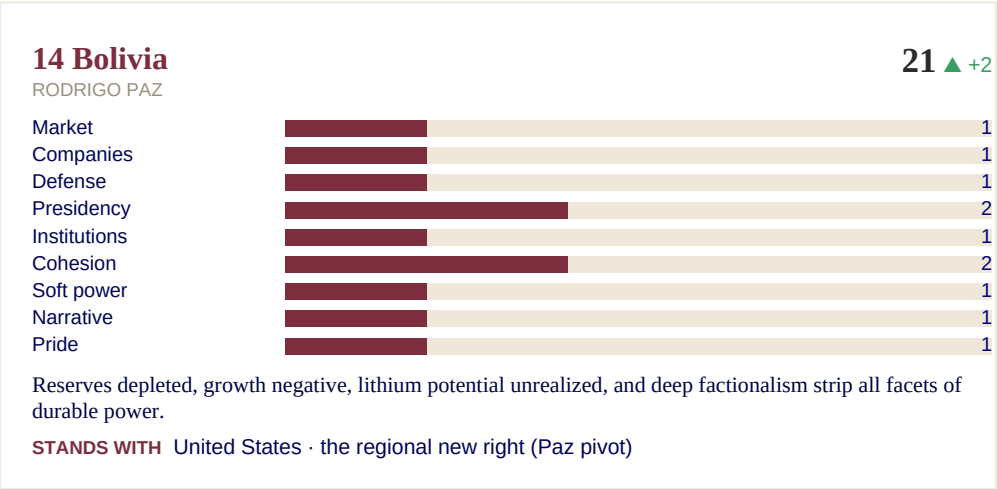
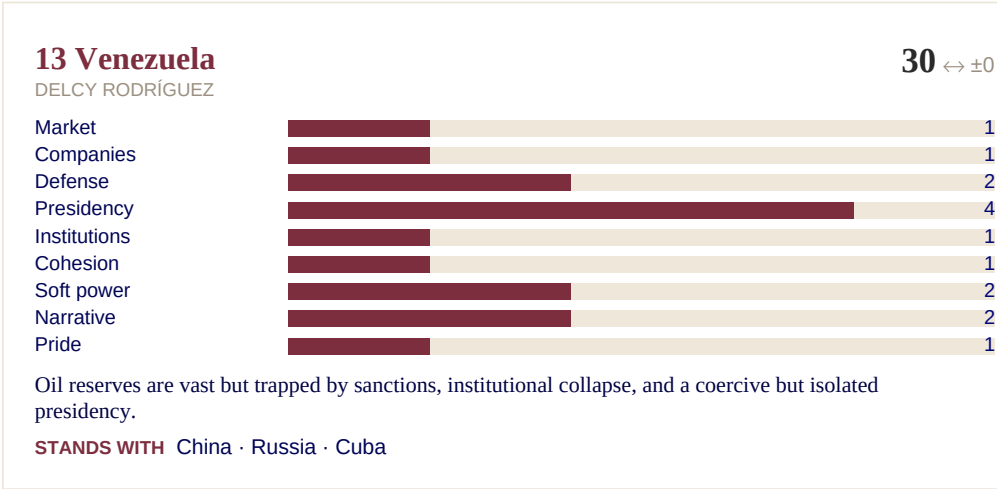
Country power profiles

How each nation's nine powers stack up — 3 of 4.



Country power profiles

How each nation's nine powers stack up — 4 of 4.



Who's gaining, who's losing

This week's shifts in the power balance.

▲ GAINING POWER

+3	Colombia	Large military and U.S. alliance are assets, yet governance and cohesion strains from insecurity cap durable power.
+2	Mexico	Regional heavyweight with manufacturing clout, but undermined by crime, rule-of-law decay, and tepid growth.
+1	Panama	Canal is the ultimate strategic asset; stable democracy and services hub, but tiny defense and demographic weight.
+1	Ecuador	Dollarization anchors markets, but narco-violence and institutional erosion have plunged the nation into crisis mode.

▼ LOSING POWER

-2	Venezuela	Oil reserves are vast but trapped by sanctions, institutional collapse, and a coercive but isolated presidency.
-1	Bolivia	Reserves depleted, growth negative, lithium potential unrealized, and deep factionalism strip all facets of durable power.

WHY THIS IS A MAP, NOT A LIST Power is volatile — it builds for months and can vanish in a week. So the Power Map is built to move: every score carries today's shift and a thirty-day trend, and this page tracks who is gaining and losing over the week and month.

The friends-and-rivals map

Two camps now organise the region — and the nations caught in between.

WASHINGTON · SILICON VALLEY



Milei's world

Washington · Silicon Valley

Argentina Milei

Chile Kast

Paraguay Peña

Ecuador Noboa

Costa Rica Fernández

Panama Mulino

Colombia De la Espriella

Peru Keiko Fujimori

Bolivia Paz

Patrons abroad — Trump · Musk · Bukele · Bolsonaro · Israel

In play

Non-aligned · pragmatic

Mexico Sheinbaum

Uruguay Orsi

Lula's world

Beijing · BRICS

Brazil Lula

Venezuela Rodríguez

Cuba Díaz-Canel

Patrons abroad — Xi / China · Russia · BRICS

How we read power

The nine powers behind every score.

The nine powers

WHAT THE POWER INDEX IS BUILT FROM

- Market —
- Companies —
- Defense —
- Presidency —
- Institutions —
- Cohesion —
- Soft power —
- Narrative —
- Pride —

Sources & method

HOW THE NUMBERS ARE MADE

The Latin America Power Map is editorial analysis from The Rio Times. It is not investment advice.

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 1 of 6.

1 · MARKETS & MONEY

#	COUNTRY	Equity	FX /USD	Policy %	Inflation %	Risk bp
1	Brazil	177,999	5.07	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	66,936	17.3	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,486	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	931	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,148	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	448	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	40.2	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	748	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,931	5.50	2.3	129
11	Peru	58,096	3.39	4.25	4.0	139
12	Ecuador	—	1.00	7.02	2.3	506
13	Bolivia	—	12.1	6.24	14.2	561
14	Cuba	—	n/a	2.25	14.7	n/a

Rio Times feed, central banks, JPMorgan EMBI

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 2 of 6.

2 · ECONOMY

#	COUNTRY	GDP \$bn	Per cap \$	Growth %	Unemp %	Reserves \$bn
1	Brazil	2,130	10,686	+1.9	6.0	367.6
2	Mexico	1,864	13,741	+0.6	2.6	256.3
3	Argentina	684	14,355	+3.5	7.4	32.7
4	Chile	344	17,735	+2.4	8.5	51.5
5	Colombia	438	8,623	+2.3	8.0	66.6
6	Panama	92	19,814	—	10.4	n/a
7	Costa Rica	103	19,162	—	6.3	20.9
8	Uruguay	80	24,549	—	7.5	18.6
9	Venezuela	109†	3,736†	+4.0†	35.6	13.3
10	Paraguay	46	7,692	+4.2	5.2	9.4
11	Peru	323	9,911	+2.8	5.9	101.0
12	Ecuador	126	7,199	+2.5	3.1	10.5
13	Bolivia	56	5,107	−3.3	3.3	0.15
14	Cuba	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

IMF WEO 2025/26, ECLAC, Trading Economics

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 3 of 6.

3 · PUBLIC FINANCES & OPENNESS

#	COUNTRY	Debt %	Fiscal %	Curr acct %	S&P;	Econ free	
1	Brazil		76.5	−8.1	−3.0	BB	55.1
2	Mexico		49.7	−4.9	−0.4	BBB	61.3
3	Argentina		83.2	−0.4	−1.1	CCC+	54.2
4	Chile		41.7	−2.8	−2.3	A	73.2
5	Colombia		61.3	−5.7	−2.4	BB−	59.8
6	Panama		56.6	−3.7	+0.3	BBB−	65.5
7	Costa Rica		74.2	−3.4	−0.7	BB	68.6
8	Uruguay		70.3	−3.4	−0.5	BBB+	70.2
9	Venezuela		164†	−5.8	+2.6	n/r	27.6
10	Paraguay		45.2	−1.7	−3.5	BBB−	65.2
11	Peru		30.2	−2.4	+3.1	BBB−	65.9
12	Ecuador		50.6	−2.9	+5.8	B−	55.8
13	Bolivia		95.0	−11.6	−1.9	CCC−	44.1
14	Cuba		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/r	25.4

IMF, S&P Global, Heritage 2025

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 4 of 6.

4 · INSTITUTIONS

#	COUNTRY	Rule of law	Ctrl corr.	CPI 2024	V-Dem	Press free.	
1	Brazil		−0.45	−0.41	34	0.70	63.8
2	Mexico		−1.15	−0.94	26	0.22	45.6
3	Argentina		−0.25	−0.33	37	0.52	56.1
4	Chile		0.69	1.11	63	0.78	62.3
5	Colombia		−0.56	−0.29	39	0.56	49.8
6	Panama		−0.26	−0.55	33	0.58	66.8
7	Costa Rica		0.62	0.68	58	0.81	73.1
8	Uruguay		0.95	1.53	76	0.79	65.2
9	Venezuela		−2.20	−1.59	10	0.04	29.2
10	Paraguay		−0.58	−1.02	24	0.38	56.8
11	Peru		−0.51	−0.72	31	0.51	42.9
12	Ecuador		−0.97	−0.78	32	0.39	53.8
13	Bolivia		−1.27	−1.00	28	0.35	54.1
14	Cuba		−0.62	−0.23	41	0.06	26.0

World Bank WGI 2024, TI 2024, V-Dem 2025, RSF 2025

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 5 of 6.

5 · SOCIETY

#	COUNTRY	Gini	Poverty %	HDI	Pop (m)	Fragile St.	
1	Brazil		51.6	23.1	0.786	213.6	70.3
2	Mexico		43.5	29.6	0.789	133.0	69.0
3	Argentina		42.4	38.1	0.865	46.0	44.2
4	Chile		43.0	6.5	0.878	19.9	41.1
5	Colombia		53.9	31.8	0.788	53.9	75.6
6	Panama		49.7	21.7	0.839	4.6	47.7
7	Costa Rica		45.8	20.3	0.833	5.2	39.4
8	Uruguay		40.9	17.3	0.862	3.4	33.7
9	Venezuela		44.7†	n/a	0.709	28.6	89.0
10	Paraguay		44.4	20.1	0.756	7.1	61.5
11	Peru		40.1	27.6	0.794	34.9	72.0
12	Ecuador		45.2	28.0	0.777	18.4	68.0
13	Bolivia		42.1	37.7	0.733	12.7	69.4
14	Cuba		38.0†	n/a	0.762	10.9	59.1

World Bank, UNDP 2025, UN WPP 2024, FFP 2024

The data behind the rankings

Thirty international benchmarks — the evidence under every score. Data appendix · 6 of 6.

6 · SECURITY & DEFENSE

#	COUNTRY	Homicide	Org-crime	Mil %	Firepower	Active
1	Brazil	19.3	6.77	0.97	11	376k
2	Mexico	24.9	7.57	0.62	36	387k
3	Argentina	4.5	5.00	0.37	32	108k
4	Chile	6.3	5.18	1.58	49	80k
5	Colombia	24.9	7.75	3.36	43	429k
6	Panama	11.7	6.98	—	135	16k
7	Costa Rica	17.7	5.53	—	n/a	n/a
8	Uruguay	11.2	3.22	2.31	97	24k
9	Venezuela	12.6†	6.72	—	51	109k
10	Paraguay	6.8	7.52	0.93	81	16k
11	Peru	8.6	6.40	0.91	50	120k
12	Ecuador	45.7	7.07	2.22	72	41k
13	Bolivia	4.4	4.95	1.37	82	40k
14	Cuba	4.5†	3.37	—	65	50k

UNODC, GI-TOC, SIPRI 2024, Global Firepower 2026