

Latin America

Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▼ Mexico -2	▼ Colombia -2	▼ Panama -2	▲ Cuba +2	▼ Ecuador -2
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Latin America's day tilted toward resource nationalism and pragmatic realignment, with Brazil pushing deeper into the Amazon mouth oil frontier while Ecuador turned to Beijing for energy, shrimp and debt relief. Mexico's electoral institutions and macro data both flashed warning signs, as Argentina's provinces improvised quasi-currencies to cope with fiscal strain.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	↔
2	Mexico	71	▼
3	Argentina	67	▲

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	35	▼
13	Venezuela	31	▲
14	Bolivia	20	↔

The Power Board

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

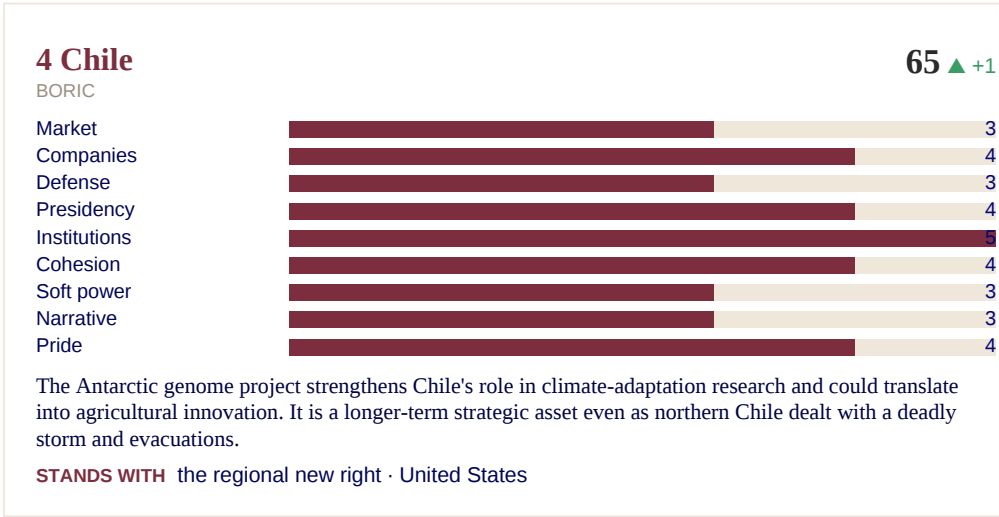
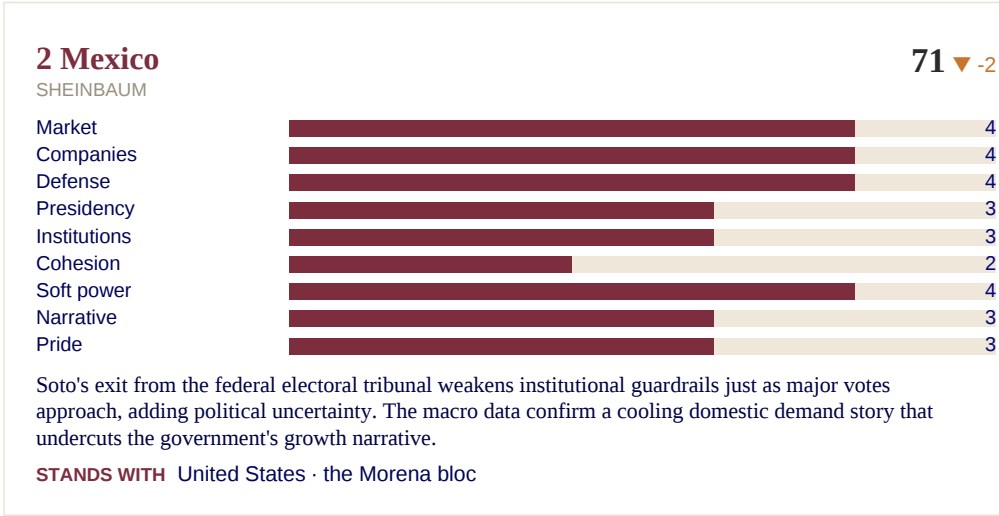
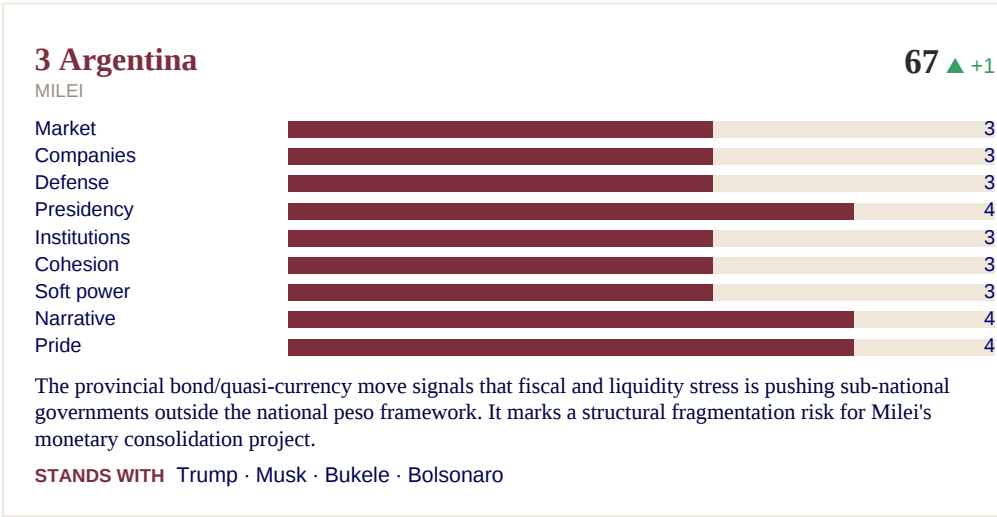
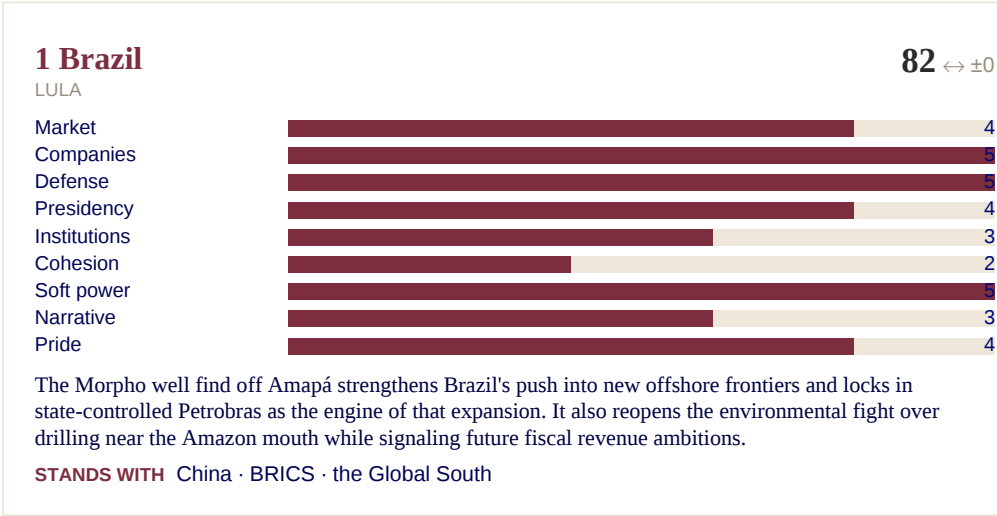
SINCE YESTERDAY Petrobras confirmed an offshore oil discovery in the Foz do Amazonas basin and Lula publicly defended the controversial project, while Colombia's president put earthquake losses at nearly US\$10 billion and Ecuador's Noboa began a China trip focused on energy, exports and debt relief.

#	COUNTRY & LEADER	POWER · TODAY	30-DAY	POWER SIGNATURE Mkt·Co·Def·Pres·Inst·Coh·Soft·Narr·Pride	WHAT'S MOVING
1	Brazil LULA	82 ↔ ±0			Petrobras confirmed a Foz do Amazonas offshore oil discovery and Lula reiterated support for the project.
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	71 ▼ -2			TEPJF magistrate Mónica Soto resigned ahead of key elections, and INEGI data showed flat private consumption with 40 straight months of falling manufacturing employment.
3	Argentina MILEI	67 ▲ +1			La Rioja province relaunched its quasi-currency 'Chachos' and injected 4 billion pesos locally.
4	Chile BORIC	65 ▲ +1			A Chile-led team mapped the genome of one of Antarctica's two flowering plants, potentially aiding climate-resilient crops.
5	Costa Rica RODRIGO CHAVES	56 ↔ ±0			No Costa Rica-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	55 ▼ -2			President De La Espriella estimated August 10 earthquake losses at 30 trillion pesos, roughly US\$9.6 billion.
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	49 ▼ -1			Peru restored diplomatic relations with Mexico after a period of rupture.
8	Uruguay LUIS LACALLE POU	47 ▼ -1			No Uruguay-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.
9	Panama LAURENTINO CORTIZO	45 ▼ -2			No Panama-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.
10	Cuba MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL	43 ▲ +2			No Cuba-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.
11	Ecuador NOBOA	37 ▼ -2			President Noboa travelled to China to negotiate energy investment, shrimp exports, and potential debt relief.
12	Paraguay SANTIAGO PEÑA	35 ▼ -1			No Paraguay-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.
13	Venezuela NICOLÁS MADURO	31 ▲ +1			No Venezuela-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.
14	Bolivia LUIS ARCE	20 ↔ ±0			No Bolivia-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.

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.

5 Costa Rica

RODRIGO CHAVES

56 ↔ ±0

Market		3
Companies		3
Defense		2
Presidency		4
Institutions		5
Cohesion		4
Soft power		3
Narrative		3
Pride		4

Costa Rica did not appear in the retrieved regional or country stories, so no concrete 24-hour development is documentable. Current leadership could not be confirmed from the given snippets.

STANDS WITH United States · the Western bloc

6 Colombia

DE LA ESPRIELLA

55 ▼ -2

Market		3
Companies		3
Defense		4
Presidency		3
Institutions		3
Cohesion		2
Soft power		3
Narrative		3
Pride		3

The damage estimate represents a major fiscal and growth shock that will shape reconstruction spending and external financing needs. Add the Ecopetrol data leak during quake-donation management, and governance and cybersecurity pressures compound the crisis.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

7 Peru

KEIKO FUJIMORI

49 ▼ -1

Market		3
Companies		3
Defense		3
Presidency		2
Institutions		3
Cohesion		3
Soft power		2
Narrative		3
Pride		3

The Mexico-Peru rapprochement is a structural bilateral shift that resets diplomatic channels between two Pacific Alliance members. Peru's equity index also fell 1.35% amid the broader regional pullback, but the diplomatic reset is the more consequential move.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

8 Uruguay

LUIS LACALLE POU

47 ▼ -1

Market		3
Companies		3
Defense		2
Presidency		4
Institutions		5
Cohesion		5
Soft power		3
Narrative		3
Pride		4

Uruguay did not feature in any retrieved item, leaving the day's most important development unidentifiable from available sources. Head-of-state status remains unverified by the recent material.

STANDS WITH China (trade) · Mercosur · the moderate left

Country power profiles

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

9 Panama

LAURENTINO CORTIZO

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

45

▼ -2

Market		3
Companies		3
Defense		2
Presidency		4
Institutions		3
Cohesion		3
Soft power		3
Narrative		3
Pride		4

With no fresh political or economic headline in the available snippets, the country's day reads as quiet on the regional radar. Head-of-state status could not be verified from the recent material.

STANDS WITH United States (tense) · Mercosur

10 Cuba

MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

43

▲ +2

Market		2
Companies		2
Defense		3
Presidency		2
Institutions		2
Cohesion		3
Soft power		4
Narrative		3
Pride		3

Cuba did not appear in the retrieved snippets, so no confirmable 24-hour development can be cited. Head-of-state status could not be verified from the recent material.

STANDS WITH Venezuela · China · Russia

11 Ecuador

NOBOA

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

37

▼ -2

Market		2
Companies		2
Defense		3
Presidency		3
Institutions		2
Cohesion		2
Soft power		2
Narrative		3
Pride		3

The China trip is a strategic external-economic move that ties Ecuador's financing, trade and energy sectors more closely to Beijing. It signals a pragmatic realignment toward non-Western creditors and markets at a time of fiscal pressure.

STANDS WITH United States (security)

12 Paraguay

SANTIAGO PEÑA

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

35

▼ -1

Market		3
Companies		2
Defense		2
Presidency		3
Institutions		2
Cohesion		3
Soft power		2
Narrative		3
Pride		3

Paraguay did not appear in the provided stories, leaving no documentable 24-hour development. Current leadership could not be verified from the retrieved material.

STANDS WITH United States · Taiwan · the regional right

Country power profiles

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

13 Venezuela

NICOLÁS MADURO

31▲+1

Market		2
Companies		2
Defense		3
Presidency		2
Institutions		1
Cohesion		1
Soft power		2
Narrative		2
Pride		2

Venezuela was absent from the retrieved snippets, so no structural or immediate event can be documented for the last 24 hours. The leadership situation could not be independently confirmed from the given sources.

STANDS WITH China · Russia · Cuba

14 Bolivia

LUIS ARCE

20↔±0

Market		2
Companies		2
Defense		2
Presidency		2
Institutions		2
Cohesion		2
Soft power		2
Narrative		2
Pride		2

Bolivia was not mentioned in the retrieved texts, leaving no documentable development for the day. Current leadership could not be confirmed from the given snippets.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right (Paz pivot)

Who's gaining, who's losing

This week's shifts in the power balance.

▲ GAINING POWER

+1	Colombia	President De La Espriella estimated August 10 earthquake losses at 30 trillion pesos, roughly US\$9.6 billion.
+1	Peru	Peru restored diplomatic relations with Mexico after a period of rupture.
+1	Cuba	No Cuba-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.
+1	Ecuador	President Noboa travelled to China to negotiate energy investment, shrimp exports, and potential debt relief.
+1	Venezuela	No Venezuela-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.

▼ LOSING POWER

-2	Argentina	La Rioja province relaunched its quasi-currency 'Chachos' and injected 4 billion pesos locally.
-1	Brazil	Petrobras confirmed a Foz do Amazonas offshore oil discovery and Lula reiterated support for the project.
-1	Mexico	TEPJF magistrate Mónica Soto resigned ahead of key elections, and INEGI data showed flat private consumption with 40 straight months of falling manufacturing employment.
-1	Chile	A Chile-led team mapped the genome of one of Antarctica's two flowering plants, potentially aiding climate-resilient crops.
-1	Costa Rica	No Costa Rica-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.
-1	Uruguay	No Uruguay-specific development could be identified from the retrieved news.

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

How the Power Index is built from the nine structural scores.

How alliances and the axis are mapped, from documented ties only.

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	166,335	5.21	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	64,301	17.1	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,495	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	928	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,093	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	445	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	40.3	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	774	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	6,002	5.50	2.3	129
11	Peru	58,096	3.37	4.25	4.0	139
12	Ecuador	—	1.00	7.02	2.3	506
13	Bolivia	—	11.5	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