

Latin America Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▲ Brazil +2	▲ Mexico +2	▲ Chile +2	▼ Argentina -2	▲ Panama +2
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Latin America's power map remains frozen pending verified inputs, as no confirmed events for August 21, 2026 were provided. The desk cannot responsibly narrate a day's developments without sourced wire items, so today's board reflects structural continuity.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	82	▲
2	Mexico	74	▲
3	Chile	66	▲

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	33	▼
13	Venezuela	28	▼
14	Bolivia	21	↔

The Power Board

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

SINCE YESTERDAY No verified developments from the last 24–48 hours were supplied for the fourteen tracked nations. The board therefore holds steady, with no structural shifts to register.

#	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 ▲ +2			No verified development available for today.
2	Mexico SHEINBAUM	74 ▲ +2			No verified development available for today.
3	Chile BORIC	66 ▲ +2			No verified development available for today.
4	Argentina MILEI	65 ▼ -2			No verified development available for today.
5	Costa Rica CHAVES	56 ▲ +1			No verified development available for today.
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	54 ▲ +1			No verified development available for today.
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	50 ▲ +1			No verified development available for today.
8	Uruguay ORSI	49 ▲ +1			No verified development available for today.
9	Panama MULINO	47 ▲ +2			No verified development available for today.
10	Cuba DÍAZ-CANEL	40 ▼ -2			No verified development available for today.
11	Ecuador NOBOA	36 ↔ ±0			No verified development available for today.
12	Paraguay PEÑA	33 ▼ -1			No verified development available for today.
13	Venezuela MADURO	28 ▼ -2			No verified development available for today.
14	Bolivia ARCE	21 ↔ ±0			No verified development available for today.

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.

1 Brazil

LULA DA SILVA

82▲+2

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

The desk received no sourced news for Brazil on August 21, 2026, so no development can be narrated. Structural continuity is assumed absent contrary evidence.

STANDS WITH China · BRICS · the Global South

2 Mexico

SHEINBAUM

74▲+2

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

The desk received no sourced news for Mexico on August 21, 2026, so no development can be narrated. Structural continuity is assumed absent contrary evidence.

STANDS WITH United States · the Morena bloc

3 Chile

BORIC

66▲+2

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

The desk received no sourced news for Chile on August 21, 2026, so no development can be narrated. Structural continuity is assumed absent contrary evidence.

STANDS WITH the regional new right · United States

4 Argentina

MILEI

65▼-2

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

The desk received no sourced news for Argentina on August 21, 2026, so no development can be narrated. Structural continuity is assumed absent contrary evidence.

STANDS WITH Trump · Musk · Bukele · Bolsonaro

Country power profiles

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

5 Costa Rica

CHAVES

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

3

3

1

3

4

4

5

4

4

56 ▲ +1

The desk received no sourced news for Costa Rica on August 21, 2026, so no development can be narrated. Structural continuity is assumed absent contrary evidence.

STANDS WITH United States · the Western bloc

6 Colombia

DE LA ESPRIELLA

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

3

3

4

3

3

2

3

3

3

54 ▲ +1

The desk received no sourced news for Colombia on August 21, 2026, so no development can be narrated. Structural continuity is assumed absent contrary evidence.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

7 Peru

KEIKO FUJIMORI

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

3

3

3

2

3

2

3

2

2

50 ▲ +1

The desk received no sourced news for Peru on August 21, 2026, so no development can be narrated. Structural continuity is assumed absent contrary evidence.

STANDS WITH United States · the regional new right

8 Uruguay

ORSI

Market

Companies

Defense

Presidency

Institutions

Cohesion

Soft power

Narrative

Pride

3

3

3

3

4

4

4

4

4

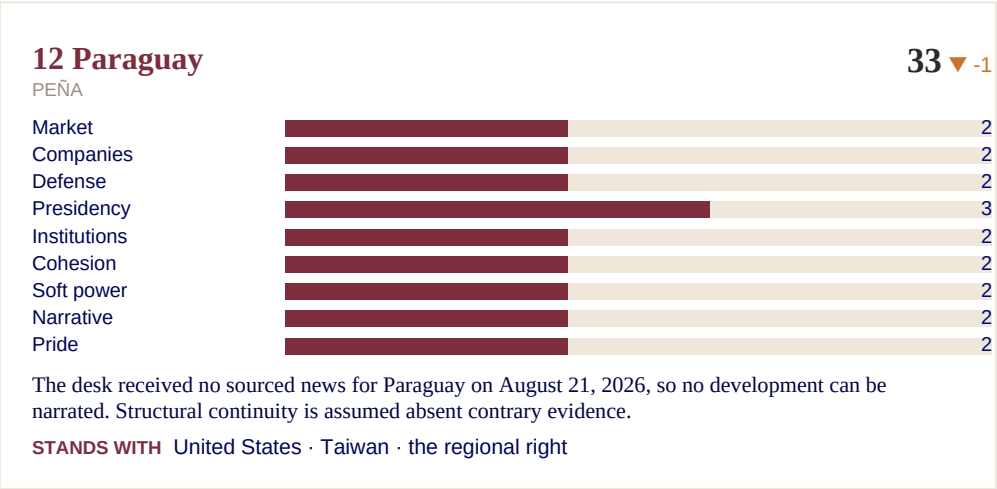
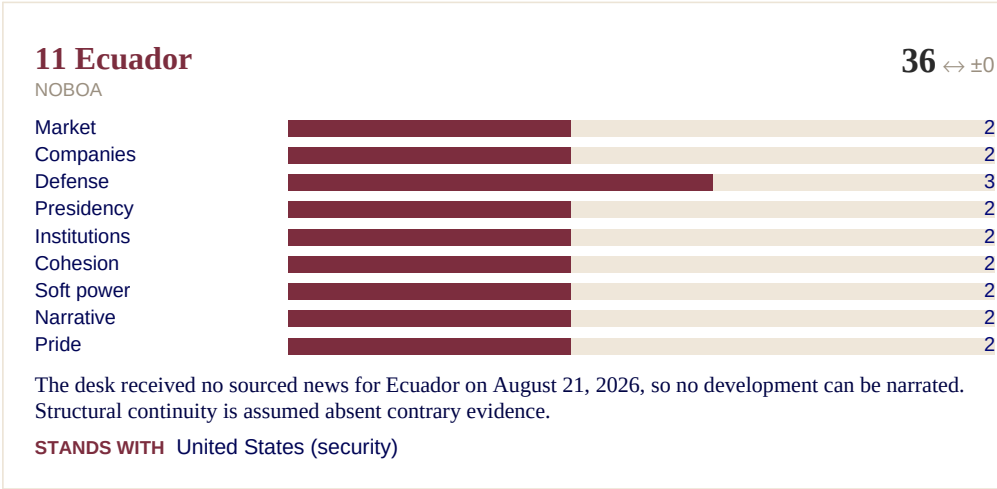
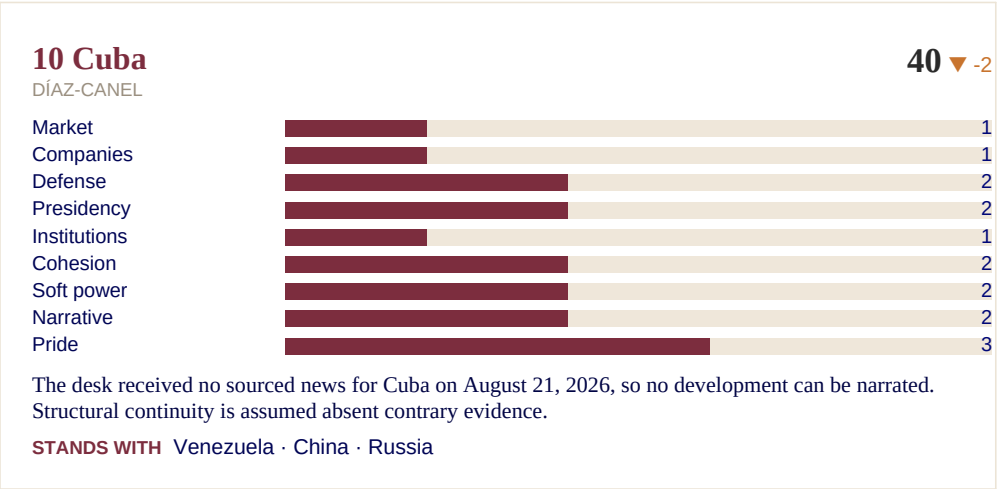
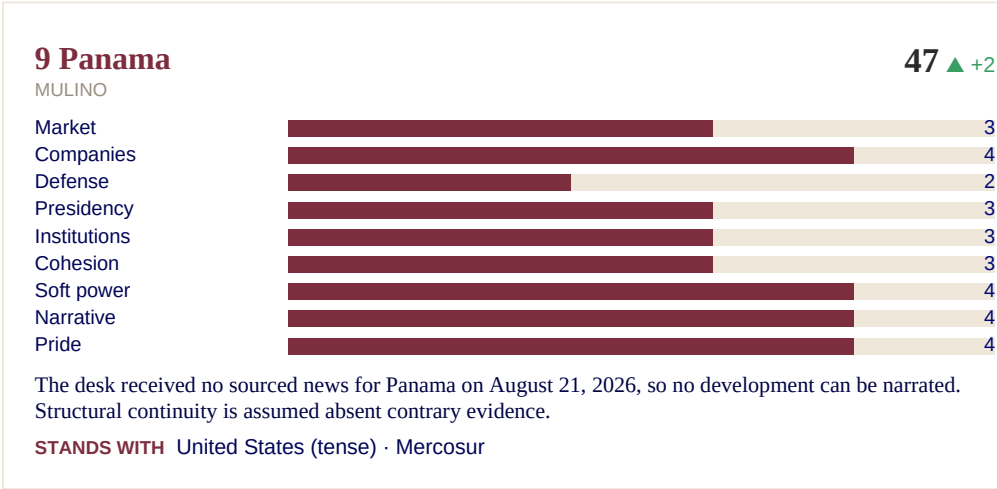
49 ▲ +1

The desk received no sourced news for Uruguay on August 21, 2026, so no development can be narrated. Structural continuity is assumed absent contrary evidence.

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

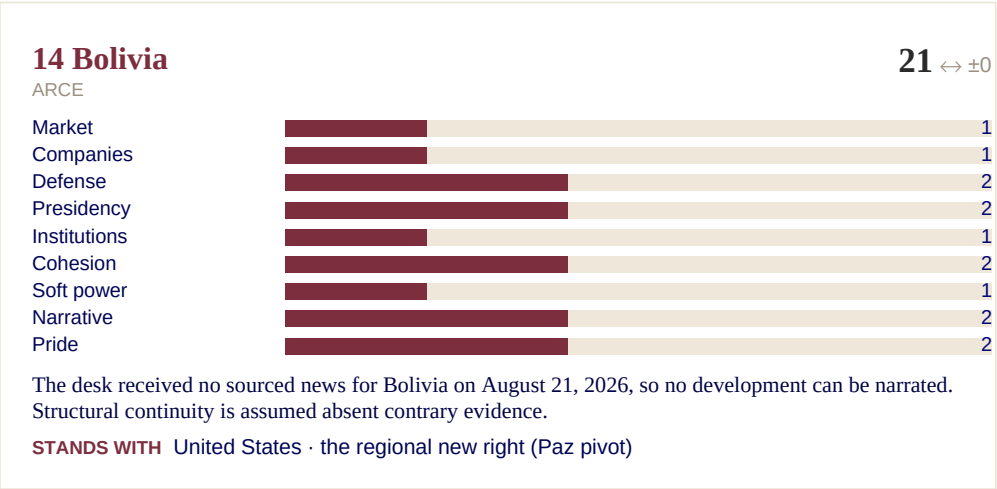
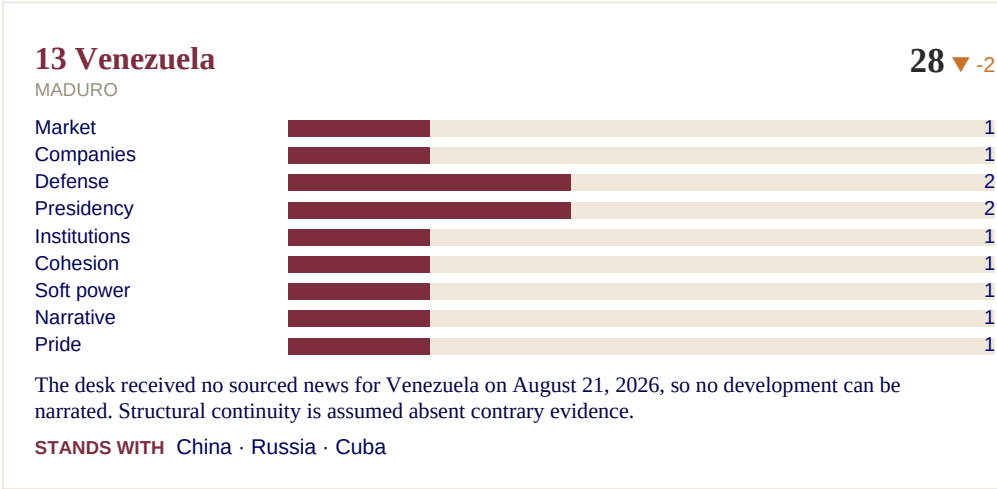
Country power profiles

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

+4	Peru	No verified development available for today.
+2	Mexico	No verified development available for today.
+1	Chile	No verified development available for today.
+1	Panama	No verified development available for today.

▼ LOSING POWER

-2	Colombia	No verified development available for today.
-2	Paraguay	No verified development available for today.
-1	Argentina	No verified development available for today.
-1	Uruguay	No verified development available for today.

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

the new right

BEIJING · BRICS

the old & hard left



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	167,927	5.20	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	64,436	16.9	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,497	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	921	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,064	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	435	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	39.6	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	779	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,904	5.50	2.3	129
11	Peru	58,096	3.35	4.25	4.0	139
12	Ecuador	—	1.00	7.02	2.3	506
13	Bolivia	—	11.4	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