

Latin America Power Map

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

POWER SHIFTS · SINCE YESTERDAY

▲ Chile +2	▲ Venezuela +2	▲ Brazil +1	▲ Argentina +1	▲ Costa Rica +1
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Latin America's power map remains split between a consolidating conservative-pro-market bloc and a struggling state-centric left, with economic overhauls in Chile and Bolivia bookending the region's policy spectrum. From Kast's tax revolution to Paz's IMF pivot, the day's narrative is one of structural reform meeting fiscal and political stress.

STRONGEST TODAY

1	Brazil	83	▲
2	Mexico	72	↔
3	Argentina	67	▲

WEAKEST TODAY

12	Paraguay	36	▲
13	Venezuela	32	▲
14	Bolivia	21	▼

The Power Board

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

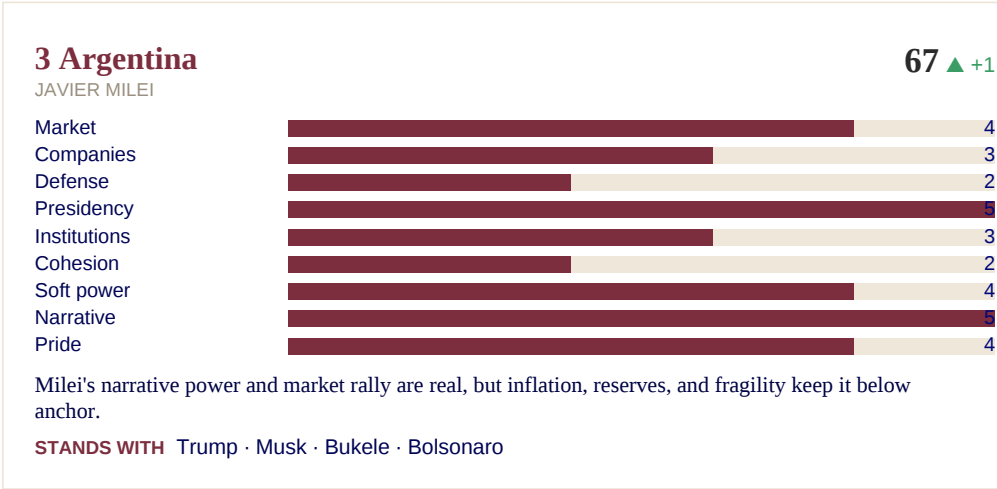
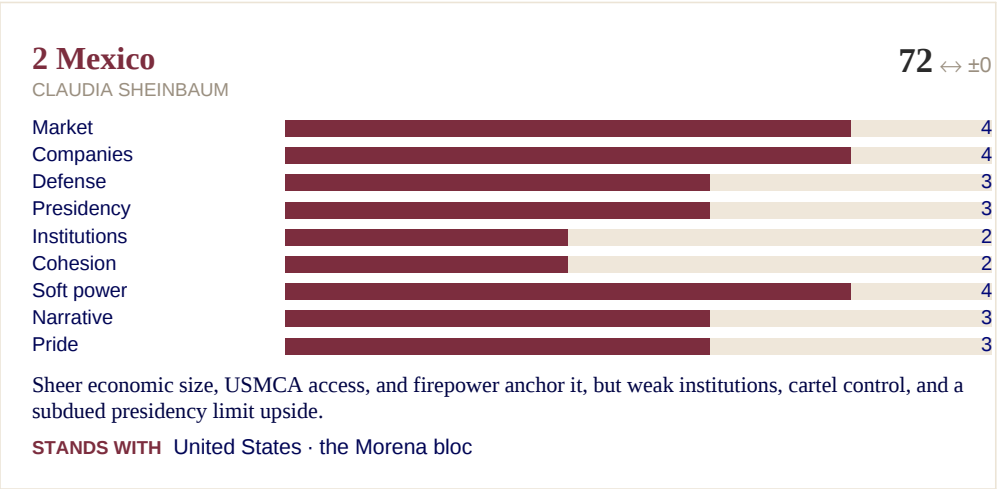
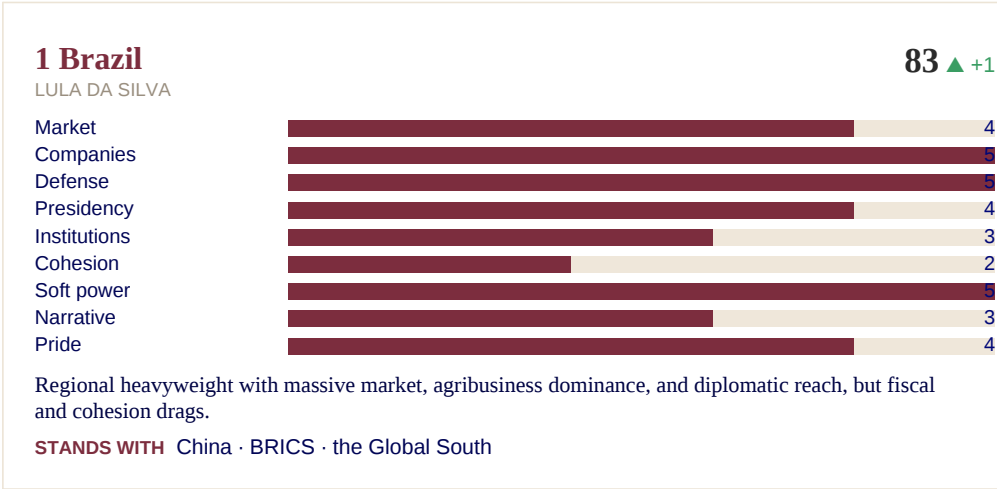
SINCE YESTERDAY Chile's congress approved nearly all of President Kast's sweeping tax and economic overhaul, cutting corporate rates and reshaping investment rules. Bolivia's Paz fired his economy minister after a congressional censure, deepening the crisis around his IMF-anchored reform push.

#	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	83 ▲ +1			Regional heavyweight with massive market, agribusiness dominance, and diplomatic reach, but fiscal and cohesion drags.
2	Mexico CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM	72 ↔ ±0			Sheer economic size, USMCA access, and firepower anchor it, but weak institutions, cartel control, and a subdued presidency limit upside.
3	Argentina JAVIER MILEI	67 ▲ +1			Milei's narrative power and market rally are real, but inflation, reserves, and fragility keep it below anchor.
4	Chile JOSÉ A. KAST	66 ▲ +2			Top institutions, copper/lithium assets, and stable markets, though homicide and political malaise undercut confidence.
5	Costa Rica LAURA FERNÁNDEZ	57 ▲ +1			Institutional strength and soft power punch above weight, but no military and small economic mass cap power.
6	Colombia DE LA ESPRIELLA	56 ▲ +1			Solid defense, growth, and strategic position, but violence, low CPI, and Petro's uncertain narrative keep it anchored.
7	Peru KEIKO FUJIMORI	50 ▲ +1			Reserves and mineral exports give stability, but political paralysis and weak press freedom suppress power.
8	Uruguay YAMANDÚ ORSI	48 ↔ ±0			High institutions, cohesion, and soft power, but small scale and modest economy limit regional weight.
9	Panama JOSÉ RAÚL MULINO	45 ↔ ±0			Canal is a strategic asset and dollarized stability helps, but small population and democratic noise cap power.
10	Cuba MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL	42 ▲ +1			Diplomatic and cultural clout persists, but ruined economy, no market, and authoritarian stiffness limit all other layers.
11	Ecuador DANIEL NOBOA	38 ▲ +1			Noboa's security push and dollarization give some momentum, but extreme homicide, weak institutions, and high risk premia constrain.
12	Paraguay SANTIAGO PEÑA	36 ▲ +1			High growth and stability are real, but small economy, weak CPI, and landlocked position limit reach.
13	Venezuela DELCY RODRÍGUEZ	32 ▲ +2			Oil reserves and presidential control are strengths, but hyperinflation, mass emigration, zero credit, and isolation crush power.
14	Bolivia RODRIGO PAZ	21 ▼ -1			Lithium potential and stable homicide rate are offset by negative growth, near-zero reserves, and severe institutional decay.

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

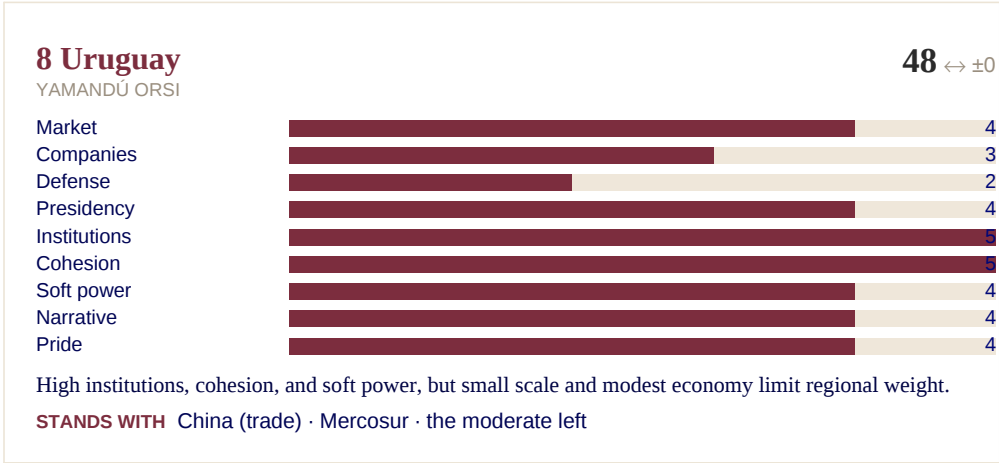
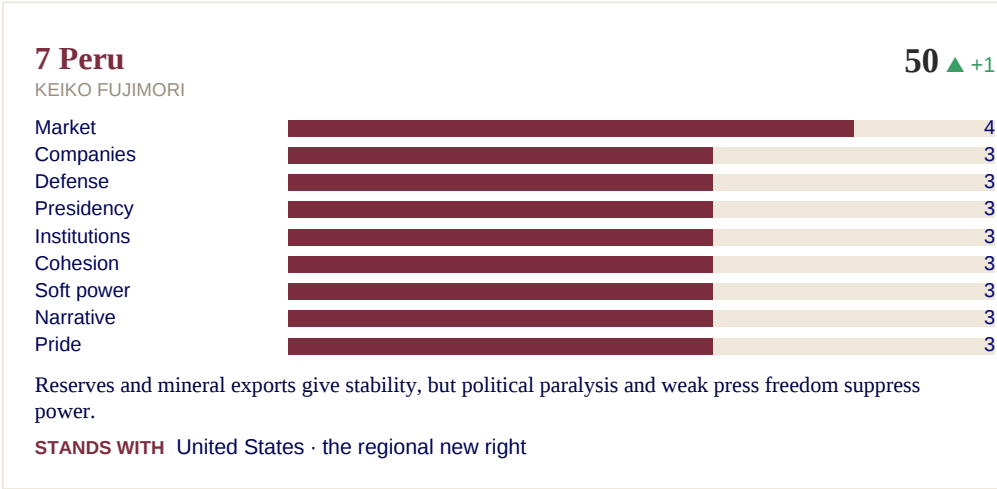
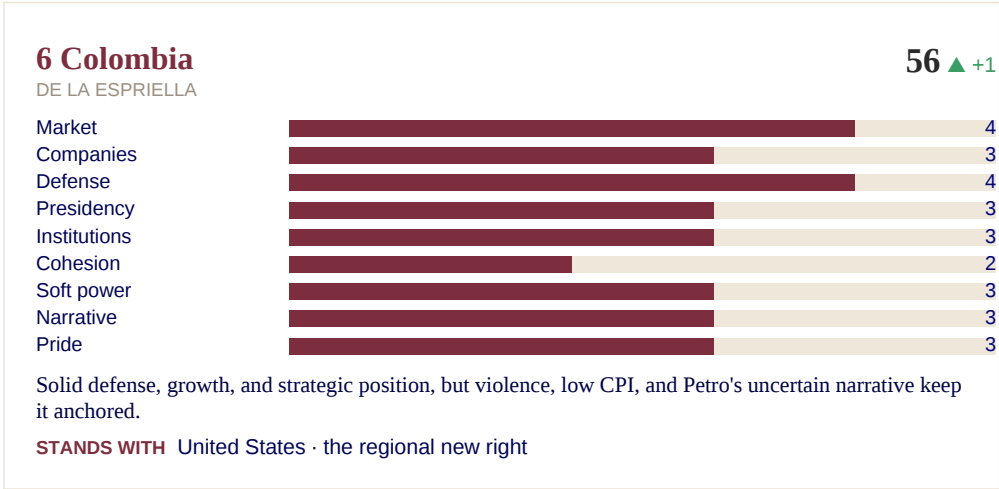
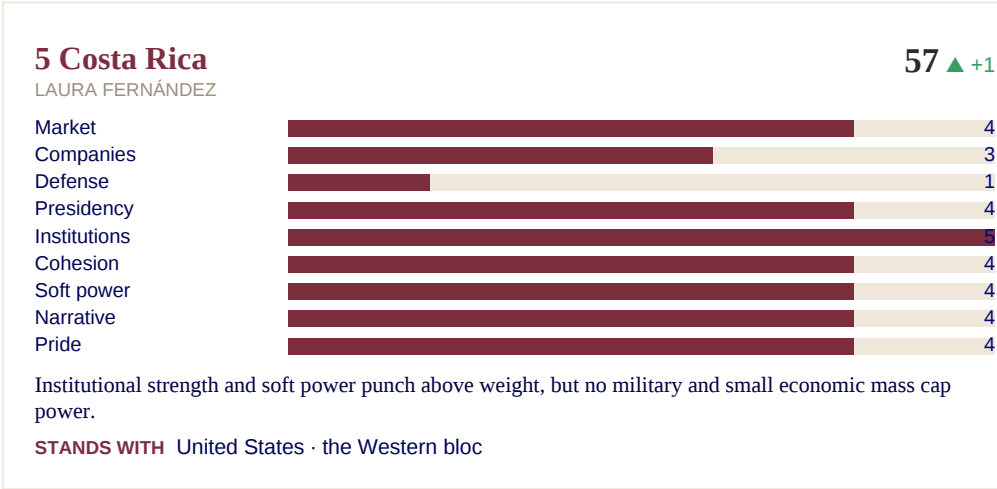
Country power profiles

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



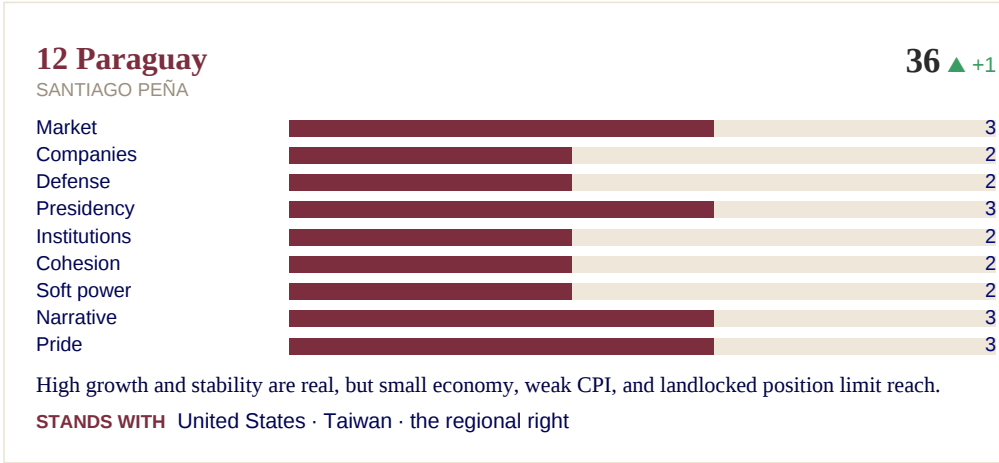
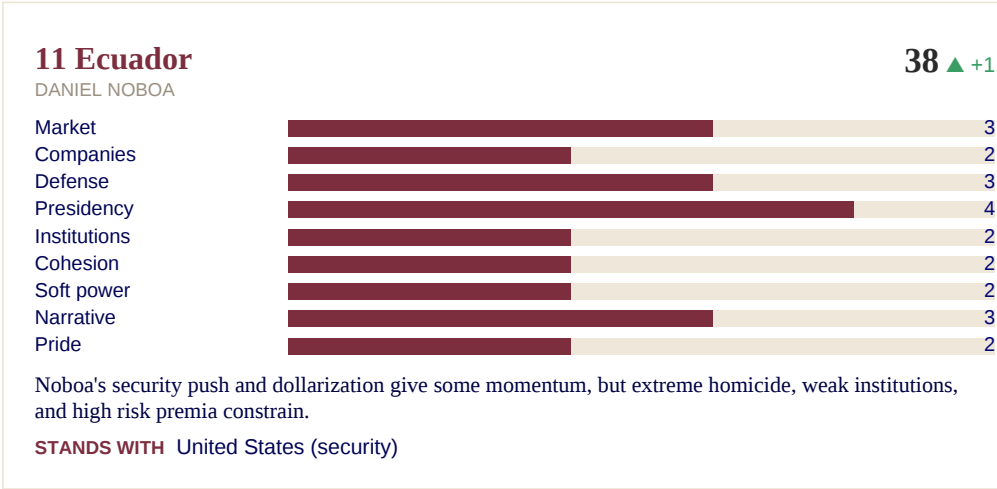
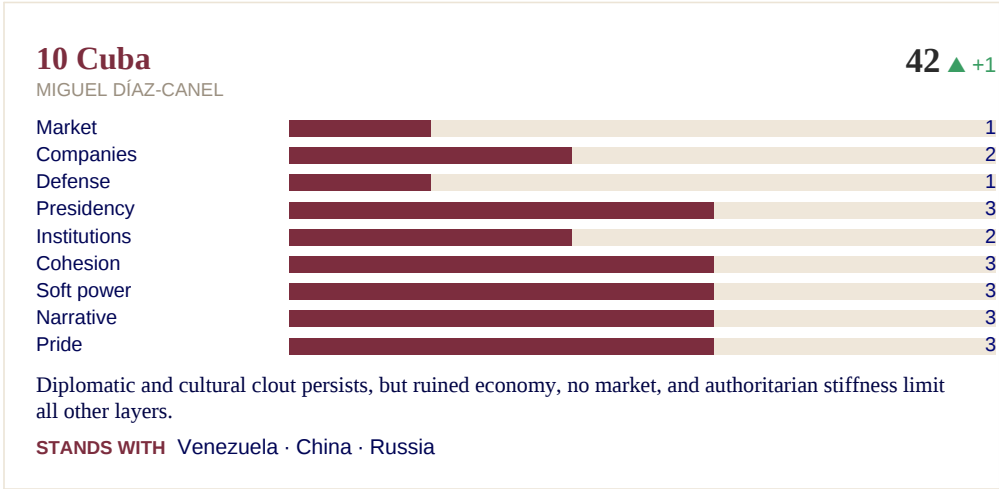
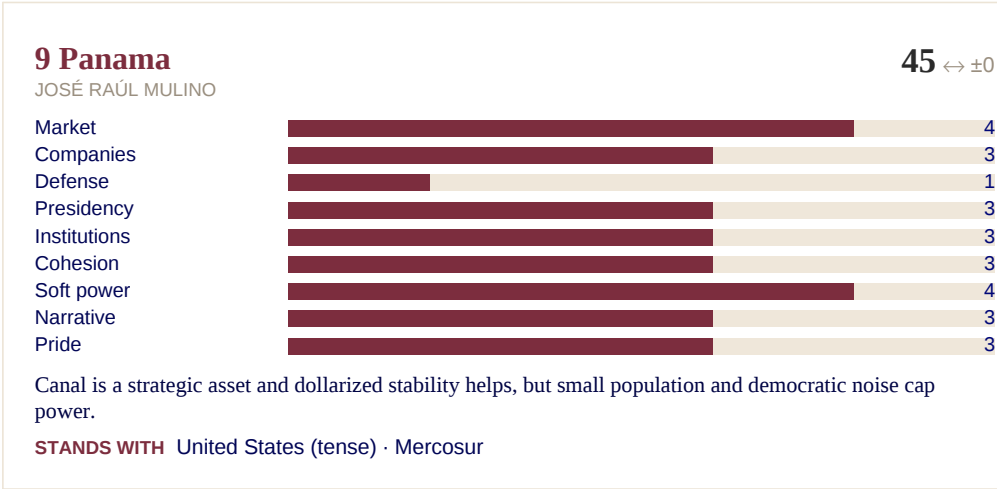
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How each nation's nine powers stack up — 2 of 4.



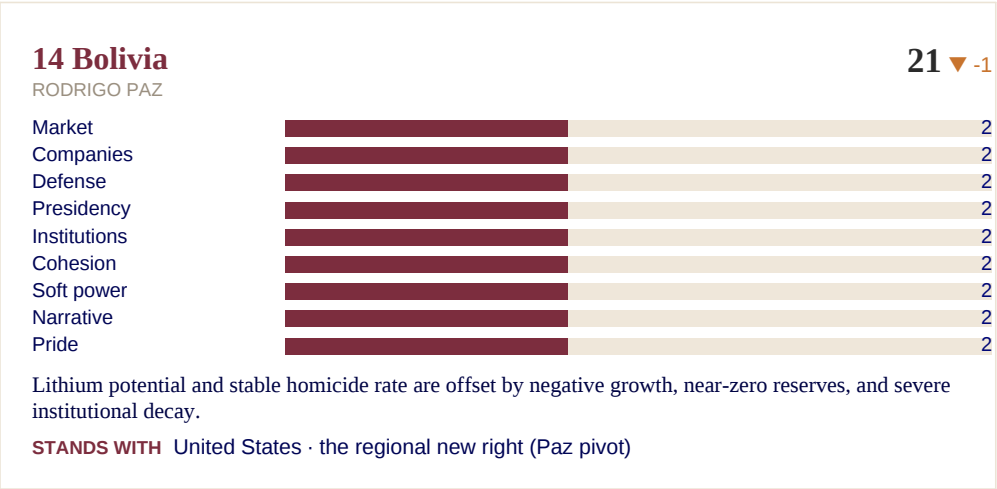
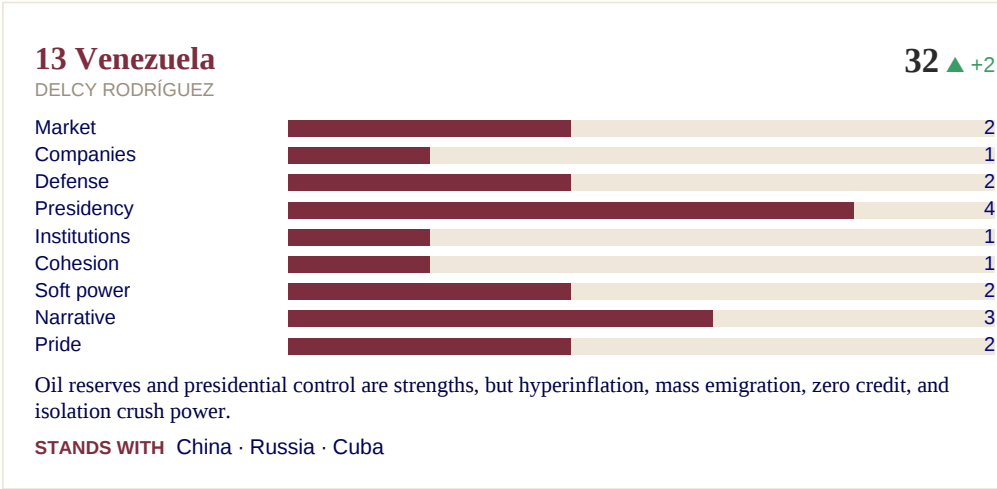
Country power profiles

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

+2	Cuba	Diplomatic and cultural clout persists, but ruined economy, no market, and authoritarian stiffness limit all other layers.
+2	Venezuela	Oil reserves and presidential control are strengths, but hyperinflation, mass emigration, zero credit, and isolation crush power.
+1	Brazil	Regional heavyweight with massive market, agribusiness dominance, and diplomatic reach, but fiscal and cohesion drags.
+1	Costa Rica	Institutional strength and soft power punch above weight, but no military and small economic mass cap power.

▼ LOSING POWER

-2	Panama	Canal is a strategic asset and dollarized stability helps, but small population and democratic noise cap power.
-1	Mexico	Sheer economic size, USMCA access, and firepower anchor it, but weak institutions, cartel control, and a subdued presidency limit upside.
-1	Argentina	Milei's narrative power and market rally are real, but inflation, reserves, and fragility keep it below anchor.
-1	Uruguay	High institutions, cohesion, and soft power, but small scale and modest economy limit regional weight.
-1	Bolivia	Lithium potential and stable homicide rate are offset by negative growth, near-zero reserves, and severe institutional decay.

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



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

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	171,907	5.15	14.25	4.7	197
2	Mexico	66,105	16.9	6.50	3.6	233
3	Argentina	3.12M	1,510	29.00	32.6	616
4	Chile	10,812	912	4.50	4.0	102
5	Colombia	2,260	3,055	12.00	5.7	282
6	Panama	—	1.00	—	0.9	159
7	Costa Rica	—	446	3.25	−1.6	165
8	Uruguay	—	40.2	5.75	3.2	78
9	Venezuela	—	784	58.91	612†	6,371
10	Paraguay	—	5,989	5.50	2.3	129
11	Peru	58,096	3.34	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