

“A South-South Coalition? Prospects and Pitfalls for PRC-Latin American Relations”

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Since end of the Cold War the 1990s and 9/11, Latin America has pursued a more varied and far-reaching international agenda, especially in growing links with China.

While virtually ignored until China’s recent economic growth and assertions of global power, the rise of PRC-Latin American relations are part of a broader South-South strategy coordinated by China and regional powers, such as Brazil, South Africa and India. The South-South strategy emphasizes economic development, domestic political stability and multipolarity in efforts to reallocate resources and decision making power toward the Global South. This article examines relations between China and Latin America that demonstrate South-South coordination in international relations. The cases of Brazil and Venezuela represent key states in the region with strategic resources and that advocate a South-South strategy. The prospects for success of the South-South may be better now than ever before, but they are still problematic. Military relations could be the most problematic but currently are the least intense. Trade offers big opportunities but also threats to long term Latin American interests. International diplomacy is the area for the best mutual payoffs, although the prospects for cooperation are limited and the pitfalls from cooperation may pose other risks.