

Abstract:

China has intensified its cooperation with states in Latin America since 2009 in the economic, political, and security spaces. Amidst a backdrop of China's immense unprecedented economic growth while US sits as the global hegemonic power in a unipolar international order, China could approach and eventually surpass the US for global hegemony. Is Chinese involvement in Latin America a response the US policies such as the 2011 Pivot to Asia strategy, or a strategy to gain allies abroad while securing a steady source of natural resources? To what extent can this cooperation be attributed to China's concern about the threat that the US poses to its national security? This thesis examines trends of China's forms of cooperation in the economic, political, and security realms to gauge to what extent the state's behavior is motivated by security pressures. Using congruence analysis, I will test three related yet opposing theoretical approaches to determine which, if any, provide sufficient explanatory power for China's recent comprehensive involvement in Latin American states.