



Defense Orientation Conference Association

Live: Virtual Conference

CONFERENCE READ AHEAD

Friday, January 22nd, 2020

8:00AM to Noon PST via Microsoft TEAMS

Latin America and U.S. National Security Issues

During this virtual conference, DOCA members will be introduced to various topics of concern in Latin America (Central and South America) that directly or indirectly impact our own national security. We are delighted to have our guest speakers join us from the National Defense University (NDU) where they are all experts in their areas of expertise. We will start off with an overview of the NDU organization and mission to better understand the scope of its activities and support, followed by an update on Latin American issues from the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) perspective. With that, we will learn about the impact, risks, and threats in Latin America stemming from the Chinese influence and expansion there. Finally, we will have experts discuss various key issues in select countries within the region that create risk for the United States. While NDU educates those that will work to secure our borders and relations around the globe, USSOUTHCOM's area of responsibility (AOR) is shown below:



National security is affected by more than other power-nation influence (like China) on Latin America countries. Increased criminal activity, economic downturns, and climate changes are also acting as drivers for upheaval and population migration in the region. Speakers will review these key issues and highlight multiple *focus* countries.



NDU's Origin

Before World War II, American scholarship in the profession of arms matured in each of the military services more or less independently. Requirements for advanced education for leaders of the nation's military and naval forces were met as they arose through postgraduate colleges set up by and for the respective services. The 20th century imposed a growing need for closer ties between force and diplomacy, between America's military services and the industries that arm them, and particularly among our military centers of higher learning and research. This led to the creation of the Army Industrial College in 1924 and, after World War II, the formation of joint colleges of higher learning. These new joint colleges included the Armed Forces Staff College, the National War College, and the Army Industrial College, which later became the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. NDU was established in 1976 to consolidate intellectual resources and provide joint higher education for the nation's defense community.

Challenges & Movements in Latin America

How climate change is driving emigration from Central America

Miranda Cady Hallett, The Conversation (September 8th, 2019)

Rising global temperatures, the spread of crop disease and extreme weather events have made harvests unreliable.

How Latin America Can Make the Most of the US-China Competition

Paola Zuleta, The Diplomat (December 16th, 2020)

As a theater for great power confrontation, Latin American states can leverage influence and shape relations with both China and the U.S.

U.S. Influence and Relations

U.S. Relations With Colombia

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (July 27th, 2020)

With the support of the United States, Colombia has transformed itself over the past 20 years from a fragile state into a vibrant democracy with a growing market-oriented economy.

Latin America Has Given Up on U.S. Democracy

Milagros Costabel, Foreign Policy (November 3rd, 2020)

Following the United Nations report warning of the steps needed in case of unrest after this year's U.S. election, the change suggests that the United States is no longer a democratic exemplar.

U.S. 'war on drugs' in Latin America needs overhaul amid COVID-19 challenges

Patricia Zengerle, Reuters (December 1st, 2020)

The United States' anti-drug policy in Latin America needs to change if Washington is to effectively combat a problem worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

National Security Impacts

Latin America 2020: Challenges to U.S. National Security Interests

Craig A. Deare, National Defense University Press (June 2020)

The United States must acknowledge the causes of the weak levels of governance and engage with greater attention and presence while recognizing its limitations for helping to resolve those weaknesses in the short term.

Instability in Venezuela

Council on Foreign Relations: Global Contract Tracker (December 21st, 2020)

As the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela escalates and the political situation deteriorates, the exodus of Venezuelans to neighboring countries is expected to continue.