

**WILLIAM J. PERRY CENTER**



**FOR HEMISPHERIC DEFENSE STUDIES**

**Strategic Competition in Mexico and the Caribbean: Russia and China**

**2022**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Homeland Defense Awareness Symposium**

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# Polemicist/Devil's Advocate Approach

- Hyper-ventilation about Chinese economic activity in region. All talk/no action.
- Better on Russia – arms relationships and disinformation (RT, Sputnik).
- Unclear how much more US defense/military can/should do. Step up State, Justice, USAID, USDFC, etcetera.



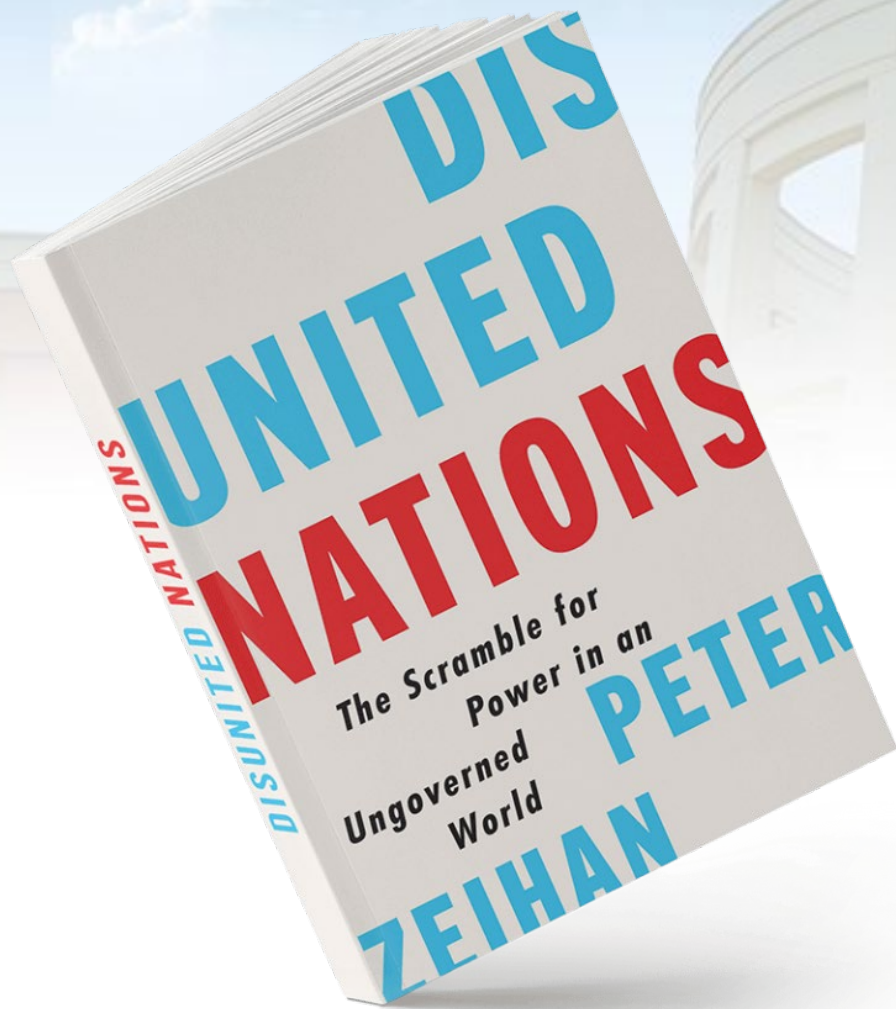
# CHINA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN LATIN AMERICA

*Case Studies of China's Oil Diplomacy in Argentina,  
Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela, 1990-2015*

YANRAN XU

Mexico too diversified and integrated into North American economy and supply chains to be manipulated unfairly by China's Belt and Road Initiative.





- China's demographic collapse is closer than we think.
- China more vulnerable to sanctions as net importers of food and energy.
- Ukraine wins, Russia loses. Russian wins, Russia loses.
- North America net winner regionalization of supply chains.
- Major supply chain disruptions in short term.
- Maritime security of commercial trade routes becomes a scarcer commodity. China's vessels do not have capacity to patrol beyond 1,000 km.



# Defense/Military Opportunities and Challenges

## Mexico



- Improved defense diplomacy and cooperation with SEMAR/SEDENA. Force multiplier for maritime security/IUU fishing? HADR partner.
- Cartel Jalisco New Generation! Military threat or law enforcement challenge. Russia/China links?
- Fentanyl trafficking (US deaths 30 per 100,000) expansion to internal market.
- Nicaraguan connection??

## Caribbean



- Solidarity on Ukraine (GY/VE – BZ/GT) potential for Russian meddling in former.
- Energy and food security crisis. Increased migration from more countries.
- Bahamas – unaccounted for Chinese laborers.
- Step up National Guard Partnership Program.
- Overcome 312 restrictions!!!

