



**Faculty of Legal Sciences**

**School of International Studies**

**Power Distribution in Latin America: The United States and China in the context of the Organization of Latin American States and Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States**

**Project prior to obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies**

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Never change your goals for the desires of others." This phrase, which I hold deeply in my heart, was told to me by my grandmother Mariana when I was very young, and since then it has become the foundation of my life and the guide that has shaped me every step. This work is dedicated to my grandmothers, Mariana Argüello and Teresa Cisneros — two women who have taught me that strength lives in the heart, and that the soul is the greatest treasure a woman can possess. To my parents, Catalina Argüello and Juan Carlos Argüello, whose love and patience have shaped me into a woman who never gives up, even when life is hard. And finally, to my nephews and nieces, Juan Francisco, Mía Martina, and Zoe Giselle — the loves of my life, those children whose every smile makes their Tita the happiest person in the world, because every achievement is for them.

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# **Power Distribution in Latin America: The United States and China in the context of the Organization of Latin America States and Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States**

## **ABSTRACT**

This article analyzes the influence of the United States and China within two political dialogue organizations in the American continent: The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Through this comparative study, the research seeks to understand the role played by each organization in shaping regional politics and how both function as platforms through which major powers project and distribute their influence. To this end, the article examines the mechanism these powers employ to sustain their presence across Latin America and its states. The findings contribute to understanding how power is distributed across the current world order and, more specifically, across the region. For this reason, they reveal the strategic position held by Latin America in global geopolitics: the region stands as a space of ideological dispute and growing interest for major powers.

**Keywords:** hegemony, distribution of power, United States, China, OAS, CEL

**Distribución de Poder en América Latina: Estados Unidos y China en el Escenario de la Organización de los Estados Americanos y la Comunidad de los Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños**

**RESUMEN**

El presente artículo analiza la influencia de Estados Unidos y China dentro de dos organizaciones de diálogo político del continente americano: la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA) y la Comunidad de los Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC). A través de este estudio comparativo, se busca entender el rol que cumple cada uno de los organismos en la configuración de la política regional y cómo estos se convierten en plataformas de distribución de poder por parte de las potencias. Se examinan los mecanismos de influencia utilizados por las mismas para mantener su poder dentro Latinoamérica y cada uno de sus Estados. Los hallazgos contribuyen al entendimiento de cómo se distribuye el poder en el orden mundial y sobre todo en la región, gracias a eso se puede evidenciar el lugar estratégico que América Latina ocupa en la geopolítica global, por el mismo hecho de que la región se posiciona como espacio de disputa ideológica e intereses crecientes para las grandes potencias.

**Palabras clave:** hegemonía, distribución de poder, Estados Unidos, China, OEA, CELAC.