



Experts: Latin America Using Chinese Tech To ‘Exert Social Control’

China expands its Technocracy as it simultaneously undermines free governments. Aggressive Chinese suppliers with their sophisticated social control tech products have now penetrated Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela. □ TN Editor

The ongoing proliferation of Chinese surveillance and information technologies in Latin America can be used to exert social control, erode democratic governance, and challenge U.S. and regional strategic interest, expert witnesses told a House panel on Thursday.

Margaret Myers, the director of the Asia and Latin America program at the Inter-American Dialogue, [told](#) the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere via written testimony that the governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela have all [implemented](#) “Chinese-made intelligent monitoring” technologies.

Myers described the move as “exceedingly troubling,” adding:

These systems are described by Chinese suppliers as promoting of citizen safety and security, but if used to exert social control (as they are in China or currently in Venezuela through the ZTE-backed “fatherland card”), can have critical implications for privacy and democratic governance.

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The socialist policies of Chinese-backed Maduro and his predecessor plunged Venezuela into a humanitarian, security, and political abyss. The United States and about 50 other countries have come out in support of interim President Juan Guaido.

In his written testimony, Christopher Walker, the vice president for studies and analysis at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), [noted](#) that despite the risks, the use of Chinese technology is likely to continue growing in Latin America.

He testified:

For many countries in Latin America, as in other developing economies around the world, the opportunity to import advanced technologies can be highly attractive. We can anticipate that governments across the region will continue to pursue such opportunities and welcome investments from China in this sphere. However, the wider societies of countries throughout the region must approach such technology-related deals with open eyes and with the information necessary to make fully informed decisions.

Brian Fonseca, the director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy at Florida International University, [noted](#) in his prepared remarks

that the proliferation of Chinese surveillance and IT technologies are challenging the interest of the United States and the Western Hemisphere as a whole.

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