The Geopolitics of Peru

By

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Geopolitics refers to the connection between a country’s topography and the politics it asserts in order to gain power and interest. These strategic decisions are affected by the regions terrain. The term “Geopolitics” came about in the 1950s, during the introduction of international trade and international affairs. This helps explain the differences in government culture between vastly different regions, while helping to regulate and come to international laws. Geopolitics includes the exchange of national resources, strategic dominance, and geographic space between state and non-state elements for a cooperative overall interest.

Peru, similar to most Latin American countries is bound by internal security, lacking governmental structures to promote and regulate trade. Mountainous terrain, Amazon River marshes, and long distances continues to make trade between Latin countries exceptional difficult. The harsh climate of the amazon cannot be used as inhabitable land; nobody wanted this land until the 1930s when the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey found Oil in Bolivia.

This provoked a series of wars between the Northern Latin countries of Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, and Paraguay. Country borders that were never fully established during Spanish colonial rule leading to war between Bolivia and Paraguay then shortly after Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador in 1933 after a proposed revision of the Salomon-Lozano treaty. Overall trade in these regions was difficult for a long period of time because they are geographically spread out while lacking reliable human and trade transportation, trade security, and incentives. However this is beginning to change with modern implications of technology and increased need for peace and commerce in order to compete with the rest of the world.
Peru has been recording trade surpluses since 2002, due in part to a rise in the shipments of minerals such as gold, copper, silver, zinc and lead. Peru’s main imports are crude and refined oil, trucks, buses and light trucks and industrial machinery and equipment. The country’s main trading partners are United States (which make up 16 percent of total exports and 17 percent of imports) and China (who account for 14 percent of exports and 23 percent of imports). Other trading partners include Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico and South Korea.

The nation recorded a trade deficit of 573 USD Million in July of 2014. Furthermore, Balance of Trade in Peru averaged 78.62 USD Million from 1957 until 2014, reaching an all-time high of 1290.20 USD Million in December of 2011 and a record low of -639 USD Million in April of 2014.

Peru’s labor laws are comprised of freedom of association, the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor, the effective abolition of child labor, a prohibition on the worst forms of child labor, and other labor protections for children and minors, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health.
Works Cited

