There is a new trend in Latin America to increase military participation in civilian areas. The talk will include four main points: 1) Changes in the role of the military in different Latin American sub-regions (Southern Cone, Andean Region and Central America); 2) Main scenarios of violent conflict: domestic (drug traffic, organized crime and its transnational scope, paramilitary groups, political and social unrest) and external (growing tensions between Venezuela and its neighbors); 3) Trend towards militarization of public security; 4) The Venezuelan case: A new type of military regime?

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Perhaps the most important change in Latin America’s international relations in its two centuries of independent history has taken place in the past two decades. From its traditional diplomatic and commercial orientation towards North America and Western Europe, the region has switched more toward Asia, especially China. Trade between China and Latin America and the Caribbean increased 26 times between 2000 and 2013. For Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, China is their first trading partner. Yet, as an incipient trade war between the United States and China escalates, the region is caught between a rock and a hard place.

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