



Editorial

POLITICAL ANALYSIS AND CORPORATE SECURITY UNIT

ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION



GLOBAL

What geopolitical implications does the arrival of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency carry?

REGIONAL

Crisis in Bolivia: Increase of social unrest and tensions between Evo Morales and Luis Arce.

LOCAL

Strengthening of GAOs in Colombia: alliances and disputes in the national scenario.



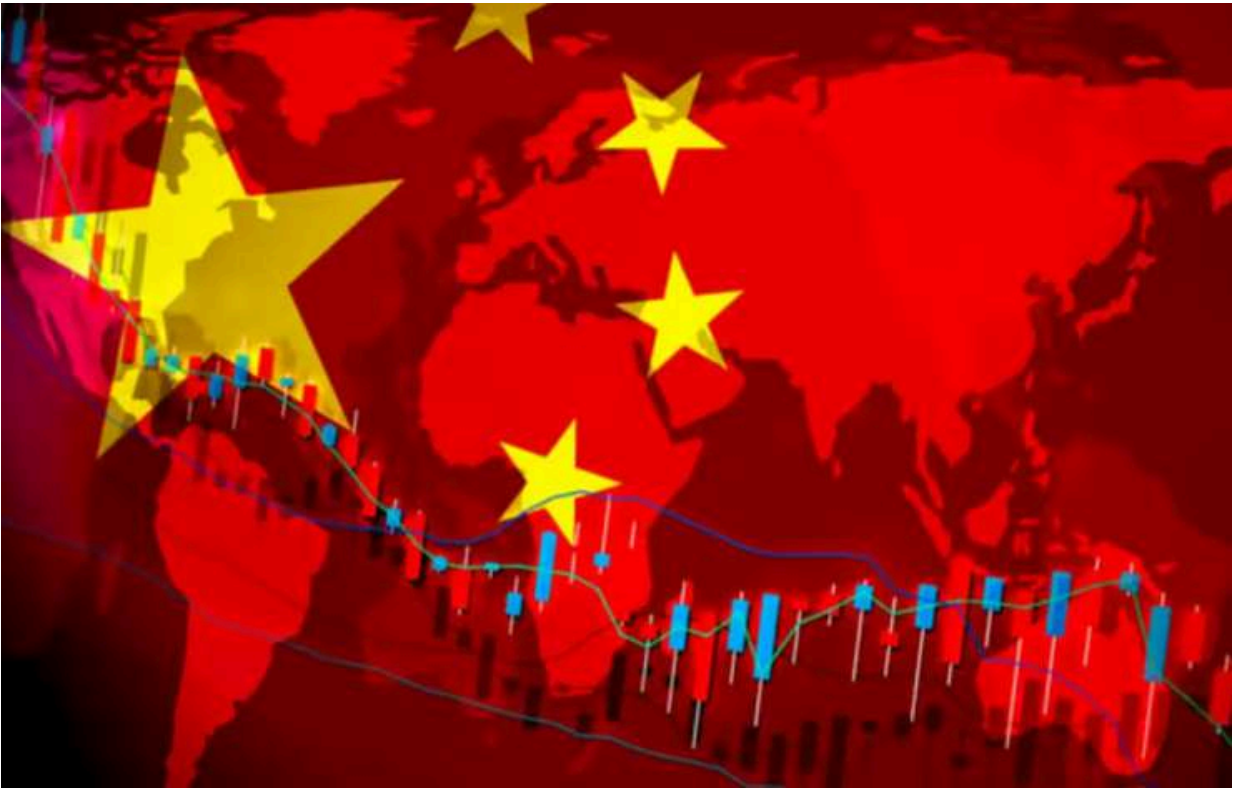


What geopolitical implications does the arrival of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency carry?



Resource: Wikipedia, File:Donald Trump.

On November 5, the presidential elections were held in the United States, where the Republican candidate Donald Trump and the Democrat Kamala Harris faced each other. After the election day it became known that the new US president for the next 4 years would be the former president Donald Trump, who will have his second term at the head of the government as of January 2025. During the election campaign, Trump made it clear that both his foreign and domestic policies will be focused on putting the United States first, and therefore he has proposed to take strategies that may tend to be protectionist, and in some cases even hostile to other powerful nations.



Resource: Outlook Business, 2024.

To begin with, Trump's relations with China are essentially one of conflict, since a proposal that has been repeatedly discussed by the Republican campaign, and by Trump supporters, was to limit imports from China and continue with the trade war that exists between the United States and the Asian giant. For example, there is speculation that his candidates for Secretary of State will be a hard-line conservative such as Marco Rubio or Mike Waltz, or even a hard-line MAGA (Make America Great Again) Republican such as Ric Grenell or Bill Hagerty. This heavy-handedness at the core of their policy makes it clear that their intention is to prevent the Chinese economy from expanding and further permeating the American economic system ([Geopolitical Economy](#), 2024). The continuation and even widening of the trade war between the two superpowers could lead to a 60% tariff on Chinese imports to the United States, which would add an extra hardship to the battered Asian country's economy ([DW](#), 2024).

As for the conflict in Ukraine, it is expected that Trump will take some time before starting to make decisions on this complex issue. However, according to meetings that the tycoon had with the Ukrainian leader, Volodimir Zelenski, it can be expected that the support for the resistance to the Russian offensive will continue, understanding that the new American administration will prioritize its interests in an imperative way. There has also been talk of how Trump will ipso facto push for a peace agreement between the two sides. This would be done by forcing Russia to agree to define the borders of Ukraine, and if not, it would give him even more war power to defeat Russia and thus end the conflict ([DW](#), 2024).



The election of Donald Trump as president of the United States could have major repercussions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, especially in the context of the war in Gaza. Trump has been a strong supporter of Israel, which could translate into increased support for the Netanyahu government. During his first term, he implemented policies such as recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and supported settlements in the West Bank. This approach is expected to continue, which would make a peaceful solution with the Palestinians more difficult. In addition, Trump has expressed his desire for a “quick victory” in Gaza, which could escalate hostilities and generate further international discontent, while also potentially worsening regional tensions with actors such as Hezbollah and Iran ([CNN](#), 2024).

Trump has shown a tendency towards isolationism and protectionism, which could lead to less U.S. participation in international organizations and multilateral agreements, weakening its global influence. This could negatively affect relations with traditional allies, especially in Europe, and provoke a crisis in transatlantic unity. In the Middle East, its support for Israel could intensify tensions with the Palestinians and other regional actors. In addition, his approach toward China and Russia could increase trade and geopolitical tensions, with a more aggressive approach toward China and possibly a more conciliatory or confrontational approach toward Russia, depending on his strategic decisions.

Finally, the combination of these policies could contribute to greater global instability. The perception of a United States less committed to the international order may encourage other countries to act more assertively or aggressively in their respective regions, which could lead to protracted conflicts or new humanitarian crises. In short, the election of Donald Trump may usher in an era characterized by a more unilateral and less cooperative approach to U.S. foreign policy, which will have significant repercussions both regionally and globally.



Crisis in Bolivia: Increase of social unrest and tensions between Evo Morales and Luis Arce.

Being the successor of Evo Morales, who lasted at the head of the executive for 13 years, Luis Arce became president of Bolivia in 2020. Between 2006 and 2017 Arce was Minister of Economy and Public Finance, years in which Bolivia experienced a period of bonanza that even came to be called “the economic miracle”. Due to the above, the expectations of the citizenry regarding the arrival of the new leader were quite high. However, the government of the last four years has been characterized by political instability, social unrest and crises in different areas. Blockades, social demonstrations, energy crisis, economic problems, political disputes, loss of legitimacy and even an event that came to be considered a *coup d'état*, are the events that have marked the Arce government, particularly in the last year ([France 24, 2024](#)).

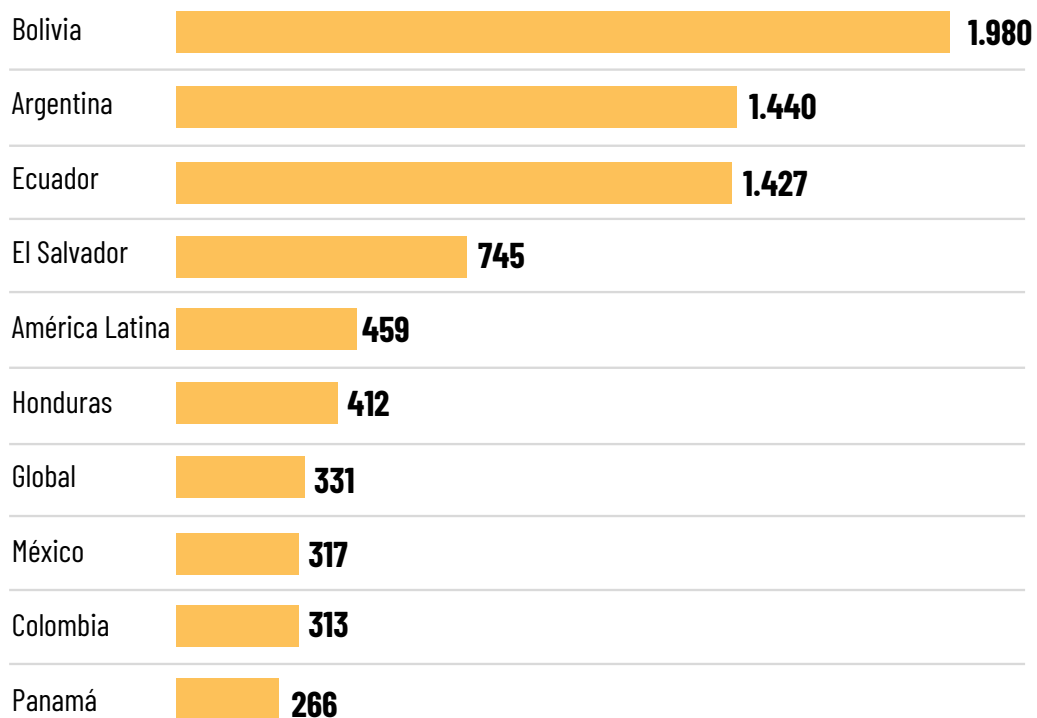
The factors that explain the situation of the current government are multiple, however, the escalation of the rivalry between Arce and his predecessor is one of the key points. Despite belonging to the same party and being colleagues between the years 2006-2017, the candidacy for the 2025 presidency for the Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS) party has become the great object of dispute between Morales and Arce.



Despite being disqualified, Morales made explicit his aspiration for the next presidential candidacy, a fact that was seen by the president as a directly defiant attitude. Since then both parties have become increasingly involved in a dispute to obtain the MAS candidacy. Morales has declared himself on hunger strike, has urged the collective resignation of high-ranking officials, has created blockades in different areas of the country, among other actions. For his part, Arce promoted a constitutional resolution on reelection and has been strongly criticized for his management of the economy and social unrest ([DW](#), 2024).

COUNTRY RISK IN LATIN AMERICA

JP Morgan Embi Index



Resource: La República, 2024.



The struggle for MAS leadership led Evo Morales' followers to block highways in the central part of the country for more than 20 days. The protests were aimed at demanding the government to enable Morales to run for president in 2025, in addition to demanding urgent solutions to the country's economic problems. The blockades generated widespread shortages and contributed to the country's inflation reaching a figure of 7.26% as of October ([France 24, 2024](#)). Although this episode alone does not explain the fuel crisis, it did contribute to its explosion and worsening, as the blockades prevented fuel from being distributed. The government finds itself in a cycle in which the mismanagement of social unrest produces crises of different types, which translates into new protest scenarios.

Bolivia is immersed in a context of social, economic and energy crisis, situations that during the last year have worsened due to the fact that the president has focused more on confronting Evo Morales in order not to lose the presidential candidacy for 2025 than on mitigating the country's situation and seeking solutions to the problems that have been surfacing for some years now. It is also worth mentioning that both Morales and Arce have little chance of reaching the presidency in 2025, particularly Arce who enjoyed some popularity in the first years of his mandate has lost followers massively in this fight with Morales. The truth is that the country is falling victim to this conglomerate of crisis and political instability ([DW, 2024](#)).



Strengthening of GAOs in Colombia: alliances and disputes in the national scenario.

According to figures from the Armed Forces, in 2024 the presence of Organized Armed Groups (GAOs) in Colombia increased by 36% ([Asuntos Legales](#), 2024). The upward trend has been occurring for several years and responds to the processes of expansion and consolidation experienced by the different criminal structures at the national level. The causes of this phenomenon are varied, although among them the ineffective implementation of the peace agreements with the extinct FARC-EP and the “Total Peace” project of the current government administration stand out. Regarding the first factor, the structural problems that should have been addressed with the 2016 peace agreements have not been dealt with in a timely manner, which has brought deserters from the process, in addition to a continuity of the phenomena that originated the conflict. In the second case, “Total Peace” has cast doubt on the true will of some groups, while it has served as a scenario for strengthening them.

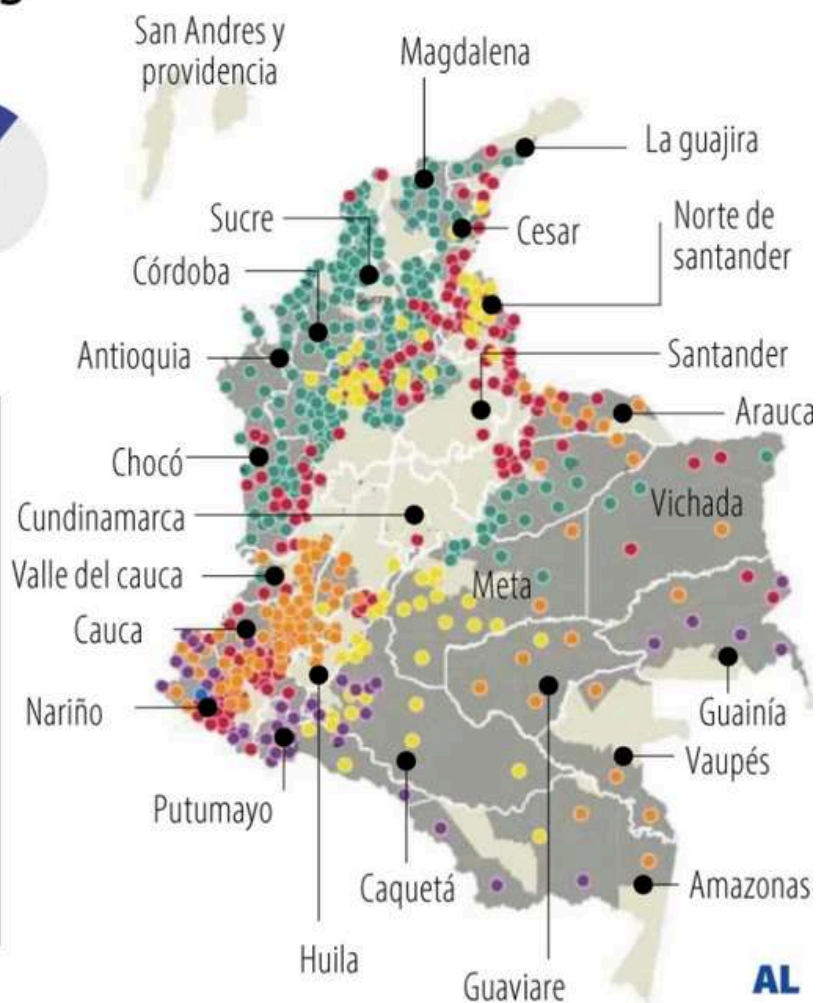


ZONAS DE INFLUENCIA DE GRUPOS ARMADOS ORGANIZADOS

A inicios de 2024, se registró aumento del **36%** en la presencia de grupos armados, extendiéndose a 253 municipios. Los principales actores incluyen el Clan del Golfo, el Estado Mayor Central (EMC) y el ELN.



- Frente Comuneros del Sur
- Segunda Marquetalia
- GAO-r al mando de Calarcá
- GAO-r al mando de Iván mordisco
- ELN
- Clan del Golfo
- Municipios con influencia de GAO / GAO-r
- Departamentos



Fuente: Policía Nacional / Gráfico: LR-ER

Resource: Asuntos Legales, 2024.

Four main GAOs are active in Colombia: the *Clan del Golfo*, the *Ejército de Liberación Nacional* (ELN), the *Estado Mayor Central* (EMC) and the *Segunda Marquetalia*. The *Clan del Golfo* has between 5,000-13,500 members and presence in 316 municipalities. The ELN is present in approximately 231 municipalities and has between 4,600 and 6,100 members. The EMC has between 2,800 and 3,800 members and is present in 209 municipalities, although it is worth mentioning that the organization is currently fragmented in two, one under the leadership of "Iván Mordisco" and the other under the command of "Calarcá". For its part, the *Segunda Marquetalia* is present in 65 municipalities (Pares, 2024) and has approximately 1,800 members (La Silla Vacía, 2024).



The four aforementioned GAOs strengthened considerably in 2023 and seem to have continued with the same trend in 2024. It is for this reason that in the current national context it is possible to find different types of scenarios in which GAOs operate. Firstly, there are the strongholds, which refer to the areas of greatest control of the structures. Secondly, there are alliance scenarios, where organizations create relationships to protect themselves or to weaken another group together, as in the case of the alliance between the ELN and the Segunda Marquetalia to weaken the EMC ([Infobae](#), 2024). Finally, there are the territories of dispute, areas of confrontation between the GAOs to keep the rents from illegal markets, for example the dispute between the ELN and the Clan del Golfo in Chocó ([Pares](#), 2024).

Taking into account that the government's strategy has not seen substantial changes, that the GAOs have managed to obtain broad control over the territory and that the trend in recent years shows an upward trend, the security situation in the short and medium term does not seem favorable. It is necessary to rethink the negotiation tables with the different organizations, identifying the true will for peace of each group. In order to improve the situation, military actions must be combined with social projects, policies and plans focused on mitigating poverty, inequality, lack of education, among others.

Note. *The investigative work and analysis contained in this report is exclusive to 3+ Security Colombia. Therefore, it is recommended not to disclose the document in question. 3+Security Colombia Ltda., reserves the right to interpretation that may arise by the reader in the review and visualization of the information presented".*



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