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## National security, geopolitics lithium



**Sources:** The economist gadfly

*After all, we are what we do to change who we are (Eduardo Galeano)*

The concept of "**hybrid warfare**" has become popular in the wake of the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine. A hybrid war is can be defined as a set of hostile actions that a country against a geopolitical rival by taking advantage of its vulnerabilities with the objective of weakening it. That is, there are many wars within a war.

The Russia–NATO war has several clashes, one on Ukrainian territory, another war for energy, semiconductors, minerals, finance, trade, war devices, information, etc. Although the real war is against China, and we have already pointed this out on a number of occasions, and it is about the Power to impose and remove rules. If one imposes them, it is unipolar, if there is that agreeing on them is multipolar.

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The Scholars agree that hybrid threats are here to stay and have become the main protagonists of conflicts, Although there is a real risk that a hybrid war will end up getting out of control and leading to a conventional war. The public statements of The West is usually to destroy, break, annihilate, suffocate the Opposing economies. A good shortcut to this fight is geographical battles. That is, those places where the supply of certain Basic inputs for enemy powers, acquiring or monopolizing natural resources in the dispute, in the name of national security.

Canadian Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne, ruled that the demand for critical minerals confers to your country a "***generational economic opportunity***", by what Canada ordered the sale of investments that foreign companies have in Canadian mineral companies, according to [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#). And he did it with three groups Chinese: Sinomine (Hong Kong) Rare Metals Resources Co., Limited must get rid of of its investment in Power Metals Corp. Chengze Lithium International Limited you should do the same with your investment in Lithium Chile Inc. and Zangge Mining Investment Co. must divest its shares in Ultra Lithium Inc.

Forcing Chinese companies to divest their Canada's holdings of critical minerals companies are after the Espionage and Defense Review Will Conclude Such Investments They constituted a ***threat to their national security***. Linguistically is to welcome foreign direct investments from companies that "[share our interests and values](#), i.e. Western and, if possible, Americans.

America's multidimensional war against China, according to the [book \*War multidimensional between the United States and China\*](#), by Alfredo Jalife-Rahme, it began with Obama's trade deals against China and his failed TPP, continued with Trump through Huawei's 5G, and was accentuated with the War of Biden's Chips, or the lithium war, in which Beijing leads the lead in acquisitions from South America to Mexico.

This idea of putting laws, rules adapted to The West, delineating and failing to comply with them, this power of law was U.S. geopolitical objectives in any of its wars that They usually translate into great civilizational crusades, always based on internal laws with an alleged universal scope. As described by the expert in international relations **Juan Tokatlian**, while the US in the 90s was self-assigned the role of "international crusader on drugs", after from the attacks on the Twin Towers of 2001 was launched into the global struggle "Against terrorism" and now, in the midst of the current confrontation with the Axis China-Russia projects itself as the "international prosecutor in the field of

corruption", to justify what he identifies as the struggle of "the democracies against autocracies."

As in the past, the relationship between the new Anti-corruption crusade and the geopolitics of natural resources is not a secret. Within the framework of the "[Strategy of United States to Fight Corruption](#)", launched by Joe Biden, is "*The threat to the national security of the States United.*" That is why the Department's Office of Energy Resources of State assumed responsibility for the "[Initiative of Extractive Industries Transparency \(EITI\)](#)", i.e. Outlining "*the global standard to promote open and responsible management of oil, gas and mineral resources. The EITI Standard requires the disclosure of information along the value chain of the extractive industry, that is, the power of laws.*"

States United has been able to incorporate the principles of the initiative and achieve a system highly transparent and efficient when working to implement the Standard EITI – imposed by them – at national, from 2014 to 2017, and international level. It is institutionalizing transparency measures and incorporating Government reporting on energy production. Latin America, and especially the lithium triangle, Argentina–Brazil–Bolivia, the unconventional deposit of Vaca Muerta in Argentina and Pre-salt in Brazil, They are central to the new strategy of hybrid warfare.

So much care to take care of corruption, while They create monopolies of natural resources and appropriate information, it is not neither harmless nor naïve. China plans to upgrade its conventional submarines with lithium-ion batteries, an energy movement that could increase significantly the combat and survivability capabilities of its fleet. [South China Morning Post reported](#) that the conventional submarine fleet China could soon run on lithium-ion batteries, taking advantage of technological advances in the country's electric vehicle industry, Currently the largest in the world. The report notes that China manufactures Three-quarters of the planet's electric vehicle batteries, which gives you an edge in battery technology.

The Lithium-ion batteries can more than double the resistance of a submarine and greatly improve its acceleration for high operations speed, as opposed to lead-acid batteries that have been used since World War II. They have, or suffer, from low capacity energy storage, slow charging, weak power output, service life cutting and generating toxic smoke. The United States, Germany and France also have developed prototypes of underwater lithium-ion batteries with plans for his future military service.

The United States and Europe have realized that they do not can develop purely national supply chains fast enough to meet the demand of the vehicle transition electric,

submarines, or whatever. Thus, the United States formed a coalition of like-minded countries, such as Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, France and Germany, with an Asian axis formed by Japan and South Korea, and where China and Russia is left out, called the *Metallic NATO*. The [Minister of Finance Canada](#) defined that the great geopolitical problem of the The future is none other than to reformulate the system of supply of materials premiums, underpinning investments *only in friendly countries*. [Even the Pentagon joined the](#) new strategy of "support friends", and asked the United States Congress to modify the Defense Production Act that still prohibits you from investing in the production of raw materials outside the national territory.

The question would be who are the countries that are the countries that won the denomination of friends and why? Chile's lithium production and Argentina has been dominated for decades by U.S. capital, Canada, Australia and Japan. But according to [Geopolitical Dossier](#), *the press Local only warns us about the new ghost that is sweeping the region: the advance of large Chinese companies. In this way, the U.S. fear, expressed by the head of the Southern Command, which sees its current dominance over the Lithium Triangle, warning of the incipient presence of China and Russia: "They are there to undermine America, they are there to undermine democracies."*

The It is true that the lithium-ion battery is a geopolitical problem. It is that, of all metals needed to produce batteries, the situation of Lithium is the most delicate: since 2020 prices increased by 900%, reaching A historic turning point, which contrasts sharply with the rest of the Critical metals for batteries. Between 2016 and 2019, more than 90% of the 36% of lithium imported to the United States came from Chile and 55% from Argentina. The United States has free trade agreements with about 20 countries, among which are These include Australia and Chile, the two main lithium producers in the world. but Argentina and Bolivia, no.

That is why the Council of the Americas, according to the newspaper [Page 12](#), makes three calls per week between the Argentine ambassador to the United States Unidos, **Jorge Argüello**, and his counterpart in Buenos Aires, **Marc Stanley**. All-inclusive travel packages were also proposed. United States, for President Alberto Fernández and his Minister of Economy, which include contacts with Joe Biden, IMF, oil club in Houston and business roundtable for ten governors, since the national Constitution, Article **124** states: "*It shall be the responsibility of the states the original domain of natural resources.*" And how Strawberry for dessert, the U.S. ambassador put his sandwich in

matters internal, **with an eye on strategic lithium.** "We We don't need it, but we want to help the world and partner with you."

Argentina has the second largest lithium reserves large in the world, and is the fourth largest producer of lithium carbonate, behind from Australia, Chile and China. Argentina does not have a free trade agreement with the United States. In February 2022 [he joined the China's global Belt and Road Initiative, and](#) in July got the [backing of China to join the BRICS](#), which, if it were not the Debt conditionalities, it would be a real dollar head.

Unlike Chile, lithium's geopolitics operate here without any mediation, aggravating even the internal ones on the front of government: while the economy minister visited the U.S. and it is not known that commitments **promised**, both YPF SA and provincial governments of Catamarca and Jujuy sign [cooperation agreements](#) with Chinese companies. The lack of a unified national policy is expressed above all in the brand new YPF Lithium, which must start from scratch and [explore new territories](#) because all deposits of lithium identified in the country are in private hands.

The strange thing is that, unlike Canada, the US, Europe or China, for Argentina it would not seem that lithium, oil or gas are *generational economic opportunity*, and much less a threat to their national security. Nor do it seem important declaring any of the *commodities* a strategic good for the Argentine development. Apparently, the debt conditions in such a way that it is only a threat to national security, and is accepted as such, if a multinational.

Source: <https://eltabanoeconomista.wordpress.com/2022/11/13/seguridad-nacional-geopolitica-del-litio/>

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