

The Geopolitics of Oil: Western Hemisphere Scenarios

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Guest Lecturer Dr. Jorge R. Piñón

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Abstract:

Innovative technologies have unlocked new conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon resources along with renewable sources of energy throughout the Western Hemisphere. The Latin America and Caribbean region is on the threshold of revitalizing its economies and has an opportunity to build energy and environmental policies and programs that will result in sustainable growth long into the future.

The area includes countries that have already achieved high living standards, efficient governments and educational institutions, and a superior quality of life for their citizens. It also includes countries that are struggling to achieve the same level of development, many of which are blessed with newly discovered energy resources that can, if properly managed, lead to improved education, health and welfare of their populations.

Biography:

Jorge R. Piñón is Interim Director of The University of Texas at Austin, Jackson School of Geosciences, Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy and Director of its Latin America and Caribbean Energy Program.

Mr. Piñón began his long career in the energy sector when he joined Shell Oil Company's supply and transportation organization in 1975. He was president and CEO of Transworld Oil USA prior to joining Amoco Corporation in 1991 as president of Amoco Corporate Development Company Latin America. In this position Mr. Piñón represented the business development and joint venture efforts in Latin America between Amoco Corporation and state oil companies.

He has served as president of Amoco Oil de México and president of Amoco Oil Latin America, based in Mexico City; as a member of the board of INROADS de Mexico, an organization developing underserved youth in business and industry and preparing them for corporate and community leadership; and as vice-president and member of the board of directors of the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico -AMCHAM-, where Mr. Piñón received the "Yiacatecutli" award for distinguished service in the promotion of U.S.-Mexico business relations.

After the 1999 merger between Amoco and BP, Mr. Piñón was transferred to Madrid, Spain, to manage BP Europe's western Mediterranean petroleum supply and logistics operations. He retired from BP in 2003.

With international experience in business development, joint ventures and relationship management in emerging and transitional markets, and a network of senior energy contacts in Latin America; he is recognized as an independent analyst of regional energy issues, as well as the geopolitics of oil and natural gas in Latin America. He has conducted research and country risk assessments as a Visiting Energy Fellow at the University of Miami's Center for Hemispheric Policy (2005-2010) and at Florida International University's Latin American and Caribbean Center (2010-2011) prior to joining the University of Texas at Austin in 2012.

He is also recognized as an expert on Cuba's energy sector, as well as on the island's future economic transitional challenges and opportunities. He is an advisor and a member of the Cuba task force at The Brookings Institution and co-author of "Cuba's Energy Future: Strategic Approaches to Cooperation", Brookings Institution Press 2010.

Mr. Piñón has testified before the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. International Trade Commission on issues of energy policy related to Cuba and Latin America; he holds a degree in Economics and a certificate in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida, Gainesville.

