

South America in Competition Conference: Bonus Episode 1

Description

Episode 138 is a bonus episode built out of conversations held with panelists from the 2025 Irregular Warfare Initiative and Special Operations Association of America South America in Competition Conference.

The South America in Competition Conference brought together over 250 researchers, practitioners, and members of industry for two days at the Carahsoft Headquarters in the DC area. The first day included panel discussions on irregular warfare challenges in the South America region. The second day included a detailed wargame with participation from a range of stakeholders, planned by the IWI Wargaming Division.

For this bonus episode, IWI Podcast Host [Jackie Giunta](#) recorded four short conversations with conference participants following their panel presentations.

First, Will Walker from Onebrief examines whether PRC strategy in South America is coercive or benign. Next, Adam Fife, the CEO of CenCore, discusses Chinese debt trap diplomacy. Third, Leland Lazarus discusses how China's economic statecraft is another form of irregular warfare. Last, Dr. Evan Ellis, Professor of Latin American Studies at the U.S. Army War College, provides a broad overview of China's strategy in South America.

Introducing and closing the episode are [Doug Livermore](#), the IWI Director of Engagements, and [Umar Ahmed Badami](#), Director of the IWI Wargaming Division. They also both planned this major event. [Kyle Atwell](#) provided editorial support for this episode.

If you have an idea for a future event or wargame IWI should run, want to get involved in events, or want to [provide material support](#) so IWI can continue these important conversations – reach out to Doug or Umar directly.

The [Irregular Warfare Podcast](#) is a production of the [Irregular Warfare Initiative](#) (IWI). We are a team of volunteers dedicated to bridging the gap between scholars and practitioners in the field of irregular warfare. IWI generates written and audio content, coordinates events for the IW community, and hosts critical thinkers in the field of irregular warfare as IWI fellows. You can follow and engage with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

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All views expressed in this episode are the personal views of the participants and do not represent those of any government agency or of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project.

Intro music: "Unsilenced" by Ketsa

Outro music: "Launch" by Ketsa

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