

End of Juan Guaidó: US-appointed Venezuelan Coup Leader Ousted by Ex Allies

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The US claimed unelected coup leader Juan Guaidó was "interim president" of Venezuela from January 2019 to December 2022, when his former allies in the right-wing opposition removed him from the position. Washington however still refuses to recognize elected President Nicolás Maduro.

US **President Donald Trump** appointed **Juan Guaidó** as Venezuela's supposed "interim president" in January 2019, despite the fact that the little-known right-wing opposition politician had never won a single vote in a presidential election.

Under **President Joe Biden**, the US government continued formally recognizing Guaidó, until Venezuela's opposition-controlled parallel "National Assembly" voted to oust him in December 2022.

This marked the end to a nearly four-year US-led coup attempt against Venezuela's leftist Chavista government.

Yet Washington has still refused to formally recognize Venezuela's democratically elected **President Nicolás Maduro** - who always remained recognized by the United Nations, throughout the coup attempt.

Instead, State Department spokesman and [CIA veteran Ned Price](#) announced that the [US only recognizes](#) Venezuela's opposition-controlled parallel "National Assembly" - which is competing with the Venezuelan government's own National Assembly, which is part of the constitutional Venezuelan state recognized by the UN.

Geopolitical Economy Report editor-in-chief Ben Norton discussed the end of Guaidó with Venezuelan journalist Jesús Rodríguez Espinoza, who runs the [independent news website](#)

[Orinoco Tribune](#).

They analyzed the economic situation in the oil-rich South American country, which suffers under an illegal US embargo. The top UN expert on unilateral coercive measures, Alena Douhan, reported that Western sanctions caused the [Venezuelan government's revenue "to shrink by 99%](#) with the country currently living on 1% of its pre-sanctions income".

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