

# US Regime Change in Venezuela: The Truth Is Easy if You Follow the Money Trail. The Opposition is Pro-Washington, Not “Pro-Democracy”

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*Venezuela’s ongoing crisis is not driven by political ideology – it is not a battle of socialism versus capitalism or dictatorship versus democracy – it is the result of two centers of political power possessing opposing interests and colliding geopolitically.*

The nation of Venezuela is currently under the control of Venezuelans who derive their support, wealth, and power from Venezuela itself – its people and its natural resource. This political order also receives aid and support from Venezuela’s economic and military partners both in the region and around the globe.

The opposition opposed to the current political order and seeking to supplant it represents foreign interests and more specifically, the United States and its European allies.

## **The Opposition is Pro-Washington, Not “Pro-Democracy”**

As early as 2002, US-backed regime change targeting then Venezuelan president **Hugo Chavez**, sought to violently overthrow Venezuela’s political order and replace it with one obedient to Washington. Current leaders of the opposition were not only involved in the 2002 failed coup, many are documented to have received political and financial support from the United States government ever since.



Maria Corina Machado, founder of Sumate, an alleged Venezuelan election monitoring group, funded by the US National Endowment for Democracy (NED), meeting with US President George Bush who presided over the failed coup attempt seeking to oust President Hugo Chavez. (Source: Land Destroyer Report)

This includes several founders of the opposition party, Primero Justicia (Justice First), including **Leopoldo Lopez**, **Julio Borges**, and **Henrique Capriles Radonski**. The latter of the three has been prominently featured in Western media coverage lately.

US State Department documents reveal that the department itself along with US-funded fronts posing as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have been providing Venezuela's opposition with support.

This includes a report titled, "[Status of Capriles and Sumate Cases](#)," referring to the above mentioned Henrique Capriles Radonski and Sumate, a US National Endowment for Democracy (NED) funded front posing as an election monitor.



Currently, NED's own website features [an extensive list of activities](#) it is engaged in within Venezuela's borders. It includes leveraging human rights for political gain, electoral manipulation, building opposition fronts, and expanding pro-opposition media. While each activity is labelled with benign titles, it is clear that none of these activities are done impartially, and as State Department documents reveal, these activities are done

specifically for the benefit of the US-backed opposition.

### **Wall Street and Washington's Open Conspiracy**

After the death of Chavez in 2013, US-based special interests openly conspired to finally overturn the political order he built. Corporate-financier policy think tank, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) [created a checklist of US foreign policy goals](#) it sought to achieve in Venezuela. They included:

- The ouster of narco-kingpins who now hold senior posts in government
- The respect for a constitutional succession
- The adoption of meaningful electoral reforms to ensure a fair campaign environment and a transparent vote count in expected presidential elections; and
- The dismantling of Iranian and Hezbollah networks in Venezuela

In reality, AEI is talking about dismantling entirely the obstacles that have prevented the US and the corporate-financier interests that direct it, from installing a client regime and extracting entirely Venezuela's wealth while obstructing, even dismantling the geopolitical independence and influence achieved by Chavez in Venezuela, throughout South America, and beyond.

The think tank would continue by stating:

Now is the time for US diplomats to begin a quiet dialogue with key regional powers to explain the high cost of Chávez's criminal regime, including the impact of chavista complicity with narcotraffickers who sow mayhem in Colombia, Central America, and Mexico. Perhaps then we can convince regional leaders to show solidarity with Venezuelan democrats who want to restore a commitment to the rule of law and to rebuild an economy that can be an engine for growth in South America.

By "Venezuelan democrats," AEI means proxies created, funded, and directed by Washington, including Primero Justicia and the street mobs and paramilitary units it commands.

More recently, another Wall Street-Washington policy think tank, the Brookings Institution, would publish in a paper titled, "[Venezuela: A path out of crisis](#)," a 5-point plan toward escalating the crisis in Venezuela (emphasis added):

1. The United States could expand its assistance to countries that until now have been dependent on Venezuelan oil, as a means **to decrease regional support for and dependence on the Maduro government.**

2. **The United States could increase monetary assistance to credible civil society organizations and nongovernmental organizations** able to deliver food and medicines to Venezuelans. By doing so, the United States should make clear that international pressure aims to support democracy, not punish the Venezuelan people.

3. The United States could support efforts by the opposition in Venezuela to build an “off-ramp” that would split moderate elements of the government away from hardliners, encouraging the former **to acquiesce to a transition to democracy** by lowering their costs of exiting government.

4. The United States could coordinate with international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to **offer financial incentives for holding free and fair elections in 2018, and for the opposition to unify and compete in those elections.** Such coordination would also involve developing and publicizing a credible plan to restart Venezuela’s economy.

5. As a last resort, **the United States could consider raising economic costs to the government** through an expanded sanctions regime that aims to **limit Venezuelan earnings from oil exports and block further financing.** This policy is risky, given that **the Maduro government would be able to more credibly shift blame for the economic crisis onto the United States,** and should be accompanied by well-publicized efforts to deliver humanitarian aid through credible civil society and nongovernmental organizations.

While the Western media attempts to frame Venezuela’s crisis as a result of “socialism” and “dictatorship,” it is clear by reading the West’s own policy papers that it is owed instead to a systematic assault on Venezuela’s sociopolitical stability and economic viability, spanning decades.

Venezuela is not the first nation in South America that the United States has sought to overturn by undermining its economy.



Within the CIA’s own online archives under a section titled, “[CIA Activities in Chile](#),” it is admitted that in the 1970s, similar tactics were used to undermine and overturn the government of Chile. It states specifically: (emphasis added):

According to the Church Committee report, in their meeting with CIA **Director Richard Helms** and **Attorney General John Mitchell** on 15 September 1970 **President Nixon** and his National Security Advisor, **Henry Kissinger**, directed the CIA to prevent Allende from taking power. They were “not concerned [about the] risks involved,” according to Helms’ notes. **In addition to political action, Nixon and Kissinger, according to Helms’s notes, ordered steps to “make the economy scream.”**

These Cold War attitudes persisted into the Pinochet era. After Pinochet came to power, senior policymakers appeared reluctant to criticize human rights violations, taking to task US diplomats urging greater attention to the

problem. **US military assistance and sales grew significantly during the years of greatest human rights abuses.** According to a previously released Memorandum of Conversation, Kissinger in June 1976 indicated to Pinochet that the US Government was sympathetic to his regime, although Kissinger advised some progress on human rights in order to improve Chile's image in the US Congress.

Considering America's extensive list of interventions, wars, and occupations it is currently involved in worldwide and the manner in which each was presented to the public - with ideology and humanitarian concerns used to manipulate public perception, and considering Venezuela's opposition is a documented recipient of US support, it is clear that yet another intervention is under way, this time in South America.

### **Unipolar vs Multipolar**

In a world moving toward multipolarism and greater decentralization on all levels, Venezuela's collapse and a victory for Washington would undo an increasingly balanced distribution of geopolitical power - both in South and Central America, as well as across the world.

As a major oil producing nation, US control over its people and natural resources would further allow the US and its allies to manipulate energy prices toward achieving future goals - particularly in terms of encircling, isolating, and dismantling other centers of political power dependent on oil production for economic prosperity.



One needs not be a fan of "socialism" to understand that the ultimate outcome of Venezuela's collapse will be a further concentration of power in Washington and Wall Street's hands. Such power, regardless of whatever ideology it is superficially wielded behind, will always be abused. Regardless of the alleged form of government a nation may take, as long as it is a step away from unipolar globalization, it is a step in the right direction.

The crisis in Venezuela is not one of socialism versus capitalism or dictatorship versus democracy - it is one of hegemony versus national sovereignty, of centralized unipolar power versus an increasingly multipolar world.

A sovereign and independent Venezuela allowed to pursue its own destiny is one in which its own people will naturally seek to decentralize and distribute power. While the current government may not provide the ideal conditions to accomplish this, conditions under a US client regime - as US-wrecked Libya, Afghanistan, or Iraq prove - would be significantly less ideal.

For geopolitical analysts, moving away from ideological talking points and examining the actual government and opposition, their interests, associations, and funding, as well as their base motives reveals a much simpler and consistent narrative, one that any analyst could discern, and a discernment that will stand the test of scrutiny and time. Those entrenched in left/right ideology risk being betrayed by the government's floundering desperation and the true nature of an opposition that most certainly is not "capitalist" or "pro-democracy."

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