

Here's Why What's Happening in Venezuela. Isn't About Authoritarianism...

By Chris MacIntosh – Casey's International Man



[Matthias Chang's comments: I do not give a damn whether you like or hate Venezuela. Know the facts, the history and decide. The article is by an American from Doug Casey's International Man. Wake up']

When it comes to what's happening in Venezuela, facts matter. No one claiming Maduro stole the election has provided any proof. Not a single piece. So, I've put together some irrefutable facts about what the CIA have done in the past in the region and are certainly doing today.

After all, the best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour.

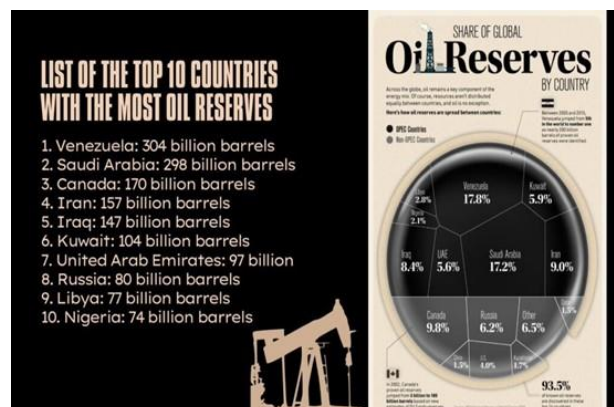
- **Brazil:** The CIA supported the 1964 coup that overthrew President João Goulart and installed a right-wing military dictatorship.
- **Bolivia:** The CIA was involved in a coup in 1971 that toppled President Juan José Torres.
- **Chile:** The CIA played a role in the 1973 coup that overthrew President Salvador Allende.
- **Argentina:** The CIA supported the 1976 coup that ousted the democratically elected government and ushered in a brutal military dictatorship.
- **Ecuador:** The CIA conducted covert operations in the country between 1960 and 1963.
- **Panama:** The CIA supported the 1989 invasion that overthrew General Manuel Noriega.
- **Haiti:** The CIA supported the 1991 coup that overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.
- **Venezuela:** The CIA was involved in the 2002 coup attempt against President Hugo Chávez. And today in Venezuela, what do you believe is actually happening?



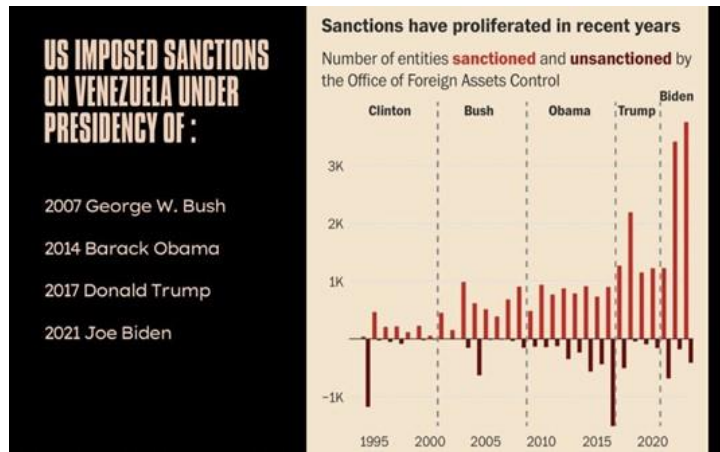
Why bother with a piss poor country?

You may recall the Donald's statements after the 2019 failed US-led coup where he stated that the US could have "taken over" Venezuela and "would have gotten all that oil" if his administration had succeeded in its efforts to oust the Venezuelan government. Trump expressed frustration that, instead of controlling Venezuela's oil, the U.S. is now purchasing oil from the country, which he described as enriching a "dictator." At least the Donald doesn't pretend it's about "democracy," which is refreshing.

So here we have the real answer. And keep in mind that I'm no fan of the current Venezuelan crew. Maduro's a thug, but importantly he's not the US deep state's thug. The US is fine with thugs — prefers them, actually — but they need to be "their thug."



It's not that the US needs oil. It has plenty of its own, but controlling the global supply does two things. One, it allows for control, but the other is that the USD is tied to oil as it's priced in oil. The Venezuelans have been naughty boys and have been selling their oil to other naughty countries that the West doesn't like and in currencies outside of the USD. The mechanisms for controlling this crucial trade have been both coups, outright war, and, of course, sanctions.



With the value of USD linked to the value of oil at a time when demand for dollars may be falling, controlling oil supplies means you can largely affect the value of the USD. Consider that when oil prices rise, countries need more dollars to purchase oil, thus increasing demand for the currency. This maintains the dollar dominance.

THERE HAS BEEN A STRONG CORRELATION BETWEEN OIL PRICES AND THE VALUE OF THE US DOLLAR

- Oil priced in USD: Oil is typically priced in US dollars, making the dollar the global currency for oil trade.
- Dollar demand: When oil prices rise, countries need more dollars to purchase oil, increasing demand for the currency.
- Dollar strength: Higher oil prices often lead to a stronger US dollar, as investors seek safe-haven assets and the dollar's value appreciates.
- Inflation concerns: Rising oil prices can fuel inflation concerns, leading to higher interest rates and a stronger dollar.
- Global trade: Oil is a significant component of global trade, and a strong dollar makes oil more expensive for other countries, potentially reducing demand and slowing economic growth.

In 2007, when Venezuela nationalised its oil industry, taking control of the country's oil reserves and kicking out US oil companies led to panic.

HUGO CHAVEZ NATIONALIZED THE OIL INDUSTRY IN VENEZUELA :

- To gain control over the country's natural resources and revenue.
- To address exploitation by foreign oil companies: ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, and Chevron.
- To use oil revenue to fund social programs and economic development.



Chavez Nationalizes Venezuelan Oil Fields

MAY 1, 2007 - 6:00 AM ET
HEARD ON MORNING EDITION
By Juan Forero, Steve Inskeep

BARCELONA, Venezuela — President Hugo Chávez's government took over Venezuela's last privately run oil fields Tuesday, intensifying a power struggle with international companies over the world's largest known single petroleum deposit.

Newly bought Russian-made fighter jets streaked through the sky as Chávez shouted "Down with the U.S. empire!" to thousands of red-clad oil workers, calling the state takeover a historic victory for Venezuela after years of U.S.-backed corporate exploitation.



Why? Because before nationalisation, US oil companies had total control over Venezuela's oil industry. They were extracting oil under concession agreements, which gave them all the profit and also control over production.

OIL UNDER CONCESSION AGREEMENTS, GAVE

1. Up to 80% of oil profits: US companies kept a large share of the profits, leaving Venezuela with a smaller percentage.
2. Limited royalties: Venezuela received limited royalties, around 1-3% of gross production.
3. No control over production: US companies controlled production levels, exploration, and extraction methods.

Chavez's nationalization of foreign-owned industries is part of global pattern

By [Gerry Everding](#) | February 9, 2007

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Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's recently announced plan to nationalize the telecommunications and electricity industries in his country sent shockwaves through boardrooms at Verizon, AES and other U.S.-based corporations with large holdings in Latin America.

While politicians, pundits and stock analysts heralded the plan as the leading edge of a