

The Venezuelan government has been working to implement policies to alleviate the country's poverty and mobilize the people to take part in the process of constructing socialism and defending the Bolivarian Revolution. However, as discontent has risen over the economic conditions due to US sanctions, the CIA has exploited the situation to intervene in the political process by funding opposition parties and directing them in uprisings against the Maduro government. In response, the government has issued protective measures including curfews, arrests, and other repressive measures on opposition protests that have turned violent. While positions vary among the people as to the results of the state repression, the majority of the people assert that it has protected the state and therefore safeguarded the continuing Bolivarian Revolution.

The US and its NATO allies are hellbent on crushing the Bolivarian Revolution and shackling the Venezuelan economy to imperialist capital accumulation. The US has openly admitted time and again that it seeks regime change by any means necessary.

US rival states have a variety of interests when it comes to Venezuela. China, Russia, and Iran all have strong ties with the country. China regularly provides loans, Russia provides weapons and military advisors, and Iran provides specialists in oil production to advise industry managers. The constant attacks that these countries face from the US mean they benefit from having a regional bulwark against US hegemony.

Countering US-led myths against Venezuela

“Venezuela is a dictatorship” Overemphasis is given in Western media to acts of state repression and the context through which state forces are deployed is often taken grossly out of context to make the government look like it is based only on militarism.

“The Venezuelan economy is in crisis because the government is corrupt” US sanctions are the key factor leading to the crisis of the Venezuelan economy.

“Venezuelan elections are rigged” Venezuela's elections are some of the most transparent in the world, with vote counting going through multiple steps by both government and independent bodies to maintain legitimacy.

“Venezuela stole oil and land from the US” This myth refers to the oil fields and other infrastructure formerly owned by US transnational corporations that were nationalized upon Chavez coming to power. These have always been Venezuelan sovereign assets and resources the people should have the right to decide what to do with.

“Venezuela is a ‘Narco-Terrorist State’” Data from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime show that Venezuela plays a minor role in the drugs trade, mostly as a transit route. By claiming that Venezuela is a state sponsor of terrorism and Maduro himself is a drug kingpin, the US sets the pretext for war in the same way it did for Afghanistan in 2001, Iraq in 2003, and Vietnam and many other sovereign nations before and after.

“The sanctions only target the government” The US has admitted to attempting to make the people of Venezuela's lives unlivable so they'll accept US-led regime change.

Political Advisory on the Fight Against US-Led Aggression of Venezuela

Adapted from the Educational Resource of the Month of Action released 01/04/26 by International League of Peoples' Struggles, Resist US-Led War Movement, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, and International Women's Alliance

On January 3rd 2026, the United States conducted a bombing operation in Caracas and other areas of Venezuela and kidnapped President Nicolás Maduro, the leader of a sovereign nation, to be tried on US soil under bogus “narco-terrorism” charges.

This advisory is meant to counter the myths and propaganda currently being perpetuated about Venezuela by the US-led imperialist offensive. The need for international solidarity with Venezuela is stronger than it has ever been. As residents of the United States, we must arm ourselves with a clear analysis of the situation to demand an end to the US aggression and expose the myths that lie at the foundation of US justifications for war.

Current situation between Venezuela and the US

Starting in August 2025, the United States began deploying its military arsenal in the Caribbean Sea, positioned to attack and provoke Venezuela. Since then, they have continued to escalate their aggression against Venezuela, including:

- Falsely declaring Venezuela's democratically-elected government as a “narco-terrorist” state in order to justify invasion and regime change;
- Conducting at least 30 extrajudicial airstrikes against what are likely fishing boats and migrants who have been accused without any evidence of being drug cartel members, killing over 100 people (as of January 3, 2026).
- Confirming covert CIA operations are taking place within Venezuela;
- Deploying over 15,000 military troops and the world's largest warship in history off of the shores of Venezuela and conducting provocative military exercises with them;
- Declaring a no-fly zone over the country and its surrounding waters;
- Seizing at least 3 oil tankers with an open intention to steal the oil for US use; and
- Declaring the drug fentanyl, the substance alleged by the US of being trafficked by Maduro into the US, as a “Weapon of Mass Destruction” to further justify invasion.

These aggressions may be the most undisguised acts of US-led imperialism we've seen in our lifetimes, but it must be noted that the actions of the current US administration are just a continuation of the country's history of attempting to control Venezuelan oil revenues and stifle the Venezuelan people's – and all the world's people's – access to and desire for sovereignty and self-determination.

Historical context

Venezuela won its liberation from Spanish colonialism in 1823 through a popular revolution for national liberation led by Simon Bolivar. After the revolution, the country was ruled by US- and Western Europe-backed puppet regimes, and once oil was discovered in the country, a comprador class of Venezuelans acting in the interest of imperialists, who gave foreign powers control over the country's resources and labor.

As a result, Venezuela was withheld genuine independence until 1999, when Hugo Chavez won the presidential election with mass public support as part of the nationwide movement known as the Bolivarian Revolution, which took the patriotic spirit of Simon Bolivar's anti-colonial struggle against Spain and infused it with socialist characteristics to call for land reform, nationalized industries, and genuine political independence.

Chavez and his party, the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), spearheaded policies that greatly redistributed the government's wealth into social spending programs for the country's working class. He also redirected Venezuelan foreign policy towards mutual cooperation with countries in Latin America, international solidarity with people's movements and national liberation struggles around the world, and anti-imperialist defense against further US intervention in Venezuelan matters.

The US response to Chavez' election was to launch a coup attempt in 2002 via the CIA in order to bring back to power a pro-US puppet regime that would reverse Chavez' anti-poverty policies and re-privatize the oil industry. The coup failed due to popular mass mobilization for Chavez.

Next, the US began a crippling sanction regime with the stated goal of making the Venezuelan people's lives so difficult and miserable that they would turn against the PSUV. The US accompanied the sanctions with a global black propaganda and media distortion campaign and funding for opposition groups to turn the justified anger of the masses from the sanctions-driven economic crisis against the Chavez regime.

Hugo Chavez died in 2013 and Nicolás Maduro was elected president. The US, under Presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden, took advantage of this regime change and Venezuela's already crisis-stricken economy due to US sanctions to endorse different opposition candidates and undermine democracy in Venezuela.

The latest disinformation campaign to justify regime change has been the claim that Maduro is a "narco-terrorist," thus calling upon the rhetoric of both the War on Drugs and War on Terror doctrines that the US has used for regime change in Latin America and around the world for decades.

Despite the deadly mix of sanctions, disinformation campaigns, and meddling in elections, the US has yet to succeed at the regime change it so desperately wants to inflict upon Venezuela to take back control of the country's oil and crush the ongoing Bolivarian Revolution.

The most recent escalation of this history was the outright invasion of Venezuela and the capture of President Maduro by US forces we all saw on January 3rd 2026.

Conditions of the people of Venezuela

Sanctions: The sanctions the US has waged against the Venezuelan people have made lives incredibly destitute. Sanctions have blocked not only basic goods from being imported, but items like manufacturing tools and agricultural inputs too, making it difficult for industry and food production to develop. Inflation has been staggeringly high: in some years, a bag of rice or flour has cost more than a month's minimum wage and drinking water has sometimes cost more than gasoline. These conditions led to a massive wave of out-migration of Venezuelans seeking better conditions elsewhere. However, the Venezuelan people and government have been working to reverse the trend, with GDP increasing 9.32% during the first quarter of 2025, despite the ongoing sanctions regime.

Attacks against boats: US drone strikes against Venezuelan boats amount to nothing less than premeditated acts of murder of civilians by the US military. In at least one instance, a boat that was targeted was intentionally hit a second time to kill the survivors, proving lethal intent beyond shadow of a doubt. The US justification for these attacks is that the boats have been transferring drugs to the US, but the people on the boats have instead been migrants attempting to journey to the US or fisherfolk engaged in food production.

Deliberate targeting of Venezuelan migrants: Venezuelan migrants leaving the country due to the harsh economic crisis primarily fueled by US sanctions were given priority for entry into the US over other nationalities for a time as part of the US's smear campaign against the PSUV. Both the Biden and Trump administrations have targeted Venezuelan migrants for detention and deportation as a priority over migrants from other countries.

Socialist construction: Despite the hardships faced by the people due to US-led aggression, the Venezuelan people have shown incredible resiliency and creativity in wielding their sovereignty and working towards economic self-sufficiency. One example of this is the state-sponsored commune system in which neighborhoods are given state funds to use for creating agricultural plots and shared water and power systems that are managed as cooperatives and whose planning is conducted in coordination between government units and local residents' mass organizations. The government also provides free education and healthcare to all of its citizens and low-income or free housing to families in need as part of its program of alleviating poverty.

Key players and their interests

The Venezuelan people are the key players in self-determining the economic and political direction of Venezuelan society. There are a multitude of political parties in Venezuela and a wide variety of political views among the people, but the overwhelming majority of the Venezuelan people vehemently oppose any foreign intervention from the US.