We negate, Resolved: The United States should end its economic sanctions against Venezuela.

Our first argument is that the alternative to sanctions is deadly conventional war.

While sanctions might not be the perfect approach to a complex Venezuelan crisis, Trump's policy substitutes his use of conventional war. Peter Harrell for Foreign Policy this October explained: economic sanctions are [Trump's] administration's foreign-policy weapon of choice. [In] Venezuela, sanctions and other coercive economic tools are central to...maximum pressure campaigns.

Absent sanctions, executive power and Trump's goals would encourage him to deploy conventional warfare. The Washington Post's Gregory Weeks wrote this year: Trump stated that his administration had..a possible military option [for Venezuela], if necessary. The U.S. policy logic remained focused on military defection, ramping up the pressure on the Venezuelan economy.

Lifting sanctions would thus undermine Venezuela, as Weeks concludes: historical use of force...consistently undermined Latin American democracy. It contributed to militarization and violence...U.S. military intervention would involve long-term occupation, and undermine democracy and increase violence in the long term.

The result of a conventional war would be deadlier than sanctions. Doug Bandow for the National Interest in 2018 predicts: Resistance might turn into a civil war, multiplying casualties...Deaths likely would be in the thousands… [For example, the U.S. invasion of Iraq after removing sanctions killed 2.4 million people].

Our second argument is that lifting Venezuelan Sanctions would prevent long term reforms.

While sanctions cause economic pain, they are all about creating permanent progress. Professor Michael Warman of the London School of Economics writes: sanctions are...associated with higher levels of democracy in the targeted state...in states targeted by sanctions, authoritarian leaders are more likely to lose power and... change their basic political institutions.

However, reform in Venezuela would be ruined by sanctions in two ways. The first is by emboldening the government.

Keeping sanctions allows for progress with the current Venezeulan government. The leader of Moises Rendon of the Center for Strategic and International Studies explains this year: economic sanctions limited [Maduro's] ability to finance his regime's antidemocratic activities by reducing oil and illegal mining earnings...he and his inner circle are more limited than ever in their capacity to travel and engage with financial assets.

However, absent sanctions, the government would play the game by its corrupt rules. Antoly Kurmaenev for the New York Times writes this year: [before sanctions], poor governance, corruption and misguided policies of President Nicolás Maduro... fueled runaway inflation, shuttered businesses and brought [Venezuela] to its knees.

Keeping Maduro weak, and these policies out of line is the only option. Allison Fedirka for the Geopolitical Futures Organization in September confirms: Washington has come up with a new plan: negotiate a transition directly with the Maduro government. It's been able to do this only because the sanctions imposed on Venezuela have weakened the government enough to force it to the negotiating table.

The second by crashing the oil market.

The Economist Intelligence Unit writes: that American sanctions prevent venezuela from selling their high demand oil to America, depriving them of large sources of income, and have deterred major US companies from cooperating with or investing in Venezuelan oil.

Absent sanctions, Venezuela would kill the market. Teran in 2019 reports that if US sanctions are lifted, Venezuela would immediately flood the market with an additional 1 billion barrels of oil per day, leading to massive instability within the oil sector.

This cap on oil is important for the market. Steven Austin explains for the UN in 2015 that: "because modern oil exploration is financed through bonds and bank loans, reducing oil prices would trigger a stock market collapse if and when producers default on their loans, snowballing into an effect similar to the 2008 recession.

The cumulative result of creating economic pains would be ruining Venezuela's economic solutions.

Venezuela is opening itself up to foreign creditors. Jose Arrojia at Bloomberg reported just this week: Maduro...is offering a payback to Wall Street creditors as part of a long-shot effort to get the Trump administration to reverse [sanctions]...[Venezuela] discussed a plan to pair up creditors, who hold some $60 billion of defaulted bonds, with a foreign drilling company that would be granted the rights to some of the country's richest oil fields.

This is not just an isolated example, but a general trend. Kejal Vyas of The Wall Street Journal reports: Maduro's..government, long a practitioner of tight state control of the economy, has...begun implementing free-market policies to tame hyperinflation and correct an economic contraction worse than America's Great Depression...Maduro regime's easing off [brought] hyperinflation rate down from seven to six figures

Liberalization is the path to the future for Venezuela. Hausmann on the Council On Foreign Relations in 2017 writes that reform could liberalize Venezuela's economy and revive its productive capacity, ending a process that has pushed 82 percent of the population into poverty.