# NC – Leverage/Intervention

We negate

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

## Our First Contention is Losing Leverage.

**Mendrala** writes in **2019** that sanctions on Venezuela serve as leverage as they are the reason why Venezuela’s authoritarian leader, Nicolas Maduro, came to the negotiating table last year. The United States is committed to removing sanctions in exchange for concrete actions to restore democracy and end human rights abuses. The Trump administration could effectuate successful negotiations between Maduro and the opposition by offering sanctions relief in return for policy reforms.

This is critical now more than ever as **Donmez** writes on January 2nd of this year that Maduro made clear that he is ready to have a new dialogue with President Trump, to turn a new page in 2020.

Unfortunately, by ending sanctions before these talks can happen, the United States loses critical leverage over the Maduro government, thus taking away Maduro’s incentive to make concessions and ensuring that the talks fail.

Ensuring these talks continue are critical because they are leading to policy reforms right now.

**Domnez** reports in **2019** that recent talks lead to a policy of exchanging oil for food and eliminating taxes on a large number of items, which will lower the price and make it affordable for everyone to access food. Maduro has also given Venezuela a dose of the free market by allowing the dollar to circulate. **Fiola** adds in **2019** that Maduro has backed away from certain socialist policies and because of this, the inflation rate has decreased 100-fold, allowing for prices to stabilize.

Increasing access to food in Venezuela is crucial as **Herbst** concludes in **2019** that 80% of the population is food insecure, so starvation is an everyday battle.

## Our Second Contention is Preventing an Intervention.

**Hodgson** writes in **2019** that Venezuela is now in a stalemate that gives two bad options: another Cuba, with poverty for generations, or a military intervention akin to Panama in 1989.

Fortunately, in the status quo, according to **France 24 News** in **2019**, the Secretary of State has made clear that the US did not plan a military intervention in Venezuela, though the Trump administration has vowed to remove Maduro.

Unfortunately, ending economic sanctions would change this policy of military restraint as **Telesur** explains in **2017** that Trump’s financial sanctions are a crucial alternative to military intervention.

Ultimately, ending sacntions, would cause the administration to intervene militarily for 2 reasons.

The first is to ensure Trump’s reelection.

**Smiley** reports in **2019** that President Trump knows he must win Florida to win the 2020 election. For this reason, he has sought to make inroads in Florida’s Hispanic community by imposing sanctions on Venezuela. **Groppe** furthers in **2019** that the administration’s tough stance against Maduro is very popular among Florida’s Venezuelan and Cuban population, a crucial bloc of voters in the nation’s largest swing state. **Sesin** continues in **2019** that small fluctuations in this battleground state are extremely important. Venezuelans in Florida will vote for Trump solely on this issue. **Groppe** corroborates that Trump will do everything he can to win this state, as no Republican candidate has won the White House without winning Florida in over a century.

Thus, maintaining a hardline stance on Venezuela is crucial. If sanctions end, Trump will pursue an intervention instead.

The second reason is to counter Russian and Chinese influence.

**McKay** reports in **2019** that Russia and China are using Venezuela as a proxy conflict to challenge the U.S. Thus, **O’Connor** reports in **2019** that the U.S. has sought to counter this growing Chinese and Russia influence. Currently, the US has been doing this though sanctions. **Elyatt** reports in **2019** that because Russia is so involved in Venezuela’s energy industry, US sanctions directly harm Russia. While the US is refraining from militarization right now, **Starr** reports in **2019** that the Pentagon has developed military options for Venezuela aimed at deterring Russian and Chinese influence. But, without the ability to counter Russia and China through sanctions, the US would be forced to implement these military options.

Overall, an intervention in Venezuela is not improbable. **Hynes** explains in **2019** that the US has intervened in Latin American conflicts 56 times since 1890.

The impact is war.

**Mora** reports in **2019** that an intervention would last for months, killing thousands of civilians. The result would be anarchy. Militias and other armed groups would wreak havoc and millions of Venezuelans would flee. The United States would likely be forced to send in ground troops, but the complexity of the country's geography means that troops would stay in Venezuela for longer than intended.

Thus, we negate.

# Cards

## C1 Losing Leverage

#### Donmez ‘20

Beyza Donmez, Jan 2 2020, Anodolu Agency, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/maduro-says-venezuela-ready-for-talks-with-us/1690317>

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said he is ready to set up talks with the U.S. after a year of tension. "I am a man of dialogue! With [U.S. President] Donald Trump or with whom the U.S. governs: whenever, wherever and however they want, we are ready for a dialogue with the highest respect and dignity to establish new basis of relations that contribute to the stability of the region," Maduro tweeted late Wednesday, showing his will to open a new page in 2020 with the Trump administration. Tension escalated between two countries after the U.S. threw support behind opposition leader Juan Guaido at a time when he engaged in a power battle with Maduro at the beginning of 2019. Washington has been focusing on economic and diplomatic strain against Maduro, including imposing sanctions against him, his top officials and several governmental departments as it seeks to increase pressure on Caracas.

#### Mendrala ‘19

Emily Mendrala is a former National Security Council and State Department official in the Obama administration. She is the executive director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas, where she promotes U.S. policies of engagement toward the Americas, December 26, 2019, https://thehill.com/opinion/international/475791-bipartisan-consensus-on-venezuela-talks, Bipartisan consensus on Venezuela talks

As time passes, it becomes clear that the only way forward is for Venezuela’s parties to negotiate a path toward new elections. It’s true. Several rounds of negotiations between Venezuela’s two main factions have ended without agreement, but the Trump administration could effectuate the bipartisan congressional goal of successful negotiations between Maduro and Guaidó by making clear that it would consider partial sanctions relief if conditions for free and fair elections are agreed upon. Congress unequivocally has signaled its bipartisan support for negotiations and for an active, productive U.S. role. Now, action rests with the Trump administration. For its part, the State Department has demonstrated some willingness to consider sanctions flexibility. Just last week, U.S. Special Representative for Venezuela Elliott Abrams [said](https://www.c-span.org/video/?467619-1/venezuela-envoy-elliott-abrams-briefs-reporters-state-department) of negotiations toward free and fair elections, “The sooner the better … that’s the way out.” In October, in [public remarks](https://www.csis.org/events/are-sanctions-working-venezuela), Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Carrie Filipetti stated, “Sanctions are why [Nicolás] Maduro came to the table in the first place. And they continue to be a negotiating point, as we are committed to removing sanctions in exchange for concrete and meaningful actions to restore the democratic order, end human rights abuses, and combat corruption in Venezuela.” As time passes, it becomes clear that the only way forward is for Venezuela’s parties to negotiate a path toward new elections. It’s true. Several rounds of negotiations between Venezuela’s two main factions have ended without agreement, but the Trump administration could effectuate the bipartisan congressional goal of successful negotiations between Maduro and Guaidó by making clear that it would consider partial sanctions relief if conditions for free and fair elections are agreed upon.

#### Chovanec ‘18

Steven Chovanec. June 11 2018. “Venezuela's Elections Were Not Free or Fair – They Were Undermined by the US.” Venezuelan Analysis. https://venezuelanalysis.com/analysis/13870

The government had been engaged in internationally mediated talks with the opposition for two years prior to the elections. After arduous negotiations, the two sides agreed on a number of points and were prepared to sign an agreement. On the day of the planned signing, the government showed up but [the opposition didn’t](https://venezuelanalysis.com/News/13647), announcing that they would not sign. The blame for the breakdown was [clearly placed](https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Ex-Prime-Minister-Zapatero-Criticizes-Venezuelan-Opposition-20180207-0046.html) by mediators and witnesses. In a similar fashion, one of the [main demands](https://www.investigaction.net/en/us-state-dept-we-want-elections-in-venezuela-now-unless-were-not-guaranteed-a-win-in-which-case-theyre-illegitimate/#sthash.BNvkc9DK.uxfs) of the United States and the opposition was—for years—[for elections to be moved forward](https://venezuelanalysis.com/news/12904). The implied message being that Maduro would lose them if they were, his refusal to do so therefore meaning that he is stalling for time. During the negotiations, the election date of April 22 was agreed upon by both sides as a compromise, [according to](https://therealnews.com/stories/un-rapporteur-us-sanctions-cause-death-in-venezuela) UN Rapporteur Alfred de Zayas and [international mediators](https://venezuelanalysis.com/News/13647). After the talks broke down, the government announced that the vote would still be held on the agreed upon April 22 date. The opposition immediately [denounced the move](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/21/world/americas/venezuela-election-opposition-boycott.html) and vowed to boycott the vote, saying the date [did not provide them with enough time](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-politics/venezuela-government-opposition-mediation-talks-flounder-idUSKBN1FR2W0).

#### Domnez ‘19

Beyza Donmez. Nov 11 2019. “Venezuela: Gov't, opposition agree on major deals.” AA. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/venezuela-govt-opposition-agree-on-major-deals/1649610>

Delegations of Venezuelan government and opposition agreed on three points that focus on economic and political matters at the National Table established for dialogue. President Nicolas Maduro also participated in the meeting held at Miraflores Palace on Monday, according to the Caracas-based TV channel TeleSur. Claudio Fermin, leader of Solutions for Venezuela Party, said after the meeting that during two months of negotiations they have made important progress and "Venezuelans already see a way to start designating a new National Electoral Council", in the face of the 2020 parliamentary elections. Fermin also said complementary tables have been set up to discuss emergency economic measures and political party issues. Communication and Information Minister Jorge Rodriguez detailed the three points advanced at the dialogue table as follows: 1. Establishment of an electoral board guaranteed for the 2020 parliamentary elections, which includes a new National Electoral Council. 2. Actualization of the exchange of oil for medicine and food and eliminate taxes on a large number of items, which will lower the price and make it affordable for everyone. 3. National reconciliation.

#### Fiola ‘19

Anthoy Fiola, December 25, 2019, Washington Post, Christmas in Caracas: Socialist Venezuela flirts with the free market, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/a-fake-walmart-cases-of-dom-perignon-and-the-almighty-dollar-inside-socialist-venezuelas-chaotic-embrace-of-the-free-market/2019/12/23/ca4f2072-21c3-11ea-b034-de7dc2b5199b_story.html?arc404=true>

CARACAS, Venezuela — Last Christmas, devastated Venezuela saw shortages of everything from tinsel to toilet paper. This year, the socialist government has given a weary nation an unexpected holiday gift. A dose of the free market. President Nicolás Maduro is making tentative moves away from the socialist policies that once regulated the prices of basic goods, heavily taxed imports and restricted the use of the U.S. dollar. As a result, the South American nation’s economic free fall is beginning to decelerate. The national inflation rate — still the world’s highest — has slowed from a blistering 1.5 million last year to a relatively breezy annualized rate of 15,000 percent. The changes might be temporary, and amount largely to an economic Band-Aid. There are no signs, for instance, of a larger strategy to reverse the agricultural land grabs and company seizures that helped lay the groundwork for one of the worst economic implosions of modern times. But as the new measures take hold, once-empty store shelves have overflowed this holiday season with beef, chicken, milk and bread — albeit at prices so high that a significant segment of the population is actually worse off. More moneyed Venezuelans, however, are flocking to dozens of newly opened specialty stores — including at least one fake Walmart — brimming with stacks of Cheerios, slabs of Italian ham and crates of Kirkland Signature Olive Oils, much of it bought and shipped in containers to Venezuela from Costco and other bulk retailers in Miami. Maduro remains deadlocked in a political standoff with opposition leader Juan Guaidó and his backers in Washington, who have ratcheted up pressure to force his ouster. But U.S. sanctions against Venezuela do not appear to have crimped surging imports — mostly because they prevent Americans from doing business with only the government, not private Venezuelans. “The government had been unable to restart the economy any other way, so it’s doing what the people want” by giving in to the free market, said Ricardo Cusano, president of Fedecamaras, Venezuela’s chamber of commerce. The socialists are still in power, he said, but “they have lost the ideological war.” Plagued by hyperinflation and economic collapse, depressed Venezuelans dubbed last Dec. 25 the “Christmas without lights” — a day largely bereft of the traditional holiday bunting and toys for children. But as the economy begins to show modest signs of life — particularly in the relative bubble of Caracas, the capital — there have been visible changes on the streets. Meager Christmas markets opened to peddle baubles to a slightly more optimistic populace. More holiday decorations popped up inside stores, along with, proprietors say, more parents buying toys and clothing for children. The capital is suffering its worst traffic jams in years as car owners with greater access to imported spare parts drag long out-of-commission vehicles back onto clogged roads. The eased restrictions have made the holiday season merrier for a small minority of rich Venezuelans, many of whom live in mansions behind high walls in Eastern Caracas. The tip piggy bank in an imported goods store in Caracas is stuffed with dollar bills. (Andrea Hernández Briceño/For The Washington Post) Adult-sized mannequins in Santeria Iyawo attire tower over a child-sized mannequin at El Cementerio market in Caracas. (Andrea Hernández Briceño/For The Washington Post) “There were things you just couldn’t get — dishes you just couldn’t make,” said Pablo Gianni, manager of Anonimo, a lavish new Caracas eatery that opened this month complete with a glass-walled wine cellar stocked with shelves of four-figure vintages of Dom Pérignon. “But now, it’s like legal contraband,” he said. “They’re letting everything in.” The changes taking shape here are the product of a combination of factors. For years, the government strictly limited the use of the U.S. dollar, long portrayed as an instrument of Yanqui imperialism. But last year, the government freed the exchange rate and more broadly legalized dollar transactions. It also eliminated massive import taxes on a host of goods. But those measures have begun to work through the economy really only in recent months, as the government has taken the further step of abandoning attempts to control retail prices. Stocks of bread, chicken and beef that once sold for nearly nothing are now being sold at market rates, at least partly normalizing farm production and sales through supply chains. Just as importantly, there are simply far more dollars in the Venezuelan economy now. About 4.5 million Venezuelans have fled starvation and poverty in recent years, creating a global diaspora that collectively sent $3.5 billion in remittances this year — more than triple the amount two years ago, according to Ecoanalitica, a Caracas-based economic analysis firm. In addition, economists say, the economy is awash in dollars from illegal mining, drug trafficking and other illicit activities. By some estimates, there are three times as many dollars in circulation as bolivars, creating a de facto dollarization of the economy that is stabilizing inflation. Last month, even Maduro seemed to hail the almighty dollar. “I don't see the process they call dollarization as bad,” he said in nationally televised comments. “It can aid the recovery of the productive areas of the country and the functioning of the economy.” Across Venezuela, mechanics and electricians, engineers and architects are increasingly charging in greenbacks. More companies are supplementing their employees’ salaries with U.S. currency. Collectively, economists say, 60 to 70 percent of families here are now regularly receiving some dollars — buying even some Venezuelans of more modest means a merrier Christmas this year. [Maduro’s ex-spy chief lands in U.S. armed with allegations against Venezuelan government] “Last year was very hard for us. There was practically no Christmas,” Yelitza Mineros, 33, said as she eyed the prices in dollars at a Caracas toy store with her 7-year old son and 3-year old daughter. Her husband, a mechanic, began earning in dollars a few months ago, she said, giving them the extra money they needed to buy new clothes for their children. Her son, Rodrigo, held up a Spider-Man action figure with a big grin as she spoke. “This year, we’re doing better, and we can get them their toys,” she said. “That gives me a lot of joy.” After last year’s “Christmas without Lights,” the decorations have returned to Caracas. (Andrea Hernández Briceño/For The Washington Post) Venezuela remains deeply mired in the worst economic crisis in modern Latin American history. Years of chronic mismanagement and, to a lesser extent, U.S. sanctions including an oil embargo have severely damaged the lifeblood of the economy: petroleum production. Venezuelans, including residents of the relatively shielded capital, are struggling with worsening gasoline shortages, lingering blackouts and broken state hospitals. And more food on store shelves doesn’t mean everyone can eat. In western Caracas, for instance, a grocery store that last year sold price-controlled products and suffered from shortages was now well now stocked with goods ranging from imported motorcycle helmets to Diet Coke. But with two chicken thighs at $1.70 and butter at $2 in a nation with a minimum wage of $6 a month, the aisles were mostly devoid of shoppers.

#### Rapoza ‘19

Kenneth Rapoza, Senior Contributor to Forbes, May 3, 2019,<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2019/05/03/no-u-s-sanctions-are-not-killing-venezuela-maduro-is/#659c9f8e4343>

But Venezuela is not the Middle East. U.S. policies are not the reason why Venezuela is a mess, as Omar said this week on the Democracy Now! radio program. The U.S. is not making Venezuela any worse than it is or will become under existing leadership. Her view mimics many left-of-center voices critical of the regime change policies that began under Bush and Cheney. [The ruling Socialists United of Venezuela is, point blank, the only reason why Venezuela is a mess.](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.forbes.com%2Fsites%2Fkenrapoza%2F2019%2F05%2F03%2Fno-u-s-sanctions-are-not-killing-venezuela-maduro-is%2F&text=The%20ruling%20Socialists%20United%20of%20Venezuela%20is%2C%20point%20blank%2C%20the%20only%20reason%20why%20Venezuela%20is%20a%20mess.) And president Nicolas Maduro is its leader. Maduro governs a failed state. Fifty other countries, including Colombia, Brazil, the U.K. and Spain, all agree. Brazil and Colombia are currently catering to around one million Venezuelans who have fled the country. Some have preferred taking their children out of school and living in United Nations tents in Colombia instead of Maduro's Venezuela. Maduro's incompetence, of which the Socialists United rallies around, is killing Venezuela. Not Trump. Not Elliot Abrams. Not Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. This is not a pre-emptive strike, searching for terrorists under beds and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The economy began its deep decline years ago, in the Obama years. It has been in an economic depression for three years. Obama first sanctioned members of the Maduro Administration in 2015. Trump later sanctioned Maduro's Vice President Tareck El Aissami for drug trafficking in February 2017. Later that year, U.S. companies were banned from providing financial assistance (as in loans) to one company only, oil firm PdVSA.

#### Herbst ‘19

John E. Herbst and Jason Marczak, September 2019, Atlantic Council, “Russia’s intervention in Venezuela: What’s at stake?,” <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/russias-intervention-in-venezuela-whats-at-stake/>

Meanwhile, day-to-day life in Venezuela continues to deteriorate. Food insecurity and malnutrition are at sky-high levels. As noted in the Bachelet report, in April 2019 the Venezuelan minimum wage, which sits around $7 per month, only covers 4.7 percent of the basic food basket. More than 80 percent of households in Venezuela are food insecure, with the majority of those interviewed as part of the Bachelet investigation consuming only one meal per day.39 The report highlights that, as a result of hyperinflation and the disintegration of Venezuelan food production, an estimated 3.7 million Venezuelans are malnourished. Children and pregnant women are the demographics most likely to suffer from malnutrition in Venezuela. Survival is a struggle. As a result, Venezuelan refugees filed more asylum claims globally in 2018 than citizens of any other country, including Syria.40 If the situation does not improve, the number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees is expected to reach around 8 million in 2020, surpassing total Syrian migration numbers by more than 3 million.

## C2 Intervention

### Intro

#### Hodgson ‘19

Fergus Hodgson, 21 March 2019, Frontier Centre for Public Policy, <https://fcpp.org/2019/03/27/six-takeaways-from-venezuelas-dystopia/>

Venezuela is now in a [stalemate](http://asymmetrica.net/venezuela-humanitarian-aid-rebuffed-now-what/) that gives two bad options: another Cuba, with poverty and tyranny for generations, or a [military intervention](https://www.theepochtimes.com/think-tank-calls-for-backing-venezuelas-resistance_2684202.html) akin to Panama in 1989-1990. The latter would be a difficult undertaking, given the presence of Cuban, Russian, and Chinese agents, along with major organized-crime syndicates and terrorist organizations.

#### France 24 News ‘19

12 Feb 2019, <https://www.france24.com/en/20191202-pompeo-defends-military-restraint-on-venezuela-1>

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made clear Monday that the United States did not plan a military intervention in Venezuela even as he vowed that leftist leader Nicolas Maduro would one day fall. In a speech on Latin America, Pompeo renewed President Donald Trump's promise to battle socialism across the hemisphere but said his policy in Venezuela was "mixed with restraint." "We've seen folks calling for regime change through violent means, and we've said that all options are on the table to help the Venezuelan people recover their democracy and prosperity," Pompeo said at the University of Louisville.

#### Telesur ‘17

29 August 2017, <https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Venezuela-Constituent-Assembly-Debates-Response-to-US-Sanctions-20170829-0009.html>

The president of the assembly, Delcy Rodriguez, recalled that opposition leaders had issued a communique at the weekend, "calling for and justifying all these actions and calling on other governments to apply similar sanctions." She explained that U.S. President Donald Trump’s financial sanctions are an alternative to military intervention, which was met with rejection even from U.S.-allied regional right-wing governments. Rodriquez stated that the purpose of these attacks' was to further destabilize the country and “intensify the economic aggression against the Venezuelan people.”

### 1 – Reelection

#### Sesin and Lederman ‘19

Carmen Sesin and Josh Lederman. April 7 2019. “Venezuelan-Americans welcome Trump's tough talk. Republicans hope that will mean votes.” NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/venezuelan-americans-welcome-trump-s-tough-talk-republicans-hope-will-n991131>

DORAL, Fla. — As Richard Yepez and his daughter sat down for lunch at El Arepazo, a popular Venezuelan restaurant in this South Florida suburb dubbed “Dorazuela” for its large Venezuelan population, their thoughts turned to someone a thousand miles away: President Donald Trump. “Trump is the first president to follow through on his promise for Venezuela,” said Yepez, a 50-year-old audio-visual engineer, who said he was convinced Trump backs the exile community because of his hawkish criticism of embattled leftist president Nicolás Maduro. Asked if he will vote for Trump in 2020, Yepez said, “I sure will.” His U.S.-born daughter, Catherine, a 25-year-old Democrat who attends college in the Washington area, said she’s also also considering voting for Trump, adding: “I have strong feelings, being Venezuelan.” Republicans working for a second term for Trump and other GOP victories in 2020 are looking for a boost from Venezuelan-American voters like Yepez and his daughter and other Latinos who they say will reward the president for his forceful push against Maduro. The Trump administration has tightened the screws on Venezuela, slamming sanctions on individuals, oil and banks and recognizing opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who declared himself interim president in January. Trump has also pulled U.S. diplomats out of the country and even hinted at potential U.S. military action, saying "all options are on the table." In turn, the administration’s bold moves against what it calls Venezuela’s “socialist” government appear to be energizing Venezuelan-Americans and other Latino voters in this swing state, where races are won by thin margins. “I think that will be a huge impact,” said Yali Nuñez, the Republican National Committee’s director of Hispanic media. “You’re going to see Venezuelans voting for Republicans. You’re going to see a lot of people based on this issue solely voting for President Trump.” Rick Wilson, a Florida-based Republican strategist critical of Trump, said that while opposing the Venezuelan government was good politics in his state, any net benefit for Trump would probably be marginal. Although Trump lost the Latino vote badly in 2016 — winning only 28 percent nationally and 35 percent in Florida according to exit polls — he doesn’t need to win a majority to have an impact. In a battleground state that Trump carried in 2016 by only 112,911 votes, even small fluctuations can be important.

#### Smiley ‘19

David Smiley. May 25 2019. “Donal Trump must win Florida in 2020 if he wants to remain president. And he knows it.” https://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/article230401629.html

Donald Trump must win Florida in 2020 if he wants to remain president. And he knows it. The part-time Florida resident has [spent more time here](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/05/23/trump-has-visited-more-than-twice-many-red-states-blue-ones-president/?utm_term=.eb8207802aa5) than any location outside of Washington since becoming president, and not just because he likes golf. His campaign is [dedicating resources](https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-campaign-hires-nine-regional-directors-for-2020-election-11557355628) to the state and its 29 electoral college votes as if it were an entire region. He’s made further inroads in South Florida’s diverse Hispanic community by increasing [financial pressures](https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article229919294.html) against leftist regimes in Venezuela and Cuba. And [according to the L.A. Times](https://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-trump-florida-democrats-latinos-20190513-story.html), Trump now plans to roll out his 2020 campaign with an event located along the Interstate-4 corridor, which cuts across battleground Central Florida

#### Groppe ‘19

Martin Groppe & Deirdre Shesgreen, 1 Feb 2019, USA Today – Knox News, <https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/politics/2019/02/01/trump-venezuela-policy-also-good-2020-politics-key-state-florida-maduro-guaido/2730779002/>

Embattled Venezuelan President [Nicolás Maduro](https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/world/2019/01/31/venezuela-nicolas-maduro-says-u-s-invasion-would-worse-than-vietnam/2729781002/) might not have been listening Friday when Vice President Mike Pence gave a microphone to exiled Venezuelans living in South Florida. But Pence's trip to Miami, to showcase the administration's hard-line efforts to oust Maduro, is likely to resonate with an all-important bloc of Latino voters in the nation's largest swing state. And that could help another embattled president: Donald Trump. No Republican presidential candidate has won the White House in nearly a century without carrying Florida – a state also known for its razor-thin election margins. "It’s very hard to see a scenario where the president gets re-elected without winning Florida," said Democratic strategist Steve Schale who ran Barack Obama's 2008 campaign in Florida. Trump's [tough stance](https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/world/2019/01/28/trump-slaps-sanctions-venezuelas-state-owned-oil-company/2704814002/) on Maduro is very popular in Florida among that state’s Cuban and Venezuelan populations, which account for more than 1.5 million of the state's 21 million residents. It also resonates with the Colombian community, which is growing in political importance in Florida's most populous county: Miami-Dade.

### 2 – China/Russia

#### McKay ‘19

McKay, Hollie. Jan 30 2019. “Why Russia, China are fighting US push against Venezuela’s Maduro.” Fox News. https://www.foxnews.com/world/why-russia-china-are-fighting-us-push-against-venezuelas-maduro

“Russia and China are using Venezuela as a proxy conflict to challenge the U.S. This is more than just economic support. Russia and China are leveraging its economic support to establish a military-industrial presence in Venezuela,” Joseph Humire, executive director of the Center for a Secure Free Society, an independent global research group, told Fox News. “It's a geopolitical chess game.” But if it's a chess game, it's one that goes along with a massive and sobering military threat that's no game at all, with China and Russia standing to lose a lot if Maduro is replaced by a U.S.-backed government. For starters, China has a satellite tracking facility at the Capitán Manuel Rios Air Base in Guárico, while Russia has a cyberpresence at the Naval Base Antonio Diaz "Bandi" in La Orchilla, an island north of Caracas. “This adds space and cyberspace capabilities that the Maduro regime does not have,” Humire pointed out. “For Russia and China, pressuring the U.S. via Venezuela adds leverage to their regional ambitions in Ukraine and Eastern/Central Europe (for Russia) and Taiwan and South China Sea (for China).” Yet the weaker Venezuelan becomes, the greater the potential Russian or Chinese hand in the region. “Maduro still sits on the largest proven oil reserves in the world. That’s the grand prize. China could say that the more Venezuela becomes a pariah, the cheaper they want it,” noted the intelligence insider. “And the more leverage Russia then has to build a bigger base in the Western Hemisphere, and closer to the United States nonetheless.”

#### Blackwell ‘19

Blackwell, Ken. Dec 2 2019. “Venezuela: U.S. National Security and the Threats of Russia and China.” Townhall. https://townhall.com/columnists/kenblackwell/2019/12/02/venezuela-us-national-security-and-the-threats-of-russia-and-china-n2557291

The thought of the world’s largest supply of recoverable oil falling into the hands of Russia and China is not a far flung idea. And with that, a fleet of warships docked on the coast of the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, positioned to threaten the American national security. If America eventually surrenders its influence in Venezuela, this scenario could become Reality. As of now, Nicolas Maduro is the ruthless socialist dictator of a crumbling Venezuela. Desperate to maintain his grip on power, it is very likely he will cede control of Venezuela’s oil industry to the Russians and Chinese in exchange for the two countries doubling down on financially backing his country’s collapsing economy and his withering dictatorship. President Trump has taken the right approach by enacting tough sanctions on the illegitimate Maduro government and has correctly thrown his administration’s support behind the opposition party leader, Juan Gauido, but improving the situation for the people of Venezuela is slow-going. China and Russia continue to bankroll the Maduro regime to protect their investment in Venezuela’s massive oil reserves, the largest oil fields in the world. Russia is financially backing Maduro with debt-for-oil deals and military hardware, while Maduro has agreed to grant [Russian warships](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-politics-russia-warships/russia-venezuela-sign-deal-on-warship-visits-to-each-others-ports-ifax-idUSKCN1V51PF) access to Venezuelan ports, de facto naval outposts for Russian operations in the Western Hemisphere. Maduro and members of his government have also attended meetings with Vladimir Putin to bolster their ongoing relationship with Russia. There is an estimated [300 to 500 billion barrels](https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2009/3028/pdf/FS09-3028.pdf) of recoverable oil in Venezuela with an estimated value well into the trillions. It makes little sense to allow a global energy asset to fall into the hands of Russia and China. If America’s energy industry is forced to vacate Venezuela, it leaves the fractured nation wide open to becoming a Russian or Chinese puppet state and much better positioned to be a serious threat to U.S. national security. This scenario can be averted if the Trump team continues to allow American energy companies ongoing permission to operate in Venezuela. American energy companies have become a lifeline for many Venezuelans still living and working there. The Trump administration has so far permitted American energy operations to remain online, which should continue. The economic sanctions that President Trump imposed on the Maduro government are working and the president is right to collaborate with other nations in bringing an end to the Maduro regime. But America should not sacrifice a 100-year relationship with Venezuela’s energy industry, and forfeit access to the world’s largest oil fields as part of a plan to end Maduro’s corrupt regime.

#### O’Connor ‘19

Tom O’Connor. Jan 29 2019. “CHINA JOINS RUSSIA IN BACKING VENEZUELA AGAINST U.S. MOVES, WARNS OF 'SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES' TO DONALD TRUMP'S PLAN.” Newsweek. https://www.newsweek.com/china-back-venezuela-warns-consequences-1309716

Beijing and Moscow have increasingly attempted to align their foreign policies in recent years in the face of what they see as Washington's hegemony abroad. The U.S. has, for its part, accused its top two global competitors of undermining a "rules-based international order." The U.S. has also sought to counter growing Chinese and Russia influence in Latin America, where Washington has for decades intervened against leftist and socialist movements, including an alleged CIA role in the 2002 coup attempt against Maduro's predecessor, Hugo

#### Ellyatt ‘19

Holly Ellyatt. Jan 29 2019. “Russia and China condemn new US sanctions on Venezuela.” CNBC. https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/29/russia-and-china-condemn-new-us-sanctions-on-venezuela.html

Russia is also heavily involved in Venezuela’s energy industry with Russian energy firm Rosneft holding a large stake in a subsidiary of PDVSA. PDVSA used 49.9 percent of its shares in its U.S. subsidiary Citgo as collateral for loan financing from Russia’s majority state-owned Rosneft in 2016. Russia thus stands to suffer from U.S. measures to freeze PDVSA’s oil transactions and those of its U.S. asset Citgo (to which most of the Venezuela’s exports destined for the U.S. go). Citgo has already become a focus for Maduro’s rival Guaido. Just ahead of U.S. sanctions Monday, the self-proclaimed interim president ordered Congress to appoint new boards of directors to PDVSA and Citgo.

#### Starr ‘19

Barbara Starr. April 15 2019. “Pentagon developing military options to deter Russian, Chinese influence in Venezuela.” CNN. https://www.cnn.com/2019/04/15/politics/pentagon-venezuela-military-options/index.html

The Pentagon is developing new military options for Venezuela aimed at deterring Russian, Cuban and Chinese influence inside the regime of President Nicolas Maduro, but stopping short of any kinetic military actions, according to a defense official familiar with the effort. The deterrence options are being ordered following a White House meeting last week where national security adviser John Bolton told acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan to develop ideas on the Venezuela crisis. The official emphasized strongly that the initial work is being done by the Pentagon's Joint Staff, which conducts planning for future military operations along with the Southern Command, which oversees any US military involvement in the southern hemisphere.

#### Hynes ‘19

H. Patricia Hynes, Common Dreams, 25 August 2019, <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/08/25/economic-sanctions-war-another-name>

Recall the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 from grade school history?  President James Monroe proclaimed that European nations could not colonize nor otherwise interfere in North and South American countries.  Ironically, since 1890, the U.S. has intervened in Latin American elections, civil wars and revolutions at least 56 times, according to historian and author Mark Becker, to bolster US corporate interests and to eliminate democratically elected governments and leftist movements.

#### Shepp ‘19

Jonah Shepp, 29 January 2019, NY Magazine, <http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2019/01/venezuela-trump-more-harm-than-good.html>

It’s too early to say whether Guaidó will ultimately prevail, but he still has many cards to play, while Maduro — no mastermind of statecraft — is running out of ways to placate the public and the armed forces amid a crumbling economy caused by his government’s catastrophic mismanagement. While it’s hard to gauge public opinion in an authoritarian country, the socialist ruling party [appears](https://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2019/01/28/who-supports-the-psuv-in-venezuela-just-about-no-one/#442de550457b) to have lost a great deal of public support as the economy has collapsed and the humanitarian crisis has mounted. Maduro continues to receive support in the international sphere from Russia, China, Turkey, Iran, Cuba, and a few other countries, lending a Cold War feel to the standoff. The wild card remains the military: The top brass remains loyal to the regime, but the rank and file may be swayed by Guaidó’s amnesty proposal, which could change the generals’ calculus as well.

#### New York Times ‘17

New York Times. Aug 12 2017. “Trump Alarms Venezuela With Talk of a ‘Military Option’. https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/12/world/americas/trump-venezuela-military.html

President Trump’s remarks on Friday that he would not rule out a “military option” to quell the chaos in Venezuela set off a late-night diplomatic duel, with the defense minister accusing Mr. Trump of “an act of madness” and the White House saying it had turned away a call from Venezuela’s president. About an hour later, the White House issued a statement saying that Mr. Trump had refused to take a phone call on Friday from Venezuela’s president, Nicolás Maduro. “Today, Nicolas Maduro requested a phone call with President Donald J. Trump,” the White House said. “President Trump will gladly speak with the leader of Venezuela as soon as democracy is restored in that country.” “We have many options for Venezuela, including a possible military option, if necessary,” Mr. Trump said. The defense minister said to expect a more detailed diplomatic response on Saturday.

#### Mora ‘17

Frank O. Mora. November 8 2017. “What Would a U.S. Intervention in Venezuela Look Like?” Foreign Affairs. https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2017-11-08/what-would-us-intervention-venezuela-look

In August, [U.S. President Donald Trump](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/topics/trump-administration) said that the United States was [considering using military force](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/12/world/americas/trump-venezuela-military.html) to resolve the crisis in [Venezuela](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/regions/venezuela). His announcement was quickly condemned by the United States’ allies in Latin America and the Caribbean as reckless and counterproductive. Yet there are some, mostly in the Venezuelan exile community, who still insist that a U.S. military intervention to remove the dictatorship of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro would be worth the cost. Not since [the United States](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/regions/united-states) invaded [Panama](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/panama/1989-12-01/dwindling-options-panama) in 1989 had a U.S. president threatened to use force for political ends in the Americas, and for good reason. There are no longer any military challengers to the United States in the region. Today, the Pentagon focuses on helping Latin American governments dismantle drug trafficking networks, deal with insurgents, and respond to natural disasters. It does not plan military interventions in the region, although it certainly could, if ordered to do so. If the military were to make such plans for Venezuela, policymakers would need to answer a few important strategic questions. First, they would need to lay out the political goals of the intervention. When states use or threaten military force, their objectives are usually straightforward: they tend to seek either a shift in policy or regime change. In Venezuela’s case, that might mean pressuring the Maduro government to recommit to the rule of law and to enter into a serious dialogue with the opposition, or removing it from power entirely.

### Impact

#### Mora ‘19

Frank O. Mora, March 19 2019, "What a Military Intervention in Venezuela Would Look Like," Foreign Affairs, https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/venezuela/2019-03-19/what-military-intervention-venezuela-would-look

In the worst-case scenario, a precision strike operation would last for months, killing possibly thousands of civilians, destroying much of what remains of Venezuela’s economy, and wiping out the state security forces. The result would be anarchy. Militias and other armed criminal groups would roam the streets of major cities unchecked, wreaking havoc. More than eight million Venezuelans would likely flee. The chaos would likely lead the United States to send in ground troops in order either to finally dislodge the regime and its security forces or to provide security once the dictatorship had collapsed. Such a scenario is not improbable. Indeed, the most likely outcome of a campaign of air strikes is that the Venezuelan armed forces would disintegrate. The United States, perhaps with international partners, would then have no option but to send troops to neutralize Venezuela’s irregular armed groups and restore order while a new government and security apparatus established themselves. How long such a peacekeeping occupation would last is hard to say, but the difficulty of the project and the complexity of the country's geography suggest that troops would stay in Venezuela for a lot longer than the few months for which they might initially be sent. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, for example, lasted 13 years in a much smaller country. GROUND INVASION Rather than launching precision strikes and getting sucked into a ground war later, the United States might choose to go all-in from the beginning. That would mean a major intervention, including both air strikes and the deployment of at least 150,000 ground troops to secure or destroy airfields, ports, oil fields, power stations, command and control centers, communications infrastructure, and other important government facilities, including the president’s residence, Miraflores Palace. The invading army would face 160,000 regular Venezuelan troops and more than 100,000 paramilitaries. The most recent large-scale U.S.-led military interventions, in Afghanistan in 2001 and in Iraq in 2003, both required U.S. troops to remain after the initial invasion for nearly 20 years. By 2017, the two interventions had involved more than two million U.S. military personnel and cost more than $1.8 trillion. More than 7,000 U.S. service members have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. The costs of an intervention in Venezuela, which is free of the kind of sectarian divides that plague Afghanistan and Iraq, would likely not come near those numbers, but they would likely be significant. There’s no such thing as risk-free military action. Butin this case, the social, economic, and security costs of intervening far outweigh the benefits. Whether the United States launched limited air strikes or a full ground invasion, it would almost certainly get sucked in to a long, difficult campaign to stabilize Venezuela after the initial fighting was over. Such an engagement would cost American lives and money and hurt the United States’ standing in Latin America. An extended occupation would reignite anti-Americanism in the region, particularly if U.S. soldiers committed real or perceived abuses, and it would damage U.S. relations with countries outside the region, too. Finally, a war-weary American public is unlikely to stand for yet another extended military campaign

# F/L

### A2 Invasion Hurts Re Election

1) If there are voters that will not vote for Trump because of military actions, then he already lost them by attacking Iran.

2) prefer voting for us because we give you the details. They don’t tell you which voters he will lose, what states that costs him, and how that effects 2020. We on the other hand, isolate the bloc of voters and the specific state with evidence on how the loss of that voting bloc would end up costing him 2020. It is a lot easier to vote for us because we give you the specifics.

3) the response falls because of how the electoral college system works. Trump can lose 1% of voters across the nation without it effecting his chances at reelection. Last time, he won the election without winning the popular vote because he understands how to use the system which is why he is so vehemently pursuing Venezuelan voters.

### A2 Need Congressional Approval

Trump, as the commander-in-chief, has the authority to take any military action ­– short of declaring war – without congressional approval according to past precedent and laws.

Waxman ’18, Matthew C Waxman, War on The Rocks, 19 November 2019, <https://warontherocks.com/2019/11/war-powers-oversight-not-reform/>

Proposals for overhauling war powers take many forms. Some recommend scrapping the War Powers Resolution and requiring advance consultation and subsequent votes of approval or disapproval by Congress. A proposed “[War Powers Consultation Act](https://www.kaine.senate.gov/press-releases/kaine-mccain-introduce-bill-to-reform-war-powers-resolution),” for example, would direct the president to confer with Congress before ordering troops into significant conflicts and would require Congress to vote in support or disapproval of the conflict within 30 days. Some would like to see the existing War Powers Resolution [enforced more assertively](https://www.vox.com/2019/5/27/18634590/nancy-pelosi-donald-trump-supreme-court-war-power) and consistently by Congress, including through litigation seeking judicial enforcement of Congress’ prerogatives. Others believe that the resolution already [gives the president too much leeway](http://constitutionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2014.03.20_S.1939.pdf) — for instance, it allows the president to intervene for 60 days without congressional approval

Law Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/usconlaw/war-powers.php>

Litany of Examples click on the link

The fourth part of the law concerns Congressional actions and procedures. Of particular interest is Section 1544(b), which requires that U.S. forces be withdrawn from hostilities within 60 days of the time a report is submitted or is required to be submitted under Section 1543(a)(1), unless Congress acts to approve continued military action, or is physically unable to meet as a result of an armed attack upon the United States. Section 1544(c) requires the President to remove U.S. armed forces that are engaged in hostilities "without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization" at any time if Congress so directs by a Concurrent Resolution [(50 USC 1544 (external link))](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/50/1544). Concurrent Resolutions are not laws and are not presented to the President for signature or veto; as a result the procedure contemplated under Section 1544(c) is known as a "legislative veto" and is constitutionally questionable in light of the decision of the United States Supreme Court in [INS v. Chadha](http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0462_0919_ZS.html), 462 U.S. 919 (1983). Further sections set forth expedited Congressional procedures for considering proposed legislation to authorize the use of U.S. armed forces, as well as similar procedures regarding proposed legislation to withdraw U.S. forces under Section 1544(c) ([50 U.S. 1545-46a](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/50/1545)).

#### Touchberry 19

Ramsey Touchberry. June 21 2019. Newsweek. https://www.newsweek.com/can-trump-strike-iran-without-congressional-approval-1445294

Generally, Democrats tend to argue that Trump would need to seek authorization from Congress to initiate certain military operations against a foreign adversary. Many Republicans, on the other hand, point to past precedent and laws that suggest that — short of declaring war — the commander-in-chief has the authority to take action on his own.

### A2 Brings About Regime Change

#### Malt ‘16

Malt, Stephen M. April 25 2016. “Why is america so bad at promoting demoracy in other countries?” Foreign policy. https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/04/25/why-is-america-so-bad-at-promoting-democracy-in-other-countries/

At the risk of stating the obvious, we do know what doesn’t work, and we have a pretty good idea why. What doesn’t work is military intervention (aka “foreign-imposed regime change”). The idea that the United States could march in, depose the despot-in-chief and his henchmen, write a new constitution, hold a few elections, and produce a stable democracy — presto! — was always delusional, but an awful lot of smart people bought this idea despite the [abundant evidence](http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/isec_a_00117#.VxeRn4QyA_U) against it.

The historical record disproves. When the US supported a military coup to unseat Chavez, not only did it fail but as a result, Chavez systematically destroyed other Venezuelan institutions that supported democracy as well as allowing the military to engage in profitable criminal activity to keep them happy.

#### Greiner ‘19

Greiner, Michel. Jan 27 2019. “What the Crisis in Venezuela Tells Us About Democracy.” Medium. https://medium.com/s/story/what-venezuela-tells-us-about-american-democratic-institutions-e11c38f98977

Around the same time, a military coup supported by the U.S. attempted to unseat Chavez. After initial successes, officers loyal to Chavez put down the rebellion. As a result, Chavez purged the government of anyone he perceived to be disloyal and systematically destroyed other Venezuelan institutions that supported democracy. To keep the military happy, Chavez [allowed it to engage](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-politics-military/venezuela-crisis-puts-influential-military-in-spotlight-idUSKCN0YB23U) in profitable criminal activity and corruption.

### A2 We Can Use Diplomacy

We have taken our last possible shot at diplomacy – giving Maduro a way out. Even after guaranteeing him full amnesty if he were to step down from power now, he has not conceded his control. The Department of State believed this to be the last possible attempt for diplomacy in the negotiations and yet, it failed. NOTHING WORKS WITH THIS DUDE.

#### Ortagus ‘19

Ortagus, Morgan. Department of State Spokesperson. U.S. Department of State Press Statement. May 25 2019. “Continued U.S. Support For Democracy in Venezuela.” https://www.state.gov/continued-u-s-support-for-democracy-in-venezuela/

The United States supports the desire of the Venezuelan people to recover their democracy and bring the illegitimate Maduro regime to an end. Previous efforts to negotiate an end to the regime and free elections have failed because the regime has used them to divide the opposition and gain time. Free elections cannot be overseen by a tyrant. As we have repeatedly stated, we believe the only thing to negotiate with Nicolas Maduro is the conditions of his departure. We hope the talks in Oslo will focus on that objective, and if they do, we hope progress will be possible. We wish to note that today marks the 17th day since the arrest and disappearance of Edgar Zambrano, First Vice President of the Venezuelan National Assembly, the country’s last remaining democratic institution. Since his detention, Mr. Zambrano has had no contact with his family or his attorneys, and his location is unknown. Today also marks more than two months since the imprisonment of Roberto Marrero, an attorney and chief of staff to Interim President Juan Guaido. They are but two of the 800 political prisoners the Maduro regime held as of May 20. We join supporters of democracy in Venezuela throughout the world in condemning their illegal imprisonment by the Maduro regime and in demanding their immediate release.

Also, a US National Security Adviser said and I quote “The time for dialogue is over. Now is the time for action.” The US has moved on from diplomacy to other strategies as it continues to prove unworking.

#### Bolton ‘19

John Bolton. REF/RL. August 6 2019. “Stop Supporting Venezuela’s Maduro, U.S. Tells Russia and China.” Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty. https://www.rferl.org/a/stop-supporting-venezuela-s-maduro-u-s-tells-russia-and-china/30096356.html

\*\*Bolton is a FIRED US national Security Adviser\*\*

"The time for dialogue is over. Now is the time for action," Bolton said. "We will ensure that Maduro runs out of ways to financially sustain himself." Venezuela's Foreign Ministry denounced the fresh sanctions as "another serious aggression by the Trump administration through arbitrary economic terrorism against the Venezuelan people." Russia's Foreign Ministry said Washington's restrictive measures were illegal and amounted to "economic terror," according to RIA Novosti news agency.

(If the say Bolton is a hardliner and Trump fired him because he disagreed with him just say that obviously they agreed with some things and Trump only talked about Russia and NK when he fired him which means the probably agreed on Venezuela)

### A2 Trump Fired Bolton

#### Merco Press ‘19

Merco Press. Sept 11 2019. “Trump fires hyper hawk Bolton; ‘foreign policy remains unchanged’, Pompeo.” https://en.mercopress.com/2019/09/11/trump-fires-hyper-hawk-bolton-foreign-policy-remains-unchanged-pompeo

Famous for his large moustache and ever-present yellow legal pad, the hardline former US ambassador to the United Nations had pushed back against Trump's dramatic, though so far stumbling attempts to negotiate with the Taliban and North Korea's Chairman Kim Jong Un. According to US media reports, the president's extraordinary, failed bid to fly Taliban leaders into the presidential retreat at Camp David last weekend sparked a major row. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo cautioned that Bolton's exit should not be interpreted as heralding strategy changes. “I don't think any leader around the world should make any assumption that because someone of us departs that President Trump's foreign policy will change in a material way,” Pompeo told reporters. And Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin underlined that Trump and top aides remain “completely aligned” on Washington's crippling sanctions against Iran, known as the maximum pressure campaign.

Bolton's firing was due primarily to personality conflicts in the upper-echelon of Trump's foreign policy team and had very little to do with policy differences toward Iran.  In fact, the whole foreign policy team is composed of hawks.  Iran should never confuse Bolton's firing with a change of course in Trump's foreign policy towards Iran.  There has been no change in this regard, nor there will be one in the future under Mike Pompeo's management of the U.S. State Department.

As I indicated in my previous answer, John Bolton's firing will have minimal or no impact on U.S. foreign policy toward Iran.  Bolton was simply a bolt in the vast cog of the U.S. anti-Iran foreign policy machinery that has deep roots in various elements of the U.S. government, including the U.S. congress.

This incident clearly demonstrates that Bolton's dismissal didn't make a dent in the Trump administration's Iran policy and that the pro-war hawks in the U.S. are still very much in charge.

<https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2019/10/11/the_us_leaving_venezuelas_oil_sector_only_benefits_russia_and_china_110479.html>

# EXTRA

## OLD

#### TASS ‘19

TASS, November 21, 2019, <https://tass.com/world/1091567>, Venezuela’s government, opposition continue dialogue despite US pressure, says diplomat

A solution to the crisis in Venezuela should be found through ongoing dialogue between the government and the opposition and without outside interference, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters at a press briefing on Thursday. "We noted that the number of opposition protesters had decreased substantially. At the same time, the dialogue between the government and the opposition continues despite sanctions and pressure from Washington. We are glad that these efforts are supported in the region," she said.

#### Cordoba ‘19

Jose Cordoba, Wall Street Journal, August 29, 2019, “US and Venezuela have secret talks” , https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-and-venezuela-hold-secret-talks-11566434509

The Trump administration has been secretly talking with top aides of Nicolás Maduro in an effort to push Venezuela’s authoritarian president from power and clear the way for free elections in the economically devastated country, according to officials in Caracas and Washington familiar with the discussions. The talks have involved powerful Maduro lieutenant Diosdado Cabello, who heads the country’s National Constituent Assembly and has been put under sanctionsby Washington for alleged involvement in drug trafficking, and other important backers of the president in an effort to find a negotiated solution to the country’s crisis, these people said, adding the talks are at an early stage...Speaking to reporters Tuesday, President Trump confirmed U.S. officials are “talking to the representatives at different levels of Venezuela.” He wouldn’t identify them but said “we are talking at a very high level.” That statement prompted Mr. Maduro, in a televised speech Tuesday night, to announce that discussions had, indeed, been taking place. “We’ve had secret meetings in secret places with secret people that nobody knows,” he said, adding that Venezuela would “continue having contact” with the U.S.

#### Cordoba ‘19

Jose Cordoba, Wall Street Journal, August 29, 2019, “US and Venezuela have secret talks” , <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-and-venezuela-hold-secret-talks-11566434509>

The talks are taking place as other representatives of Mr. Maduro, led by Communications Minister Jorge Rodríguez and his sister, Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, have offered opposition negotiators the possibility of a presidential election in the coming months. That offer, made weeks ago during separate talks in Barbados,is considered an important breakthrough since Venezuelan government officials have publicly said they wouldn’t be pressured into holding a new vote. The opposition has demanded elections because Mr. Maduro was re-elected in 2018 in a vote widely seen as fraudulent, prompting the U.S. and more than 50 other governments to declare his presidency as illegitimate.

#### Krygler ‘19

Rachelle Krygler. August 8 2019. “Maduro’s government pulls out of talks with Venezuelan opposition over U.S. sanctions”. Washington Post. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/maduro-government-decides-to-pull-out-of-talks-with-venezuela-opposition/2019/08/07/81e0f2d6-b97f-11e9-bad6-609f75bfd97f\_story.html

The decision of President Nicolás Maduro to pull out of talks with Venezuela’s opposition cast a new shadow over hopes for a peaceful resolution to the political stalemate that has paralyzed the crisis-wracked South American nation. The sides had planned to sit down Thursday for a sixth round of [negotiations mediated by Norway](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/as-venezuelan-talks-resume-the-opposition-debates-concessions-over-maduros-exit/2019/07/09/1e0f2d0a-a1c3-11e9-a767-d7ab84aef3e9_story.html?tid=lk_inline_manual_2), but Maduro said he wouldn’t send a delegation to the talks in Barbados after President Trump ordered stiff new sanctions against his

government.

#### Oppenheimer ‘19

https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andres-oppenheimer/article238779133.html, Trump’s Venezuela policy is in disarray. He must put it back on his radar — now | Opinion, BY ANDRES OPPENHEIMER

Maduro’s death squads are responsible for about 6,800 extra-judicial executions between January 2018 and May 2019, many of the victims peaceful pro-democracy activists, according to a recent report by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet The U.N. report also documented the widespread use of torture against some of Venezuela’s more than 720 political prisoners, including electric shocks and suffocation with plastic bags. It’s a level of human-rights abuse that equals — and maybe exceeds — the worst times of South America’s military dictatorships of the 1970s More than 4.7 million Venezuelans have fled Venezuela over the past five years, according to the Organization of American States (OAS). The Venezuelan exodus could reach 10 million people in three years, according to OAS chief Luis Almagro. It already is straining the economies of several Latin American countries and could destabilize them politically, officials in the region say Yet, Maduro has been consolidating his dictatorship in recent months. Mexico and Argentina, once active members of the Lima Group of Latin American countries that withdrew their recognition of Maduro as Venezuela’s legitimate president following the fraudulent 2018 elections, have switched sides. The two countries’ new leftist presidents now recognize the Maduro regime Although it sounds like a joke, the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights Council — which is a separate institution from U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Bachelet’s office — recently accepted Venezuela as one of its 47 member countries. That was hailed as a major diplomatic victory by the Maduro regime, and further demoralized Venezuela’s opposition.

#### Korte ‘17

Gregory Korte. Aug 25 2017. “Trump imposes new Venezuelan Sanctions.” USA Today. https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/2017/08/25/executive-order-trump-imposes-new-round-venezuela-sanctions/601667001/

Trump has even raised the possibility of military action in Venezuela, although the White House seems to have focused more on economic and diplomatic sanctions. "In terms of military options or other options, there's no such thing any more as only a diplomatic option, or only a military option, or only an economic option. We try to integrate all the options together," McMaster said Friday. But he continued, "No military options are anticipated in the near future."

#### Lowi ‘12

Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, Caroline. “American Government”. W. W. Norton & Company Inc.

The Instruments of Modern American Foreign Policy What are the tools that American government officials use to achieve their foreign policy aims? How are diplomacy, economic strength, and military might deployed to advance American interests in the world?

#### Torres ‘19

Torres, Nora Gámez. July 23 2019. “U.S. willing to offer Maduro Guarantees he’ll be left alone if he leaves Venezuela.” Miami Herald. https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/venezuela/article232964207.html

With no resolution in sight for Venezuela’s leadership six months after the leader of the national assembly declared himself president, the Trump administration appears willing to offer guarantees to Nicolas Maduro that the U.S. will leave him alone if he leaves Venezuela. “The time has come to say, this is the opportunity you have, and we are willing to negotiate to close this chapter, but your opportunity is closing because now even the United Nations has created a case that could be used against you at The Hague,” the official said. “My concern is that it becomes a disincentive for him to find a way out. What we want to offer is ... this should be your chance to turn the page, now, before it’s too late. “ The United States was first in recognizing Guaidó as the legitimate president of Venezuela on Jan. 23. Since then, it has allocated more than $250 million for humanitarian aid and has sanctioned members of the regime, security agencies, and economic targets such as PDVSA, the state oil company — everything short of military action, even though government officials, Vice President Mike Pence and the president himself have repeated the phrase “all options are on the table” to the

media.

#### Bolton ‘19

John Bolton. REF/RL. August 6 2019. “Stop Supporting Venezuela’s Maduro, U.S. Tells Russia and China.” Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty. https://www.rferl.org/a/stop-supporting-venezuela-s-maduro-u-s-tells-russia-and-china/30096356.html

\*\*Bolton is a FIRED US national Security Adviser\*\*

"The time for dialogue is over. Now is the time for action," Bolton said. "We will ensure that Maduro runs out of ways to financially sustain himself." Venezuela's Foreign Ministry denounced the fresh sanctions as "another serious aggression by the Trump administration through arbitrary economic terrorism against the Venezuelan people." Russia's Foreign Ministry said Washington's restrictive measures were illegal and amounted to "economic terror," according to RIA Novosti news agency.

#### Jakes ‘19

Lara jakes. Aug 28 2019. “US Offers Amnesty to Venezuelan Leader, if he Leaves Power.” NYT. https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/28/world/americas/us-amnesty-venezuela-maduro.html

 A top American diplomat said the United States would not prosecute or otherwise seek to punish President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela if he voluntarily left power, despite bringing his country to the verge of economic collapse and humanitarian disaster. Elliott Abrams, the State Department’s special envoy for Venezuela, said he had seen no indication that Mr. Maduro was willing to step down. But his offer of amnesty was a message to Mr. Maduro after both countries’ leaders described high-level talks that Mr. Abrams unequivocally said did not happen. “This is not a persecution,” Mr. Abrams said of Mr. Maduro on Tuesday evening in an interview. “We’re not after him. We want him to have a dignified exit and go.” He added: “We don’t want to prosecute you; we don’t want to persecute you. We want you to leave power.”

#### ~~Torres ‘19~~

~~Torres, Nora Gámez. July 23 2019. “U.S. willing to offer Maduro Guarantees he’ll be left alone if he leaves Venezuela.” Miami Herald. https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/venezuela/article232964207.html~~

~~And the refugee crisis is getting worse by the day. With minimum wages of $8 per month, the lowest in the continent, and amid shortages of food and medicine, thousands of Venezuelans continue to emigrate to neighboring countries, threatening to double the current four million refugees by the end of next year.~~

#### Burchard ‘19

Hans Von Der Burchard, Politico, 21 July 2019, <https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-braces-for-trump-trade-war/>

His 2020 reelection campaign risks escalating the conflict, Hufbauer said: "Trump really believes that confrontation with foreign countries gets him votes." In an interview with POLITICO on Thursday, U.S. ambassador to the EU Gordon Sondland said Brussels should [get ready for "less whining, more action"](https://www.politico.eu/pro/donald-trump-trade-europe-us-ambassador-gordon-sondland-calls-on-ursula-von-der-leyen-to-restart-trade-talks/) from the Trump administration and warned that Washington had "a whole bunch of different tools" at its disposal, including car tariffs, that will have "immediate financial consequences for our friends in Europe.”

Osorio ‘19

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/venezuela/article235250772.html>

The number of Venezuela-born residents increased from 93,000 to 421,000 during that period and 52 percent of Venezuelan nationals live in Florida, 11 percent in Texas and 4 percent in New York, according to a [Pew Research Center analysis](https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/fact-sheet/u-s-hispanics-facts-on-venezuelan-origin-latinos/)of Hispanics in the United States.

#### Cohen ‘19

Cohen, Eliot A. Jan/Feb 2019. “America’s Long Goodbye; The Real Crisis of the Trump Era.” Foreign Affairs. https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/long-term-disaster-trump-foreign-policy

But the surface-level calm of the last two years should not distract from a building crisis of U.S. foreign policy, of which Trump is both a symptom and a cause. The president has outlined a deeply misguided foreign policy vision that is distrustful of U.S. allies, scornful of international institutions, and indifferent, if not downright hostile, to the [liberal international order](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2018-07-31/liberal-order-more-myth) that the United States has sustained for nearly eight decades. The real tragedy, however, is not that the president has brought this flawed vision to the fore; it is that his is merely one mangled interpretation of what is rapidly emerging as a new consensus on the left and the right: that the United States should accept a more modest role in world affairs.

#### Enten ‘19

Enten, Harry. Aug 13 2019. “Trump's base is very different than the swing voters he'll need in 2020.” CNN Politics. https://edition.cnn.com/2019/08/13/politics/trump-swing-voters-2020/index.html

The Trump base (i.e. those who approve of him overall) is overwhelmingly Republican. In total, 88% of voters who approve of Trump say they are either Republican or independents who lean Republican. This is why Trump seems loath to do anything that can alienate Republicans. They are his bedrock. A mere 7% of voters who approve of Trump are Democrats or independents who lean Democrattic. The other 6% are independents who lean toward neither party.

#### Patterson ‘19

Patterson, Richard North. Dec 6 2019. “Trump’s Personal Pathology Is America’s Foreign Policy.” The Bulwark. https://thebulwark.com/trumps-personal-pathology-is-americas-foreign-policy/

But in truth, it was even worse than that. In his infinite narcissism, Trump apparently means to exploit these intrusions to serve his reelection campaign, using our military leadership as a straw villain to rile his base. He was sticking up for our “warriors,” Trump brags, against the subversive “deep state.” In return, Lorance praises him on Fox News, and Gallagher calls Trump “a true leader and exactly what the military needs.” Already, Trump is musing aloud about taking Lorance, Golsteyn, and Gallagher with him on the campaign trail, and even parading them on stage at the 2020 Republican convention. To a president so devoid of constraints and detached from all but self, the laws of war, the chain of command, and the system of military justice meaningless abstractions. In Trump’s vision of the presidency, our professional military is little more than his personal property, expected to adhere to his amorality, and ever-ready to be exploited according to his will. Writ large, this comprehensive personalization of power results in a foreign policy based on transient self-gratification, conducted by man who, divorced from past or future, careens through international relations like a human wrecking ball.

The relentless engine of Trump’s external conduct is his own inner turmoil. But while it may be one thing, as Trump brags about himself, to be “unpredictable,” it is quite another to be unable to predict, or even anticipate, one’s own impulses. Immune to advice, hungry for headlines, and infatuated with his self-concept as a reality TV dealmaker, Trump has become a chew toy for cold-eyed realpoliticians with sustained strategic goals.

#### RFE/RL ‘19

REF/RL. August 6 2019. “Stop Supporting Venezuela’s Maduro, U.S. Tells Russia and China.” Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty. https://www.rferl.org/a/stop-supporting-venezuela-s-maduro-u-s-tells-russia-and-china/30096356.html

The United States has pressed Russia and China to withdraw what he called their "intolerable" support for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, as Washington steps up pressure on the Latin American leader to step down. Addressing an international conference on Venezuela in Lima, Peru, on August 6, U.S. national-security adviser John Bolton called on Russia not to "double down on a bad bet." Bolton also called on "all Cuban and Russian military and paramilitary forces to leave Venezuela immediately." And he told China that "the quickest route to getting repaid" for its loans to Venezuela was by supporting "a new legitimate government." The United States is one of more than 50 countries that do not recognize Maduro as Venezuela's legitimate president and are backing opposition leader Juan Guaido, who declared himself president in January. Russia and China are Maduro's most powerful allies. Moscow has admitted to sending military technicians to Venezuela as part of its defense cooperation with the South American country, but has denied deploying troops for military operations. On August 5, President Donald Trump imposed sweeping sanctions on the Venezuelan government, freezing its assets in the United States and barring transactions with it. "The time for dialogue is over. Now is the time for action," Bolton said. "We will ensure that Maduro runs out of ways to financially sustain himself." Venezuela's Foreign Ministry denounced the fresh sanctions as "another serious aggression by the Trump administration through arbitrary economic terrorism against the Venezuelan people." Russia's Foreign Ministry said Washington's restrictive measures were illegal and amounted to "economic terror," according to RIA Novosti news agency.

#### O’Connor ‘19

O’Connor, Tom. July 7 2019. “U.S. MILITARY PLANS TO BATTLE RUSSIA, CHINA AND IRAN'S 'MOST DISTURBING' INFLUENCE IN VENEZUELA.” Newsweek. https://www.newsweek.com/venezuela-us-battle-russia-china-iran-influence-most-disturbing-1448545

The head of the Pentagon's Southern Command warned that Russia, China and Iran were expanding their influence in Latin America, particularly in Venezuela, where they support a government the United States seeks to depose. "Russia, in their own words, is protecting their 'loyal friend,' to quote, by propping up the corrupt, illegitimate Maduro regime with loans and technical and military support," Faller said. "China, as Venezuela's largest single-state creditor, saddled the Venezuelan people with more than $60 billion in debt and is exporting surveillance technology used to monitor and repress the Venezuelan people. Iran has restarted direct flights from Tehran to Caracas and reinvigorated diplomatic ties." "Along with Cuba, these actors engage in activities that are profoundly unhealthy to democracy and regional stability and counter to U.S. interests," he added, calling for the "right, focused and consistent military presence" to counter these countries' "most disturbing" growing influence in the region. The U.S. has a decades-long history of intervention in Latin America and critics have linked the current crisis to Washington's historic attempts to stamp out leftist currents in the region. As with Russia, China and Iran have also defended their close relations with Maduro as legitimate and have accused the U.S. of hypocrisy for attempting to expand its presence south of its borders.

#### Rogan ‘19

Rogan, Tom. Feb 5 2019. “Why China wouldn’t stop the US military in Venezuela.” Washington Examiner. https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/why-china-wouldnt-stop-the-us-military-in-venezuela

Second, Jenkins embraces a misguided understanding of Chinese strategy and capability. Chinese President Xi Jinping's strategic objective is the reshaping of international order away from the U.S.-guaranteed system of free trade and democratic rule of law. Xi wants to replace that system with a Beijing-led feudal hegemony. That's why China is so focused on appropriating [U.S. intellectual property](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/5g-networks-the-trump-administration-and-beijings-delicious-fear). Yes, China retains a [strong relationship](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/what-if-china-sets-up-a-naval-base-in-venezuela) with Maduro and [other despots](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/china-russia-and-the-greater-morality-of-american-realism). But Xi is not an idiot. While his military power is improving, he knows China cannot [contest America](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/how-the-us-can-stop-nicolas-maduro-from-stealing-venezuelas-gold) in its own backyard. Xi also knows that a military showdown with the U.S. over Venezuela would bury his other economic interests with the United States (for example, a trade deal that removes U.S. tariffs and saves his domestic economy from its current slump). Jenkins should know all this. And he probably does. But what the British columnist prefers to buffer his own anti-intervention sentiment in a way that presents exceptional risks to those who might be in favor of intervention. His construction of a China-U.S. showdown obviously serves that interest. But it is wholly disingenuous.

#### ~~Thrall ‘19~~

~~Thrall, Trevor A. March 11 2019. “Why the United States Should Not Send the Military to Venezuela.” Cato Institute. https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/why-united-states-should-not-send-military-venezuela~~

~~But even though Maduro, like Chavez before him, is an autocratic leader with little interest in the welfare of his own people, he is just the tip of the iceberg. As in many corrupt states, Maduro rules Venezuela with the help of a~~ [~~circle~~](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fcommentisfree%2F2019%2Fjan%2F27%2Fno-pity-for-corrupt-maduro-who-has-broken-his-country-democracy-must-have-its-day&data=02%7C01%7Cosc_mb_iainsight%40orlandosentinel.com%7C83d095562d45438d4fec08d6a63a167a%7Cf7da0482aed242fa80233b240fb6598d%7C0%7C0%7C636879165754504387&sdata=6ZpW0xCuGU6yD9h7ji9RzfSgKEJgOYp4hBr4kmn0vAA%3D&reserved=0) ~~of civilian and military elites that he rewards with plum government jobs, sweetheart business deals and other carrots. Thousands of competent government employees have been replaced with incompetent cronies, which has led to decreasing oil production over the past fifteen years, mismanagement of the economy, and to increasing levels of drug trafficking supported by elements of the Venezuelan government. A partial analogy here is the attempt to rebuild the Iraq government, which took not only getting rid of thousands of Baathists loyal to Saddam Hussein — itself a large job — but also many years of painful and costly American occupation while Iraqis attempted, with limited success, to rebuild their economy. And in fact, Iraq scores just as poorly on Transparency International’s~~ [~~corruption index~~](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.transparency.org%2Fcpi2018&data=02%7C01%7Cosc_mb_iainsight%40orlandosentinel.com%7C83d095562d45438d4fec08d6a63a167a%7Cf7da0482aed242fa80233b240fb6598d%7C0%7C0%7C636879165754514397&sdata=EQoLeuGdOVcTctMipesjlHu4iIqFizHKBHSnFAYDVg8%3D&reserved=0) ~~as it did under Saddam Hussein and the same as Venezuela does today, both near the bottom of the global rankings. A military strike that toppled the government could also unleash more trouble. If Maduro were to fall, there is a possibility of widespread violence thanks to the “~~[~~colectivos~~](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bloomberg.com%2Fnews%2Farticles%2F2019-02-26%2Fmaduro-s-masked-thugs-unleash-terror-along-the-venezuelan-border&data=02%7C01%7Cosc_mb_iainsight%40orlandosentinel.com%7C83d095562d45438d4fec08d6a63a167a%7Cf7da0482aed242fa80233b240fb6598d%7C0%7C0%7C636879165754524402&sdata=rMTVdz43K2%2BtU%2FsA5WuGj%2BoD5J8tESSDbR%2FAqkReKEE%3D&reserved=0)~~,” pro-government collectives of civilians armed and trained by the government. These paramilitary groups, which operate across much of Venezuela, often act as a stand-in for the government, quashing domestic unrest and encouraging support for Maduro. As their power has grown, thanks to the central government’s inability to extend control over the whole country, they have become increasingly dangerous.~~ [~~Experts estimate~~](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2017%2F04%2F22%2Fworld%2Famericas%2Farmed-civilian-bands-in-venezuela-prop-up-unpopular-president.html&data=02%7C01%7Cosc_mb_iainsight%40orlandosentinel.com%7C83d095562d45438d4fec08d6a63a167a%7Cf7da0482aed242fa80233b240fb6598d%7C0%7C0%7C636879165754524402&sdata=E1MQEiahavyYp8rIzaXhrLiBQOyRXBjaFKZ6o8O%2FIKY%3D&reserved=0) ~~that these groups control as many as 10% of Venezuela’s towns and cities. The strength of the colectivos should raise serious red flags about the prospects of an American military intervention. As the United States found in both Afghanistan and Iraq, a successful regime change is not the end of the violence, but the beginning. There is no reason to expect that things will be easier in Venezuela. An American intervention could also create obstacles for the future of Venezuela politics, as well as inflame anti-American sentiment. Nicolas Maduro~~ [~~told ABC News~~](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fabcnews.go.com%2FInternational%2Fmaduro-accuses-us-government-fabricating-crisis-start-war%2Fstory%3Fid%3D61215212&data=02%7C01%7Cosc_mb_iainsight%40orlandosentinel.com%7C83d095562d45438d4fec08d6a63a167a%7Cf7da0482aed242fa80233b240fb6598d%7C0%7C0%7C636879165754534411&sdata=dq6E0RaPr5DQWMpigCaqw6QeXGB6NuOQYcPxhoGLi0U%3D&reserved=0) ~~that Trump is “willing to go to war for [Venezuela’s] oil.” Whatever the reality, any American intervention is likely to be seen by many Venezuelans to be an unwarranted violation of their sovereignty and incentive to oppose any politicians or policies associated with American support.~~

## L1

#### Jones ‘19

Jones, Steve. "Democracy Promotion as Foreign Policy." ThoughtCo, Mar. 20, 2019, thoughtco.com/democracy-promotion-as-foreign-policy-3310329.

Promoting democracy abroad has been one of the main elements of [US foreign policy](https://www.thoughtco.com/foreign-policy-of-the-us-government-4118323) for decades. Some critics argue that it is harmful to promote democracy "in countries without liberal values" because it creates "illiberal democracies, which pose grave threats to freedom." Others argue that the foreign policy of promoting democracy abroad fosters economic development in those places, reduces threats to the United Staes at home and creates partners for better economic trade and development. There are varying degrees of democracies ranging from full to limited and even flawed. Democracies can also be authoritarian, meaning that people can vote but have little or no choice in what or whom they vote for. When rebellion brought down the presidency of [Mohammed Morsi in Egypt](https://www.thoughtco.com/current-situation-in-egypt-2352941) on July 3, 2013, the United States called for a quick return to order and democracy. Look at these statements from White House Press Secretary Jay Carney on July 8, 2013. After World War II, however, the United States could no longer retreat into isolationism. It actively promoted democracy, but that was often a hollow phrase that allowed the United States to counter Communism with compliant governments around the globe. Democracy promotion continued after the [Cold War](https://www.thoughtco.com/cold-war-timeline-1221188). President George W. Bush linked it to the post-9/11 invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

#### Malt ‘16

Malt, Stephen M. April 25 2016. “Why is america so bad at promoting demoracy in other countries?” Foreign policy. https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/04/25/why-is-america-so-bad-at-promoting-democracy-in-other-countries/

If you’re a dedicated Wilsonian, the past quarter-century must have been pretty discouraging. Convinced liberal democracy was the only viable political formula for a globalizing world, the last three U.S. administrations embraced Wilsonian ideals and made democracy promotion a key element of U.S. foreign policy. For Bill Clinton, it was the “[National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement](http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/doctrine/research/nss.pdf).” For George W. Bush, it was the “Freedom Agenda” set forth in his second [inaugural address](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyid=4460172) and echoed by top officials like [Condoleezza Rice](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2008-06-01/rethinking-national-interest). Barack Obama has been a less fervent Wilsonian than his predecessors, but he appointed plenty of ardent liberal internationalists to his administration, [declaring](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/23/remarks-president-united-nations-general-assembly), “There is no right more fundamental than the ability to choose your leaders.” And he has openly backed democratic transitions in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and several other

countries.

#### Congressional Research Service ‘19

Congressional Research Service. Jan 4 2019. “Democracy promotion: An Objective of U.S. Foreign Assistance.” https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R44858.pdf

Notably, the Bush Administration, with the support of Congress, channeled significant resources toward efforts to establish democratic processes and institutions in Iraq and Afghanistan following on and concurrent with U.S. military activities in these countries. The lack of clear success with these broadly supported and highly resourced efforts led many to question not only the specific strategies employed, but the whole concept of foreign-led democracy promotion and whether it was an appropriate use of taxpayers’ dollars. The Bush Administration “Freedom Agenda” was undermined, some argue, by the association of democracy promotion with military intervention, the use of counterterrorism measures that “undercut the symbolism of freedom,” and free elections in the Middle East in which Islamist parties made gains, in conflict with U.S. interests.34 Recent democracy promotion efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and in several countries in the wake of the Arab Spring, have led some to conclude that these efforts are destined to fail because they attempt to induce social and structural changes in societies that U.S. policymakers do not fully understand. The results may not only be ineffective, but may have unintended consequences such as regional instability. Democracy promotion advocates argue that it is a mistake to focus on the Iraq and Afghanistan examples, which reflect the shortfalls of military intervention more than democracy promotion, and cite positive results in less publicized situations such as Colombia, Indonesia, Myanmar (Burma), Slovakia, and Tunisia.

#### Korte ‘17

Gregory Korte. Aug 25 2017. “With executive order, Trump imposes new round of Venezuela Sanctions.” USA Today. https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/08/25/executive-order-trump-imposes-new-round-venezuela-sanctions/601667001/

President Trump has signed a new executive order imposing sanctions on Venezuela, further isolating the regime of Nicolás Maduro as it cracks down on democratic protests sweeping the oil-rich but cash-poor South American country. It's the fourth round of U.S. sanctions this year on Maduro and his inner circle, 30 of whom have had their U.S. assets seized. "This order demonstrates more clearly than ever that the United States will not allow an illegitimate dictatorship to take hold in the Western Hemisphere at the expense of its people," National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said Friday. The executive order was signed Thursday but not immediately disclosed until after it went into effect at midnight Friday — a tactic designed to prevent sanctions evasion.

#### Trump ‘19

President Donald J. Trump. May 1 2019. “Democracy in Venezuela.” Whitehouse.gov. https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-stands-democracy-venezuela/

President Donald J. Trump supports Interim President Guaido and the Venezuelan people in their fight for liberty and justice. The United States stands with Interim President Juan Guaido, the democratically elected National Assembly, and all Venezuelans who seek to restore democracy and the rule of law. The people of Venezuela are standing up against the illegitimate, brutal rule of Nicolas Maduro, making it clear that he must relinquish power and leave the country. The United States calls on the Venezuelan military and security forces to protect all Venezuelans and accept Interim President Guaido’s legitimacy and offer of amnesty. The United States Government will hold accountable all those who threaten the safety of the Venezuelan people or the restoration of Venezuelan democracy. Maduro is desperately trying to keep the people of Venezuela from hearing Interim President Guaido’s message. BROAD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT: The United States and its regional allies and partners are supporting the effort to restore democracy and stability in Venezuela. The United States and its partners have sanctioned Maduro and over 100 of his cronies and enablers, limiting their ability to loot the assets of the Venezuelan people and cutting off their illicit sources of wealth.

The United States has also imposed major sanctions against Venezuela’s state-owned oil company and major banks that have served as slush funds for Maduro and his cronies.

**1**~~Until very recently, attempts at negotiations were failing terribly.~~ **~~Krygler~~** ~~for the Washington post reports in early August of 2019 that Maduro had backed out of talks with his opposition citing US sanctions as the reason why. But as the effect of stiff new sanctions have set in, the situation has changed.~~

**2**~~Furthermore, when the negotiations became public information, Maduro did not back out as he did in the past. Instead he admitted the talks were happening and insisted that they would continue.~~

**3**~~Additionally, sanction-less diplomacy fails as~~ **~~Jakes~~** ~~reports for the NYT in 2019 that the US offered Maduro complete amnesty if he left power but he didn’t take it. With every other option exhausted, US diplomacy falls without sanctions.~~