

Ryan and I affirm:

[Resolved: The US should end its economic sanctions against Venezuela]

Contention One is Water

Kurmanaev '19 of the New York Times writes that in the past, Venezuela's public water system was an engineering feat, efficiently pumping water along hundreds of miles of pipelines.

Indeed, **The World Health Organization finds**: until 2015, there were significant advances made in increasing water availability, allowing 93% of the population to have access to clean water.

However, sanctions have stopped the flow of clean water in two ways.

First, blackouts.

American sanctions are at fault for Venezuela's blackouts. **Hetland '19 of the Nation** finds that US sanctions against Venezuela have blocked Venezuela's ability to import and produce fuel required for power plants.

Weisbrot '19 of the CEPR confirms that sanctions have contributed substantially to the increased length and economic damages of Venezuelan power outages.

These power outages are disastrous. **Kennedy '19 of the NEPR** concludes that due to power outages, 10,000 are at risk of death, businesses are closed, water pumps are blocked, and food becomes spoiled.

Indeed, **Rendon for the CSIS in December writes**: two nationwide blackouts have diminished water flows for Venezuelan citizens, resulting in about 60 percent less available water than in 1999.

Second, blocking shipments.

Local legislator **Maria Marrugo writes in 2019** that The Venezuelan government has tried to acquire new water pumps twice, but payments are blocked because sanctions prevent companies from doing business with the Venezuelan government.

Contreras '19 of the RN quantifies: In the last three years, due to a lack of infrastructure, water output has fallen 30%; as much as 15-20% of the country is facing water shortages *due* to U.S. sanctions.

The impact is a water crisis. (2:00)

Rendon continues: 80% of Venezuelans do not have access to clean water, leaving millions prone to water-borne diseases. Worse, 80% of hospitals lack access to water entirely, causing the re-emergence of once-eradicated diseases and a resulting thousands of deaths.

For example, **Herriman '19 reports** that global health organizations project 2.5 million more cases of malaria in Venezuela—a disease that **Reuters '19** explains was eradicated in 1961.

Contention Two is Foreign Aid (2:35)

Currently, **Bachelet '19 of the UN** reports: while the latest sanctions don't apply to basic goods such as food and medicine, financial institutions completely halted transactions with Venezuela, concluding that sanctions exacerbate the Venezuelan crisis as financial institutions avoid working with sanctioned countries for fear of backlash from the US.

Indeed, **WOLA '19** writes that even with exemptions for humanitarian aid, sanctions cause "overcompliance" by financial institutions who freeze legitimate accounts of humanitarian organizations.

Broughton '19 of the Wall Street Journal confirms that hefty fines for skirting US sanctions have made banks skittish about doing business with humanitarian organizations, resulting in US bank accounts closed and transactions frozen. This is because with the government in control of so much of the economy, it is difficult for NGOs to altogether avoid sanctioned businesses.

Thus, **Daniels '20 of the Guardian** reports just one week ago, aid organizations' accounts have been blocked by banks due to overcompliance, causing insufficient aid shipments for 7 million Venezuelans in need.

Thus, ending sanctions would reinvigorate foreign aid into Venezuela.

The impact is medicine

Kumar '18 of the Atlantic Council confirms that "Venezuelans are in a battle for survival as they struggle to obtain medical care." Previously controlled diseases are breaking out and Venezuelans are dying due to a lack of medicine and access to treatment.

Indeed, **Amnesty International '18** finds that Venezuela is suffering from an 90% shortage in medical supplies and there has been a 50% drop in medical staff at hospitals that provide 90% of the country's health services.

Fox '19 of Deutsche Welle quantifies that because of sanctions, more than 300,000 people are estimated to be at risk because of a lack of access to medicines or treatment.