

# Venezuela's Socialism...And Ours

By [Rep. Ron Paul](#)

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*This week we witnessed the horrible spectacle of Nikki Haley, President Trump's Ambassador to the United Nations, joining a protest outside the UN building and calling for the people of Venezuela to overthrow their government.*

*"We are going to fight for Venezuela," she shouted through a megaphone, "we are going to continue doing it until Maduro is gone."*

This is the neocon mindset: that somehow the US has the authority to tell the rest of the world how to live and who may hold political power regardless of elections.

After more than a year of Washington being crippled by evidence-free claims that the Russians have influenced our elections, we have a senior US Administration official openly calling for the overturning of elections overseas.

Imagine if President Putin's national security advisor had grabbed a megaphone in New York and called for the people of the United States to overthrow their government by force!

At the UN, Venezuela's President Maduro accused the Western media of hyping up the crisis in his country to push the cause for another "humanitarian intervention." Some may laugh at such a claim, but recent history shows that interventionists lie to push regime change, and the media goes right along with the lies.

Remember the lies about Gaddafi giving Viagra to his troops to help them rape their way through Libya? Remember the "babies thrown from incubators" and "mobile chemical labs" in Iraq? Judging from past practice, there is probably some truth in Maduro's claims.

We know socialism does not work. It is an economic system based on the use of force rather than economic freedom of choice. But while many Americans seem to be in a panic over the failures of socialism in Venezuela, they don't seem all that concerned that right here at home President Trump just signed a massive \$1.3 trillion dollar spending bill that delivers socialism on a scale that Venezuelans couldn't even imagine. In fact this one spending bill is three times Venezuela's entire gross domestic product!

Did I miss all the Americans protesting this warfare-welfare state socialism?

Why all the neocon and humanitarian-interventionist "concern" for the people of Venezuela? One clue might be the fact that Venezuela happens to be sitting on the world's largest oil reserves. More even than Saudi Arabia. There are plenty of countries pursuing dumb

economic policies that result in plenty of suffering, but Nikki and the neocons are nowhere to be found when it comes to “concern” for these people. Might it be a bit about this oil?

Don't believe this feigned interest in helping the Venezuelan people. If Washington really cared about Venezuelans they would not be plotting regime change for the country, considering that each such “liberation” elsewhere has ended with the people being worse off than before!

No, if Washington – and the rest of us – really cared about Venezuelans we would demand an end to the terrible US economic sanctions on the country – which only make a bad situation worse – and would push for far more engagement and trade. And maybe we'd even lead by example, by opposing the real, existing socialism here at home before seeking socialist monsters to slay abroad.

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