

Maria Páez Victor

Venezuela: Redefining the State, Repositioning Class Struggle and Asserting Sovereignty

This paper will address the achievements, the challenges, setbacks and the domestic and international implications of Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution.

The economic, financial and media assault against Venezuela by the USA and its allies is illegal and immoral, and is a full scale assault on the system of international law that since 1945, has helped limit aggression. However imperfect, international law is the last bastion against an economic system of increasing polarization, undisguised looting and violence.

The USA and its allies, including Canada, covet Venezuela's immense resources. They think these valuable resources should not be determined by the political will of the Venezuelan people, but by the powerful countries and their international corporations. However, this assault on Venezuela is intended not simply to change a regime, but to dismember the nation state and empower anew a comprador ruling class. However, US aggression is based on a profound misunderstanding of the nation's history. Its long road to independence nurtures Venezuela's collective imagination. Its political culture, once dominated by a foreign-centred ruling elite, has been radically transformed by the Bolivarian Revolution, which has built a powerful grassroots network of collectives, communes and community councils with close ties to the patriotic army, thus re-defining the state. Venezuela has not only become a powerful force for a Latin American progressive aspirations and future but it has become the centre of a world struggle against globalized capitalism, with key geopolitical implications far beyond its borders. The struggle of the Venezuelan people for their sovereignty will determine not just the future of the region, but in great measure the triumph or failure of XXI century socialism as a viable alternative to the current predatory corporate capitalism. It is redefining the state and the relations between states, not within a framework of corporate market globalization but of internationalism between sovereign nations.