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Jan 8, 2025 · 23 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1876958537647112387](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1876958537647112387)

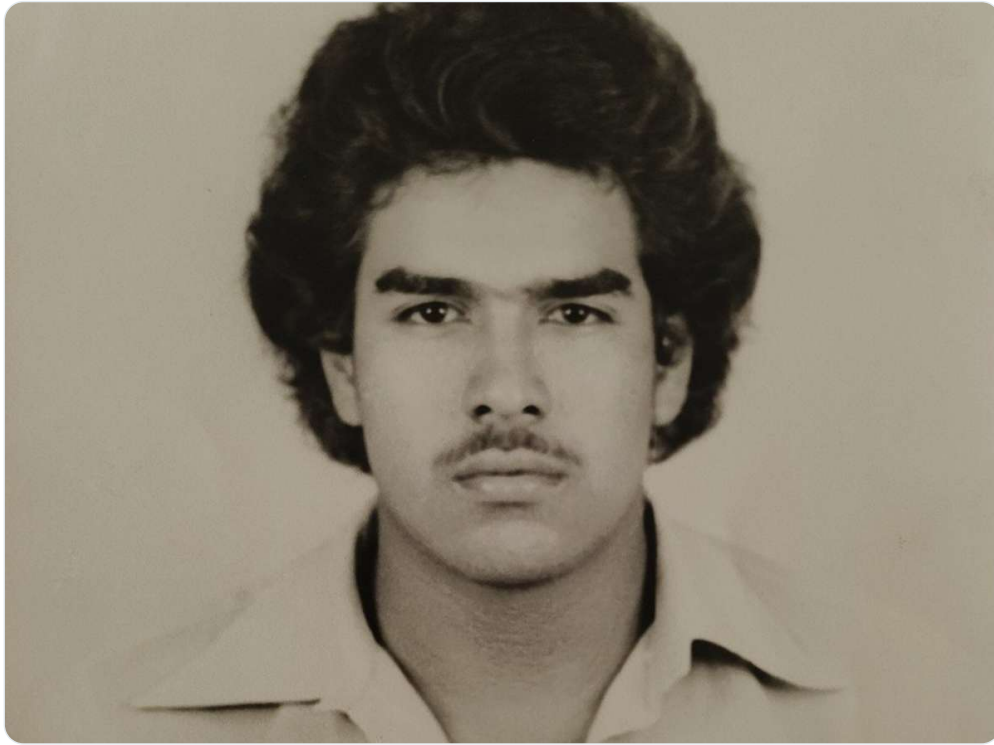
In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce a Venezuelan bus driver, politician & dictator, Nicolás Maduro (@NicolasMaduro). He's best-known for ruining Venezuela, turning it into a dictatorship, and for collaborating with other authoritarian regimes like Russia, Iran & Belarus.

1/22



His exact birthplace has been questioned, but most sources agree that Mr. Maduro was born in Caracas, Venezuela. Maduro was raised in a Catholic family, but at some point became a follower of Indian Hindu guru Sathya Sai Baba and even visited the guru in India back in 2005.

2/22



But he also has a mystical side. He has been a follower of the late Indian guru [Sathya Sai Baba](#). Mr. Maduro and Ms. Flores visited the guru in India in 2005. A [photograph](#) on a Sai Baba Web site records the visit, showing Mr. Maduro crouched at the feet of the orange-clad guru. A friend confirmed the visit, which was also reported at the time in *El Nacional*, a local newspaper, and said that Mr. Maduro had kept a picture of the guru in his office.

Nicolás' introduction to leftist politics happened during the 80s, when he acted as an unofficial trade unionist and as bodyguard for José Vicente Rangel, who later worked as a

foreign minister under Hugo Chávez. He also visited Havana, Cuba, where he “studied communism”,...

3/22



...but was also recruited as a mole, working for Cuba’s Dirección de Inteligencia. In the early 90s Nicolás joined a revolutionary group started by Chavez called MBR-200. Chavez later rewarded Maduro’s work by appointing him as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2006.

4/22



BBC Mundo stated that as a foreign minister, Maduro “was considered a key player in pushing the foreign policy of his country beyond Latin American borders to approach almost any government that rivaled the United States.” This led Maduro teaming up with countries...

5/22

He has a reputation as kind in Latin American diplomatic circles, but that hasn't stopped his verb against the United States from being fiery, for some, a poorly made repetition of Chavez's original style.

As head of Venezuelan diplomacy, Maduro followed the Chavista line of openly seeking the "construction of a multipolar world free from the hegemony of 'American imperialism'," as internationalist Carlos Luna described in statements to BBC Mundo.

It was seen as a key piece in pushing his country's foreign policy beyond Latin American borders to approach almost any government that rivaled the United States for one thing or another.

And so successful in that company, that Venezuela now has among its allies with Belarus, China, Iran and Russia, not to mention Libya, when it was under the power of Muammar Gaddafi, or the Syria of Bashar al-Assad.

...like Russia, Iran, Belarus, China and al-Assad's Syria. He was later appointed as the vice president, and after the death of Hugo Chavez in 2013 he quickly became the president. When his presidency was challenged by his rival, the Venezuelan intelligence services...

6/22







...started cracking down on the opposition, arresting anyone who dared to challenge Maduro's rule.

Venezuela was one of the wealthiest countries in Latin America during the 1970s, primarily due to its vast oil reserves.

But boy oh boy, did Maduro run it into the ground.

7/22



Venezuelans caught short as toilet paper supplies run low

The government of Venezuela is trying to import 50 million rolls of toilet paper before supermarket shelves run out of stock.

Some economists say that the shortage of basic goods - which also include milk, butter and coffee - is a result of the socialist government's price control policies.

However, President Nicolas Maduro, has said the shortages are the result of a conspiracy campaign by the opposition and rich sectors of society.

Mauricio Moraes reports.

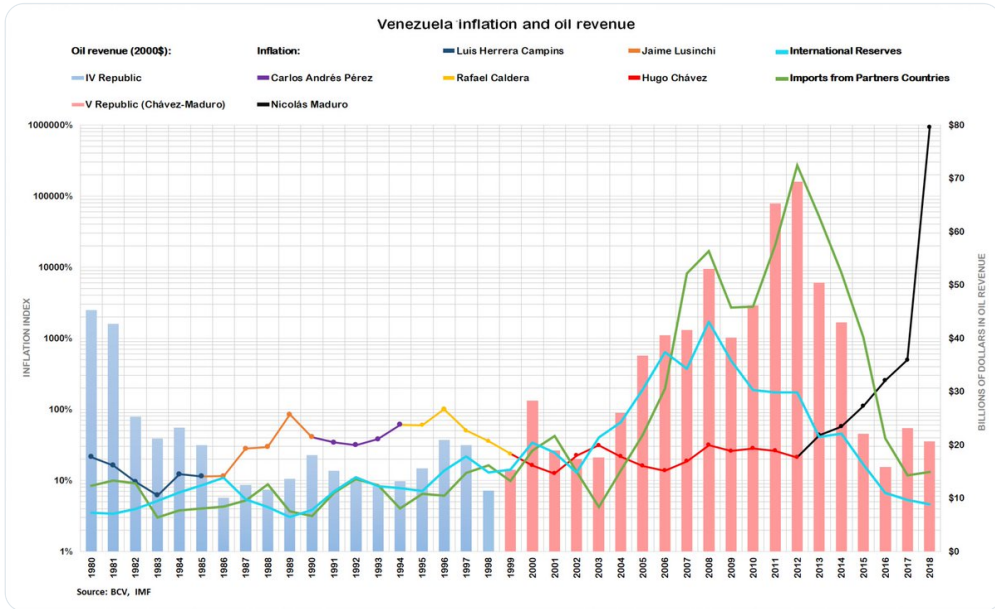
Latin America & Caribbean • 20 May 2013

Oil Majors Fill Venezuela Gas Pumps, Easing Years of Shortages

- Chevron, Eni, Repsol have sent cargoes of fuel to the country
- January imports to Venezuela were highest since October 2020

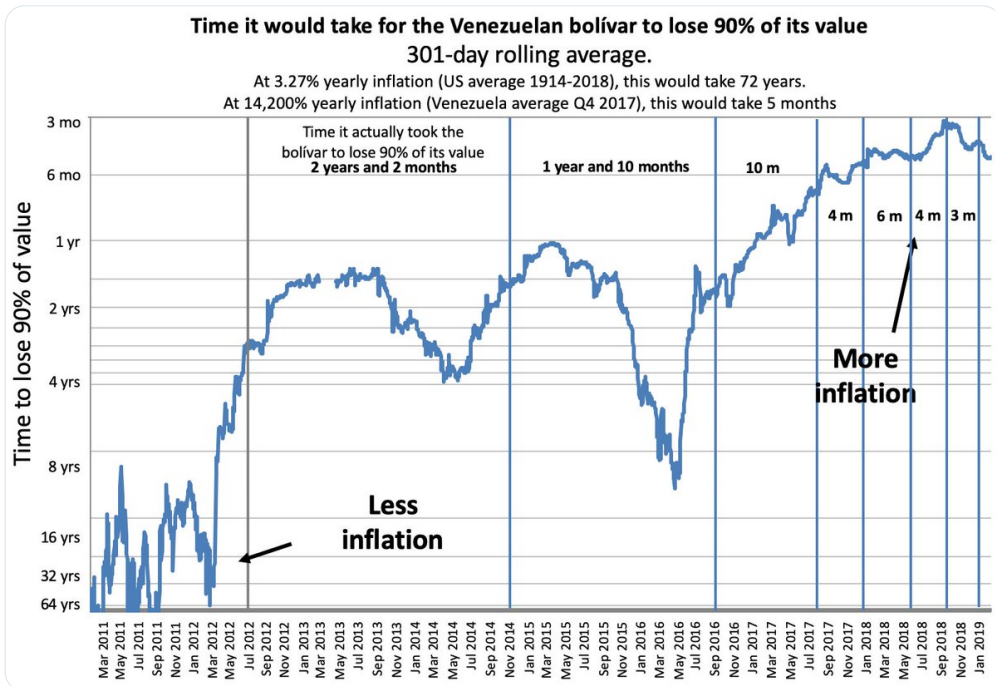


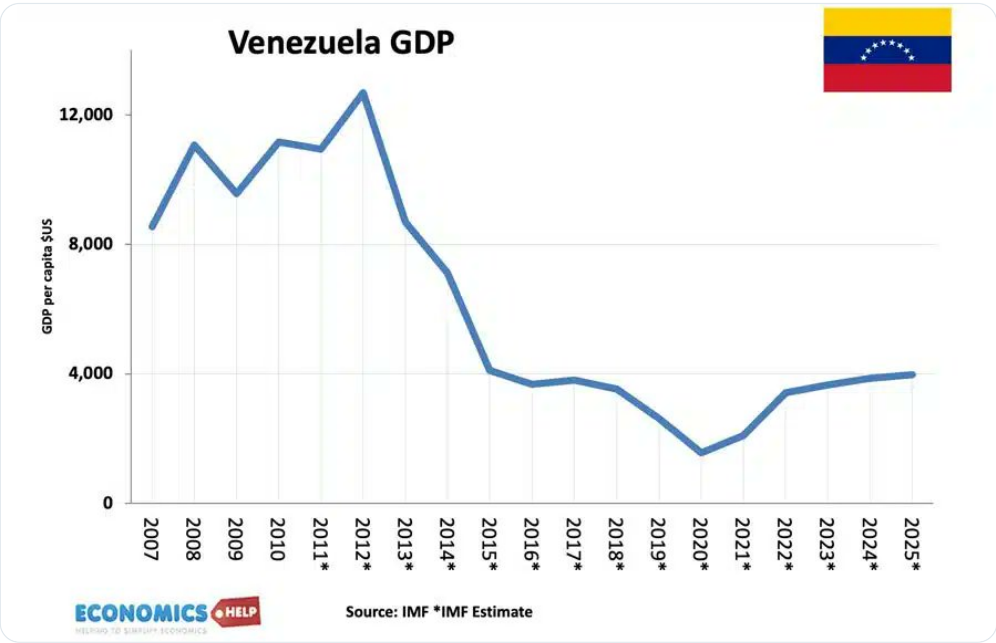
Venezuela imported 84,000 barrels a day of refined oil including gasoline, diesel and naphtha in January, according to data from Kpler. *Photographer: Bloomberg*



With the oil prices plummeting after 2011, the country experienced hyperinflation and widespread shortages of basic goods. Extreme poverty skyrocketed and over 7,7 million Venezuelans have left the country to seek a better life abroad.

8/22





As is tradition, the children of high-ranking officials in Maduro’s regime were living a lavish life abroad. While Venezuela’s inflation reached 2000%, the daughter of the Caracas mayor was surfing and sipping cocktails on Bondi Beach in Australia.

9/22

Rich kids of Maduro’s cronies revealed living in luxury abroad

Stephen Gibbs, Caracas

Wednesday May 17 2017, 9.00am BST, The Times

The opposition is encouraging Venezuelans to share images of the luxurious lives of politicians’ families

GETTY IMAGES

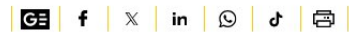
Ministers in President Maduro’s government have been accused of hypocrisy by Venezuelans struggling to feed themselves after it emerged that many children and cronies of senior officials are living abroad in luxury.

Europa League 2024 LIVE: What time and where to see the draw?

LATIN AMERICA

Daughters of Chavez and Maduro spend \$3.6 million a day

Opposition congressman denounces that the budget of the Venezuelan presidential office increased by 40%



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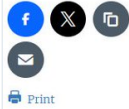
Daughters of Chavez and Maduro spend \$3.6 million a day

And the humanitarian situation wasn't any better - A 2018 Amnesty report "accused Maduro's government of committing some of the worst human rights violations in Venezuela's history." This included over 8000 executions between 2015-2017, many of them by Maduro's forces.

September 20, 2018 9:07
PM
By VOA News

Amnesty Accuses Maduro Government of Executing Thousands

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FILE - Cardboard crosses with the names of opposition supporters killed during demonstrations are seen on a fence during a strike called to protest against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas, Venezuela, July 20, 2017.

The report said there were 8,292 extrajudicial executions carried out between 2015 and 2017.

"In cases documented by Amnesty, victims were unarmed. Autopsies revealed bullet wounds in the neck, throat, head. They were killed while on their knees or lying down," said Esteban Beltran, director of Amnesty International Spain.

It found 22 percent of all homicides in 2016, or 4,667, were committed by security officials.

Last year, it found 95 percent of the homicide victims in the country were men, with 60 percent of those ranging in age from 12 to 29.

Nicolás Maduro announces the preparation of re-education camps to imprison detained demonstrators

The Chavista regime has launched a manhunt against opponents who denounce electoral fraud.



Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro - Cordon Press.

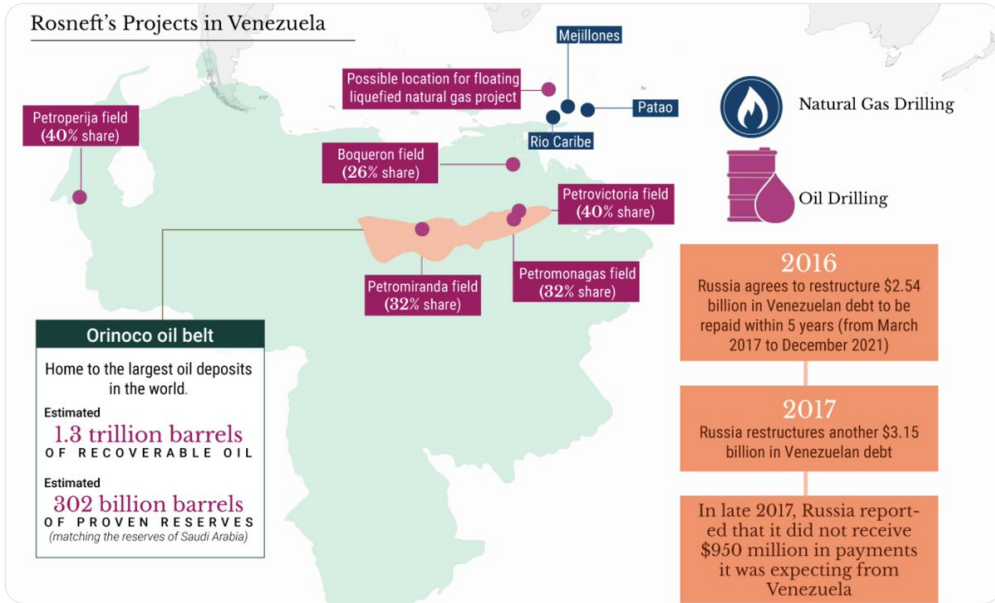


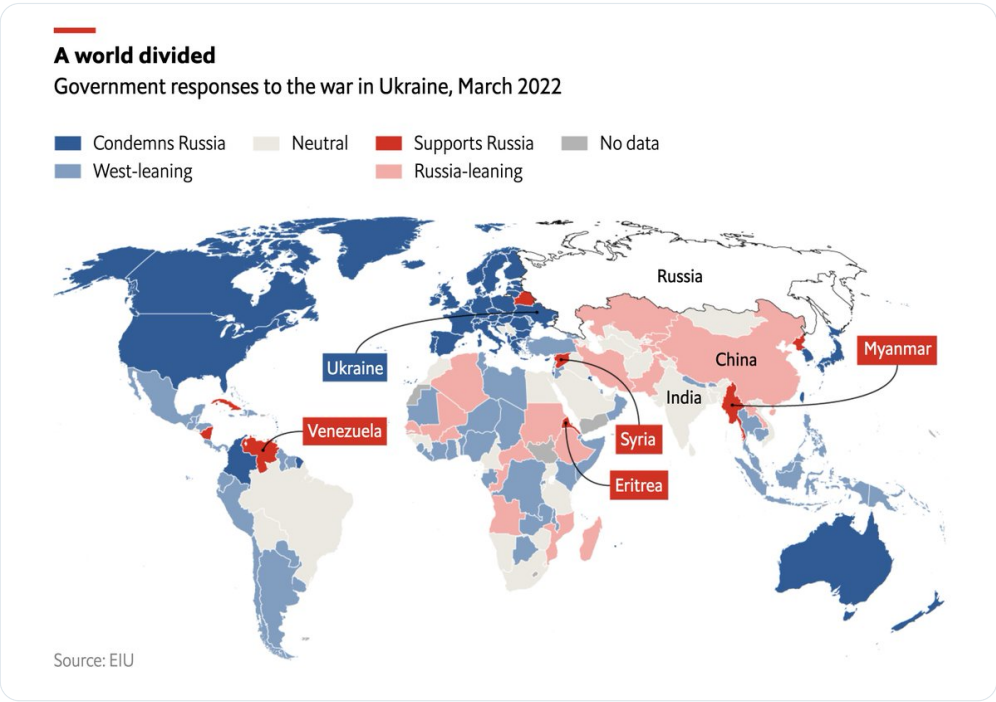
EMMANUEL ALEJANDRO RONDÓN

3h ago | 7 MINUTES READ

On Thursday, Aug. 1, Dictator Nicolas Maduro announced **preparation of two massive maximum security prisons for detained protesters**, which will serve as de facto re-education camps, according to the socialist leader's own words.

Putin has been Maduro's key supporter for years. In 2015, Russian state oil company Rosneft invested billions in Venezuela's economy to fight against Western sanctions. For this, Maduro was fully supporting Russia when they launched their invasion against Ukraine in Feb 2022.





But this collaboration had started long before - Russia has shipped weapon systems & small arms to Venezuela for over two decades. These weapons have been used to suppress any protests or opposition to Maduro's dictatorship. Due to this, Venezuela owes the Kremlin billions.

12/22

Russia

● This article is more than **16 years old**

Chávez arrives in Moscow for arms spending spree

The Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez, today arrived in Moscow on his latest arms-buying spree, saying that his country needed to buy more weapons to defend itself from the United States.

Chávez met Russia's president Dmitry Medvedev this morning. He is expected to sign a billion-dollar arms deal with **Russia** for new missile defence systems and diesel-powered submarines.

"I have great hopes we will be able to continue building our strategic alliance," Chávez said after landing in Moscow for a two-day trip.

He added: "The deals will guarantee the sovereignty of Venezuela which is being threatened by the United States."

Chávez's latest visit to Moscow - his sixth - is likely to irritate Washington. It comes at a time when relations between Russia and the US are already under strain over a host of issues.

Luke Harding in Moscow
Tue 22 Jul 2008 14:49 CEST

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Both Chavez and Maduro have followed the dictatorship guidebook carefully. They've taken over the media (with the help of Russia's RT), the military, the natural resources. According to the opposition, the Maduro regime has stolen hundreds of billions of USD.

13/22

Ministers are not supposed to receive salaries that are more than 12 times the minimum wage. That would limit the top official income to about £400 a year, given the collapse of the bolivar on the black market. Opposition politicians estimate that at least \$300 billion has been stolen from state accounts over the past decade.

Reuters World ▾ Business ▾ Markets ▾ Sustainability ▾ Legal ▾ Breakingviews ▾ Technology ▾ Investigations

Venezuela ex-ministers seek probe into \$300 billion in lost oil revenue

By Eyanir China and Corina Pons
February 2, 2016 8:33 PM GMT+2 · Updated 9 years ago

Aa 



Jorge Giordani talks to the media during a news conference in Caracas August 22, 2013. REUTERS/Carlos Garcia Rawlins [Purchase Licensing Options](#)

Like Russia and Iran, the Maduro regime also hunts for foreign hostages in order to use them as bargaining chips in negotiations. Maduro has already secured the release of his top financier and two of his nephews in prisoner exchanges with the Biden administration.

WORLD | AMERICAS

Venezuelan Regime Hunts for Foreign Hostages to Pressure Its Rivals

Maduro has turned up the heat on the incoming Trump administration by recently seizing 50 foreigners, several of them American passport holders

By [Kejal Vyas](#) [Follow](#)

Updated Jan. 5, 2025 9:21 pm ET



360



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Maduro's former chief of staff stated in 2019 that Maduro "delivered practically nothing in terms of public policy, in terms of direction" and that "he does not have a clear vision for the country. He is very much focused on consolidating his power among his own peers."

Former chief of staff: Maduro is 'focused on consolidating his power'

The World

March 4, 2019

By The World staff



Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro attends a meeting with international representatives in support of his government in Caracas, Venezuela, Feb. 26, 2019.

Miraflores Palace/Reuters

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Yet, the dictator still has supporters in the West. The British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn called Marudo a “friend of Venezuela” and failed to condemn the regime’s violence. French far-left politician Jean-Luc Mélenchon also “welcomed Maduro’s victory”.

Jeremy Corbyn



U.K. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn | Matt Cardy/Getty Images

The British Labour leader is a long-standing *Chavista* who in 2013 described Chávez as “an inspiration to all of us fighting back against austerity and neoliberal economics in Europe.” In 2014, he called to congratulate the new president, Maduro, live on Venezuelan TV, and was introduced by Maduro as a “friend of Venezuela.” [Asked](#) this week whether he was prepared to condemn Maduro’s actions, Corbyn said: “What I condemn is the violence that’s been done by any side, by all sides, in all this.” He refused to express regret for his support for Maduro.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon



Former French presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon | Martin Bureau/AFP via Getty Images

The leader of far-left party La France Insoumise (France Unbowed), who has called a big demonstration against President Emmanuel Macron on September 23, makes no secret of his admiration for the Bolivarian revolution and its leaders. In 2013, after the death of Chávez, he wrote in the communist newspaper L'Humanité that “the Bolivarian revolution is for us a source of inspiration.” He then hailed Maduro’s appointment as president in a tweet saying “we welcome Maduro’s victory.” However, Mélenchon said in a French radio interview in April, when questioned about his support for the government in Caracas: “I don’t support any dictatorship, I’ve never supported any dictatorship anywhere in the world.”

Pope Francis



Pope Francis at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City | Alberto Pizzoli/AFP via Getty Images

The Argentine-born pope has been a strong backer of the so-called progressive leaders in Latin America, like Bolivia's Evo Morales, and his critics accuse him of ambiguity regarding the government in Venezuela. The Vatican has attempted to mediate between Maduro and the opposition but, at a news conference in April, the pope appeared to blame the opposition for the lack of progress, saying: "Part of the opposition does not want this." Vatican analyst Sandro Magister wrote in May that the pope has been "unforgivably reckless with Maduro and Chavism, in addition to being incomprehensibly reticent on the victims of the repression and on the aggression that is striking the Church itself."



While robbing the country, Maduro has come up with all sorts of BS excuses for the extreme poverty of regular Venezuelans. The biggest enemy is of course the US, but he's also blamed the "Zionists", "satanists" and even Elon Musk for the plight of the country.

17/22





Soon after the elections, @elonmusk accused Maduro of “major election fraud”, after which Maduro challenged the rocket boy to a fight.

Then, like 13-year-olds, the two initiated a back-and-forth which led to Maduro banning X in Venezuela for 10 days.

18/22

Elon Musk @elonmusk Subscribe

Major election fraud by Maduro

Mario Nawfal @MarioNawfal · Jul 29, 2024

VENEZUELA INVENTS NEW % FOR ELECTION RESULTS

Turns out you can have more than 100%...

According to local tv, 109% of the votes divided between the candidates....
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5:39 PM · Jul 29, 2024 · 74.9M Views

Venezuelan president challenges Elon Musk to fight over fraud accusations

Billionaire criticizes polls in South American country

Laura Gamba | 30.07.2024 - Update : 30.07.2024

World

Australian premier defends youth social media ban amid global praise

Trump expresses sympathy for Russia's opposition to Ukraine's NATO accession

Former NBA star Dwight Howard says he was forced to delete 'Free Palestine' post

BOGOTA, Colombia

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro threw down the gauntlet Monday, challenging billionaire Elon Musk to a fight after he called the country's presidential election a "travesty," accusing it of being fraudulent.

Russia has special

Venezuelan president bans X for 10 days over Musk row

9 August 2024

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Christy Cooney
BBC News



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has signed a decree blocking access to social media platform X, formerly Twitter, for 10 days following a public spat with owner Elon Musk.

The interesting thing about Maduro is that he's so unpopular, that he hasn't won a single election since 2013. Yet he stays in power through corruption and violence. In the 2024 presidential elections, the opposition gathered over 80% of the voting sheets...

Analysis

Evidence shows Venezuela's election was stolen - but will Maduro budge?

Tiago Rogero

South America correspondent

Analyses indicate Nicolás Maduro lost the presidential election, but country's leader shows no signs of stepping aside

Tue 6 Aug 2024 18:38 CEST

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Venezuelans opposed to Maduro display signs in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Sunday. Photograph: Anadolu/Getty Images

How Venezuela's opposition proved its election win: 'A brilliant political move'



Tiago Rogero

Sat 10 Aug 2024 12:35 CEST

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Presidential election tallies, or actas, stream down a wall with the faces of prisoners detained amid a government crackdown, during a vigil in Caracas, Venezuela, on Thursday. Photograph: Matias Delacroix/AP

A meticulously planned operation with tens of thousands of volunteers succeeded in gathering 83% of voting tallies

...and the results showed that Maduro had won just 30% of the total vote, compared with 67% for his opponent Edmundo González. An arrest warrant was quickly issued for González, who subsequently fled to Spain. The dictator's "inauguration" is scheduled for this

Friday.

20/22



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Chavismo on high alert to protect Nicolás Maduro's inauguration

Venezuela's ruling party makes a show of force and warns that anyone attempting an insurrection or an invasion to prevent the president from being sworn in 'will pay dearly'




Maduro is actually so unpopular, that the “pro-Maduro rallies” gathered only around 300 people, and most of these are probably paid or forced to join. Counter-protests organized by the opposition leader @MariaCorinaYA on the other hand drew tens of thousands of people.




Emmanuel Rincón 
@EmmaRincon

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 Esta es la concentración del chavismo convocada por Maduro en Caracas.

El tirano asegura que ganó las elecciones con más del 50 % de los votos y no pueden movilizar ni a 300 personas:


Translated from Spanish by Google

 This is the Chavista rally called by Maduro in Caracas.

The tyrant claims that he won the elections with more than 50% of the votes and cannot even mobilize 300 people:

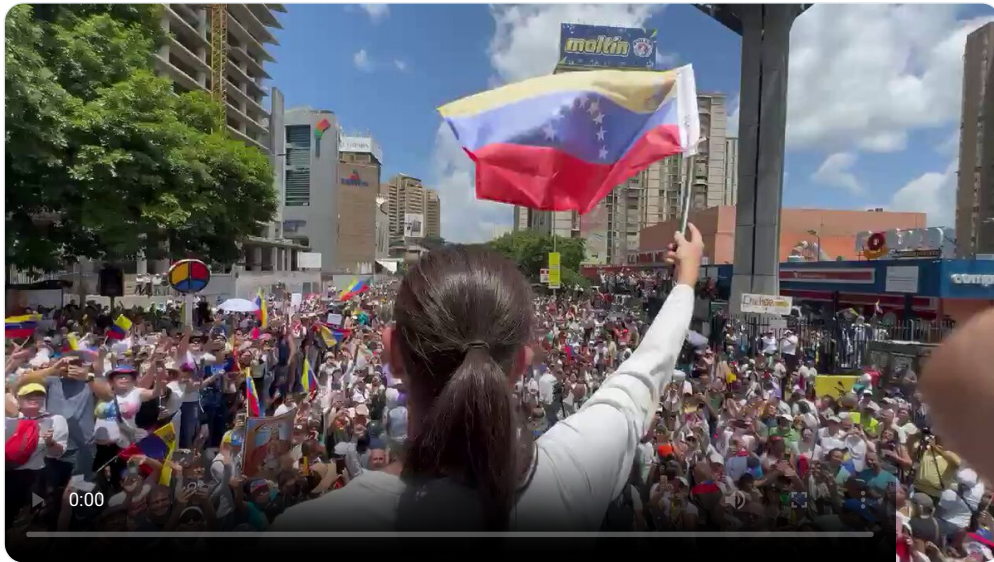
Was this translation accurate? Give us feedback so we can improve:  



From **Nicmer Evans** 

9:32 PM · Aug 3, 2024 · 1.7M Views





To conclude, Maduro is a tyrannical dictator whose main goal is to funnel money into his own and his cronies' pockets, while regular Venezuelans struggle to get by. He rules with an iron fist and doesn't hesitate to kill or imprison anyone who opposes him. Just like Putin.

22/22



Spanish version of this Sancocho will be posted tomorrow on [@vatniksoup_es](#).

You can now pre-order the 2nd edition of my book! This updated version, featuring pre-order extras, will be released at the end of February 2025.

Pre-order your copy here:

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION



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