

# The Politics of “Change” in Shaping Latin America’s New Marxist Order

By Robert Chandler, author of *Shadow World*

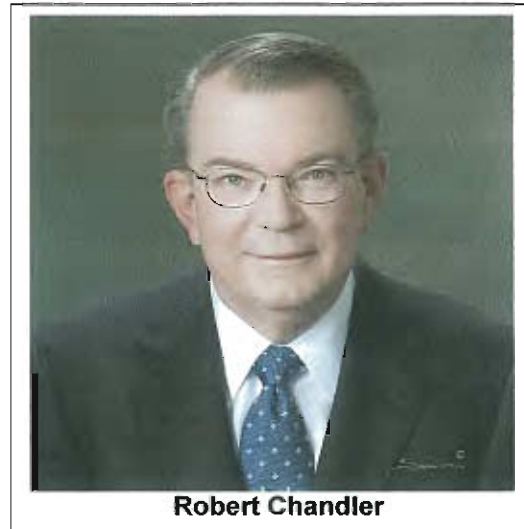


**Marxist Hugo Chavez says about Obama:  
“He’s intelligent, he has good intentions and we have to help him.”**



A strategist who has worked for the United States Air Force and several U.S. Government agencies, **Robert Chandler** is a retired Air Force Colonel and Vietnam veteran who holds a Ph.D. in political science from George Washington University. His book, *Shadow World*, available from America's Survival, Inc., analyzes the dangers we face from the global Left, radical Islam, a resurgent Russia and China.

In his report, "How Obama's Revolution Came to America," based on his book, Chandler writes that, "Barack Obama in reality is the progressive-socialist-Marxist soldier hiding inside a Trojan Horse. He is the one who slips out of the wooden horse to open America's gates to a horde of socialists-Marxists intent on swarming the federal government and carrying out a family-destroying, religion-busting, freedom-infringing cultural revolution and an extended political dominance over the entire country."



**Robert Chandler**

In this report for America's Survival, Inc., Chandler explains how Obama is assisting Hugo Chavez-style communism in Latin America.

## **That's What Friends Are For**

President Barack Obama discovered a new group of friends in April 2009 at his first meeting with Latin American leaders at the fifth Summit of the Americas held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Chief among these new close associates are Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva, Marxist President of Brazil, and Hugo Chavez, Marxist President of Venezuela. Together, these two chieftains provide cover and deception for Cuba's Castro brothers, Fidel and Raul, in transforming Latin American politics into one embracing various blends of traditional populism with the newly defined twenty-first socialism and Marxism. For his part, President Obama brings a modernized North American progressivism, socialism, and Marxism to the table. The objective is political power won by establishing global socialist governance.

These twin ideologies were born in the 1990s and 2000s—populism-socialism-Marxism in Latin America and progressivism-socialism-Marxism in North America—share the same birth mother and father: the Forum of Sao Paulo and the Anti-Globalization (anti-capitalism) Movement. Fidel Castro was the "father" of this movement to "renew" Marxism following the disassembly of the Soviet Union, while Lula" da Silva played the role of great uncle in supporting his brother communist in Havana. "Cousin" Hugo Chavez, the loud-mouth from Caracas, finally gained power in Venezuela and then plundered his people's oil wealth to underwrite the Castro brothers' and Lula's scheme to define a "New Marxism" for the twenty-first century. Their efforts were carefully orchestrated to ensure that the "socialist baby was not thrown out with the Stalinist bath water."

The new Marxist baby born early in the new millennium, unlike its nineteenth and twentieth century grandfather, was focused not only on the working class as the source of violent uprising revolution. Rather, the New Marxism embraced all of those people who were said to be disenfranchised from the established capitalist political and economic order, including workers, women, minorities, indigenous peoples, homosexuals, the disabled, environmentalists, and anarchists, and those advocating immigration rights, animal rights, as well as those opposed to genetically modified foods, pharmaceutical patents, sweatshops and the list goes on.

## **The New Marxist Strategy**

Not only were the subjects of Marxism re-defined but the method of achieving political power was shifted away from violent upheaval to a longer term, stealthy subversion of societies that would permit the attainment of political power through elections, or a ballot-box coup d'etat. Once in power, the elected Marxist leaders—calling themselves "populist" (Latin America) or "progressive" (North America)—would begin consolidating their power through controlling parliament, eliminating the independent news media, harnessing the military and police, rewriting the constitution for the president to rule for life, and nationalizing strategic centers of the economy, followed by a more pervasive government takeover of industries.

**The chosen doctrine for the subversion of democratic societies was based on the strategy and tactics of Antonio Gramsci, a founder of the Italian Communist Party. Gramsci argued in the 1930s that revolution was an “ideological struggle” in which “. . . class domination is exercised as much through popular ‘consensus’ achieved in civil society as through physical coercion (or threat of it) by the state apparatus, especially in advanced capitalist societies where education, the media, law, mass culture, etc. take on a new role.” In order to bring societal “change,” therefore, one had to change the people by transforming education, the media, and the other elements to devise a new “integrated culture.”<sup>1</sup>**

In Latin America, the radical left used political “populism” to carry out subversion of national societies and bring to power socialists and Marxists, while in the United States socialism-Marxism was blended behind a “progressive” mask to achieve electoral victory in November 2008. The blending of ideologies in both cases hid the real nature of the candidates from the voters’ view. The process is much like the mixed waters of the Amazon and Mississippi Rivers, respectively. These mighty rivers contain the water from several sources and it is impossible to differentiate among them. It is the same with populism-socialism-Marxism in Latin America and progressivism-socialism-Marxism in the United States. Both sets of ideology are blended to such an extent that one can claim to be a “populist” in Latin America and “progressive” in the U.S. when in both cases the blended sources of socialism and Marxism are also present in these political perspectives.

Can there be any wonder why President Obama found close soul-mates at the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad-Tobago?

### **Latin American Populism-Socialism-Marxism**

From the right-wing military coups in the 1960s and 1970s and civil wars in the 1980s, Latin America turned to a new page in the 1990s and 2000s by reinventing Marxism in the wake of the demise of Soviet power and political influence in the region. Having lost the ideological support and guidance of the Soviet Union and East European countries in 1990, Fidel and Raul Castro and Lula da Silva did not waste time shedding crocodile tears. It had been apparent for some time that they and other Marxists would be cut adrift when the Soviet Union expired at the end of 1991. Their response was focused on following two mutually supportive pathways: (1) creation of a “New Marxism” school house in Latin America, the Forum of Sao Paulo, and (2) development of an international “New Marxism” or Anti-Globalization Movement centered in North America and Europe, plus Australia and New Zealand.

**Forum of Sao Paulo.** On July 3, 1990, more than a year before the sclerotic end of the Soviet Union, Latin America’s communist castaways began preparing for the new world that lie ahead by creating the Forum of Sao Paulo. “Lula” da Silva, then leader of Brazil’s Marxist Worker’s Party, with the encouragement of Fidel Castro and the Cuban Communist Party, gathered sixty-eight far left political organizations from

twenty-two Latin American and Caribbean countries in Sao Paulo to establish a new revolutionary Marxist entity. From the beginning, the Forum was about building a New Marxism that would restructure and weaken U.S. influence in Latin America. Shifting from Stalinist confrontation politics to a more nuanced long-term strategy and tactics of subversion, the members of the Sao Paulo Forum found that the New Marxism gave them political opportunities to win power through elections. Political power would give them a good chance of consolidating their strength and then export their influence to bring Marxists to power in other countries. Over time, all of Latin America and the Caribbean would be integrated into a single powerful regional entity based on a blend of populism, socialism, and Marxism.

The initiative became an instant success. Six years later, for instance, the participants at the sixth Sao Paulo Forum in El Salvador included 187 delegates from fifty-two member organizations (mainly Communist parties and terrorist groups), plus 289 guests from 144 organizations and forty-four observers from thirty-five American, African, Asian, and European organizations. By December 2001, the tenth Forum held in Havana boasted hundreds of attendees, including those from several active terrorist organizations, including the FARC and ELN (Colombia), Tupac Amaru (Peru), MIR (Chile), Basque ETA (Spain), and others.<sup>2</sup> The Forum of Sao Paulo, which has no known headquarters, held thirteen conclaves from 1990 through 2008 at a variety of locations in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Havana, Porto Alegre, Montevideo, Managua, and others. These meetings were hard-nosed denunciations of capitalism, emphasizing the belief that the contradictions inherent in this “neoliberal” economic model would collapse, opening the door to communism.<sup>3</sup>

**Anti-Globalization Movement.** Alejandro Pena-Esclusa, a political archenemy of Venezuela’s Marxist president, Hugo Chavez, quoted from a working document at the February 2000 meeting of the Sao Paulo Forum in Managua that reveals a strategic linkage with the Anti-Globalization Movement: “Encouraged by the fall of the Berlin wall, neo-liberal triumphalism tried to prevail over all else, but now must overcome far stronger opposition. Society’s rejection of globalization is broad and growing. Globalization is viewed as planetary looting. . . . It is a world-order that is destroying the planet and has brought us face to face with new social unrest.”<sup>4</sup>

Despite Sao Paulo Forum members’ claims that they fight neoliberalism through the Anti-Globalization Movement on behalf of the poor, their first priority really is to seize power and to use the resulting political strength to enrich themselves, while multiplying the number of Marxist regimes in the region. Labeling such behavior as being “bold political fraud,” Alejandro Pena-Esclusa notes that “. . . Latin Americans chose candidates from the Sao Paulo Forum in the hope of finding social justice and economic vindication. What they received in turn—hidden behind false promises—was a severe and aggressive dose of Cuban totalitarianism.”<sup>5</sup>

When Luiz Inacio “Lula” da Silva won Brazil’s presidency with the strong backing of the Marxist Workers Party, he downplayed his past role as a labor leader and land reformer. Immediately upon being sworn-in as president in 2003, Lula began to present

his orthodox politics to northern financial circles. While Lula “played” international and U.S. bankers and politicians, his foreign policy advisor, hard-line Marxist Marco Aurilio Garcia, spilled the beans when he said that Lula’s deception would not last: “We have to first give the impression that we are democratic, initially, we have to accept certain things. But that won’t last.”<sup>6</sup> At the same time, Lula remained close to Fidel Castro, and he reached out to Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez. Meanwhile, these top directors of the Sao Paulo Forum also served as the board of directors for the growing Anti-Globalization (Anti-Capitalism) Movement.

As detailed in Chapter 5—“Latin America’s Slide to the Left”—in my current book *Shadow World: Resurgent Russia, the Global New Left, and Radical Islam*, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez joined Fidel Castro and Lula da Silva in the joint leadership of the Sao Paulo forum by virtue of his huge oil wealth and a mouth to match in excoriating the United States. When Castro’s KGB-trained secret intelligence services helped engineer Chavez’s return to power after a brief coup in 2002, Chavez returned the favor by giving Cuba billions of dollars of free and heavily subsidized oil. Moreover, Castro became a revolutionary mentor to the brash chieftain from Caracas, teaching Chavez how to use terror and persecution to control Venezuela’s robust society, while creating an external enemy—the United States—to divert attention from internal problems like poverty, food shortages, lack of medical care, and the like.<sup>7</sup> Chavez seized the inside track to become Latin America’s next Fidel. Alejandro Pena-Esclusa put it well: “. . . the Latin America map definitely took on a red tinge after Chavez was elected.”<sup>8</sup>

Power is seized by perverting the democratic process rather than through direct violence. Hugo Chavez, for instance, walked a carefully scripted line in a slow-rolling “passive revolution” by destroying the existing government structure from within, first winning elections through the democratic process, consolidating his presidency with active Cuban support, de-fanging the military and police, neutralizing opposition forces, assuring his electoral base through land redistribution, obtaining expanded political powers from a national assembly he controlled, silencing the independent news media, rewriting selected portions of the nation’s constitution, beginning the nationalization of strategic economic entities, and setting new profit-sharing rules for foreign corporations. He built, with the aid and counsel of Fidel Castro and Lula da Silva, a Latin American version of the Gramsci blueprint of “passive revolution” for export to neighboring countries.

### **Blueprint for Subversion**

The “Big Three” each brought something special to the revolutionary table in Latin America. The blueprint for subversion developed from Antonio Gramsci’s work by Fidel Castro and Lula da Silva in the Sao Paulo Forum and applied and sharpened by Hugo Chavez for export of the “Bolivarian” revolution throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, mixes home-grown populism with imported socialism and Marxism in ten carefully phased steps in a lethal subversive program.

1. Infiltrate open spaces in civil society organizations (political parties, unions, youth groups, women's organizations, ethnic groups, and a multitude of others), reshape national culture by weakening traditional values and institutions, replace religious values with secular principles, weaken the nuclear family, restructure education K-12 and universities to reflect Marxist values rather than national heritage and societal values, and convert resulting social strength into political power for electoral victory and accession to power;
2. Once the subversion process is successful in preparing the political battleground, the election for the presidency is moved forward;
3. Once in office, the Marxist president quickly consolidates his decision-making powers by bringing loyal supporters into key government positions;
4. Society's coercive elements, especially the police and armed forces, are rapidly placed under the strict control of the chief executive;
5. Government controls are placed on the media, shutting-down the opposition press, radio, and television;
6. The electoral base among the poor farmers and workers is reassured through limited land redistribution, satisfying human needs, and welfare payments;
7. The national assembly is stacked with socialist and Marxists supporters, assuring greater political powers for the chief executive;
8. The national constitution is amended to allow re-election of the president for successive terms;
9. Key strategic economic sectors (electricity, water, gas) are nationalized and profit-making by foreign firms is restricted or their economic assets nationalized; and in time, all major industries are placed under government control and land redistribution is extended across the country; and
10. External threats are created in order to divert domestic attention from internal inconveniences, hardships, and social reconstruction driven by socialist-Marxist transformation.

**Bolivarianism.** In the hands of President Hugo Chavez, a set of political doctrines were developed in the name of Simon Bolivar, an early mid-nineteenth century Venezuelan general who drove Spain out of much of South America. The Chavez brand of "Bolivarianism" reflects the integrated model of populism, socialism, and Marxism outlined above. President Chavez's ideas are drawn from Simon Bolivar's

ideals and melded with the writings of Federico Brito Figueroa, a highly respected Venezuelan Marxist (1921-2000) and more contemporaneously with those experiences drawn from the political doctrines declared early in his life by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Salvador Allende (Chile), and other Latin American leftists.

Bolivarian ideals include anti-imperialism or economic and political sovereignty; economic self-sufficiency, especially food and other human essentials; political participation at the grassroots; a patriotic ethic; and nationalization as a key for equitable distribution of wealth. The so-called “Bolivarian Revolution” in the hands of Hugo Chavez is also shaped for export as a social movement and political process. The Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America and the Caribbean (ALBA), according to Venezuela’s Banco Comercio Exterior (Bancoex), is “a socially-oriented trade block rather than one strictly based on the logic of profit maximization.” ALBA “appeals to the egalitarian principles of justice and equality . . . [and] the dispossessed sectors of society,” writer Teresa Arreaza explains.<sup>9</sup>

**Aligned with the Gramsci model of seizing power through “passive revolution,” the leaders of Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador each question the benefits of free trade and cooperation with the United States anti-narcotics programs.**

Another key element of Bolivarianism is the writing of new national constitutions, especially in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador. Legal scholars from Spain have played an important behind-the-scenes role in drafting populist documents. The constitutions are used to share a sense of “re-founding” the nation “. . . to correct historical injustices, to solidify power of the leader and to focus public policy and spending on social needs of classes traditionally overlooked by the government.”<sup>10</sup> These constitutions, in the eyes of the leaders of Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador, reflect their shared legacy of the nineteenth century nation-building by Simon Bolivar and, especially in Bolivia, the expansion of a political voice for the indigenous people that had been long controlled and influenced by the minority European descent population.

The new constitutions in these countries are driven by concrete political objectives. The Bolivian constitution, for instance, contains 411 articles (as compared to the U.S. Constitution of seven articles and twenty-seven amendments). The Bolivian constitution guarantees citizen rights to food, water, free education and health care, sewer service, electricity, gas, mail, and telephones, plus cultural identification, privacy, honor, dignity and a life free of torture and physical, psychological or sexual violence. Special rights are also assigned for children, families, the elderly, the disabled, and eighteen different rights for indigenous groups. With the help of these detailed national constitutions, the populist-socialist-Marxist presidents in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador, and in other Latin American countries, ride the wave of popular discontent against traditional elites in their respective societies. At an early 2009 social forum in Brazil, President Chavez also rationalized this approach as being an anti-Globalization effort against the North, especially the United States: “Misery, poverty, unemployment are growing, and global capitalism is largely to blame.”<sup>11</sup>

Ecuador's new constitution contains 444 articles. Including banning foreign bases (i.e., U.S. anti-narcotics bases) and lists numerous rights for the poor, including a promise of "good living." President Rafael Correa says the new constitution will end the rule by "economic mafias and neoliberalism [global capitalism]." The Ecuadoran constitution also gives the president the authority to dismiss the legislature and state-owned companies are given a dominant role in oil, mining, electricity, transport, and telecommunications. President Correa, a U.S.-educated economist, seems to have little trust in the private sector. "The market is an excellent servant but a terrible master," he says.<sup>12</sup> By August 2009, Correa was planning to invest more than \$9 billion in the state-owned gas industry.

Ecuador's voluminous constitution aside, President Correa, as pointed out by Alejandro Pena-Esclusa, is traveling on the same authoritarian pathway as Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales. The new constitution, for instance, will allow President Correa to stay in power until 2017. In addition to the extraordinary powers concentrated in the president's hands, Correa will gain control of two key media outlets in order to strengthen popular support for the government.<sup>13</sup>

President Correa claims to run a "citizen's revolution." In 2008, he increased public spending by 71 percent, which included new schools and hospitals. He also emphasized the need to improve Ecuador's economic competitiveness. Nevertheless, the U.S. CIA Director Leon Panetta warned in February 2009 that Ecuador was in economic straits that could trigger a destabilization. It is not surprising that President Correa turned to the Anti-Globalization Movement's much despised International Monetary Fund for loans to enable Ecuador to deal with the economic impact of the global financial crisis, especially the precipitous drop in oil prices. The IMF has also been quietly aiding Bolivia through a special "working relationship."<sup>14</sup>

### **Central America**

President Chavez was quick to expand his focus to Central America when political conditions began to fall in his direction in Nicaragua and El Salvador. When an overzealous President of Honduras tried to join the Bolivarian initiative, the wheels fell off the Chavez bandwagon, creating quite a political stink.

**Nicaragua.** Daniel Ortega, leader of the Marxist Sandinistas, fumbled his political opportunities at the end of 1980 by agreeing to and then losing a democratic election. Over the succeeding years, Ortega ran again and again, losing each time. Finally, conditions turned so bad in Nicaragua that the electorate gave him a stunning victory in 2006, although a deal had been made for a constitutional change that gave Ortega victory with only 37 percent of the vote. The Marxist leader's questionable victory was an immediate win for the Castro-Lula-Chavez troika by giving them a foothold in Central America.

Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the Americas. Nearly half of its people live in poverty and almost a fifth grind away their lives under extreme conditions. Ortega, with the money given to him by President Chavez to help solidify his presidency, provided 32,000 poor families with cows, pigs, chickens, fruit trees, and seeds for planting. He also started a nationwide literacy campaign with a target of eliminating illiteracy by mid 2009. [Note: literacy of a target population is essential for effective Marxist propaganda to take hold and ensure the Sandinistas continue in power over the long-term.]

When mayoral elections were held in 145 municipalities in November 2008, opposition members turned violent when they discovered that the voting had been rigged against them. Critics argued that Ortega's creation of Cuban-like neighborhood watch groups, or "citizen's power councils," weakened democratic checks and balances. When violence occurred in the capital, Managua, Hugo Chavez's government charged the United States with interference in the Nicaraguan election and cheered the Sandinistas' stolen victory as being "democratic triumph."<sup>15</sup>

President Ortega's critics insisted that he rigged the mayoral elections to favor his party. Secret deals with corrupt politicians in order to increase the Sandinista power over the democratic process gave Ortega a political edge. These accusations, which were recognized by the people in the streets, often lacked the concrete proof one would need in the courtroom. Moreover, President Ortega was quite dismissive of these claims, calling his critics "oligarchs." He also said the accusers reflected their jealousy that "the poor are in power."<sup>16</sup> President Ortega, with 37 percent of the vote and a set of highly questionable mayoral victories, was the new "democrat" born and bred for use in the Castro-Lula-Chavez "passive revolution" model.



**El Salvador.** Next on the Castro-Lula-Chavez plate was El Salvador. By mid-2008 it had begun to be recognized that despite the country's economic progress and relative calm for nearly twenty years, a radical political opposition was still present and increasingly active. The once radical group, Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN), had become a Marxist political party. In the run up to the March 2009 presidential election polls revealed the FMLN (with its Marxist voice toned down) holding a seven to eight percent advantage over the National Republican Alliance (ARENA) that had won the previous four elections. Moreover, the FMLN presidential candidate, Mauricio Funes was a widely known and liked media personality (CNN in Spanish).

Seeing himself as El Salvador's Barack Obama, an agent of "change," Funes and the FMLN went so far as to use images of Obama in their political ads. Television spots even mimicked Barack Obama's words "Yes, we can!," in English and Spanish. Rodrigo Avila, the ARENA Party candidate for president, claimed Funes was Hugo Chavez's puppet and that the FMLN wanted to turn El Salvador into a Venezuelan satellite.<sup>17</sup>

The *Washington Times* exposed the fact that "Chavez has been the FMLN's sugar daddy for years." According to the *Times* report, Venezuela underwrites the FMLN by selling significantly discounted diesel fuel to the Marxist movement's front organization "ALBA-Petroleos," which marks up and sells the fuel at a profit (Karl who?). The *Times* article also revealed that similar money laundering schemes helped to support Daniel Ortega in neighboring Nicaragua by discounting fuel sales to ALBA (Spanish acronym for "Bolivarian Alternative for the People of Our America").<sup>18</sup>

Seventeen years after El Salvador's bloody civil war, the former FMLN Marxist guerrillas, with some degree of support from the Castro-Lula-Chavez threesome, took over the country through the electoral "passive revolution" process. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton attended the President Funes's inauguration on June 1, 2009, wearing a bright red dress. [Note: Marxists and Communists worldwide wear red garments, ties, arm bands, and other signs of international socialist solidarity at important political events.] Secretary Clinton told President Funes, the head of the Marxist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, "The United States stands ready to assist you and your new government. This is a commitment President Obama and I share." In his inaugural speech, before an audience of men with red ties and women wearing red jackets, plus Secretary Clinton in her blazing red dress, President Funes hailed his two political heroes: Marxist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil and so-called "moderate leftist" President Barack Obama.<sup>19</sup> Another domino had fallen into the Castro-Lula-Chavez axis.

The populist-socialist-Marxist Leftists in Latin America and the Caribbean met in a love fest with the leader of the progressive-socialist-Marxists in North America, President Barack Obama, at the Summit of the Americas held in Port-of-Spain in Trinidad and Tobago on April 19-20, 2009. Lula da Silva, the Marxist president of Brazil, grinned from ear to ear, welcoming President Obama in solidarity. President Hugo Chavez of



**NO  
MAS  
CHAVEZ**

"No More Chavez" Rallies were held around the world on September 4, 2009.

Venezuela could not get enough “touch-and-feel” as he shook Obama’s hand repeatedly. He had burst with enthusiasm a month earlier after being apprised of Lula’s meeting with the U.S. president in Washington, D.C., calling on Obama to “come with us, align yourself, come with us on the road to socialism. This is the only path. Imagine a socialist revolution in the United States.”

Bolivia's President Evo Morales was more business-like, whining that the United States was still meddling in his country by working with his political opposition. Morales asked President Obama to denounce an assassination plot against him that had already been discovered by Bolivia’s security forces. Obama replied at the end of the Summit, when he made it clear that he was “absolutely opposed and condemned any efforts at violent overthrow of democratically elected governments.”<sup>20</sup>

President Obama continued his apologetic, humble foreign policy posture that he demonstrated in the Middle East when he bowed nearly below the waist to the King of Saudi Arabia. Apologizing for America’s national interest differences with other countries, President Obama told the thirty-four heads of state gathered in Port-of-Spain that his administration seeks an “equal partnership” with others in the Western hemisphere, emphasizing that “there is no senior partner or junior partner. . . . There is just engagement based on mutual respect.”<sup>21</sup> But for Barack Obama, those comments were not sufficient. He had to go on, smearing himself before the gathered leaders with an apology-filled humble pie: “Too often, the United States has not pursued and sustained engagement with our neighbors. We have been too easily distracted by other priorities, and have failed to see that our own progress is tied directly to progress throughout the Americas.”<sup>22</sup>

President Obama and the hard Left members of the Sao Paulo Forum all won what they wanted at the Summit of the Americas. White House advisor Jeffrey Davidow said “Obama will get the opportunity to ‘reset relations’ in the Western Hemisphere.”<sup>23</sup> Apparently the U.S. president was successful. President Lula da Silva was especially upbeat in hailing the Summit, especially Obama’s remarks, that offered “. . . a new way of viewing each other and overcoming our differences by debating them.”<sup>24</sup> And, like a nine-year-old with a new toy, President Hugo Chavez was ecstatic with pleasure.

**Bowing to the populism-socialism-Marxism of key Latin American leaders, President Obama extended his humility offensive with a particular focus on Lula and Chavez. The Presidents of Brazil and Venezuela could boast to their Cuban friends, Fidel and Raul Castro, the United States, at least in spirit, had subscribed to the radical policies and principles of the Forum of Sao Paulo. President Obama’s words left little doubt of his Administration’s solidarity with the Castro-Lula-Chavez troika and efforts by the radical left in Latin America to build a cooperative relationship with the United States.**

The April meeting in Trinidad and Tobago celebrated and consolidated the close personal relationship established earlier between Lula and Obama and extended to include Chavez and others making up the Bolivarian Revolution. Just a week before the

Summit of the Americas the Obama administration acted to place an olive branch in the President's hand by loosening the economic embargo against Cuba and promising that it would relax the bans against travel and transfer of family remittances to Cuba; telecommunications firms would also be allowed to provide services to Cuba. The trade embargo, however, would remain in place until it could be lifted by Congress. Though largely symbolic in nature, these changes leave the door ajar for a possible dialogue with the Castro brothers' Communist dictatorship.

President Obama's bowing and scraping at the Summit included praising the Castro brothers for sending doctors to neighboring Latin American countries (a revolutionary action to help friends consolidate their political positions). Christopher Ruddy adds that Obama also "... made the ridiculous suggestion that the U.S. helped our southern neighbors only with drug interdiction programs." Ruddy added that a popular erroneous belief, "one that Obama apparently shares," is "that the United States has been at fault in our relationship with Cuba." President Obama also said that "the policy [U.S. trade embargo] that we've had in place for 50 years hasn't worked in the way we want it to. The Cuban people are not free."<sup>25</sup>

This is a common faulty conclusion, but hardly one unexpected from the current President of the United States. The once stalwart Atlantic Council of the United States stated in a recent report, for example, that "any argument for maintaining the unilateral economic embargo is severely undermined by the fact that five decades of withholding economic stimulus has not forced political change on the island."<sup>26</sup> Even if that statement were true and relevant, why should the U.S. trade with a country whose leaders slaughtered some 16,000 of its own people, imprisoned thousands more, sent tens of thousands into exile, still sends spies into U.S. government agencies, and rules over the hapless Cuban people with one of the harshest dictatorships on the planet? How would we square American principles of personal liberty and democracy with the dark evil ruling Cuba? Christopher Ruddy of Newsmax.com adds that "the claim that America's embargo keeps Cuba subservient to Castro is simply nonsense. Cuba has opened its doors to trade from almost every nation on the earth, including Canada and most of Europe. The result? Nothing has changed in Cuba except the inflows of cash have propped up the Castro regime and left Cuba's trading nations with loads of unpaid debt—an estimated \$29 billion."<sup>27</sup>

To reinforce the point, a husband and wife team of trusted State Department intelligence analysts were arrested for spying for Cuba in early June 2009. Both were retired State Department officials who had hired back to fulfill their intelligence work. Gwendolyn and Walter Kendall Myers, both in their early seventies, were said to have found a new inspiration in the Communist revolution. Gwendolyn Myers had worked for then-Congressman James Abourezk, a contemporary Obama adviser, some years ago. The Myers planned to take their yacht to Cuba when it was time "to sail home."<sup>28</sup>

**With his relationship with Brazil's President Lula da Silva on solid ground from a meeting preceding the Summit of the Americas, President Obama turned his attention to Hugo Chavez, who had invited him in March to join Latin**

## **American countries on the path to Bolivarian socialism—“Imagine a socialist revolution in the United States.”**

President Obama, in response at the Summit of the Americas in April, remained silent about Venezuela’s violations of the principles of free speech, a free press, tolerance of opposition groups, and human rights. Rather, Obama whooped-it-up with the Venezuelan president, shaking hands several times, embracing, smiling and otherwise enjoying each other’s companionship. He defended his outreach to the Venezuelan dictator by saying that “Venezuela is a country whose defense budget is probably one-six-hundredth of the United States. They own Citgo. It’s unlikely that as a consequence of shaking hands or having a polite conversation with Mr. Chavez, we are endangering the strategic interest of the United States.”<sup>29</sup>

Former U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela Otto Reich holds a different view. Reich emphasized that when you are the President of the United States representing the country and the American people, “you don’t go around slapping a foreign dictator on the back . . . who has done everything in his power to undermine U.S. interests in the region and who calls himself an enemy of the United States.” Reich also pointed out that photos of Obama and Chavez hanging-out together, appearing as pals or best buddies, are likely to be misinterpreted in all of Latin America and especially by the Venezuelan people who are under the heavy-hand of the Chavez government. Reich said that “. . . in Venezuela Hugo Chavez said last night this is the greatest triumph in Venezuelan diplomacy ever. Because what he [President Chavez] is trying to do is portray this as an endorsement of his policies, which he “. . . calls 21<sup>st</sup> century socialism but which really just retread 20<sup>th</sup>-century fascism.”<sup>30</sup>

**Honduras—The Democratic Domino that Refused to Fall.** President Manuel Zelaya was awakened during the night of June 28, 2009, by armed soldiers who bundled the pajama-clad national chief executive onto an awaiting aircraft that flew him to neighboring Costa Rica where he was unceremoniously dropped on the tarmac. It appeared to those without the facts, like President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, that this event was a familiar re-play of the old Latin American political game of a military coup. But the facts tell a far more complicated tale, a story curiously resisted by the U.S. president and his top foreign policy assistant.

First, President Zelaya, it turns out, was involved in drug trafficking from Venezuela to the United States.<sup>31</sup> Secondly, President Zelaya in effect had secretly sold Honduras to Venezuela’s chieftain, Hugo Chavez. On August 25, 2008, he agreed to have Honduras join Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Cuba in the Venezuelan-led Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), the regional cooperation arrangement designed to resist what they call “northern imperialism.”

The price paid by Hugo Chavez to implement the Sao Paulo Forum’s version of Antonio Gramsci’s “passive revolution” model in Honduras included giving the Zelaya government \$100 million in Honduran issued bonds, the proceeds were to provide housing assistance to the poor; a \$40 million line of credit for micro-loans to small

farmers; 100 tractors for rental to peasants at very low rates; technical assistance for a government-operated television station; four million low-energy light bulbs; support for education and healthcare; and preferential payment options for oil.<sup>32</sup> These are essential supports for poor farmers and workers in order to win their votes in Zelaya's envisioned re-election run for the presidency.

President Zelaya moved quickly to consolidate the political gains resulting from spreading around \$284,000 to thirty-eight social and political leaders in exchange for their support of the country's membership in ALBA. He had moved against the press in 2007 to "counteract the misinformation of the news media," and he ordered the country's broadcast media to air two-hour-long pro-government programs. When a radio station reporter was killed, the United Nations Rapporteur on the Right to Freedom of Expression and Opinion visited Honduras and issued a statement of concern: "The murder of Carlos Salgado confirms the deterioration in press freedom in Honduras."<sup>33</sup> This was under Zelaya.

Undeterred by the fault line of cooperation with the Castro-Lula-Chavez model for "passive revolution," President Zelaya followed instructions by developing ties with Iran. In February 2009, Alireza Salari Sharefabad, the Vice Minister of Iranian Foreign Relations, traveled to Honduras for a meeting with Zelaya's leftist Minister of Foreign Relations, Patricia Rodas.<sup>34</sup> While reports of their discussion are lacking, it seems quite clear that Honduras' active membership in ALBA as a quisling of Venezuela was a pre-condition to dealing with Iran.

President Zelaya, in spite of all of these preparations, faced one very big problem: The Honduran constitution limits the president to just one four-year term in office—re-election is forbidden. The passive revolutionary program developed by Fidel Castro and Lula da Silva, and first implemented by Hugo Chavez, requires in Step 8 that "the national constitution to allow re-election of the president for successive terms." President Zelaya, nearing the end of his one-time term allowed by the constitution, would have to leave office in 2010. Hence, for Zelaya to run in the November 2009 election, the Honduras constitution would have to be modified to allow the head-of-state run for successive terms. Meanwhile, in July 2009, after Zelaya had been removed from office and the country, Honduran investigators discovered that the president and chief-of-staff had inexplicitly withdrawn some \$2.2 million from Honduran government accounts.<sup>35</sup>

For nearly a year, President Zelaya had been preparing the political ground for reform of the constitution in accordance with the "passive revolution" model developed by the Castro-Lula-Chavez troika. The key was amending the Honduran constitution based on the guise of helping the common good of farmers and working people. Chavez provided Zelaya the resources and tools to assist the drive for greater popularity, enough to convince the ordinary Honduran to vote for reform of the constitution to enable President Zelaya to remain in office.

During the week prior to Zelaya's removal from office, he ordered the armed forces to carry out the first step of the constitutional reform project. This order was in stark opposition to constitutional law and the Honduras judicial branch, which, appropriately, considered the attempted reform action to be illegal. General Romeo Vazquez, the military chief-of-staff, refused to carry out the illegal order. President Zelaya appeared on national television and fired General Vazquez. The constitutional crisis grew when the Honduran Supreme Court reinstated him. Ignoring the Supreme Court, President Zelaya moved forward with his plans for a referendum that would change the constitution, allowing him to remain in office for successive re-elections. The ballots, already printed in Venezuela, had been delivered to Honduras. That was enough for General Vazquez and the Honduran Army. It was not long before President Zelaya began his pajama-clad journey to exile.<sup>36</sup> Many Hondurans considered this action as being one to protect the constitution and resist a takeover by the Castro-Lula-Chavez troika.

President Chavez tried to return President Zelaya on July 5, but the Venezuelan aircraft carrying Zelaya was unable to land at Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, because all landing areas were blocked by trucks and other equipment. Meanwhile, the Organization of American States and General Assembly of the United Nations, both led by extreme Leftists, tried to place pressure on the successor government to move forward with the previously scheduled November 2009 elections.

**President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton were also oblivious to the Honduran Supreme Court's declaration, on two separate occasions, that President Zelaya's efforts to change the constitution were illegal. Rather, President Obama and Secretary Clinton sided with Fidel and Raul Castro, Lula da Silva, Hugo Chavez, and other populist-socialist-Marxists trying to preserve Latin American regimes opposed to democratic government in Honduras and elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

Exiled President Zelaya took up residence in Costa Rica, while President Oscar Arias, with the full backing of the United States, tried to introduce a reasonable dialogue between the two parties in Honduras to resolve the dispute. Meanwhile, Zelaya tried to cross the border from Nicaragua and was faced down by Honduran troops. In response, Zelaya set up a camp just across the border in Nicaragua. Only a few hundred Zelaya supporters were able to avoid the Honduran Army's patrols and join the former president in his muddy camp. After a couple days, Zelaya gave it up and moved to a comfortable hotel nearby.<sup>37</sup> The head of the OAS insisted that Mr. Zelaya be restored to the presidency; the European Union condemned the so-called "coup;" President Obama called for "calm;" and Secretary Clinton accused the Hondurans of violating "the precepts of the Inter-American Democratic Charter" and said that the Army's action should be "condemned by all." With these political actions being exerted against Honduras, one can imagine President Chavez setting back in Caracas roaring with laughter at the comic opera his meddling had created.

President Obama's and Secretary Clinton's respective cozy relationships with the populist-socialist-Marxist movement in Latin America guided by the Castro-Lula-Chavez troika are both rooted in the activities with the radical left prior to their entering office. On Obama's part, he called on "all political and social actors in Honduras to respect the democratic norms, the rule of law and tenets of the Inter-American Democratic Charter." This position is tilted to the hard left in support of the Forum of Sao Paulo "actors"—the Castro brothers, Lula da Silva, and Hugo Chavez in the main, but also including Evo Morales (Bolivia), Rafael Correa (Ecuador), Daniel Ortega (Nicaragua), and Mauricio Funes (El Salvador), as well as the FARC, Tupac Amaru, and other terrorist supporting groups.

America's Survival, Inc. (ASI) President Cliff Kincaid got it right: "The so-called 'military coup' in Honduras was a successful effort by Honduran patriots to preserve their constitutional system of government from an international alliance of communists and socialists backed by Iran. Not surprisingly, America's Marxist President has come down on the anti-American side."<sup>38</sup> ASI has published several reports on Honduras, including "How a Coalition of Communist, Leftist and Terrorist Movements is Threatening Freedom in the Americas," and "Obama and Chavez Work to Destroy Anti-Communist Honduras."<sup>39</sup> Another report, "The Chavista Terror Support Network and the Fourth World War," examines the activities of agents of Chavez in the U.S.

Not to be ignored, the international left took advantage of the Organization of American States and the United Nations as avenues to excoriate the Honduran defense of their constitution's integrity. Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS, demanded that President Zelaya be returned to power. When Jorge Rivera, the head judge of the Honduran Supreme Court, informed the OAS chief diplomat that a warrant had already been issued for Zelaya's arrest and that, if he returned, he would be detained, Insulza responded by expelling Honduras from the OAS.

But the OAS Secretary General Insulza has dirty hands. The Chilean socialist is courting Hugo Chavez's backing to bring the entire Bolivarean movement to the table to satisfy his burning desire for a second term in office. While Insulza has been showing his courting dance to Chavez, he has been ignoring such irregularities in Venezuela where the mayor of Caracas has been stripped of most of his power and budget, driven from office by a mob, and subjected to threats of criminal prosecution. All of these actions were contrary to law, but not a finger was lifted by Secretary General Insulza or the OAS to enforce the law in the former mayor's case.<sup>40</sup> Meanwhile, the United States and Venezuela sponsored a United Nations Resolution against the Honduran ejection of a would-be dictator who violated his country's constitution in a fruitless effort to retain executive power for a second term and perhaps longer.

The United Nations debate was orchestrated by Miguel D'Escoto—a Communist Catholic Priest from Nicaragua, winner of the Lenin Peace Prize from the old Soviet Union, and today the President of the UN General Assembly. D'Escoto is another one of President Obama's and President Chavez's allies, especially since his recent work

with U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice on forging a new international socialist order.<sup>41</sup>

The Obama gang cannot seem to stop itself from shaping Latin America's new narcoterrorist-friendly Marxist order. In early September, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with former President Manuel Zelaya of Honduras and agreed to push his tiny country further into the warm embrace of Hugo Chavez by cutting off \$30 million in aid immediately and \$215 million through 2013. Meanwhile, Latin America's populist-socialist-Marxist elite are pushing the International Monetary Fund to follow the U.S. lead in helping the Cuba-Brazil-Venezuela troika "Marxize" Honduras.<sup>42</sup>

## Conclusion

Rodrigo Villamizar, a former State minister and Colombian diplomat, cuts through the Leftist blather by explaining that "Bolivarianism is nothing more than a well coordinated movement that seeks to centralize all national power within the domain of a single individual through the use of populism." Ambassador Villamizar states simply that Bolivarianism has three common characteristics: (1) "the destruction of all independent political and economic institutions," (2) "heavy use of populism" [through] "redistributive policies" [and] "direct handouts to the poor," and (3) "the need to remain in office forever." Villamizar concludes that "Bolivarianism is centralizing so much power in the hands of a few individuals that eventual regime change will plunge these countries into a period of deep social instability."<sup>43</sup>

One of the most frustrating aspects of Antonio Gramsci's ideas on creating successive "passive revolutions" is that it is based on using democracy (populism) as a tool to destroy democracy and install socialist-Marxist regimes that exercise autocratic rule over the very people who voted for them and brought them to power. In the hands of Fidel Castro and Lula da Silva, populism-socialism-Marxism exercised through the dual school houses of the Forum of Sao Paulo in Latin America and Anti-Globalization Movement in North America and Europe, which redefined the very idea of Marxism and the people to whom it wished to free from capitalistic forces, create a new revolutionary model to take humankind a few steps closer to socialist world governance. With Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez serving as director of operations for the new movement, Latin America will serve as a showcase for other nations to follow around the world. With President Obama "in the bag," these Leftist revolutionaries dream of the day when global governance will become a reality.

**The Honduran constitutional crisis prompted the Obama Administration to show its foreign policy hand prematurely. The reality of the United States aligning with Cuba, Brazil, Venezuela, and other leftists in Latin America, and embracing a global socialist order, is now evident.**

Alejandro Pena-Esclusa, in an interview with ASI President Cliff Kincaid, said that, "It is a shame that President Obama is aligning himself with the allies of Chavez

and [Iranian President] Ahmadinejad to crush a democratic process in Honduras. I ask myself: will he really be conscious of the tremendous damage he is inflicting to democracy and freedom in our continent? Does he really know the danger he is posing to the national security of the United States?"

## End notes

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<sup>3</sup> Alejandro Pena-Esclusa, *The Foro de Sao Paulo: A Threat to Freedom in Latin America* (Bogota, Colombia: Mary Montes Edition, February 2009), pp. 9, 13-14.

<sup>4</sup> As quoted by Alejandro Pena-Esclusa in *Foro de Sao Paulo*, p. 15 (A working document for the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sao Paulo Forum in Managua, February 2000). Original document at <http://fuerzasolidaria.org>.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22.

<sup>6</sup> As quoted by Phil Brennan, "Communism Thrives South of the Border," *NewsMax.com* (August 2003), pp. 62-63.

<sup>7</sup> Alejandro Pena-Esclusa, Interview with Jamie Glazov, "Unholy Alliance to the South," *FrontPageMagazine.com* (March 18, 2009).

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<sup>10</sup> Joshua Partlow, "Latin America's Document-Driven Revolutions," *Washington Post* (February 17, 2009), pp. A1, A10.

<sup>11</sup> Joshua Partlow, "Despite Feats, President of Bolivia Stirs Fierce Debate," *Washington Post* (February 15, 2009), pp. A1, A16; and Partlow, "Latin America's Document-Driven Revolutions," pp. A1, A10.

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<sup>15</sup> Blake Schmidt, "Mayor Fight Turns Violent in Managua," *Washington Times* (November 19, 2008), pp. A1, A8.

<sup>16</sup> Blake Schmidt, "Ortega's Critics Warn of Growing 'Dictatorship,'" *Washington Times* (February 17, 2009), p. A11.

<sup>17</sup> William Booth, "In El Salvador Vote, Big Opportunity for Leftists," *Washington Post* (March 9, 2009), p. 9, and John Thomson, "Fixing El Salvador," *Washington Times* (July 16, 2008), p. A24.

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<sup>19</sup> Mary Beth Sheridan, "Leftist Takes El Salvador's Helm," *Washington Post* (June 2, 2009), p. A5.

<sup>20</sup> Scott Wilson, "Obama Closes Summit, Vows Broader Engagement with Latin America," *Washington Post* (April 20, 2009), p. A6

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In this new report, ***The Politics of “Change” in Shaping Latin America’s New Marxist Order***, Robert Chandler examines how:

- The Castro brothers (Cuba), Lula da Silva (Brazil), and Hugo Chavez (Venezuela) are behind the communist advance in Latin America.
- The blueprint for the subversion of Latin American countries has been developed from the work of Italian Communist Antonio Gramsci. The plan uses techniques of Marxist “passive revolution” to take and maintain but never give up power.
- The blueprint includes the writing of new national constitutions, to enable the Marxist president to stay in power indefinitely.
- The objective is to unite Latin America into a single powerful regional Marxist entity.
- The Castro/Lula/Chavez troika helped return Marxist Daniel Ortega to power in Nicaragua and helped bring the Marxist FMLN to power through elections in El Salvador.
- Hugo Chavez attempted to buy power in Honduras, but the ploy was thwarted when the Chavez candidate, Manuel Zelaya, who was implementing the blueprint described above, was deposed.
- President Obama’s embrace of the Marxist plan can be seen in the administration’s decision to side with Chavez, the Castro brothers, and Lula, in an effort to undermine and ultimately destroy the anti-communist government of Honduras which deposed Zelaya.