

Fighting Communism With Socialism Won't Save Venezuela

By Cliff Kincaid – February 1, 2019

All freedom-loving people support the overthrow of the tyrannical socialist Nicolás Maduro regime in Venezuela. But President Trump's replacement, Venezuelan National Assembly President Juan Guaido, is also a socialist. His Popular Will party is a "progressive" party and a member of the Socialist International.

It was President Trump who told the United Nations, "All nations of the world should resist socialism and the misery that it brings to everyone."

Yet, Trump has been convinced by his advisers to intervene on behalf of Guaido, a socialist "alternative" to Maduro who has pledged an amnesty for virtually all officials of the Maduro regime, including its most corrupt bureaucrats and military officials.

The crisis in Venezuela is what happens when the State Department uses its funding agencies, including USAID, to support "opposition" groups. Rather than promote anti-communist groups which embrace American ideas of limited government and free enterprise, USAID programs subsidize left-wing political figures and movements, often described as "civil society." The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a federally-funded entity, does the same thing on a much larger scale. It spends more than \$150 million a year on "democracy assistance" in foreign countries.

President Ronald Reagan started the NED program in 1983 and figured it would maintain an anti-communist bent. But neoconservatives with socialist backgrounds who support globalism and American intervention in foreign countries quickly took charge.

The NED's president, Carl Gershman, who took control in 1984, is a socialist who has been associated with the Young People's Socialist League and Social Democrats, U.S.A., an offshoot of the U.S. Socialist Party. **Gershman and his NED seem to have operated on the false but common assumption that communist ideology is dead and that, in the words of liberal historian Arthur Schlesinger, "democratic socialism was the most effective bulwark against totalitarianism."**

Communists join Venezuelan Socialists in Maduro re-election bid

But it is significant and interesting to note that President Barack Hussein Obama had actually declared Venezuela's regime an "extraordinary threat to national security" and began the effort to isolate and financially sanction the Maduro regime. Obviously, Obama did not find fault with the regime's socialist policies; he promoted his own brand of socialism, including Obamacare, here in the U.S. It seems clear, in retrospect, that Obama, always sympathetic to Venezuela's socialist experiment, was preparing for a new socialist government to replace the one that was corrupt and failing. What we are seeing currently take place is another phase in the ongoing socialist revolution.

Trump, a skeptic of the intelligence he gets from the CIA, should demand answers from Mike Pompeo, his Secretary of State. He can't continue to oppose socialism, as he did in that U.N. speech, if his administration supports a new socialist regime in Venezuela.



**National Endowment
for Democracy**

Supporting freedom around the world

Though considered by some to be at odds or different, the terms "socialism" and "communism" can be virtually interchangeable. Consider the video of "Democratic socialist" Senator Bernie Sanders singing "This land is Your Land" and "partying like a frat boy and swilling booze" with the Soviet communists during a trip to the Soviet Union. Commenting on Bernie and his comrades, Professor Paul Kengor notes that the Vermont Senator has a long affinity for various "socialists" and "communists." This is a real Russia-gate scandal that involves not just Sanders but a wide array of Democratic Party officials who showed their sympathies by opposing Reagan's anti-communist policies in the 1980s.

In the U.S., as analyst Trevor Loudon points out, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), a group that backed Obama from the start of his political career, is now working openly with the Communist Party USA, once funded by Moscow. Other participating organizations in the new "Left Inside/Outside Project" include the Freedom Road Socialist Organization and the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism.

In Venezuela, the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) backs Maduro's United Socialist Party of Venezuela and they issued a joint statement warning of the Venezuelan "extreme right" taking power, backed by the U.S. and various "right-wing governments." Yet, as we have noted, the "alternative" Popular Will party is itself socialist. In fact, the "opposition" seems to be dominated by a garden-variety of socialists, a reflection perhaps of the failure by USAID and NED to support conservative groups fighting communists in Venezuela.



Anti-communist groups did exist in Venezuela. In fact, anti-communist activist Alejandro Peña Esclusa, arrested by Venezuela's Marxist regime of Hugo Chavez on trumped-up charges of being a terrorist, created UnoAmerica, an anti-communist alliance and wrote *The Foro de São Paulo: A Threat to Freedom in Latin America*, exposing how the Chavez regime had joined with Fidel Castro and former Brazilian President Luís Inácio Lula da Silva to spread Marxist revolution in Venezuela and throughout the region. The report is still a valuable road map into the socialist and communist dangers in Latin America.

As Alejandro Peña Esclusa notes, Marxism was allowed to enter Latin America by way of people's weariness with the poverty and social ills that plague those societies. However, another form of socialism does nothing to alleviate those problems and in fact worsens them. **There now arises an historic opportunity to defeat this Marxism through a rediscovery of the values of the Christian-Western civilization of which the people of Latin America are a part, and to initiate a new quest for development and growth in Latin America.**

Who is Juan Guaidó?

Andres Oppenheimer, columnist for *The Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald*, says the leaders of the opposition in Venezuela see 35-year-old Juan Guaidó "as an accidental and temporary president, who only seeks to preside over a rapid transition to democracy." An industrial engineer, Guaidó appears to be sincere and well-motivated but rather naïve in his approach to the communist butchers running his country. His offer of amnesty to Maduro and top military officials would undermine the survival of the democracy he says he is trying to achieve. What's more, if snap elections are held, as a

result of the demonstrations and international pressure now taking place, the socialist and communist parties would have the edge.

More seriously, the replacement of a communist thug by a different kind of socialist will not eliminate the Chavistas, named for Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, the predecessor to Maduro, in the Armed Forces and intelligence service. Even with amnesty, they would stay behind, with help from Russia, Cuba, and China, to destabilize any new regime and spark a full-blown civil war, perhaps leading to calls for U.S. military intervention.

No Credit to Trump

Many socialist "progressives" in the U.S. Congress are still clinging to support for the Maduro regime by opposing U.S. "intervention" in the "internal" situation there. Eventually, of course, they could come around to supporting Guaido, another socialist, or Guaido's mentor, opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, founder of Popular Will. But supporting a democratic socialist in Venezuela backed by Trump will not result in any goodwill for the president. He will continue to be targeted for political destruction here.

The role of international socialists, who work hand-in-glove with communists, is particularly worrisome as the crisis in Venezuela builds. The Socialist International (SI), an association of 140 global political parties and a major force in the European Union, has 36 member parties that are now in power in various forms in the governments of the world and which include hard-core communist groups or communist-fronts such as the African National Congress in South Africa and the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

In the Middle East, the Socialist International has joined the Boycott Divest and Sanction Israel campaign and includes Fatah as a member. Fatah, now officially considered the more "moderate" of the Palestinian factions and in charge of the Palestinian Authority, developed from the Muslim Brotherhood.

Spain's socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez made his announcement backing Guaidó during the closing session of the Council of the Socialist International. The same socialist Pedro Sanchez had previously pledged to "deepen" ties with the Communist-led island of Cuba during a November 2018 visit. As noted by Martin Arostegui, Spanish conservative leader Santiago Abascal has denounced Sanchez as an "accomplice" of "Castro-Chavismo," a term used to describe an alliance between Cuba and Venezuela to spread communist-style socialism.

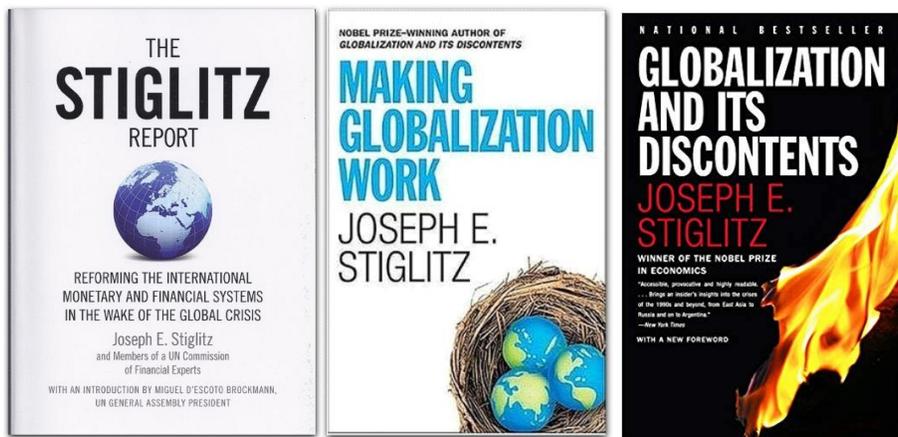
All of a sudden, Sanchez is now a backer of "change" in Venezuela. Perhaps this sudden development reflects the fact that the Socialist International is orchestrating this policy, in association with the State Department, and is driving events toward a predetermined outcome – another socialist government that will be put in place.

Journalist Martin Arostegui explains what is happening in Venezuela: "While communist propaganda has always associated U.S. policy in Latin America with right-wing coups and death squads, the State Department has focused its main effort in co-opting the

non-communist left. Hugo Chavez's predecessor in Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez, was a luminary in the Socialist International who cooperated closely with the U.S. in trying to influence other democratic socialists. But the state control to which Chavez submitted Venezuela's economy was in large measure facilitated by the fact that Venezuela's oil industry had already been nationalized by more moderate predecessors with U.S. compliance.”

Using Trump’s favorite news outlet, Guaidó gave an exclusive interview to Trish Regan of Fox Business and was reported to have said that he hopes the transition to democracy happens as soon as possible “to end the country’s last chapter as a socialist state.” But that’s not exactly what he said. He spoke of protecting private property and private businesses, but that is not necessarily the end of socialism.

Fox Business added, “President Trump has vowed to use the ‘full weight’ of America’s power to help the poverty-stricken country go from a socialist state to a genuinely democratic Venezuela.” This may be the goal of Trump, who later spoke to Guaido over the phone, but the members of the Socialist International orchestrating this regime change do not want to see the end of a socialist state in Venezuela. Their goal is to make Venezuela into another kind of socialist state – similar to what Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of the Democratic Socialists of America is proposing for America. Indeed, the DSA was once an affiliate of the Socialist International.



Interestingly, American economist Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize-winning professor from Columbia University, is a member of the Socialist International Commission on Global Financial Issues and an adviser to billionaire hedge fund operator George Soros.

A former Clinton official and financial contributor to the Democratic Party and its candidates, Stiglitz has argued for a variety of global tax schemes that would cost American taxpayers billions of dollars. One of his latest columns endorses the “Green New Deal” of Rep. Ocasio-Cortez.

Don’t be surprised if Stiglitz surfaces as an adviser to a new government in Venezuela that promises a kinder, gentler form of socialism. Of course, it will require a heavy dose of American foreign aid, even some form of global taxes, to generate the revenue to

make it work, all under the watchful supervision of the United Nations. Let's hope President Trump doesn't fall for the scam. The people of Venezuela deserve freedom and free enterprise, not a new version of socialism that lends itself eventually to another complete communist takeover of Venezuela.



And under no circumstances should Maduro and his henchmen be given amnesty. They should be prosecuted and held accountable for their communist crimes.