

# Venezuela's Chávez: London's Jacobin Project

Venezuela's turbulent days of April 11-12—when President Hugo Chávez was overthrown, then returned to power 48 hours later—have been presented in most international media as a case of a rebellious “David” standing up to the U.S. “Goliath.” Although there is strong evidence that elements of the U.S. government were involved in the coup, and were decisive in hijacking that coup in the direction of an Mont Pelerinite, Pinochet-style putsch, Chávez is *not* the innocent victim and Third World nationalist he pretends to be.

Hugo Chávez is, in fact, a London and Wall Street political project, whose agents have molded him and his Jacobin movement into a battering ram against the sovereign nation-states of Ibero-America. Chávez is a strategic ally of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the world's number-one cocaine cartel. His reorganization of Venezuela's institutions is modeled explicitly on the Nazi precedent of the 1930s. And he is implementing International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Wall Street economic policies in Venezuela, as fast as his mouth spews out rhetoric that claims the opposite.

The failed coup and counter-coup, with its heavy dose of utter incompetence and strategic lunacy coming from Washington, may have momentarily strengthened Chávez's international image. But inside Venezuela, his support is paper thin. His narco-terrorist alliances, dictatorial rule, deployment of shocktroops against the opposition, and the dramatic economic decline which has accelerated under his administration, have all severely eroded his control over the polarized country. More political violence may well be on the agenda.

We present here a summary of who and what Chávez really is, as *EIR* has reported this over several years.

## I. A London Project

From the moment Lt. Col. Hugo Chávez emerged from jail in 1994, after his failed coup of 1992, the British government went out of its way to groom him, both as a potential



President Hugo Chávez

President of Venezuela, and as the new Robespierre of an Ibero-American-wide Jacobin revolution.

- On March 12, 1994, the Venezuelan daily *El Nacional* reported that Chávez, just out of prison, had been seen dining at a deluxe Caracas restaurant with the political counselor of the British Embassy, Paul Webster Hare.

- In late March 1994, Chávez told a Buenos Aires press conference that British Ambassador John Flynn had been organizing a visit to London for him, which was “sabotaged” by then-Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera.

- In May 1998, Chávez finally got his visit to London, where “my friend John Wilkinson,” the British Ambassador to Venezuela, introduced him to all the “right people,” including officials of the Blair government, members of Parliament, a gathering at Oxford University, and, of course, the president of British Petroleum.

- On Sept. 28, 1998, a few months before his December election to the Presidency, Chávez gave an interview to Venezuela's *El Universal*, in which he proclaimed: “Over the last few years, I have been revising my positions, and I am very close to the thesis of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, when he speaks of the Third Way. . . . I adhere to it.”

- One month later, British Ambassador Wilkinson told a select meeting of British and Venezuelan businessmen in Caracas, that Chávez's “popularity and his legitimacy . . . [are] indispensable conditions for the hard measures which the next President must adopt.”

- In the months following his election, Chávez was repeatedly praised in the British media and by British government circles for the “excellent opportunities” his administration has provided to British companies.

- During the April 11-12, 2002 coup attempt against the Chávez administration, Denis MacShane, head of the British Foreign Office's Latin American department, was quick to demand “an immediate return to democratic rule.” MacShane threatened that “any delay to this process will be unacceptable to the international community.”

## II. Narco-Terrorist Alliances

Chávez's election to the Venezuelan Presidency represented a key advance in the consolidation of the narco-terrorist apparatus launched in 1990 by Cuba's Communist Party, under the umbrella of the São Paulo Forum. With its activist Chávez now a head of state, the Forum readied itself to seize leadership over millions of desperate Ibero-Americans at the moment of a global financial crash—much as British bankers deployed the Jacobins to control the French Revolution.

The pivot of the continental operation was the drug-running FARC. Immediately after his inauguration, Chávez offered to “mediate” Colombian government peace talks with the FARC, declaring that Venezuela “is neutral. We aren't in favor of either side.” Chávez's equating the FARC with the Colombian government caused a furor in Colombia, since it

de facto granted the FARC full “belligerency” status under international law.

In October 2001, Chávez went to France to intercede on behalf of the “human rights” of notorious international terrorist Carlos “The Jackal” Ramírez, who is Venezuelan by birth. Chávez told a press conference that it was not for him to determine whether Colombia’s FARC and ELN are “freedom fighters, or terrorists.” FARC spokesman “Simón Trinidad” gave an interview the same month, saying: “Anyone who fights U.S. imperialism as the first enemy of the peoples of the world, which is the premise of Bolivarian thought, has our support, our sympathy, and we wish to work with him. . . . We have no points of difference with Chávez.”

On this point, Chávez put his money where his mouth was, allowing unimpeded actions by the FARC/ELN on the Venezuelan side of the border with Colombia. Cattle-rustling, murders, arms- and drug-running, and kidnappings have led to denunciations by both Venezuelan and Colombian military officers, of Chávez’s complicity with the FARC. As recently as January, the Chávez government—and, in particular, Interior Minister Ramón Rodríguez Chacín—were accused of collaborating with the narco-terrorists. Venezuelan journalists released a video provided by dissident Venezuelan military officers, showing high-level Chavista military figures meeting with FARC commanders inside Colombian territory, without the knowledge of the Colombian government. Rodríguez Chacín, a shadowy figure in military intelligence until his nomination to the Interior Ministry post, had in fact served as Chávez’s covert liaison to the FARC for years.

Chávez’s alliance with the FARC is so open that the Colombian daily *El Tiempo* editorialized on April 8: “There is an unmistakable affinity of the Venezuelan head of state for the FARC.”

### III. Following the Nazi Model in Law

Immediately after his March 1999 inauguration, Chávez demanded that Congress hold a nationwide referendum to convoke a Constituent Assembly, or face rule by decree. On April 11, 1999, Chávez described all the branches of government as “damaged, worm-eaten,” and without “legitimate and moral authority,” and promised that his Constituent Assembly would have “originating,” or absolute power, including the power to dissolve branches of government. In July, after overriding all legal objections, Chávez’s Assembly was seated. Of 131 members, 127 were personally designated by Chávez.

From beginning to end, the Constituent Assembly was inspired by Carl Schmitt, known in the 1930s as “the Crown Jurist of the Third Reich.” Schmitt had used precisely the same argument of “the originating power” to justify Hitler’s coup, claiming that “charismatic leadership” was necessary for “the People” to defeat “the Bureaucracy.”

Chávez’s closest advisers have publicly cited Schmitt’s

legal theories as the foundation of their new “Bolivarian” revolution. One of Chávez’s earliest financiers, banker Ignacio Quintana, quoted Schmitt in defense of a Constituent Assembly that would uphold “the interests of the people” versus “a political and ideological superstructure” represented by political parties. Jurist Ricardo Combellas, a Chávez legal adviser in 1999, wrote that the Constituent Assembly must “rank above the established powers, which cannot obstruct its activity,” and quoted Schmitt that it is “the power which embraces all other powers.” Neither mentioned Schmitt’s relationship to Hitler’s Nazi regime.

Drawing on Schmitt’s legal theories as justification for usurping constitutional order, Chávez proceeded to:

- Destroy the nation’s political parties;
- Impose his own choices for Supreme Court magistrates, Prosecutor General, Comptroller General, People’s Defender, and electoral board;
- Eliminate “undesirable” governors in various states of the republic; and, most significantly,
- Forge a paramilitary force of enraged elements into “Bolivarian Circles,” to silence any and all opposition. Evoking the rule of *vox populi* in the Jacobin fashion, Chávez has proclaimed: “The voice of the people is the voice of God. . . . Chávez is the people and the people cannot be stopped.”

It is estimated that there are as many as 30,000 members of the Bolivarian Circles nationwide, many of them reportedly trained in weapons handling and insurgency tactics by the FARC.

### IV. Chávez Implements IMF Policy

During his first 100 days in office, Chávez made it clear that he has no intention of reversing the globalist economic policies of the Carlos Andrés Pérez government. He pledged: no exchange controls, no price controls, no protectionist measures of any sort. He kept his predecessor’s Finance Minister in her post, promised that foreign debts would be paid, and announced that he would keep the IMF oversight program, known as the “shadow program,” in place.

Thus, by 2000, more than 86% of the total population was officially considered below the poverty line, with only 14% of the population reporting an income of more than \$750 a month, the cost of the basic market basket of food and services. Drastic restriction of public investment—as part of Chávez’s famed “reduction of the state”—had a domino effect across the economy, driving up unemployment to an unofficial 21% or higher, and reducing consumption. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000, almost one-quarter of Venezuela’s small businesses had shut down.

Chávez has kept up an unrelenting assault on the Venezuelan Labor Federation (CTV), describing its leadership as corrupt pigs who will “meet their Saturday” (a reference to the custom of Saturday barbecues in Venezuela). He has proposed to eliminate the CTV and replace it with a “Bolivarian Labor Force” under his direct oversight.