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World Affairs

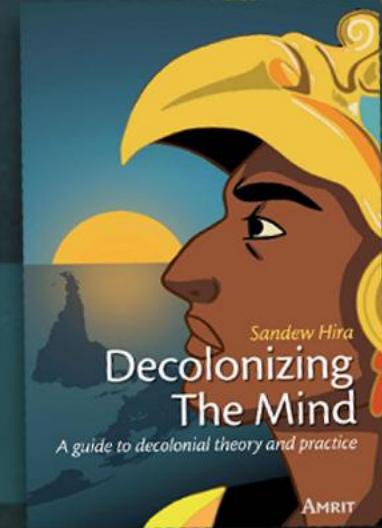
A decolonial analysis of current world affairs



Elections in Venezuela



Decolonizing The Mind,
the final frontier of colonialism
with Sandew Hira



#053
29-07-2024

Topics

- ❑ Aude Chesnais: two question about my last podcast
- ❑ My journey to Iran two months ago
- ❑ The elections in Venezuela

Aude Chesnais

- ❑ How can you bring DTM to people who are so brainwashed?
- ❑ Why is peaceful resolution of the occupation of Palestine impossible: why not a wider coalition to force Israel to accept the two state solution.

How can you bring DTM to people who are so brainwashed?

- ❑ How do people change their mind?
 - ❑ By arguments
 - ❑ By experience and confrontation with reality
 - ❑ Through the change in power relations:
 - ❑ They change the mechanisms of controlling the mind: the role of authority:
 - ❑ See the loss of authority of the mainstream media or in academia with decolonization

How did the West react to the peaceful Oslo Accords 1993 (30 years ago)

- ❑ They did not support it with actions: Zionists were in the lead, and the West followed
- ❑ The concept of two states was wrong from the start. It was not based on sovereignty, but on submission of the Palestinian state to the control by the Zionist state: military, economic and cultural control
- ❑ Once it turned out to be wrong, the only avenue was: break the Palestinian resistance
 - ❑ PLO as the extension of Zionist control
 - ❑ Bring Arab states to develop Palestine economically and forget the occupation

Why a peaceful resolution is impossible?

- ❑ The Zionist occupation is established and maintained by brutal force
- ❑ They won't end the occupation by peaceful means.
- ❑ They want a final defeat of the resistance and they are supported by the West in this strategy

My journey to Iran

- ❑ Two months ago I visited Iran from Friday, May 10, till Wednesday, May 15. It was a life-changing experience. I did not just visit a country. I visited a revolution. It was the third revolution I had visited in my life after the Grenadian and Bolivarian revolution. I wrote an essay about his experience.
- ❑ See www.sandewhira.com, menu articles

Venezuela

- ❑ History of the Bolivarian revolution
- ❑ Electoral history
- ❑ The significance of the outcome of the 2024 presidential elections

Hugo Chavez

In 1977, Hugo Chávez founded the Revolutionary Bolivarian Army (RBA). After years of organization and planning, the RBA attempted a military takeover of the government in 1992. The failed plan resulted in Chávez and his companions being imprisoned. However, this event served as a catalyst for his popularity, as the Venezuelan people came to view Chávez as a champion against the country's corrupt ruling class.

1998 Presidential elections

In 1994 he got amnesty from a new government ruled by a rightish president who had made alliances with some leftish parties. In 1997, Chávez formed a political party, the Fifth Republic Movement, to contest the presidential elections. With the backing of other leftish parties Chávez won the election with 56% of the vote in 1998. In February 1999, he was inaugurated as President of Venezuela. This marked the beginning of the Bolivarian revolution, which would have an enormous impact on Latin Abya Yala.

Constituent assembly

In the same year, Chávez held a referendum for a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution. The referendum received 81.9% in favour. On July 25, 1999, an election was held to elect 131 deputies to the Constituent Assembly. Chávez's party secured 95% of the seats. The Constituent Assembly drafted a new constitution, which was subsequently submitted to a referendum in December 1999. It secured the approval of 72% of voters.

The new
constitution
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Republic of
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A new constitution - 1

The new constitution officially changed the name of the country from the Republic of Venezuela to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The old constitution was based on a three-branch system of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. The new constitution introduced a five-branch system: the executive branch (the president), the legislative branch (the National Assembly), the judicial branch (the courts), the electoral branch (the National Electoral Council), and the citizens branch, which is composed of the Defender of the People, Chief Public Prosecutor, and the Comptroller General, who are responsible for defending citizens state.

A new constitution - 2

It enshrined the idea of popular sovereignty through frequent referendums. It also emphasized social responsibilities, the right to rebel against injustice, and the eternal independence of the republic from foreign domination. The constitution enshrined certain human rights, such as free education up to the tertiary level, free healthcare, access to a clean environment, and the rights of minorities (including indigenous peoples) to uphold their own cultures, religions, and languages. It increased the presidential term from five to six years. It established a presidential recall referendum, allowing the people to remove the president from his or her term ended.

Elections in Venezuela

There have been 30 elections in the past 25 years: 2 for constituent assembly, 7 for mayors, 4 for parliament, 4 for president, 7 referendums, 5 for governors, and 1 mega-election in 2000 (renewal of every post after the approval of the constitution). The Chavistas (PSUV) has won 28 out of 30 elections, but this does not negate the fact that the opposition has secured some posts. In 2013, the PSUV won 255 municipalities, with the opposition winning 75. In 2021, the opposition secured victories in five gubernatorial races. All of these victories were recognized by the government.

Presidential elections

1998: Chavez 56.20%, turnout 63.45%

2006: Chavez 62.85%, turnout 74.69%

2012: Chavez 55.07%, turnout 80.52%

2013: Maduro 50.62%, turnout 79.65%

2018: Maduro 67.85%, turnout 45.73%. Boycott by opposition

2015 parliamentary elections

In 2015, the Chavista party suffered a defeat in the parliamentary elections. This opened the door for a US-orchestrated coup d'état involving Juan Guaidó, the then president of the National Assembly. Guaidó contended that the 2018 presidential elections were rigged, declaring Maduro illegitimate. Despite lacking a presidential mandate, he asserted his own claim to the presidency, backed by a majority in the parliament. On 23 January, he declared himself as acting president and took the presidential oath at a rally in Caracas. The US and its allies formally recognized him as president. This bizarre demonstration of abuse of power that enabled the US and Europe to seize Venezuelan assets abroad. A crippling economic boycott resulted in empty shelves and food rationing.

The economic coup - 1

The Trump government signed off on the order in January 2019 for Guaido to control holdings of Venezuela in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and federally insured banks. The move blocked \$7bn in assets and resulted in \$11bn of lost export revenue over the next year.

The economic coup - 2

In July 2022 London's High Court has ruled in favor of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó in a battle for the control of gold reserves worth almost \$2 billion held in the Bank of England.

In October 2022, Delaware District Judge Leonard P. Stark officially began the auction of shares belonging to PDV Holding (PDVH), CITGO's parent company, in order to satisfy a number of international arbitration awards. A total of 18 corporations attached claims worth a combined US \$21.3 billion to the Delaware court-ordered proceedings. The amount exceeds CITGO's present valuation of \$13 billion.

2020 parliamentary elections

The number of seats of the national assembly expanded with 110 seats from 167 to 277 deputies.

The opposition parties boycotted the election. The turnout was 30.5%. PSUV got 62.34% of the vote, that is 253 of the 277 seats. The boycott failed.

In April 2023 Guaido fled to the United States citing fears of his arrest, living in exile in Miami, Florida. On 6 October 2023, the Maduro administration charged Guaidó with money laundering, treason, and usurping public functions, issued an arrest warrant and asked the international community to cooperate with an arrest of Guaidó, requesting a red notice be issued by Interpol.

The failure of the boycott policy

Boycott of elections leads to a loss of power in advance.

US and its allies are not able to defeat the Bolivarian revolution solely through economic boycott.

The new opposition strategy

Participate in the elections. Cry out “FRAUD: in advance if they loose. Far right women – Venezuelan Marie Le Pen: María Corina Machado Parisca leads the opposition. Barred from participating in the lection because of treason and corruption. Machado has supported the international sanctions during the Venezuelan crisis, and has advocated for foreign intervention inside Venezuela. She supported the 2002 coup against Chavez and signed the Carmona Decree, which established a transitional government, dissolving the National Assembly and the Supreme Court and also suspending the Attorney General, Comptroller General, governors and mayors elected during Chávez's administration. The coup failed. She called for a military intervention as a member of parliament, which is illegal in Venezuela.

The voting system in Venezuela - 1

Guarentee of secrecy of vote and only one person can vote

- ❑ When a person go to the poll, they only need their identity card.
- ❑ The machine check the identity based on the identity number.
- ❑ The machine affirms. The person puts his finger print. The machine checks your fingerprint, which is taken when you get an identity card.
- ❑ You show to a closed space with a screen to vote. Nobody can see what you do.
- ❑ On the screen you have different option. You touch the screen with the name of the candidate, the party and the photo of the candidate.
- ❑ Once you touch your option, there is a popup window with the option you get the button VOTE.
- ❑ If you press, the machine says: you have voted successfully and it produces a piece of paper with the result of you vote. You check the paper.
- ❑ You fold the paper and go out of the box and put the paper inside a box. The paper assures that you voted what you wanted

The voting system in Venezuela - 2

- ❑ Then you go commission where there is a list. You put your finger print against on the list and sign that you have voted.
- ❑ You leave the place.
- ❑ At 18.00 the poll station is closed unless there are people in the queue.
- ❑ There is commission selected at random from voters in the poll station. There is a president and 3-4 secretaries.
- ❑ In addition every party name an official witness for that poll.
- ❑ There are nineteen steps in the voting process from checking whether the finger print work to transmission of the data to the national council. In this check every party is invited to send witness. They sign an agreement that the process work properly.

The voting system in Venezuela - 3

- ❑ Everybody agrees that the system works correctly.
- ❑ Once the poll system closes. Then data are transmitted to the National Center. The machine prints a list with the name of the candidate and the number of votes they have got.
- ❑ The commission opens at random a box with the physical papers of the vote and count that in front of everybody present, thus including the witness of other parties. In all the elections there was never a discrepancy. The percentage of boxes opened is not 2% like in a statistical control, but 50% because the opposition wanted.
- ❑ If the national council says the the result is irreversible. In all elections it was always correct.
- ❑ When the opposition when, they never question the system, only when they lose.
- ❑ This time the National Council asked to sign an agreement, everybody did, except Machado. Only when she wins, she will recognize it.

The meaning of the 2024 elections

- ❑ Either consolidation of the revolution
- ❑ Or a new stage of confrontations
 - ❑ Violence
 - ❑ Invitation for military intervention against the army

The outcome of the 2024 elections

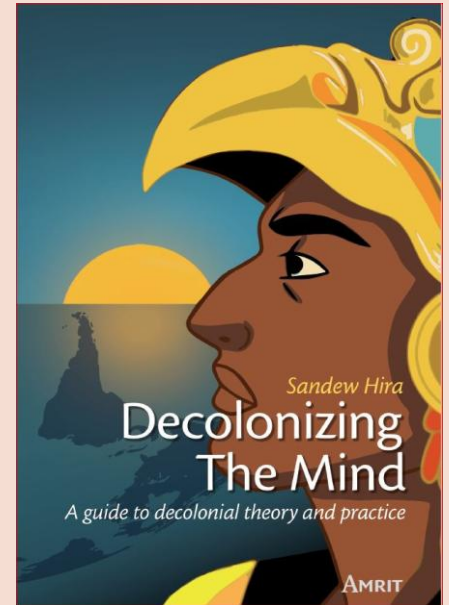
Year	Chavistas	Votes	%	Opposition	Votes	%	Turnout	Total votes
1998	Hugo Chavez	3.673.685	56,20%	Henrique Salas Römer	2.613.161	39,97%	63,45%	6.286.846
2006	Hugo Chavez	7.309.080	62,85%	Manuel Rosales	4.292.466	36,91%	74,69%	11.601.546
2012	Hugo Chavez	8.191.232	55,07%	Henrique Capriles	6.591.304	44,32%	80,52%	14.782.536
2013	Nicolás Maduro	7.587.579	50,62%	Henrique Capriles	7.363.980	49,12%	79,65%	14.951.559
2018	Nicolás Maduro	6.248.864	67,85%	Henri Falçon/Javier Bertucci	2.917.619	31,68%	45,73%	9.166.483
2024-80%	Nicolás Maduro	5.150.092	51,20%	Edmundo Gonzalez	4.445.978	44,20%	59,00%	9.596.070
2024-100%	Nicolás Maduro	6.437.615	64,00%	Edmundo Gonzalez	5.557.473	55,25%	73,75%	11.995.088

Conclusions

- ❑ The Chavistas have a strong popular base of between 6-7 million voters.
- ❑ The opposition also have a strong popular base of between 5-7 million voters. There are not 5-7 million rich people in Venezuela, so the manipulation of the mind is still effective for the opposition
- ❑ The strategy of boycott of the opposition will never work, because it means that they demobilize their support, while the Chavista support is still there.
- ❑ The Chavista can not take their popular support for granted

Source in the DTM book

- Index: Venezuela
- Download the PDF of the PowerPoint on www.sandewhira.com



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