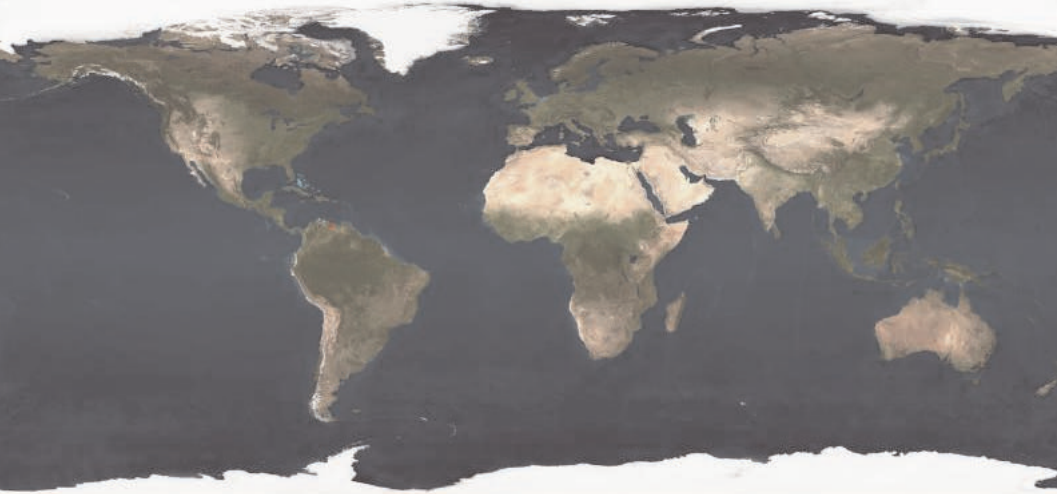


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# VOICES OF THE WORD



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WITH THE BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION

## **Voices of the word with the Bolivarian revolution**

Collection Temas de Hoy

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# **VOICES OF THE WORD** **with the Bolivarian revolution**

Compilation of quotations from  
international authors and organizations  
on the Venezuelan revolutionary process

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# VOICES OF THE WORLD WITH THE BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION

For several years, the international media corporation, with its practice of informative intoxication, was able to isolate the Venezuelan process, which was misunderstood by most progressive movements of the world. While the intoxicating strategy of the media proved to be unsuccessful within the country, it seemed to achieve a considerable victory internationally. This situation began to change after the April 2002 coup d'état and the sudden retake of power. Although some resistance was activated, the interest of the majority among the progressive sectors remained closely related to the political economy: What will happen next? During the oil sabotage, support and solidarity networks were substantially activated.

After the overwhelming victory in the August 2003 referendum, both, left and right identified the transforming potential of the process for good and for wrong. The number of references in progressive pages has been increasing, and it is hard to find a page that does not include a section dedicated to the Bolivarian Revolution. Although before the coup d'état most references found on the Internet were contrary, today we can assure that the positive analysis from the left has generated constantly growing attention. Thus, Chávez and Venezuela have reached a clear position in the international ground as the main government process struggling, together with his people, for a different possible world. The successful welcome received at the Fondo Social Mundial (FSM) 2003 made it clear. The call for the collective building of the new socialism has increasingly activated the attention of the world left followers. This deserves a thorough research, which the Ministry of Communication and Information will soon make available to the revolutionary people.

Several quotations from authors, journalists and progressive collectives on different aspects of the revolutionary process have been compiled. These prove the growing interest in the process, as well as the active support in different latitudes of the world. Although some date from 2002, most of them are last year's comments, made after the presidential referendum. There are internationally known authors and also some less known. This collection is just a small sample of a vast universe of references. For this reason, we apologize to all of those who we were not able to include, conscious that many of them have honored us with their visit and offered us their active help.

This material will enable you to verify the scope in which the Bolivarian process awakens the interest and hopes of the most diverse sectors, therefore flatly proving wrong the so-called isolation between the progressive intellectual and social sectors. On the contrary: We are as close as can be!

**The Editor**

*At the beginning, it was considered unimportant,  
and its leader, Hugo Chávez, was introduced as  
an adventurous military man, populist  
and hungry for power. There were even  
left groups who saw it that way. However,  
the Bolivarian Revolution began  
making noise. And it keeps on going.*

**Marcelo Colussi**

*Most of the reports about this revolution  
over the past six years, at home and abroad,  
have been uniquely hostile, heavily influenced  
by politicians and journalists associated with  
the opposition. It is as if news of  
the French or the Russian revolutions  
had been supplied solely by the courtiers  
of the king and the tsar. Yet the wheel  
of history rolls on, and the atmosphere  
in Venezuela has changed dramatically  
since last year when Chávez won  
yet another overwhelming victory at the polls.*

**Richard Gott**

*How many times must Mr. Chávez  
prove he has the right to serve out his term?  
How much turmoil must Venezuelans  
be put through before the will of the majority can prevail?*

**Toronto Star, Editorial,  
August 18th, 2004.**

# I. THE BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION

## **There is a new revolution going on in Latin America**

There is a new revolution going on in Latin America: the Venezuelan revolution. It is a revolution on which silence has been imposed, and most Latin American population is unaware of it, because it has been decided so by the powerful world media, in the hands of international corporations (and also the great Venezuelan media, which are in the same hands). The Venezuelan revolution goes against their interests; therefore, the world does not hear anything about it. When the most important misinformation companies mention Venezuela, they only talk about the opposition, or try to ridicule and caricature the figure of President Chávez, but they never mention there is a revolution going on.

*Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan poet and priest.*

## **A real revolution**

The last three years have indeed been revolutionary. Chávez pushed through a new Constitution that was approved in a popular referendum. He formed a political coalition that won control of the National Assembly. The National Assembly passed the famous package of 49 laws that included an agrarian reform law, a law to protect small fishermen, and a law limiting the role of the private sector in exploiting Venezuela's vast oil reserves.

*Walden Bello. A real revolution.  
Filipino anti-globalization activist.*

## **A revolution that will radiate for decades**

Something amazing has been taking place in Latin America in recent years, and it deserves greater attention than the continent has been accustomed to attract. The chrysalis of the Venezuelan revolution led by Chávez, often attacked and derided as the incoherent vision of an authoritarian leader, has finally emerged as a resplendent butterfly whose image and example will radiate for decades to come.

*Richard Gott, English journalist.  
A revolution that will radiate for decades.  
Author of In the shadow of the Liberator.*

## **Venezuelans are immersed in a revolution**

Any approximate focus to the Venezuelan political process demands you to get rid of prejudice and doctoral soaring. Bolivarians assure they are immersed in a revolution. If this were, so (and facts show that is the case), it would be impossible to understand their message from reduced approaches that presume the underestimation of the creative role of the peoples.

*José Steinsleger, journalist.  
La Jornada. México.*

## **An outstanding transformation**

I sincerely hope that the degree of organization and popular enthusiasm guarantee once more -against the gigantic forces of the great antagonist- the continuation of this great revolutionary process, of this outstanding transformation.

*Alfonso Sastre, Spanish intellectual.*

## **The Bolivarian Revolution is a fundamental trench**

The Bolivarian Revolution, headed in Venezuela by President Hugo Chávez, constitutes one of the fundamental trenches of this implacable cultural war in which we are all involved, whether we know it or not (...) In the case of Venezuela, the historic dilemma of our America appears once again: go forward towards a deepening process of the radical social measures, or go backwards and fall once again, defeated, without glory but with great sorrow. For those who distrust, Hugo Chávez has clearly proved -putting his own life at risk- that giving up is not one of his options.

*Néstor Kohan. Universidad Popular  
Madres Plaza de Mayo. Argentina.*

## **Chávez' government is making a revolution**

There is also an attempt of a peaceful and pluralistic way towards socialism. For President Hugo Chávez' government, its starting point is an institutional process, but, in fact, is carrying out a revolution. In Venezuela, something very different from a "third way" is going on. There is no "third way" going on there, but in fact, the development of an institutional process through the institutions and the popular vote; towards revolution and towards socialism, but not towards the "third way". That is what I think. And in order for it to succeed, the support of the Armed Forces to the popular, social and political recovery is absolutely necessary.

*General Vasco Gonçalves, leader of the  
Carnation Revolution, which brought down fascism in Portugal.*

## **A real revolution**

Cautiously, modestly, Bolivarians call "changing process" what they are doing in Venezuela; yet, it is a revolution.

*Carlo Farbetti, Italian writer.  
Alliance of Anti-imperialist Intellectuals.*

## II. THE REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE

### **This is the first time the Venezuelan people plays a leading role**

Venezuela is going through a very special situation, which I would dare to call unique: it is the first time that the Venezuelan people takes a leading part its own history. It is the first time it conquers its dignity and brings to life a citizenship that used to be dead letter. In order to do so, it had to sweep away the drag of decades of barren and corrupt bipartisanship, the decadent “patriarchy”, etc. -orchestrated, financed and promoted by the government of the United States of America.

*Atilio Boron, director of the Latin American  
Council of Social Science. Argentina.*

### **A participative, massive and popular revolution**

All these missions and projects are not implemented in a paternalistic, bureaucratic or “clientelistic” way, but through the citizens’ active participation, without partisanship exclusion. The local communities, poor quarters, local health committees, vicinal intervention in the distribution of the communal budget, the Bolivarian circles, the explosive growth of the cooperatives, the increase of trade union activities in labor problems, the autonomous activity of native peoples; all this substantiates this participative and massive revolution, and the willingness of the Venezuelan people to become part of it for the first time in history.

*José Cademartori, Chilean economist.  
Cabinet member of Salvador Allende’s government.*

### **The Revolution from the bottom**

The Bolivarian Revolution has been able to build from scratch, together with the participation of the Venezuelan people, the most genuinely democratic and participative Constitution of the whole world. A Constitution of the people and for the people that makes evident, through contrast, the invalidity of the Spanish and European Constitutions.

*Alliance of Anti-imperialist Intellectuals. Spain.*

### **The process and the popular support of Chávez**

The secret, but also one of Venezuela’s greatest successes, is the ability of its people to mobilize and defend its conquests. Chávez was able to retrieve the Presidency on April 11th, 2002, because the people went out on the streets to defend him. The matter of the people’s mobilization is fundamental.

*Eric Toussaint, Belgian. President of the Committee for the Abolition of Third  
World Debt.*

### **Hugo Chávez fulfills the expectations of his people**

Hugo Chávez is a political leader who has been able to fulfill the expectations of his people, who grew tired of being pitilessly oppressed by the “Pacto de Punto

Fijo” for more than thirty years, and took the streets in 1989 and paid the high price of more than three thousand dead for its rebelliousness and courage.

*Alliance of Anti-imperialist Intellectuals.*

## **The Venezuelan people is willing to defend the legitimacy of its Revolution**

I am sure the Venezuelan people is willing to preserve the legitimacy of its revolution through all means available, beyond the optimism of speeches, but also beyond the pessimism of some analysts and commentators.

*Alfonso Sastre. Spanish Intellectual.*

## **Chávez is committed to the poor**

Unlike populist caudillos, which made promises and hardly ever did something for the poor workers, Chávez has stressed his commitment, giving them the support and resources they need to develop their potential.

*Julianne Malveaux. TransAfrica Forum.*

## **The main merit of Chávez’ government**

It is clear that the main merit of this government is simply the fact that it has allowed millions of people, who were traditionally left out, to participate at last in the political life of the country.

*Paul Emile Dupret. Belgium. Member of the secretariat of the European Parliament’s United Left Group.*

## **The popular participation in Venezuela has reached a point that we can only dream of.**

For Venezuela’s participatory democracy, which works from the bottom up, the ballot is only a first step. People represent themselves rather than wait to be represented by others, traditionally of a higher class and lighter skin. Working-class sectors, usually the least active, are now centrally involved. Chávez has based himself on this “protagonic people” - the grassroots as protagonists. He knows that the changes he was elected to make can only be achieved with, and protected by, popular participation.

*Selma James, coordinator of the Global Women’s. England.*

## **Chávez is the product of social struggle**

Chávez is the product of social struggle and the popular self-organization. He has reinforced the struggle and the organization. Those who were traditionally invisible in the past, the always-oppressed, those forgotten by the Saudi Venezuela, constitute today the leading men and women of a radical changing process, contradictory, undefined; yet, undoubtedly innovative and bearing unlimited hope for the people. The support of the main Latin American movements for President Chávez,



attests the significance of the continental and world scope of the Bolivarian Revolution.

*Frédéric Léveque. Journalist and Coordinator of the Red de Recursos Latinoamericanos RISAL. (Latin American Resources Network). Belgium.*

## **A postmodern revolution**

Some talk about a postmodern revolution, without having a clue as how to define what is going on in Venezuela. In fact, we have been witness to the outstanding speed in which more and more people -especially from the poorest quarters- are becoming aware of their possibility to actively participate in the political power, to redistribute riches, to defend different performances of reality that have nothing in common with the dominant authoritarian neoliberalism.

*Global Project Italia. Italian alternative media on the Internet.*

## **The popular power wins and the Bolivarian Revolution continues**

With the referendum, the Venezuelan people proved the world that a government must be in accordance with the will of its people. If the nation project of a government does not walk side by side with its own people's project, it will not be able to keep itself in power for a long period of time, it will become demoralized. According to the government, Chávez' main goal is to seek cooperation with all Venezuelans, in order to decrease poverty rates and deepen the Bolivarian project.

*Movimiento de los Sin Tierra (MST). Brazil.*

## **Women: Heroines of the Revolution**

Chávez has understood the potential power of women as primary careers.

Four months of continuous lobbying got women the constitution they wanted. Among its anti-sexist, anti-racist provisions, it recognizes housewives to social security. No surprise then that in 2002 women of African and indigenous descent led the millions who descended from the hills to reverse the coup (by a mainly white elite and the CIA), thereby saving their constitution, their president, their democracy, and their revolution.

*Selma James, coordinator of the Global Women's Strike. England.*

## **The determination of a people and a revolution that has already grown strong roots**

They don't see a people, a beautiful land rich with history and culture and principled politics from which they could most certainly learn- they see dollars and an opportunity, under the right conditions, to snag the resources that belong to another people. But there's just one problem- the determination and struggle of a people and a revolution that has already firmly planted its roots, with a leader that will never ever sell his people nor his country nor their sovereignty as a people.

*Katherin Lahey. Journalist of Counterpunch. United States of America.*

## **Chávez governs for most of the Venezuelan people**

President Chávez has proved several times that he has the support of the majority in his country. However, the economic elite fears him, and there is a reason for that: He wants to govern for most part of the Venezuelan people. The problem does not have to do with countries or specific presidents. Any other country with someone like Chávez as president would have a similar conflict with the ruling elite.

*Frei Betto, Brazilian Sociologist. Leader of the Liberation Theology.*

## **The power belongs to the people and it is impossible to snatch it away from it.**

Of course, what they mean to say is that Chávez is a terrorist threat, that he ideologically supports terrorists through his anti-imperialist resistance, which means danger for the US homeland in the light of the September 11th attacks. But in reality, it is that little by little, this resistance, in combination with the empowerment of the Venezuelan people, damages their own terrorist campaign and domination, and that they fear that this process will empower and inspire other oppressed people to rise up, to organize, to reclaim their humanity and their society. Because no longer does it work to pour billions of dollars into opposition groups in hopes of generating another coup, as they did through the NED, the National Endowment for Democracy, a right-wing group that in the name of democracy funds opposition groups that promote US imperialist interests in other countries throughout the world. This was one of the great lessons of the August 15th referendum: that the power already belongs to the people and it is impossible to take that away, that no longer can billions of imported dollars save your oligarchy. The people have sung their message. They have said, “No Volverán!” (That they won’t go back). And this is the threat.

*Katherin Lahey, journalist of Counterpunch. United States of America.*

## **Towards the consolidation of the popular power**

Venezuela is taking firm steps towards the consolidation of an authentic social power. Every measure taken by the revolutionary government finds the “golpista” (coup instigators) opposition more and more disarticulated and divided. The mobilized people, together with the Bolivarian army, is the strongest guarantee of the revolutionary process. In that direction, the Plan Robinson (literacy campaign), as well as Mercal (a system of popular markets with strong presence of the Armed Forces), and the Plan Barrio Adentro (medical assistance for the poorest sectors) keep the popular forces in continuous deployment and motivation. The time has come to keep ourselves in permanent state of alert and mobilization and be with the President at all times, moving on side by side with him to reach that clear statement: “Poverty disappears when you give power to the people”.

*Fernando Bossi, director of Correos para la Emancipación. Argentina.*

## **The popular support of the Bolivarian Revolution**

The crushing defeat imposed by the chavism to the oligarchies does not mean the war is over. On the contrary, it could begin right now. Those defeated are not just half a dozen “nobodies”, but people who represent more than thirty-and-some families that have dominated Venezuela for decades. What happened in Venezuela on the 15th not only accounts for 26 million Venezuelans, but it also includes all those who struggle against the neoliberal tide that globalization pretends to impose over the whole world. Caracas has witnessed the rebirth of that frustrated hope: that governments like Lucio Gutiérrez’, in Ecuador, and Lula’s, in Brazil, may become trenches in this unequal war. Hugo Chávez has been granted the essential popular support to carry on the Bolivarian Revolution. However, the international watchfulness and solidarity must be permanent.

*Fernando Morais, Brazilian writer.*

## **The first revolution of the XXI century**

The Venezuelan revolution is the first of the XXI century. Its character does not determine any of the progressive measures of its government, but the intervention of the Venezuelan masses in the decisions regarding which way the country must go.

*Socialist Democratic Perspective. Australia.*

## **In Venezuela, the people have woken up.**

Caracas is a place where people have woken up. Revolution is part of everyday vocabulary, not in the sense of the dead phraseology of the former Stalinist states where the very word was designed to send people to sleep, but in the genuine meaning. The masses feel that politics, government and the state belong and should belong, to them. The dynamism and creativity of revolution sweeps aside petty bureaucratic formalism and impels the masses to participate.

*Heiko Khoo. World campaign Hands Off Venezuela. England.*

## **The Venezuelan people is the undisputable protagonist of the democratic revolutionary process**

This is a process that has been called revolutionary, because it implies a profound transformation of the political, social and economic structures; and Bolivarian, because it is inspired in Simón Bolívar, the national hero of the country’s independence, whose thoughts and ideas lay the basis of sovereignty, freedom, the building of a nation, and the search for a Latin American integration under an emancipation project, clearly anti-colonial and anti-imperialistic. A democratic revolutionary process whose leader, President Hugo Chávez Frías, like never before, like no other ruler has been asked to do so before and during a six-years period, was forced to call his people to the ballot boxes in order to validate him. The people responded and voted, legitimating him with a greater proportion of votes at each time; but despite all the effort, he was considered “anti-democratic”. It is a process

with an unquestionable protagonist: the Venezuelan people. Its will has been expressed in the ballot boxes, and materialized every day thanks to the commitment of thousands of men and women who have decided to become visible and have suddenly appeared in the political, social and economic scene to fill the content of the word “democracy” with their presence and participation.

*Coordinadora Bolivariana de Madrid.*

## **The popular defense of the revolution is conscious and growing**

The government, through President Hugo Chávez, plays a fundamental role in the transformations undergone in the country. However, the popular sectors are not paralyzed, passive. They are organizing themselves, in an autonomous and creative way. They had the opportunity to prove their force when Chávez was overthrown by a fascist coup, surrounding the Palacio de Miraflores and guaranteeing his return. They resisted the two-month oil sabotage, and in the referendum, they gave a sound “No!” to the oligarchies. An accelerated growth of the organization of popular sectors is taking place. They defend Chávez with passion but, above all, they defend the achievements of the Bolivarian Revolution, their dignity. They assure this project will not be interrupted, not even with the absence of Chávez.

*Claudia Jardim, journalist of the weekly publication Brasil de Fato.*

## **The popular organization has not been bent, and continues defending the revolution**

The Venezuelan people surmounted a military coup d'état orchestrated by the Creole oligarchy and the media, a lockout and an oil sabotage which sank the country's economy; a dirty campaign, full of slander and insults, calls for violence fueled by the oligarchy which makes up the so-called “opposition”, and the international isolation, just for being one of the few voices that does not practice the neoliberal dogma in the multi-lateral summits and forums. However, the popular organization (diverse, varied and plural) has not been bent in its defense of social advances, the Bolivarian Constitution and the government headed by Hugo Chávez.

*Coordinadora Bolivariana de Madrid.*

## **Chávez' victory is that of millions of poor and excluded**

It confirms the social and democratic expectations and the hopes for true changes that characterize all Latin America, not just Venezuela. It demonstrates the growing opposition against ultraliberal arrangements, pressures from the International Monetary Fund and the constant meddling or interference, particularly from the United States and its administration, so interested in the oil resources of that country. His victory is the victory of millions of poor people excluded human beings, workers, and all those who committed themselves to the struggle, at times very intense, with the hope of achieving a genuine social progress against the law of multinational corporations.

*M. G. Buffet. National Committee of the French Communist Party.*

## **The people defeats the counterrevolutionary power**

This project is being achieved through a powerful leadership, which is achieving the rapid organization of the people. This power leadership not only falls on the president. Several popular organizations have emerged in Venezuela, and although they have different roots, they are giving shape to the political, economical and ideological agenda of this country. Almost all forms of counterrevolutionary power are defeated by the greater power of the organized people. In other words, Chávez is about to achieve what the brave Allende could not.

*Turkish Communist Party.*

## **The people defends its revolution**

The defense of the revolution is conscious and growing. It is a new feeling of dignity, a new feeling of a nation. Despite the restrictions and contradictions of this process, the people is making its own history, it is building the new project of a nation, an alternative to neoliberalism, more human and inclusive. It is not a revolution in the sense of power seizure, or the end of capitalism, although it is a process with a well-defined revolutionary sense. It is an encouragement for Latin America and our Brazil!

*Claudia Jardim, journalist of the weekly publication Brasil de Fato.*



### III. THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION

#### **The people has the right to ask questions**

If you decided to go the democratic way, if you have a legally established government, including the president, this election must be respected. If 80% of Venezuela's population lives in poverty, they have the right to ask strong questions, including going out and gather in public squares and ask questions such as: "How come in a rich country, full of natural resources, the (most serious) problems have not yet been solved in order to guarantee an respectable life?"

*Mijail Gorbachov, ex-president of the former Soviet Union. Peace Nobel Prize.*

#### **An example of democracy unlike any other**

If there is something you should all admit, is that the process going through in Venezuela is totally in accordance with the constitutional laws. This government impelled the constitutional reforms that gave its people the power to remove its rulers from office. This was something unusual in the world, and an example of democracy unlike no other.

*Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan poet and priest.*

#### **Why did Chávez win?**

What Chávez is attempting is nothing less than the creation of a radical, social democracy in Venezuela that seeks to empower the lowest strata of society. In these times of deregulation, privatization and the Anglo-Saxon model of wealth subsuming politics, Chávez' aims are regarded as revolutionary. The reasons for Chávez popularity become obvious: No other prior regime had ever noticed the situation of the excluded ("marginados").

*Tariq Ali, Anglo-Pakistani writer and filmmaker.*

#### **A popular and democratic leader**

Democracy allowed Chávez to reach the presidency of the Republic of Venezuela and ratify it twice. Democracy confronted the coup intent of the oligarchy. Democracy expressed itself in the Constitution when it established, for the first time in the world, the principle of revocation by referendum. It was democracy, vigorously guarded, which ratified Chávez in the Palacio de Miraflores. Oligarchies are also interested in democracy, with an exception: when it grants the triumph to a leader identified with the poor. But if the poor are greater in number, the most logical is that they win sometime, although they should always win. These are the risks of democracy.

*Octavio Rodríguez Araujo, Professor at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico.*

## **The example of Bolívar**

I would like to close with a quotation from Simón Bolívar: “The most perfect government system is the one that produces the greatest amount of happiness possible, the greatest amount of social security and the greatest amount of political stability”. This is the program, I believe, of President Chávez; and I think it is a program that defies the mundialization, a program of radical modernity and outstanding quality.

*Ignacio Ramonet, French journalist. Le Monde Diplomatique.*

## **Hugo Chávez on the axis of good**

The merit of Hugo Chávez and the Bolivarian movement is that he assumed with knowledge, talent, and imagination, the challenge of making the revolution move forward, preserving a growing popular support within the greatest respect of the Constitution. It is the only case in the world that admits a referendum to remove the president from office; it just cannot be more democratic within a “pluripartisanship” system. Thus, the originality of Chávez: to confront that challenge with the rules of pluripartisanship.

*Armando Hart Dávalos, Cuban writer.*

## **Time has come for Europe to emulate the Venezuelan democracy**

Time has come for the so-called European democracies, like Spain, to emulate the Venezuelan model. Let's see which president submits to a revocatory referendum. Just mention one case. In this matter, they easily beat us, and our democracies, so well installed and self-gratifying. People like us, who give no quarter in the ideological combat, clearly explain our posture. We bet on Chávez' Venezuela, and he can bet we will strongly criticize him if he fails. He paid for his participation in the coup d'état in prison and his cause is, therefore, much more democratic than any one from any prominent leader of the European Union. The democratic pedigree of the Community is portrayed overcrowded of beautiful stories and notorious social drawbacks.

*Julio Anguita, leader of the Spanish left.*

## **A democracy that is a revolution**

In this Venezuela of the Bolivarian Revolution everything is radically different. An enormous task has been carried out regarding the dignifying and mobilization of the people, within a process of direct democracy that demands a continuous exercise of sovereignty. The democratic formula that frightens away the world's capitalist oligarchies is totally different: “Maximum participation, maximum awareness, and maximum implication of citizens”. In Venezuela, democracy smells like people.

*Colectivo Cádiz Rebelde. Spain.*



## **The unusual revolution of commander Chávez**

Since February 1999, when Chávez came to power, Venezuela has suffered a radical transformation. It is more than clear that a series of political changes have taken place, that the government of President Chávez has come forward to leave behind a closed and representative democracy, in order to build a participative democracy; within the framework of a social and fair State, solid pillars that serve as basis to the so-called Bolivarian Revolution, to achieve a social, political and economic transformation.

*Equipo Crónica. Colombia.*

## **The Venezuelan process represents a shining moment**

The process that Venezuelans are undergoing today, despite the debates, despite all the contradictions it may have, and despite all the questions that it may arise, is one of those 'quarters of an hour' in which people experience that shining moment where they are identified and taken into account; an attention owed to them many centuries ago. When you are as old as I am, you know this kind of things don't happen too often, so when they do so, we must enjoy them.

*Laura Restrepo, Colombian writer.*

## **The process moves forward at huge steps**

Since December 1998, when Hugo Chávez was elected for the first time, Venezuela's transformation into a country where riches are redistributed for the benefit of all is a fact. Today, the people, absolutely united, works in its quarters, working places, communities, in order to advance in the Bolivarian program. Through the different missions, they become part of the improvement of the social, economic and political conditions of the country, and all its citizens.

*Plataforma Bolivariana para la Libertad.*

## **Revocatory referendum, an authentic world premiere**

It is a victory -without precedent- of the Venezuelan democracy, a step ahead towards participative democracy, since the device of the revocatory referendum, introduced in the new Constitution, allows the elected official to be evaluated by the citizens at half-way his period. This constitutes a world premiere and a true example for us, Europeans. Which European leader would be willing to put himself to trial, and still hope for a 3% increase in a popularity survey after undergoing such proof after five years in power? Six of every ten Venezuelans have supported the government's performance, while receiving 1,8 million more votes compared to the presidential elections in 1998.

*Paul Emile Dupret. Belgium. Member of the secretariat of the European Parliament's United Left Group.*

## **The success of the Bolivarian Revolution reverberates from Tijuana to Tierra del Fuego**

The success of the Bolivarian Revolution is reverberating from Tijuana to Tierra del Fuego and the voices of the Latin American peoples are demanding change louder than ever. What will Washington's next move be? Will it be sufficient to snuff the flame of inspiration, example and hope that the Bolivarian Revolution has ignited in millions of hearts in Washington's "backyard." Chávez isn't alone," affirms Evo Morales. "The people of Latin America support him. That is the new reality."

## **The new socialism of the XXI century is starting to be a tangible reality**

"Let them bark, Sancho, if they bark is because we are riding..." There is no doubt about what causes such agitation in Venezuela today. It is the advance of the revolution, not just cosmetics. The statements of the "populist tyrant" are not just empty words. The changes are real, and the "new socialism, the socialism of the XXI century", as Chávez refers to it, is starting to be a tangible reality.

*Marcelo Colussi, Argentinean psychologist living in Guatemala.*

## **Venezuela opens hopes for a true democracy**

In the panorama of strong contrasts and brutal exploitation we are used to see in the huge Latin America, Venezuela without doubt, opens hopes for a real democracy, popular participation, social control of the press, and food and energetic sovereignty. It is impossible to assure today the exact direction this process will take; however, as a Latin American president said once: "History is ours, and it is written by the peoples".

*Global Project. Italy.*

## **Venezuela is teaching a lesson of democracy**

None of us has ever had the absurd idea of forcing the Venezuelan people to take a democracy test. On the contrary: with a referendum like this, which has been practiced for the first time in Universal History, is the Venezuelan people who is giving us a beautiful lesson.

*Eduardo Galeano, Uruguayan writer and priest.*

## **The history of the peoples cannot be forgotten**

Mr. President Hugo Chávez Frías, the history of our peoples cannot be forgotten, the never-ending struggle for freedom and the hope left by the Liberator Simón Bolívar, as well as our heroes, like Rumiñahui, Atahualpa, Dolores Cacuango and the liberator of The Liberator Manuela Sáenz. In this referendum, the real winners were dignity, hope, and justice for the poor, against war, hypocrisy, all headed by the terrorism of Mr. Bush in complicity with the Creole oligarchy. From Chinchaysuyu, the native Indian movement headed by the Conaie and Ecuariunari,

we are still in search of the light. Your example will be of great help for our country. Mr. Bolivarian president, today, the biggest responsibility is to guide the people towards success, a people hungry for equality, justice and freedom, for world peace.

*Confederación de Pueblos de Nacionalidad Kichwua del Ecuador.*

## **A crushing blow to the counterrevolution**

August 15th will enter the annals of revolutionary history as a great victory for the working people - on one condition: that we do not waste it, that we do not hand the initiative back to our enemies, but strike blows against them that will destroy the basis of their power. That is the only way we can build upon our victory, and turn it into a decisive revolutionary transformation of society.

*Alan Woods, director of The Militant. England.*

## **The Bolivarian revolution's accomplishments defy Latin American democracies**

The Bolivarian revolution's accomplishments have forced Latin American Presidents and presidential candidates to walk a thin line between professing to follow Chávez' example in order to avoid alienating their bases, and not pissing off Washington. While the United States would like to isolate Chávez, Cuban President Fidel Castro, Bolivia's protestors and anyone else who tests the status quo, they fail to recognize that as the Bolivarian Revolution deepens, it is unlikely that the Latin American people will tolerate unfulfilled campaign promises. In the context of the achievements of the Bolivarian model, protests and discontent are likely to increase until elected leaders prove themselves worthy of the democratic rhetoric they champion by bringing concrete results and deep change.

*Sarah Wagner, North American journalist.*



## IV. THE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL POLICIES

### **In Venezuela, the poor have opened their eyes**

In many countries, the poor vote against their own interests and in favor of those who exploit them, as it has happened in Nicaragua and also in Venezuela before. However, in Venezuela there is a revolution that has opened their eyes. More than a million people have been alphabetized recently, several thousands of people who could not go to college before, are now registered, and there are also many others who are enjoying medical services that had never received before. They will know who to vote for.

*Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan poet and priest.*

### **Lessons from Venezuela**

The struggle against neoliberalism is the struggle for the affirmation of the rights universally consecrated for all. Social movements are the protagonists of this struggle; however, they can only be consecrated within the framework of the State, of a democratized State able to confirm and guarantee the same rights to all through the strengthening of its political dimension. The case of Venezuela, a country that is just emerging from an enormous backwardness in popular organization, represents a good example of how social movements can develop and become strong with governments that carry out policies that privilege social concerns and democratic reforms of the State. Venezuela is the country -maybe the only country today in all Latin America- in which social rights are moving forward together with government policies and the performance of social movements.

*Emir Sader, Brazilian sociologist.*

### **Profound reforms for social justice**

Venezuela is polarized between two political fields. One related to Chávez' experience; the other linked to a group of reactive forces. The issue is that the institutional device is in the hands of those who resist change, and use the instruments of power to prevent it. From that point of view, my position is unequivocal: I would support Chávez' change, because he is at least trying to enforce deep reforms in social justice, and restructure the economic power the way no other leader has ever tried before.

*Ernesto Laclau, Argentinean philosopher and historian.*

### **The victory of President Chávez evidences the social support of the revolution**

The victory of President Chávez in the recall referendum on August 15th was a clear endorsement of his economic and social policies: health and literacy programs, land reform, the rights of small fishermen, and the protection of black and indigenous minorities, all of which require control over the national oil supply. Chávez' victory at the same time confirmed the Venezuelan people's support for his

foreign policy and its prioritization of an autonomous integration of Latin America in the face of the great centers of power, principally the United States.

*Paul Emile Dupret, Belgium. Member of the secretariat of the European Parliament's United Left Group.*

## **A long and difficult road**

Hundreds of similar shantytowns surround Caracas, and many have already begun to turn the corner. In some places, the doctors brought in from Cuba are working in newly built premises, providing eye treatment and dentistry as well as medicines. Nearly 20,000 doctors are now spread around this country of 25 million people. New supermarkets have sprung up where food, much of it home-produced, is available at subsidized prices. Classrooms have been built where school dropouts are corralled back into study. Yet it is good to start with the difficulties faced by the motorway village, since its plight serves to emphasize how long and difficult is the road ahead. "Making poverty history" in Venezuela is not a simple matter of making money available; it involves a revolutionary process of destroying ancient institutions that stand in the way of progress, and creating new ones responsive to popular demands.

*Richard Gott, English journalist.  
Author of *In the shadow of the Liberator*.*

## **I feel really impressed with the political and social commitment**

I have only seen a very small part of Venezuela, and I must confess I am impressed, because I've seen there is a political and real social commitment with the children, with those who are in need. Education and health are reaching everybody equally, and I know that, beyond all the resources, the most important thing is the political will.

*Danny Glover, North American actor. Activist pro Afro-American Rights.*

## **Chávez' commitment**

Unlike populist caudillos, which always made promises but seldom kept them to poor workers, Chávez has made emphasis in his commitment to offer them the support and resources they need to develop their potentials.

*Jonah Gindin, Canadian journalist.*

## **A government in search of improving the conditions of its people**

It is the only government in the world, referring to the capitalist world, which seeks support from the mobilization of its people and really uses a great proportion of income taxes to improve the living conditions of the population. This is extraordinary!

*Eric Toussaint, Belgian. President of the  
Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt.*

## **Social policies, a big step**

When the Venezuelan government decides to grant 500 study scholarships (100 dollars each, so that recipients are able to receive education) what is he exactly doing? What are the Venezuelan students going to do with that money? Feed themselves, buy clothes; that enters into the economy as purchasing power, finds its way to the domestic market and stimulates the economy. This is fundamental: it is not socialism, nor Marxism. Here we have a capitalist country with a left government that supports itself in mass mobilizations and, in addition, carries out social transformations. In the current world context, this represents a huge step.

*Eric Toussaint, Belgian. President of the  
Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt.*

## **Chávez is paying the social debt**

An examination of policies against poverty has shown an improvement in the IDH, during Chávez' government, is due in great part to the new public policies that concentrate their efforts in the most excluded sectors of Venezuela. Regardless of what surveys and polls may say, the truth is that President Chávez works day and night implementing plans and projects than are beginning to pay the social debt, accumulated against the poor and humble of the country in a permanent, continuous and systematic way.

*Equipo Crónica. Colombia.*

## **The Bolivarian Revolution represents the de-colonization of Venezuela**

The revocatory referendum opens a new stage of the Bolivarian Revolution; that is to say, the search of an endogenous growth that allows the riches of the country to be produced internally, and not to be exported. This includes a progressive process of handing over plots of land to peasants, social transformations. The Bolivarian Revolution has moved forward in the promotion and guarantee of the right to receive education and healthcare, and faces the need to offer jobs to that part of the population that has been traditionally excluded; it has also fueled production under a new social relationship. The new period exhibits the need to strengthen the national unity and deepen the political, social and economic transformations demanded by the excluded Venezuelans.

*Marcelo Larrea, Ecuadorian journalist and writer.*

## **A genuine transformation project**

The changes are concrete, not abandoned and betrayed campaign promises. There aren't pretty speeches in the Aló Presidente program. The transformation process is being truly being implemented.

*Claudia Jardim, journalist of the weekly publication Brasil de Fato.*

## Hugo Chávez in the axis of good

This Bolivarian Revolution, like all authentic revolutions, needs, first of all, to reach the people, like Chávez has done so; carry out social benefit works of great importance; and assume the four categories that forge the axis of good: culture, ethics, right and solidarity politics.

*Armando Hart Dávalos, Cuban writer.*

## Chávez has kept his promises

Chávez is the best thing that has happened to Venezuela's poor in a very long time. His government has actually delivered on some of its promises, with improved literacy rates and more students getting school meals. Public spending has quadrupled on education and tripled on healthcare, and infant mortality has declined. The government is promoting one of the most ambitious land-reform programs seen in Latin America in decades.

*Alexander Cockburn, Counterpunch editor. United States of America.*

## Walking towards the economic independence

We have had the opportunity to observe how the macroeconomic parameters have been stabilized (after being in absolute crisis under previous administrations) and the way how, based upon national interests, they have began following the road of the country's industrialization and the transformation of its farmland as a concrete means to escape from poverty and unemployment; the lack of health services and education, to put an end to the dependence on oil monoproduction, to really achieve economic independence. Let's observe closely the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, because great part of the future of our nations is at stake. Let's give it our support with all our strength and solidarity.

*Humberto Tumini, general secretary of Corriente Patria Libre. Argentina.*

## Transformations that give a call of alert to the conservative forces

A real alternative to the hegemony model of the great capital is under construction: The Bolivarian Revolution. "Socialism of the XXI Century" was the name given by the person who leads this movement, the constitutional president Hugo Chávez. People, government and Armed Forces, in a complicated combination of will and disposition, are carrying out deep economic, social, political and cultural transformations. These transformations have launched a call of alert to the conservative forces, not only within the country, but also in the rest of the region; including the powers of the United States of America, virtual "patron" of the zone.

*Marcelo Colussi, Argentinean psychologist living in Guatemala.*

## Chávez' popular policies

For the Venezuelan white elite, Chávez represents the ugliness. The man, with his Indian and African features has committed an unpardonable sin: redistribute the riches. He increased the health budget (8%) and education, although it still does



not reach the level of developed countries. He also put an end to private schools subsidies, where the rich send their children. Chávez stopped the rampant privatization, which had put the social security funds in the hands of private investors, and the public universities in the hands of private contractors and businessmen. Instead of carrying on with the system of “rewarding the rich and punishing the poor”, Chávez has extended credits to small rural and urban producers. Instead of perpetuating the thievery and privileges that had prevailed in the oil industry, he has fired the overpaid bureaucrats and reverted the income in politics for the poor.

*Saul Landau, North American writer and academic.*

## **Barrio Adentro, a historic example of free trade**

For a very long time there was only one country in Latin America that offered free health assistance to its entire people. Today, there are two. The governments of both countries believe that health is a fundamental human right. So Cuba, rich in health assistance, and Venezuela, rich oil producer, have reached an exchange agreement for the benefit of their respective peoples. This would seem a great historic example of the benefits of free trade. Who could object to it?

## **Mission Barrio Adentro is irreversible**

These were merely dreams we had been talking about for years, and, all of a sudden, it just took a political decision to make them come true. With that program (Barrio Adentro) all those paradigms came to an end. It has been a tremendous lesson for those like us, who work in public health. The mission is irreversible. The people will not let anyone to come and take it away from them. The most important is that 1,7 million people have been taken care of in a fast, objective and opportune way. These doctors could be Martians, what really matters is that everyone has the right to be taken care of.

*Renato Guzmán, OMS/OPS. Brazil.*

## **The work of the revolutionary government**

At the beginning, many thought that Chávez was nothing else but a populist speech. However, with the length of time, the Venezuelan commander has demonstrated that, despite all the sabotage, and having against him most of the Venezuelan media corporations (implicated in the coup d'état intent against him), he has done his work. The achievements of his government regarding education, health, housing, and in general, of the equal redistribution of the national wealth, leave no place for doubts. It is not a matter of speeches, but numbers. There are concrete facts and achievements that back up his prestige among the population. The bourgeoisie is not willing to accept him, anchored forever in its ignorance and arrogance.

*Alfonso Gumucio Dagron, Bolivia writer*

## Policies for equality

One of the main priorities of the revolutionary power in Venezuela is turning equality into a most powerful moral value, as the irreplaceable ground for the project. In areas like education and health service, in which previous socialist experiences have been successful, Chávez government has made serious efforts to assure equal and free services.

*Turkish Communist Party.*

## Measures for impelling equality

During his speech, at the closing ceremony of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Chávez mentioned once again his admiration for Trotsky and Mao, stressing the need to internationalize the revolution and create a new socialism for the XXI century, because a different world is not possible within capitalism, or in just one nation. In Venezuela, there is an acceleration of the agrarian reform, a deepening of the participative democracy; a re-founding or reestablishment of the State's institutionalism, including a campaign against corruption; a new Law of Social Responsibility for Radio and TV; and a strong self defense against imperialism, including an informal alliance with Cuba, which means, in fact, that if imperialism attacks one of them, it will have to attack both.

*James Crockcroft, North American historian and political activist.*

*Counterpunch editor.*

## The “chavist” utopia

All the social strategy designed by the Chávez government is focalized, in fact, on the struggle against poverty. Amid great obstacles, that is the way it wants to go; a way considered by many analysts in contradiction with the neoliberal scheme predominant in Latin America, and this is the reason for so many dissenting voices. After all, trying to implement a social policy within a capitalist scheme, in which the market is the determining and regulating factor, for sure constitutes something utopist. Chávez is trying, that is why his political determination and tenacity have been catalogued as an unusual revolution. However, as Machado wrote in one of his verses, “you clear the road as you walk”.

*Equipo Crónica. Colombia.*

## **V. THE REVOLUTION AND THE STRUGGLE OF LATIN AMERICA**

### **Chávez leads the new Latin American rebirth**

The historical articulation favors the consolidation of a regime with an authentic democracy and impetuous economic development. The Venezuelan people has found out where reason stands, and its possibilities of real progress. Chávez has stood next to the leaders of the new Latin American rebirth.

*Lisandro Otero, Cuban writer.*

### **Chávez belongs to Latin America**

This may be the perfect moment to beat the drums of the revolution in Latin America and then jump into the ponds. Chávez belongs to America.

*Cecilia Hart, Cuban writer.*

### **A very serious revolution**

There is very serious revolution going on in Venezuela, and the worst part for the North American empire is that it is a Bolivarian Revolution. No less than consecrating the dream of Bolívar, the dream of the unification of Latin America. When Chávez insisted eagerly and fought hard in the National Assembly -against the resistance of many of its members- to change the name of the country, until he finally achieved the approval of its new name: “República Bolivariana de Venezuela”, it was thought to be a mere caprice or a trivial determination; however, the truth is such change had a hidden purpose: a unification plan for Latin America. In Venezuela, Bolívar has been a national cult and a myth: President Chávez had the daring boldness of turning Bolívar’s dream into a political project and a government program.

*Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan poet and priest.*

### **The hope of Latin America**

The Venezuelan process, under the government of President Hugo Chávez, is the hope of Latin America.

*Rafael Alegría, general secretary of Vía Campesina.*

### **Venezuela sets the direction for Latin America**

After 20 years of neoliberal looting and massive impoverishment, market democracy and technocratic exaltation of the “zero thought” (“pensamiento cero”), the eight ratification of President Chávez in the Bolivarian República de Venezuela demands a revision, among many questions, of a central issue: What direction are the peoples of Latin America and The Caribbean going and what do they long for? Annexation or sovereignty, independence or subordinated globalization, imperialism or liberation, democracy and governability, social and economic integration or

simply free market, homogeneity or cultural identity; these barely represent, some of the complex matters set forth by the Venezuelan political process, cradle of the first American independence.

*José Steinsleger. La Jornada. México.*

## **The message of the Bolivarian Revolution to the peoples of the Continent lacks fissures**

Unlike any other nationalistic essay, the message of the Bolivarian Republic to the peoples of the Continent lacks fissures: there is a political experience accumulated, a will of authentic economic emancipation, a vigorous cultural legacy, a long and painful political history of traversed and shared roads. Thus, it would be criminal, that the illustrious ruling classes of Latin America and The Caribbean get lost once more in ideological labyrinths, political solitudes and utopias of redemption without future.

*José Steinsleger. La Jornada. México.*

## **To defend Venezuela is to defend ourselves**

Solidarity Committees in favor of Venezuela will have to be created all over the world, as we did during the Nicaraguan Revolution. Simultaneously, we must create the Latin American solidarity of the Bolivarian continent, which is currently misinformed. We have to approach the Latin American writers and intellectuals who have not yet come close to the Bolivarian Revolution; have them come to Venezuela, and see with their own eyes what is being done. For Latin America, to defend Venezuela is to defend ourselves.

*Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan poet and priest.*

## **Venezuela, a hope for América**

Venezuela, with its accurate leadership, is not willing to give in. In fact, it is clearing the exemplary road that deserves to be saluted and supported with the great enthusiasm. The process of national affirmation and social justice that Venezuela, our sister nation, is going through, deserves the highest opinion. With no doubt, the fact that its revolution has been able to stand, despite the obvious meddling of the United States in the Continent, and their plain hostility towards any effort directed to the independence of the peoples, opens a new vision full of hope in our America.

*Roberto Fernández Retamar, Cuban poet.*

## **The Bolivarian Revolution represents the point of the spear of the liberation struggle**

After the Cuban Revolution, the Bolivarian Revolution represents today the point of the spear of the liberation struggles of all the Latin American peoples, and with every battle you fight, the destiny of the old Abya Yala is at stake.

*Popular Movement of Bolivia. Labor union, rural and social organizations)  
(Movimiento Popular de Bolivia. Organizaciones sindicales, rurales y sociales).*

## **Venezuela's triumph is the triumph of all the poor of Latin America**

The triumph of the rebel and revolutionary Venezuela is the triumph of all the poor people of Latin America. Your heroic struggle, president, together with the poor people of Venezuela who struggle every day to preserve their dignity, to defend the sovereignty. When the poor get together, the government on duty listens; no force alien to the people can shatter the dignity and rights of human beings.

*Confederación de Pueblos de la  
Nacionalidad Kichwa del Ecuador. Ecuarinari.*

## **The triumph of the Venezuelan people fills us with pride**

From the Confederación de Pueblos de la Nacionalidad Kichwa del Ecuador. Ecuarinari, our congratulations to our brothers of the Bolivarian people of Venezuela and to you too, president Chávez, for your example of resistance and struggle on behalf of the Latin American peoples against the Yankee empire. The evil and the Creole oligarchy only leave behind misery and corruption to the people. The Kichwas peoples of Ecuarinari, and our national organization CONAIE, are happy, and we feel proud of the triumph of the Bolivarian project. It is the best historical moment for this alternative project to gather, among the poor peoples, the right to health, education, work, sovereignty, and dignity with social justice.

*Confederación de Pueblos de la  
Nacionalidad Kichwa del Ecuador. Ecuarinari.*

## **Latin American perspectives after the Venezuelan triumph**

For the international financing and commercial institutions dominated by the United States, the decided Venezuelan defense of its autonomy, dignity and the self-determination of Latin America constitute a threat. They cannot allow the Venezuelan example to be imitated by other countries of the Continent, and at the same time preserve their current policies. We would not be going too far if we believed that the incredible creativity and recovering capacity of the Latin American peoples, which shined once more in Caracas last week-end, could become the symbol of hope and reconstruction that would enable us to wake up from this nightmare of injustice and neoliberal desperation.

*Toni Soto, political analyst living in Central America.*

## **Venezuela, the future of the popular struggle**

The future of this heroic people is not the only thing at stake in Venezuela There is also the own struggle of all the peoples from the Continent for the national sovereignty and social justice.

*Altamiro Borges. Debate Sindical. Brazil*

## **Gratitude to the Venezuelan people**

All the Latin American and Caribbean countries owe gratitude to the Venezuelan people, for reminding us what we carry inside, for reminding us the message of equality, democracy and liberation of our heroes, for reminding us that the best human values of solidarity and union are the force that will allow us to escape from hell, where neoliberalism has driven us to.

*Fernando Bossi, director of Correos para la Emancipación. Argentina.*

## **The prow figure of the Latin American left**

His clear electoral victory (president Chávez') in the revocatory referendum of August 15th, 2004, has demonstrated that he has the support of the majority of the citizens, something that he proved still once more during the regional elections last October. Not one single dirty trick -not even the coup d'état intent of April 2002, supported by Washington- has made possible to stop the social transformation project, within a framework of democracy and freedom, carried out by Hugo Chávez. And his personal success at the Social Forum of Puerto Alegre, where more than fifteen thousand youngsters full of enthusiasm acclaimed his speech, have made him the prow figure of the Latin American left.

*Ignacio Ramonet, French journalist. Le Monde Diplomatique.*

## **We are Hugo Chávez' soldiers**

We are searching for an alternative model, more up-to-date and more human. That is precisely the model president Chávez talks about, and we are willing, as San Martín did two centuries ago, to become soldiers.

*Jorge Cevallos, coordinator of the Movimiento Piquetero Barrios de Pie. Argentina.*

## **Summon for the Latin American Unity**

The revolutionary process at its base and president Hugo Chávez have had a great influence in the rest of the Continent, with their effort to summon a new Bolivarian unity, without precedent since the declarations of independence of Simón Bolívar and Jose Martí. Now, the demand is for a second and true independence, not only political, but also economic and military.

*James Crockcroft, North American historian and political activist. Counterpunch editor.*

## **Three teachings left behind by Hugo Chávez' victory**

1) There is a third way between the neoliberal capitalism and socialism in this historic stage of Latin America, which is the product of the best traditions of the popular nationalism of our region. A model of a sovereign country, of progress, fair redistribution of riches and a truly participative democracy; which means a real progress for our peoples and nations.

2) It is possible to rule and win elections with a speech openly confronted with the powerful. This matter has never made Hugo Chávez' hands shake. He has not only denounced the oligarchs of his own country, but has unmasked and exposed the role of the North American country in the drama of our nations and the attempts to achieve the instability of the Bolivarian Revolution.

3) The electoral triumph of the "No" had behind millions of organized and mobilized Venezuelans. These nationalist processes that try to concrete profound changes in our societies, getting away from neoliberalism, undergo moments of definition in electoral processes; it is there where they are legitimated. And this has happened in Venezuela.

*Humberto Tumini, general secretary of the Corriente Patria Libre. Argentina.*

## **Venezuela shows the force of the transformation ideals**

The whole Venezuelan process is inscribed in the cycle of rebellions in Latin America, that may consider Chiapas as a background, and has overthrown governments in Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia; although it has not been able to impose radical solutions from the bottom. During the time when the death of the mass and street politics was publicly announced and proclaimed, and the definitive predominance of a representative democracy turned into a bad front of the all-embracing power of the great capital, the organization capacity, mobilization and social class struggle demonstrated the force of a transforming potential that interests visions manipulated as extinguished.

*Daniel Campione, Argentinean lawyer.*

## **The Bolivarian Revolution is the avant-garde against neoliberalism**

Chávez and his government have become the avant-garde of the revolution against neoliberalism, and with his example, he is exercising a powerful influence on the trend to the left that is being observed in almost all Latin American countries, adopting the ideas of Bolívar, O'Higgins, San Martín among other Liberators. Chávez needs the support of all the Chilean democrats, especially those who have found in his work the continuation of Allende's dreams.

*Jose Cademartori, Chilean economist, member of Salvador Allende's government.*

## **There is a commendable destiny for Latin America being forged in Venezuela**

The whole project of the missions fascinates me. I want to keep track of it. I want to see the missions from the inside; I am absolutely interested by that type of process. I have a great interest in being able to do my own evaluation; to see how things work, how far they go in reaching the structure of the country's social and political constitution. It has a lot to do with my own dreams, with my own idea of a plausible destiny for Latin America. I am a pragmatic person; I like people who

do things; and I have the impression that there is a process going on here, and that things are being done. For me, this is priceless.

*Laura Restrepo, Colombian writer.*

## **Venezuela and Colombia have a common destiny**

Whatever goes on here will have an impact on what will happen there, and vice-versa. I feel there is no future for our children and our grandchildren if we don't reach a common agreement, you and us. Any attempt to confront both peoples is a despicable maneuver to divert our historical goal, which is, of course, to look for a common future. The Bolivarian ideal is the only mentality possible. We are the same people.

*Laura Restrepo, Colombian writer.*

## **Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela may change Latin America's future**

What is happening in Brazil, Argentina and, more daringly, in Venezuela, may change the future of Latin America, even transforming it into a space where citizens, may freely choose the way to organize society. Hugo Chávez is someone who wants to make changes, and he has found the straight way to reach the heart and intelligence of the Venezuelan people. We just hope Chávez succeeds in carrying out that unique experience.

*Laura Restrepo. Colombian writer.*

## **At each step, Chávez is more popular in Latin America**

Despite the misinformation and sabotaging campaign that the enemies of democracy have launched against him, Chávez has figured out how to beat them intelligently, and his project is going forward, taking huge steps. Chávez is more and more popular every day in Latin America and in poor countries, and his revolutionary project follows the direction that has been established. The maximum exponent of the Bolivarian Revolution grows stronger day by day, because he had the courage and firmness to defeat the corrupt and gave back the Venezuelan people its dignity. Chávez also rescued the political thought of Bolívar, which for a very long time was sequestered by the oligarchy. We may assure, without mistaking, that Bolívar is ridding all over Venezuela again, and that the evolution of the masses will never be stopped.

*Carlos Quintanilla, director of Noticiero Pacífico, KPFK Station. San Francisco. United States of America.*

## **In Venezuela, the future of the Latin America is at stake**

The eyes of Latin Americans are carefully set upon Venezuela. They feel part of their future is at stake there too, as well as the possibility to articulate neoliberal policies that take into account the social development of the peoples and the decrease of inequality. After decades of dictatorship, neoliberal policies with its



consequences of impoverishment and exclusion, rupture of the productive tissue and repression of the social protest, Latin Americans trust this time they will become protagonists instead of victims and be able to build viable alternatives of true social progress. However, in order to achieve so, it is necessary to consolidate the advances that have been achieved, although the time and means may be different. Wealth also translates into the capacity to fill new spaces in democratic participation, in the construction of our own ways.

*Carlos Iaquinandi Castro, analyst, member of the team of the Spanish agency Serpal.*

## **The Bolivarian Venezuela, an example for Latin America**

The great victory of Venezuela's popular and democratic forces has shown the profound roots of the Bolivarian Revolution in the Venezuelan people. Venezuela is an example for Latin America. The determined and clear attitude of the peoples of Iraq, Afghanistan, Cuba, Venezuela and all peoples that struggle against the imperialist arrogance, for social justice and democracy in the world, fills up the World Movement for Peace with a revolutionary content. It is being put together with the daily struggle with broad, diverse and plural criteria, and multiplies itself in a thousand ways of combative actions.

*Gladys Marín Millie, president of the Chilean Communist Party.*

## **Chávez sees with the eyes of the American fatherland**

Chávez sees with the eyes of the American fatherland. From my point of view, what Chávez can do in a revolutionary Venezuela is to follow the steps of Bolívar. A revolution, pregnant with projects and missions for the people will succeed in Venezuela. This time, Bolívar will plow the fertile land of all South America, and from here, to the many Vietnams claimed by that old man who also hated frontiers.

*Cecilia Hart, Cuban writer.*

## **An internationalist example of the Bolivarian Revolution**

The beautiful and fierce example of the Bolivarian Revolution is not bounded by Venezuela's frontiers, it expands day after day, extending throughout Latin America, to Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina, flourishing and creating a more united people and a possible consciousness of power, established firmly in the roots of the community, over the empire. In fact, this is the threat they describe: the threat against themselves and their project to conquer the world.

*Katherin Lahey, journalist of Counterpunch. United States of America.*



## VI. THE REVOLUTION FACING IMPERIALISM

### **A great anti-imperialist popular revolution.**

There is a great anti-imperialist popular revolution underway in the homeland of Simon Bolivar, which has renewed it as the definite scenery for the struggle of the Latin American countries, for their second independence. It is, in synthesis, the ultimate negation of the inhuman neoliberal practices.

*Angel Guerra Cabrera. La Jornada. Mexico.*

### **The Venezuelan struggle is part of an international struggle**

Venezuela has opened a new breach against the continental domination, and it must be deepened. Therefore, the anti-imperialist sectors, the diverse and various trends identified with socialism and all those sectors that today question the capitalist globalization, should bet all their counters to the triumph of the Venezuelan people. The Venezuelan struggle is part of an international battle. We cannot postpone the urgent support to this political process.

*Néstor Kohan. Universidad Popular de Madres Plaza de Mayo. Argentina.*

### **Fighting for a multi-polar world**

Chávez, together with other governing leaders, is making an effort to help the world become multipolar, instead of unipolar, with the intention to help Latin America become one of those poles. This is why the North American empire is against him. It is that easy.

*Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan poet and priest.*

### **Imperialism will do all there is in its hands to avoid the development of the revolutionary process**

Chávez has achieved something unforgivable: he has made the Venezuelan people take conscience of their value and dignity. Beyond the debates that some of his policies may trigger, this has an undeniable revolutionary inscription. Imperialism, and its local allies, which are never wrong in this, are conscious about it, and willing to mobilize all their resources, whether legal and extralegal, peaceful and violent, to prevent the development of a revolutionary process in Venezuela. It is a “bad example” that must be avoided. Among other things because it shows that when a government rests on its people, the pressures of imperialism may cause infinite problems, but it will never bend its emancipated will. The heroic Cuban resistance has demonstrated so, after more than forty years of imperialist harassment.

*Atilio Boron, executive secretary of the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (Clacso).*

## **The empire's reaction**

You can set your watch by it. The minute some halfway decent government in Latin America begins to reverse the order of things and give the have-nots a break from the grind of poverty and wretchedness, the usual suspects in El Norte rouse themselves from the slumber of indifference and start barking furiously about democratic norms. It happened in 1973 in Chile; we saw it again in Nicaragua in the 1980s; and here's the same show on summer rerun in Venezuela, pending the August 15 recall referendum of President Hugo Chávez.

*Alexander Cockburn, Counterpunch editor. United States of America.*

## **Exemplary defense against imperialism and its lackeys**

The Venezuelan people, thanks to its organization and resistance capacity, and supported by an Armed Forces with an authentic popular vocation, has been able to confront in an exemplary way, the extreme violence of imperialism and its lackeys. Therefore, the Bolivarian Revolution demonstrates from peace, just like the Iraqi resistance demonstrates it from war that there is no one who can subjugate a united people and, above all, there is no one who can crush an armed people.

*Alliance of Anti-imperialist Intellectuals.*

## **There is no doubt that the United States will try to change the course of events**

When Chávez was first elected and I began following events here, I could see the writing on the wall, as I could see it in Chile in 1970, as I could see it in Nicaragua in 1979-80. There was no doubt in my mind that the United States would try to change the course of events in Venezuela as they had in Chile and in Nicaragua, and before that in various other countries.

*Philip Agee, former CIA agent, today exiled in Cuba.*

## **The Bolivarian Revolution is the strategic point of the struggle against the empire**

Today, the Bolivarian Revolution walks forward in Venezuela, broadening its political image in South America. The political relevance of the triumph in the referendum and the ideological performance of the Bolivarian Revolution represent the new strategic point of the definition of the struggle against imperialism and neoliberalism in Latin America.

*Achille Lollo, journalist. Equipe GH. Brazil.*

## **Venezuela, the stumbling block of imperialism**

Venezuela is, today, the greatest hindrance for the application of the destructive neoliberal model in South America, the most uncomfortable stone in the shoe for the Bush administration. Venezuela is living an experience that generates curiosity and seduces the Latin American countries; this is exactly the stumbling block for the aggressive North American imperialism. The local bourgeoisie, totally submit-

ted to the Yankee economic interests, and still longing for the period when it looted the oil riches, is well known for its racist and “golpista” (coup instigating) posture. The ill-fated sum of the class interests is the only explanation for the violent political turbulences suffered in the country, since the overwhelming victory of Hugo Chávez in the presidential elections of December 1998.

*Altamiro Borges. Debate Sindical. Brazil.*

## **Measures to build the Great Bolivarian Fatherland**

Chávez does not say “fatherland or death”, but “union or death”. The great fatherland dreamt by Bolívar begins to take an initial shape in the South American union and other recently launched attempts. These include the proposal of a Social Emergency Fund (Fondo de Emergencia Social) and the ALBA or Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (Alternativa Bolivariana para las Americas). The ALBA’s objective is the mutual assistance to eliminate poverty. Cuba, Venezuela and some other countries are already cooperating in different ways with the ALBA, and they are receiving Venezuelan oil at a lesser price, whereas Cuban doctors and teachers work in shantytowns everywhere in Venezuela.

*James Crockcroft, North American historian and political activist.*

*Counterpunch editor.*

## **Venezuela is a dangerous abnormality**

President Chávez, for the sole reason of saying what he thinks and doing what he says; and the Venezuela people, just for knowing for whom they vote and willing to defend him with their nails and teeth, are unhinging the established political process. Venezuela is a dangerous abnormality, an unacceptable example.

*Antonio Mara, coordinator of the Colectivo Cádiz Rebelde. Spain.*

## **A Civic-Military unity to stop the counterrevolution**

Venezuela may suffer counterrevolutionary problems, problems related to the United States’ intervention, problems with the manipulation of popular masses. In my opinion, what is happening in Venezuela does not exclude great threats pointing to the democratization, the revolution, and the future way to socialism. There is also a process under way in Venezuela. I have the feeling that process is receiving an increasing popular support. So was verified during the recent revocatory referendum: the people’s support for Chávez increased. Therefore, someone observing what is happening from far away, like me, has the impression that the revolution in Venezuela is pushing forward, that its social support grows every day. There are some things going on there that remind me of Portugal, like the action of army men among the population, the cultural dynamization campaigns of the people carried out by the military. In Venezuela, the government is busy with great social tasks that benefit the majorities, with infrastructure and the issue of the popular access to them, with organizations, instruction and education, public health, etc. In

Venezuela, the military are very determined in that. We, in Portugal, also make great efforts in that matter.

*General Vasco Gonçalves, leader of the  
Carnation Revolution, which brought down fascism in Portugal.*

## **Chávez, a resistance leader against neoliberalism and imperialism**

The work of the people makes it even more impossible for the US government to execute its plan to rule by a foreign hand, buying officials within while foreign banks come to partake in the fruits of the capitalist machine of globalization that has destroyed so many lives and so many countries. However, they continue to sing the cry of threat and danger, their fingers pointed toward Hugo Chávez, the leader of the resistance against neoliberalism and imperialism.

*Katherin Lahey. Journalist of Counterpunch. United States of America.*

## **The Venezuelan people shows that it is possible to win in the presence of the imperialist power**

Venezuela has become the main problem of imperialism. In Latin America, Cuba has proved that a revolution can survive 90 miles away from the United States; and now Venezuela has become a reference to assure that, despite our unipolar world, a better society may emerge and grow.

*Eddy Jimenez, Cuban writer and journalist.*

## **Chávez' foreign policy is radical**

Chávez has adopted radical postures in his foreign policy. Is in his foreign policy where we could say that Chávez has consistently adopted radical postures. Radical in a sense that he rejects the political aggressions from the United States, he criticizes and opposes the Free Trade Area of the Americas (Área de Libre Comercio para las Américas - ALCA); he opposes the invasion of Haiti, and is looking for a sort of alliance with other dissident governments in Latin America.

*James Petras, North American university professor.*

## **Why do Bush and Kerry fear Hugo Chávez?**

The US government and Presidential candidate John Kerry have announced that President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, is a threat to the United States. What is most ironic is that while using a different framework through which to analyze this statement, this is true. The vision of Hugo Chávez and the strong community organizing of the Venezuelan people little by little destroys the corrupt, imperialist, and repressive vision and practice of the US government and its capacity to intervene in the affairs of the people, minimizing their efforts to control their beloved nation called Venezuela.

*Katherin Lahey. Journalist of Counterpunch. United States of America.*

## Democracy means: to be for, of, and with the people

George W. Bush, as well as his democrat contender John F. Kerry, has characterized Chávez as an “antidemocratic” leader. However, taking into account the programs and achievements of president Chávez’ government, there is no other choice but to ask what is the idea of “democracy” that these two men openly praise. If they mean by democratic a government lead by a tiny plutocracy that controls all the riches of the country, then I must imagine that Chávez is antidemocratic. If they refer to leaders who direct the money of the people to the pockets of their friends, then I suppose Chávez is antidemocratic. In fact, if while accusing Chávez they refer to him as a man who identifies himself with the poor to the point of fueling programs that can change society in only one generation, then Chávez, undoubtedly, is antidemocratic. It could be cool to live in an antidemocratic country, if that’s what is meant to be democratic in the parallel world of fantasy of the United State’s presidential policy. But if democracy means: to be for, of, and with the people, then Hugo Chávez may have interest in running for president of the United States, after he puts things in order in Venezuela.

*R. M. Pegueros, history professor. University of Rhode Island. United States of America.*

## A strong option emerges in Venezuela

Without any doubt, something has begun to change in Venezuela. After decades of fierce repression in the 70’s, 80’s, and bare neoliberalism, in the 90’s, Latin America begins moving towards leftist proposals. These projects are emerging in the political setting of South America. Although they do not openly refuse to pay the foreign debt or oppose factic powers, they have popular features. But among all these options, something new and strong emerges, that has really begun to worry Washington and its aristocracy: The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

*Marcelo Colussi, Argentinean psychologist living in Guatemala.*

## Why are they terrified of the Bolivarian revolution?

What really terrifies them is the growing radicalization, confidence and organization of the Venezuelan working people that has been occurring under Chávez’ presidency. Encouraged by his fiery rhetoric and progressive reforms, the masses of poor Venezuelans, both in the cities and the countryside, have been the driving force behind the gains that have so far been won in the revolutionary process and the force that gives the revolution its potential to go much further.

*Stuart Munckton, national coordinator of Resistance National Office. Australian Youth Movement.*

## The Venezuelan people has defeated imperialism one more time

Chávez broad margin victory in the revocatory referendum, after a campaign in which the opposition, stimulated and financed by imperialism descended to levels of perversity, was a significant event not only in the continent, but worldwide. The

Venezuelan people, assuming once more the relevant role of history, defeated one more time the united forces of the Creole oligarchy and imperialism. Without its decisive participation, the triumph achieved in the confrontation with the “golpista” (coup instigating) connection that pretended -like in the coup d’état of April 11th, 2002, and the oil lockout- to overthrow President Chávez and destroy the Bolivarian Revolution, would not have been possible.

*Miguel Urbano Rodríguez, Portuguese writer.*

## **The main threat of Chávez’ government is the revolutionary example**

For Washington, the main threat of Chávez’ government is the example it gives to the rest of the capitalist States of Latin America, on the verge of a continental anti-neoliberal rebellion. If the Venezuela working class manages to organize itself in order to eliminate imperialism and the local capitalist class, then why can’t other working classes do the same throughout the Continent?

*Stuart Munckton, national coordinator of Resistance National Office.  
Australian Youth Movement.*

## **The similarities in the time of Bolívar**

Although Bolívar has always been invoked in Venezuela, his doctrine and thought have rarely been practiced. In fact, one wonders if any President prior to Chávez had read Bolívar. Today, Venezuela is a country ruined by the corruption of the last decades (although, thanks to oil production, the country has received, as everybody knows, the equivalent to several Marshall plans). Chávez models himself on Bolívar the politician and visionary, the economist, the constitutionalist, the soldier, the democrat. It is fascinating to prove the similarities between those times, when Bolívar tried to understand his historical moment and to produce original ideas, genially establishing them in practical-political actions, and compare them with our time.

*Ignacio Ramonet, French journalist. Le Monde Diplomatique.*

## **The Bolivarian Revolution means the de-colonization of Venezuela**

Deep inside, the ratifying referendum opens a new stage of the Bolivarian Revolution; it means the final defeat of the IV Republic, of its concentration the political and economic power, of its docility in facing the suggestions and advice of foreign powers, of its antagonisms, indolence and social inequities. It ratifies Chávez’ negative to accept the different forms of military intervention of the United States in his country. In the economic domain, he strengthens the definition of an independent strategy of the foreign capital and the IMF, of an oil policy that contributed decisively to the rescue of the OPEC, of the oil prices and the re-nationalization of PDVSA. Without any doubt, the most relevant meaning of this process, in which politics has prevailed over war, was declared by Chávez: “Venezuela will never be a colony again”.

*Marcelo Larrea, Ecuadorian journalist and writer.*



## VII. THE REVOLUTION AND THE ALTERNATIVE MOVEMENTS

### **The Global Justice Movement must come and see what is going on here**

But I think it will be useful if the Global Justice movement -and there are many different strands in it- came and saw what's going on here. What's the problem? Walk around the shantytowns, see what the lives of the people are, and ask them what their lives were like before this regime came to power! And don't fall into of stereotypes. We cannot change the world without taking power and Venezuela is a clear example of it. So it's something that people in the Global Justice movement have to understand. This is serious politics. It's pointless just chanting slogans, because for the ordinary people on whose behalf you claim to be fighting getting an education, free medicine, cheap food is much, much more important than all the slogans put together.

*Tariq Ali, Pakistani writer and filmmaker.*

### **Venezuela is responsible for the direction of socialism**

At this moment, the Venezuelan people has in its hands the responsibility to set the course of progressive ideas. What happens in Venezuela will take the pulse of the socialist ideas. And not because Chávez is so (socialist), but because over there, in those ballot boxes and among others, Charles Marx will also be counting votes; because the stupidity of imperialism has made us more radical; because that country "has nothing to loose", only its chains. Quoting Marx and Engels: "They have a world to win". And we know which.

*Celia Hart, Cuban writer.*

### **Chávez will make the most radical process win**

Sometimes I have the feeling that some comrades would like Chávez to show a socialist passport adopting determined measures. That is absurd! That passport is shown in a different way. Imperialism corners itself alone. Chávez will make the most radical process we can imagine, win... for America, for the oil exporting countries, for the whole world.

*Celia Hart, Cuban writer.*

### **Martin Luther King's legacy lives on in Venezuela**

Chávez has taken his message of economic justice from Venezuela to the whole of Latin America. He opposes a free-trade agreement for the Americas (ALCA) and suggests that a development fund be established to help poor Latin American countries withstand economic oscillations and eliminate poverty. King was more visionary than dreamer. Parts of his vision now are being implemented in Venezuela.

*Julianne Malveaux. Forum. United States of America.*

## **Solidarity with Venezuela becomes increasingly urgent**

What is at stake in Venezuela is not only the future of this heroic people, which defeated the “golpistas” (coup instigators) on April 2002, and has become the protagonist of an advance experience of confrontation with neoliberalism, “without any fear to be happy”. It is the own struggle of all the peoples of the Continent for the national sovereignty and social justice, in a socialist perspective. The defeat of the Bolivarian Revolution would represent a new encouragement for the neoliberal project, so repudiated in South America, and a reinforcement of the United States hegemony. Facing these risks, solidarity with Venezuela becomes increasingly urgent.

*Altamiro Borges. Debate Sindical. Brazil.*

## **Bolívar is part of our collective memory**

In our hearts and minds, Bolívar is not just the father of justice and sovereignty for Venezuela and South America. He is the father of all our collective memory, because when he crossed this continent struggling for the abolition of slavery, he spoke to the hearts of those who would abolish it in other countries.

*Danny Glover, North American actor. Activist pro Afro-American Rights.*

## **Many European countries would appreciate having populist leaders like Chávez**

We would like to know -and define- exactly what does being a populist mean? If it has to do with a leader who worries about incorporating all his people to the perimeter of the active citizenship, Chávez is a populist. If we are talking about “growing petrol”, not in the pockets of political leaders and oligarchy, but in programs that would benefit the greatest number of people, Chávez incurs in the same reproach. If it means, literally, to respect the constitutional forms, instead of fostering a fascist coup d’état, like it happened in April 11th, 2002, or insurrectional patronal strikes, the Venezuelan president’s case is even more serious. If it is all about trying to explain to a mainly poorly educated population, complicated things in simple words, then Chávez is doing populism. According to this point of view, we have no doubt that many European peoples would appreciate having leaders who were a bit little less submissive with financial markets and a little more populist.

*Bernard Cassen, Belgian journalist, director of Le Monde Diplomatique.*

## **We must accompany historic processes like Venezuela’s**

The possibility of an alternative way, a way for our peoples to achieve change, to search for our dignity, our independence, our personality, our own beat as human beings; well, these are processes that must be celebrated, followed and accompanied. Therefore, every time I have the opportunity to go to Venezuela, I come to see what you people are doing.

*Laura Restrepo, Colombian writer.*

## **The revolutionary Venezuela is a fascinating social avant-garde**

I think I am being conceptual when I say that the people of the Bolivarian Venezuela appears before the progressive humanity as an avant-garde that embodies aspirations and hopes, not only from the peoples of Latin America, but also from all those who struggle for a real independence, values and principles threaten by the strategy of imperialist domination. Venezuela emerges today in a tragic and chaotic planet, as a fascinating social laboratory in which a class struggle -not seen since the Russian Revolution in 1917- is developing. In the homeland of Bolívar and Zamora, an old challenge has been retaken: to radically transform society and free it from the imperialist domination, choosing peaceful means; that is to say, using the institutions created by the bourgeoisie to serve its goals, incompatible with those of the revolutionary project.

*Miguel Urbano Rodriguez, Portuguese writer.*

## **The revolutionary Venezuela is a lighthouse for the progressives**

The revolutionary Venezuela is a lighthouse for the progressives all around the world. Therefore, the construction of a solidarity movement to defend Venezuela and the example it is giving is crucial. Here, in Australia, we should also assume the task of familiarizing people with what is going on in Venezuela and strengthen our solidarity with their revolution.

*Stuart Munckton, national coordinator of Resistance National Office.  
Australian Youth Movement.*

## **It is necessary to support Venezuela and guarantee that it will not be isolated**

The future of the Bolivarian Revolution has to do with what is going on in the country and the capacity of the Venezuelan people to defend its conquests and achievements, as well as its president. I consider fundamental not only the local support and solidarity with Venezuela, but also the need to carry out social mobilizations in Europe, Asia and Africa. If Venezuela, despite all the riches of the process, were isolated, the future of the country would not be optimistic. We saw how the United States intervened to support the “golpistas” (coup instigators) on April 11, 2002, jointly with Aznar’s Spain. If there were no advances in the international field, the anti-chavist forces could go into action.

*Eric Toussaint, Belgian. President of the Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt.*

## **Revolution in Venezuela is chavist**

Trotsky said that the colonial revolution can throw up some outstanding leaders, and Hugo Chávez is one of these leaders. That is why the imperialists have bent all their energies to removing him. In the referendum campaign, the Venezuelan Marxists are fighting shoulder to shoulder with our Bolivarian comrades to defeat the counterrevolutionary opposition. We defend Chávez because his removal by the

reactionaries would deal a shattering blow against the revolutionary forces in Venezuela and all Latin America. This is a concrete example of the united front in action.

*Alan Woods, director of The Militant. England.*

## **Venezuela shows that another world is possible**

Any preconceived schema of the revolutionary process in a Third World country has been shattered in the case of Venezuela. The Chávez government, after surviving the April 2002 coup through the mass mobilizations of workers and sections of the army, can be described as an embryonic workers and peasant's state, backed by the armed forces. Venezuela needs all our solidarity and support to win the ideological battle. At present, there is a great vacuum of knowledge about Venezuela and a shameful lack of international solidarity work. It is something we can do to educate, to inform, to tell the story of a social revolution in progress. If it is successful, this will not only change the face of the entire Latin American continent but will inspire people everywhere to prove that another world is possible.

*Coral Wynter, Australian political activist.*

## **Chávez, symbol of the Latin American revolutionary leadership**

President Chávez has become the symbol of the new political leadership in Latin America, who is firm on defending national sovereignty and refusing to accept imposed neo-liberal models for their country. President Chávez has taken bold and imaginative measures to provide education, health and food to the impoverished sections of the people in this oil-rich country. Chávez is also an ardent advocate of South-South cooperation. Chávez has emerged as a charismatic leader with a revolutionary vision.

*Communist Party of India.*

## **The Bolivarian Revolution brings hope to the socialist movements**

The revolutionary and simultaneous political transformation in Venezuela becomes an inspiration for democratic movement in all over the world that struggle for an alternative of a more just world. The revolution that is spreading and growing in Venezuela is a hope for the relentlessly socialist movement. Looking from the ongoing revolutionary process, the progress of people's consciousness and people's desire to have a country of social justice cannot be stopped by any power.

*People's Democratic Party of Indonesia.*

## **Support the chavist project**

From his very first day in office, Chávez impelled fundamental changes in the broadening of the citizen's rights in the Venezuelan Constitution, voted by Venezuelans in a referendum and approved by 80% of the votes and passed by the Constituent National Assembly in 1999. The new Venezuelan government team has

carried out a policy of social programs in which, among other things, it has activated a plan to teach how to read and write to more than one million illiterate people. In addition, it has designed a plan to allow people with no elementary instruction to study, and yet another to allow people who have not completed their high school or college education to proceed. Today, Venezuela has a university for the poor, and has begun a plan that will allow medical doctors to live in poor quarters in order to guarantee primary health assistance to its inhabitants.

*Izquierda Unida, IU. Spain.*

## **The Bolivarian Revolution is the avant-garde of the world struggle against neoliberalism**

The revolution has no place in emptiness. Neoliberalism is totally discredited in Latin America, and the popular revolt against its policies has spread all over the Continent. The Venezuelan revolution is a product of a situation, as well as the avant-garde of the struggle. This is a revolutionary process that demands our support and our solidarity. The trials and tests of the Venezuelan people to build a netter society will benefit us all. We must do everything in our hands to help them win.

*Democratic Socialist Perspective of Australia.*

## **Venezuela is demonstrating that democracy can be something more than a worn out word**

We make common cause with the Venezuelan people; we also declare ourselves “Bolivarians”, if that means fighting against imperialism and its dominance and pillaging wars, against an economic model that impoverishes peoples and subjects them to hunger, sickness, ignorance and exclusion. The Bolivarian thought, updated to the framework of neoliberal globalization, became part of the emancipating thought in the world ambit, and shook hands with the rest of experiences gathered by peoples of every continent. Venezuela is demonstrating that it is possible to put an end to those disgraces mentioned before, that it is possible to have good governments, that democracy can be something more than a worn out word, and that it preserves all its revolutionary load when the people decides to exercise its constituent power and hoist the republican principles and the popular sovereignty.

*Coordinadora Bolivariana de Madrid.*

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