

# VIVA CHÁVEZ! NO TO ANTI-DEMOCRATIC COUP D'ETATS!

**QUESTION:** Hugo Chávez has been repeatedly elected by the people of Venezuela. Given that there is no presidential election coming up in Venezuela, **WHAT EXACTLY DO THE PROTESTERS AGAINST CHÁVEZ WANT?** Do they support another illegal, anti-democratic coup d'état like they attempted in 2002?

## THE FACTS:

- Hugo Chávez is the democratically-elected president of Venezuela. In 2000, he won by a margin of 22%. In 2006, he won by a margin of 26%. In contrast, in 2000, George Bush won with -2% of the popular vote. In 2004, George Bush won by a margin of 2.4%. In 2008, Barack Obama won with only a 7.2% margin. ***Simply, Hugo Chávez has an enormous mandate from the vast majority of Venezuelans for his policies of participatory democracy and Latin American independence & sovereignty.***
- The wealthy, elite classes of Latin America have a centuries-old tradition of ruling countries like Venezuela through corruption, repression, torture and dictatorships. Hugo Chávez is part of an electoral revolution happening in Latin America, where the great masses of people are taking back their countries from the super-rich minority which has stolen their natural resources and their labor for their own gain. ***The opposition to this electoral revolution is nothing more than the tiny, rich elite fighting for a return to the old days of military dictatorships that serve wealthy multinational corporations and Washington DC.***
- In 2002, with the support of the U.S. government and the so-called “Venezuelan opposition,” President Chávez was kidnapped, removed from office at gunpoint and replaced by an unelected servant of multinational corporate interests by the military. This is the same thing that happened in Latin America so many times before: 1954 in Guatemala, 1954 in Paraguay, 1962 in the Dominican Republic, 1963 in Ecuador, 1964 in Brazil, 1966 in Argentina, 1968 in Peru, 1973 in Chile, 1973 in Uruguay, 1980 in Bolivia, 1991 in Haiti – in most cases, a popular president who opposed corrupt oligarchies was removed at gunpoint and then replaced by a dictator who literally hunted down, tortured and then massacred the political opposition. These dictatorships were often supported and funded by the CIA. ***In 2002, the wealthy elite thought they could do the same thing to President Chávez, except the great masses of Venezuelans took to the streets and demanded the return of their revered president, ended the right-wing tradition of enslaving Latin America through terrorism and coup d'états.***
- While the US press likes to call President Chávez a “dictator,” the truth is that his presidency represents a departure from the history of military dictatorships in Latin America. Never before have the actual working people of a Latin American country had so much political influence. What is happening in Venezuela and Latin America is bigger than just Hugo Chávez – the people of Latin America have had enough of unaccountable, corrupt dictators and are leading a revolution across the continent to take back their destinies. True democracy is what the anti-Chávez protesters are against – they represent the interests of the rich, corrupt elite in Venezuela who don't want to see social programs that benefit the poor or participatory democracy assemblies that have been formed all over Venezuela or democratic workplaces or strong labor unions or a president who truly represents the great majority of Venezuelan people.
- For more information about the historical revolution by the people of Venezuela, you can read <http://www.venezuelanalysis.com/> and <http://www.aporrea.org/> and <http://www.antiterroristas.cu/> ... also, go to youtube or video.google.com and search for The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.

