

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Suffering for so long from the implementation of Neoliberalism and after failed coup d'états, the Venezuelan people see Hugo Chávez as a way out and give him support in domestic and international politics. In return, Chávez facilitates their demands and needs. For 40 years, Venezuela suffered from economic and political turmoil which caused numerous social problems thus becoming a state that fails to protect its people from their needs and social problems.

Neoliberal globalization which came to proliferate after the end of the World War II is the other form of imperialism which was “unintentionally” embraced by the Latin America continent. Neoliberal globalization is the new form of economic imperialism which evidently divided the world into “the rich” and “the poor”. “After two decades of the U.S.-promoted Washington Consensus – a cocktail of radical privatization, open markets and severe fiscal austerity – Latin America is an economic disaster marked by increasing poverty and inequality.”¹

Venezuela is a developing country which relies much on its agricultural products. The push for the opening the market created unequal terms of trade – Venezuela exports agricultural products and imports industrial goods – and Venezuela badly suffered from that in the same way that other Latin America countries at that time.

¹ Christian Parenti, “Hugo Chávez and Petro Populism,” *The Nation Magazine*, April, 2005, p.15, http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/South_America/Petro_Populism_Venez.mtml.

The assistance of world financial institutions, like IMF, made the problems even worse as the country could not adopt the regulations practically as it did not fit the country's nature.

When Chávez was elected the president in 1992, he declared clearly his opposition to the influence of the U.S. This statement did not come out of a thin air. Historically as stated in previous chapters, Latin American countries including Venezuela have suffered from economic trauma by following the economic model of Neoliberalism after the West, in particular the United States. Then came the charismatic leader, the lion heart of Chávez. He stands up, fights for the country (nationalism) and for protection against U.S. influence, which may harm the entire region's stability.

All the political actions which Chávez has done could be defined as anti-Americanism. After World War II, the world experienced the new economic ideology, Neoliberal-globalization ideology. This ideology is derived from the Washington consensus introduced by the U.S. to maximize its interest. Therefore it could be said that to counter Neoliberalism, is to fight against the U.S which is equal to anti-Americanism.

Chávez pursues policy such as trying to reach other parts of the world in order to diversify the export of Venezuela's oil to other countries instead of relying on the United States alone. He opposes the initiative of the U.S. in establishing FTAA, and created ALBA, *Telesur*, and *Petroamerica* to balance regional power over the U.S.

This bold anti-Americanism is so crucial the question exists - could Venezuela really cut off the U.S. as Venezuela now has to export oil to the U.S.? This may be

possible and impossible depending on new destinations – China and India – for Venezuela to export its oil.

The world has to monitor Chávez regional populism in anti-Americanism closely as it may set a precedent to other countries to stand up to and fight back against the U.S.