**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, the environment, and so forth. We provide voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. In order to solve problems, we need to see things differently.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***“ – the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program described below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the computer screen. Also, see much information at the issue category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary at the “TV Programs” part of [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

🡪 The end of this document offers more information about this TV program’s topic.

**Here is the April 2019 program:**

**Understand Venezuela. Protect its Sovereignty.**

by Glen Anderson, the TV series’ producer and host
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The interview prioritized Larry Mosqueda’s information and insight’s rather than Glen’s, so some of Glen’s additional ideas are noted in this printed summary, even though we did not have time for them during the TV interview.

**Introduction to this interview:**



The April 2019 interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” TV series provides fresh information and insights into the crisis in Venezuela. **Venezuela is a sovereign nation – a strong democracy – on the northern coast of South America.** Increasingly in recent years, however, the U.S. government has been causing a crisis there.

The U.S. government and mainstream media have been misrepresenting what caused the crisis and how to solve it.

The people of the United States have the right – and the responsibility – to understand and shape U.S. foreign policy.

This article continued on page 2 and beyond …

We conducted this interview on Thursday March 14, 2019. Even if the news changes by the time you watch this interview, the information we provided then (and below) will help you understand the background and the context – and help you take positive actions to solve the problems.

During this hour **Dr. Larry Mosqueda** shared his knowledge and insights about Venezuela and Latin America. Dr. Larry Mosqueda has taught Political Science and Political Economy for more than 40 years, including the last 30 years at The Evergreen State College. He is now Professor Emeritus.

In addition to teaching and research, he has been a human rights and solidarity activist with groups such as the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) for almost 40 years. He has served as an international election observer many times.

He traveled to Venezuela in 2012 and has been closely monitoring the situation there and U.S. intervention both before and after that trip.

I have enjoyed having Dr. Mosqueda as my guest for several TV interviews because his knowledge is broad and deep – and he is skilled at explaining things clearly so ordinary people can understand. This interview accomplished that again while we discussed Venezuela and the context for the current crisis.

**We summarized the current crisis and the background leading up to it.**

Before exploring the specifics of the current crisis, Larry summarized the context and background that have led to the current crisis in Venezuela. He said the Trump administration is currently trying to overthrow Venezuela’s government. In mid-January the Trump administration recognized an upstart, Juan Guaidó, a legislator in Venezuela’s National Assembly, as the replacement for the constitutionally elected president, Nicolás Maduro.

On the very day before that announcement, Vice President Pence had held a conversation with Guaidó and pledged the administration’s support if Guaidó were to declare himself president. The Trump administration has publicly announced that conversation. Larry said the real crisis is that the U.S. government is trying to overthrow Venezuela’s government.

Glen reminded viewers that Venezuela’s government headed by duly elected president Maduro is the legitimate government that was elected in a free and fair election in full compliance with Venezuela’s constitution. Larry said that Maduro had been elected president in 2013 and was re-elected in 2018. Glen affirmed Venezuela’s history of free and fair elections

**There is a long history of U.S. abuses to Latin America since the 1823 Monroe Doctrine. These include economic, political and military abuses all the way from 1823 to today.**

Glen said we need to see the current interactions between the United States and Latin America within the context of a history that goes back two centuries. In 1823 President Monroe unilaterally declared that Latin America was in the U.S.’s exclusive sphere of influence. The “Monroe Doctrine” asserted a sense of entitlement within the U.S. that our government can do whatever it wants there, and Europe had to refrain from interfering. The Monroe Doctrine has absolutely NO legal validity or standing in international law. It’s just the U.S.’s unilateral claim to power over Latin America.

Larry said that all of Latin America had been colonized by Spain (except Brazil which was colonized by Portugal). He said that between 1810 and 1820 the people of Latin America rose up and freed themselves from Spain’s control. After this – in 1823 – the U.S.’s President Monroe proclaimed the Monroe Doctrine as a way to assert U.S. dominance over Latin America and to exclude Europe – especially Great Britain – from meddling in the continent that the U.S. now wanted to meddle in.

Larry pointed out that the Monroe Doctrine “had nothing to do with protecting the people of Latin America.” He said it had everything to do with establishing a U.S. empire there. Glen added that the history of the past two centuries has included a lot of U.S. intervention – both economic and military – throughout Latin America, even without the U.S. declaring them to be actual, formal colonies

Larry added that the U.S. has treated Puerto Rico as a colony, and the U.S. has established dictatorships in a number of Latin American countries, including Cuba and some in Central and South America.

He said a few days ago he was reading a recent writing by John Pilger, an internationally respected researcher and journalist. John Pilger said that if Trump’s coup in Venezuela succeeds, it would be the 68th time the U.S. has overthrown governments around the world. Many of those have been in Latin America, but many have been elsewhere around the world.

Glen said that some of those have been democracies. He said that the reality is NOT that the U.S. is overthrowing dictatorships and installing democracies. Actually, it’s the **opposite**: the U.S. has often overthrown democracies and installed dictatorships that will be subservient to U.S. business and political interests. He listed these examples: Iran in 1953, Guatemala in 1954, Chile in 1973, Honduras in 2009, and a brief attempt in Venezuela in 2002.

**Hugo Chavez’s won an election victory in 1998 and provided many improvements that helped Venezuela’s people from 1999 until he died in 2013.**

Venezuela’s elections have been honest, free and fair. Glen said that Jimmy Carter – who has monitored many other nations’ elections – said Venezuela’s election process is very clean, fair and transparent. Larry agreed and said that Carter said that Venezuela’s electoral structure is the best (no fraud, tampering with ballots, etc.), whether or not he agrees with who is elected.

Glen agreed that in a democracy the people must decide, and we must respect that decision, even if we do not agree with the outcome. The U.S. does not honor that principle of democracy.

Larry said this is one feature of the U.S. empire over the Latin American region. The U.S. does not want people to have democracy. “The purpose of U.S. foreign policy is not to have democracy, but to have control.”

Glen said that in a free and fair election, Venezuela’s people elected Hugo Chavez to become president in December 1998, and he took office in 1999. Glen asked Larry what President Hugo Chavez accomplished from 1999 until he died in 2013. Larry said he visited there in 2012, so he saw some things first-hand, and he has studied extensively before and after that visit. Chavez used its wealth from oil to improve the people’s lives significantly after taking office in 1999. Larry said Chavez invested Venezuela’s oil wealth in improving the people’s nutrition, health, education, and housing.

Glen said that Venezuela has more proven oil reserves than any other nation on earth. Saudi Arabia is #2, and the U.S. is #10.

Glen said the oil is under the nation’s ground – the public’s ground – so it is a national resource. “Chavez was wise enough and compassionate enough and accountable enough to use the people’s resource to serve the people.”

Larry said that one of the problems that occurred around the year 2000 was that Chavez did not set aside enough money in reserves to provide a cushion in case of an economic downturn. He said it was good that Chavez used money to help the people, but – just like people need to save for retirement – Chavez should have set aside some of that money for the future. Part of Venezuela’s current economic crisis resulted from not having enough cash reserves.

Larry said the U.S. does the same thing. The U.S. has almost no cash reserves. But he said the U.S. can print more money, and the U.S. dollar is the currency that is used throughout the world.

Glen said that when other countries get into financial problems, they are not as free to print money because the world economy functions on the U.S. dollar. In contrast, Venezuela is not able to simply print itself out of debt.

Larry added that in 1944 dozens of nations adopted the Bretton Woods Agreement, which made the U.S. dollar the currency for the entire planet. So he said, for example, if people in India and Pakistan are selling things to each other, neither of them wants the other nation’s currency, so they trade using American dollars.

Glen added that when other nations end up in debt to the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank or other entities, those debts must be repaid in American dollars. This traps those nations in debt. He said that most Americans don’t realize that many of those countries have debts and other economic problems that were not of their own making. The global economy functions in ways that trap them. Larry added that many nations are inhibited from solving their problems because the dominant empire will not let them do that. He said that since World War II Republicans and Democrats alike “have not been helpful to the people of the planet.”

Glen said people in the U.S. do not see those realities, but people in other countries are painfully aware of them.

At this point in the interview we did not have time to explicitly add these additional facts:

* Trump and the U.S. government have escalated economic sanctions and military threats against Venezuela, a sovereign democracy.
* Trump is continuing the bi-partisan U.S. belligerence that has occurred ever since Venezuela elected Hugo Chavez president in 1998.
* Chavez was re-elected twice.
* A few rich Venezuelans have been hurting the majority poor population.
* Chavez’s “socialism” angered economic elites, who did not want to lose their economic and political privileges.

**The U.S. supported a coup that briefly overthrew Venezuela’s democracy in 2002, but
people promptly reversed the coup and restored Chavez and democracy.**

Glen said the U.S. government supported the 2002 coup that overthrew Venezuela’s democracy and removed Chavez. But overwhelming public support for Chavez restored him to the presidency after just 47 hours.

Larry provided more information about that weekend coup. He said that some people within the economic elite and a few within the military kidnapped Chavez and moved him to an island. But then ordinary people rose up and protested in the streets. The population “forced the coup government to give up.” He said that Chavez had anticipated that a coup might occur, and the palace guard turned on the coup makers.

Larry recommended a very good movie titled “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.” It’s available on YouTube so people can watch it at any time. Glen said he borrowed a copy of the DVD some years ago and watched it. An Irish film crew happened to be there in the palace while the coup occurred and was reversed, so they filmed the whole thing. It is a fascinating inside look at history being made. It was fun to use the slogan that had come from elsewhere to be the title of their film. The film was released in 2003. Search the web for the film’s title, “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.”

Larry said that this documentary film was unique in that it was film while the coup was occurring rather than having been reconstructed with research and scripts after the fact.

Glen emphasized that the public brought President Chavez back because they supported democracy and President Chavez. It was the economic elite that had caused the coup. Chavez was very popular because he was serving the broad public interest.

Larry said the coup plotters were working with the CIA and other parts of the U.S. government. The political history between that 2002 coup and Trump’s attempted coup in 2019 reveals a continuity.

Larry recommended the book written by Eva Golinger titled, ***The Chavez Code: Cracking US Intervention in Venezuela***. The author exposed the U.S. government’s documents that provided its complicity with the 2002 coup.

**Venezuela has suffered decades of crisis caused by the U.S., including George W. Bush and Barack Obama before Donald Trump.**

Glen said that the 2002 coup occurred during the George W. Bush era, but that U.S. foreign policy – including many horrible actions – is really bi-partisan. “It almost doesn’t matter who is in the White House, because the same stuff keeps happening.” Glen said U.S. foreign policy is fundamentally bi-partisan. The U.S. government has been causing trouble for Venezuela for decades. George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and now Donald Trump – it just keeps going on and on.

Larry agreed. It is part of the U.S. empire. George W. Bush imposed economic sanctions on Venezuela. Then Obama imposed more economic sanctions. And now Trump has escalated them even further.

Glen said the bipartisan pressures on Venezuela persisted, just like the U.S. abuses of Vietnam persisted for approximately three decades from Democrat Harry Truman (1940s) through Republican Gerald Ford (1970s).

Larry added that all of the U.S.’s international abuses and wars are based on lies. Lyndon Johnson’s administration lied about the Gulf of Tonkin incident (which never actually occurred) in order to convince Congress, the media and the public to support the Vietnam War.

Likewise, George W. Bush’s administration lied to people about “weapons of mass destruction,” which Iraq’s Saddam Hussein did not have. The accusation that Iraq was throwing babies out of incubators was a total lie.

“And now we’re being told a pack of lies on a daily basis” regarding Venezuela.

Glen agreed that the “recurring pattern” of lies keeps persisting regardless of which president or which party is in power in the U.S. He said he remembers watching LBJ’s Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara speaking seriously on TV about the Gulf of Tonkin incident, but it turned out that he was lying about it in order to justify a U.S. war against North Vietnam.

Larry clarified that these were not honest mistakes by U.S. officials. Actually, they were saying things that they knew were not true. They were deliberately lying.

He also said that Daniel Ellsberg did excellent work in exposing our government’s lies about making war. The film about Ellsberg – “The Most Dangerous Man in America” – got its title from something that Henry Kissinger said about him. Ellsberg was an expert who had briefed McNamara and was standing next to McNamara when McNamara told lies in public.

Glen said he recently red Ellsberg’s amazingly informative 2017 book ***The Doomsday Machine*** about nuclear weapons. Ellsberg had access to the people at the highest levels of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons decision-making going back to the late 1950s, and he knew they were lying to the public (and sometimes lying to themselves). The people with the highest levels of responsibility and power did not really know what was going on. Our local Timberland Regional Library system ([**www.trl.org**](http://www.trl.org)) has the book.

**Long-standing foreign policy bullies now are shaping Trump’s foreign policy.**

Glen said that some of the people who have long histories of causing horrible violence and injustice in Latin America worked for Ronald Reagan, the older George Bush, and now they are back working for Donald Trump in high levels of power. Glen asked Larry for information about three of them: John Bolton, Elliott Abrams, and Mike Pompeo.

Larry said that John Bolton has been advising presidents on foreign policy since Reagan’s administration. Bolton has a long history of interference in Latin America and in supporting the wars in Iraq. Larry said that Bolton has been involved with criminal activities for the past thirty years. His record shows that “he is a very vicious person.”

Even more vicious is Elliott Abrams. He had “hands-on” responsibility for Reagan’s abuses and crimes in Nicaragua, including the war of terrorism and violence that Reagan’s “contras” conducted there. He shipped military aid to the “contras” who were violently trying to overthrow Nicaragua’s government, but he lied and said it was “humanitarian aid.” Congress made Abrams testify about what he had done in Nicaragua. He lied to Congress and was convicted of perjury, but George W. Bush pardoned him. Larry said Elliott Abrams “is a convicted war criminal.”

A few weeks before this interview, Trump had appointed Abrams to be his top man regarding Venezuela. During the 1980s Abrams vigorously supported and helped brutal Latin Americans such as General Rios Montt, the extremely cruel dictator of Guatemala who murdered many, many thousands of people there.

Now as Trump’s main appointee trying to overthrow Venezuela’s democracy, Abrams had a hand in sending $23 million in U.S. “humanitarian aid” through Colombia, but that was really just a public relations stunt that failed. Actually, the U.S.’s economic sanctions are costing Venezuela’s economy $24 BILLION, 1,000 times as much as the $23 million in so-called “humanitarian aid” that would not be necessary if the U.S. had not already destroyed Venezuela’s economy in several ways. This scam is really a Trojan horse that reminds us of the Trojan horse that Abrams had previously sent in Nicaragua.

Trump’s Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is shaping Trump’s policies in Venezuela. He had served as Trump’s CIA Director in 2017-2018. Before that, he had spent six years as a right-wing U.S. Representative in Congress from Kansas.

Glen reminded people about Ronald Reagan’s “contra” war in Nicaragua. Nicaragua’s government was very progressive. The Sandinista party did excellent work promoting literacy, health, and the well-being of the population, with special efforts for poor people. The Reagan Administration did not like that, so his CIA worked with right-wing elements in Nicaragua to create a terrorist group that would fight against the Sandinistas’ revolutionary progress. These “counter-revolutionaries” – “contras,” in Spanish – roamed the countryside terrorizing and killing people who taught literacy, etc. Larry said the CIA referred to killing those civilians as “soft targets.”

Larry added that in 1986 the World Court (the International Court of Justice) ruled in favor of Nicaragua and against the United States because of the U.S.’s violence and war crimes against Nicaragua. The ICJ awarded reparations to Nicaragua, but Reagan simply said that he did not accept the Court’s jurisdiction. This was yet one more example of the U.S.’s arrogance and contempt for international law.

Glen said Trump has hired these people who did horrible things in previous decades and put them to work doing horrible things now. Larry said it’s not just the same policies, but it’s also the same people. These people have a track record of knowing how to kill civilians and overthrow democracies.

**Venezuela’s president Nicolás Maduro was duly elected. He has the right to lead.**

Glen said the current crisis was contrived by other people and imposed upon Venezuela, but those people are blaming Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro as if it were his fault.

Maduro was duly elected in 2018 in an election that was free and fair with several competing candidates. Maduro won an honest election, and he has the constitutional right to serve as president. He has made some mistakes, but he is the rightful, constitutionally elected president.

In contrast, Juan Guaidó is an upstart who unconstitutionally claims to be president. The Trump administration had urged him to do that.

Larry explained that Juan Guaidó has been a member of the National Assembly since 2015. (He was elected with only 26% of the votes.) In that election an opposition party got more votes than Chavez’s socialist party. The National Assembly’s leadership positions rotated, and in January 2019 it was Guaidó’s turn to become the head of the National Assembly.

But soon he unconstitutionally proclaimed himself to be Venezuela’s president. Larry said that the 2015 election proved that Chavez’s socialist party was not a dictatorship, “because dictators do not lose elections.” Glen agreed and said Chavez’s socialist party did not prevent an opposition party from becoming dominant in the National Assembly.

Larry said the opposition party – now in charge of the National Assembly – did many things to subvert Maduro. The Supreme Court kept ruling against them and finally dissolved the National Assembly because it kept doing illegal activities. According to their constitutional system, President Maduro called for a new Constituent Assembly to rewrite the constitution.

The old National Assembly still existed “somewhere out there in the ether.” Guaidó happened to rotate into the position of head of that National Assembly, so he swore himself in as the new President. That is not how their constitution works. Nor does the U.S. have any right to tell Venezuela who their President must be.

Larry said it would be like if Nancy Pelosi were to declare herself President because Trump did not win the popular vote – and if China were to enforce Pelosi’s self-declaration upon the U.S. He said most of the world does not recognize Guaidó as Venezuela’s president.

**Congress has been failing us, but some Congress members oppose Trump’s policies.**

Glen said the U.S. Congress has been failing to protect democracy. A few Congress members oppose Trump’s interference in Venezuela, but nearly all members of Congress are either supporting Trump or are silent.

Glen said he wrote to U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell to oppose Trump’s support for the coup against Venezuela’s democratically elected president. Senator Cantwell’s reply said, **“Thank you for contacting me regarding the leadership dispute in Venezuela.”** (*emphasis added*) This is an illegal coup, but when she called it **merely a “leadership dispute”** she was defending the coup. I wonder what she think if I were to unilaterally declare myself to be the U.S. Senator instead of Maria Cantwell.

Larry repeated the publicly known fact that Vice President Pence had told Guaidó the day before that Guaidó should declare himself president.

Larry said that unlike the old coups from previous decades, now the U.S. is committing them publicly and announcing them in the press and on TV.

Glen urged Congress to pass H.R. 1004 and S.J.Res. 11 to prevent U.S. intervention without Congress’s approval.

**We debunked the propaganda that tries to justify a coup: economics, Maduro’s actions, etc.**

Glen laid out some of the context for this coup. The coup is being promoted by Venezuela’s elites – and by U.S. politicians and oil companies and mainstream media. They are promoting propaganda that tries to justify their coup. Glen asked Larry to discuss some of the propaganda points.

Larry said we already explained why Maduro really is the constitutionally valid president, despite the coup supporters’ propaganda.

The propaganda says Maduro is not popular. Larry said there are mixed data about that. He said that while Maduro’s popularity in the public opinion polls is about 35%, Guaidó’s is only about 20%-25%. Also, Maduro’s 35% is about 10 points higher than the popularity of the president of France.

The propaganda claims that Maduro is authoritarian. Larry said the reality is not so simplistic. He has been somewhat authoritarian toward the people who are trying to overthrow the government, but he is not authoritarian to the population as a whole. Any national leader anywhere in the world would take strong actions against people trying to overthrow their government.

Larry said he has watched many of the videos coming from Venezuela. Some of the anti-Maduro protests seem to be dominated by upper-middle-class and white people, while Maduro’s supporters at the pro-Maduro rallies (which attract larger numbers of people) tend to be more poor and working class and darker-skinned. Larry said that race and economic class are factors in Venezuela. He said that knowledgeable journalists (*e.g*., John Pilger and Max Blumenthal) have pointed this out too.

Glen said that some people say Maduro has mismanaged Venezuela’s economy, so this gives the U.S. the right to “kick him out.” But Glen said the damage to the economy actually was caused largely by the U.S.’s economic sanctions and other abuses.

Larry said George W. Bush had imposed economic sanctions in 2006. Obama imposed worse economic sanctions in 2015. Now Trump has escalated the economic sanctions even further. Larry said that he has read studies stating that those sanctions have cost Venezuela “an incredible amount of money.” He saw one estimate for 2018’s damage to be $6 billion and 2019’s damage to be $11 billion. He mentioned an additional $10 billion in damage. He said the U.S. and Britain are preventing Venezuela from getting $1.2 billion in gold owned by Venezuela that the US and UK are preventing Venezuela from getting back. He summarized that Venezuela’s economic crisis has been caused largely by the sanctions.

Maduro has made mistakes, just like any nation’s president has done. But he has not stolen any money. Glen said there is a big difference between having a difference about public policies vs. outright corruption. Maduro is not corrupt. He has made some mistakes, “but the bulk of the problems in their economy were caused by the U.S. and related people.” The U.S. government is trying to destroy their economy. It is not fair to blame Maduro for problems that the U.S. caused.

Glen said that the little bit of so-called “humanitarian aid” that the U.S. sent there is only about 1/1,000th of the damage that the U.S. has caused. The U.S. government has caused $24 BILLION in economic damage but sent only 1/1,000th of that amount – $23 million – in so-called “humanitarian aid” as a public relations stunt that for propaganda purposes. It was also a Trojan horse to allow the militaries of the U.S. and Colombia’s right-wing government to get into Venezuela.

Larry added that a human rights expert from the United Nations who was focusing on Venezuela stated that the U.S.’s economic sanctions against Venezuela are really a “war crime.” They are intended to hurt and kill people in Venezuela.

**The current scheme to destabilize and overthrow Venezuela reminds Glen of Chile in 1973.**

Glen said that what Trump’s U.S. is doing to Venezuela now reminds him of what Nixon’s U.S. did to Chile in 1973.

Chile had enjoyed the longest democracy in Latin America – since the 1800s. But Nixon, Kissinger and their CIA and Chile’s military and some business corporations from Chile and the U.S. destabilized Chile’s economy and supported a military coup because Chile’s people had elected a “socialist.” Kissinger said, “The issues are much too important for the Chilean voters to be left to decide for themselves.” The coup installed General Augusto Pinochet as one of the world’s most brutal dictators who slaughtered many thousands of Chile’s people.

Glen said he sees Trump doing to Venezuela what Nixon had done to Chile 46 years before.

Larry agreed and said that the actual policy of Nixon and Kissinger was “to make the economy scream.” He said, “this is exactly what [the U.S] is doing now to Venezuela.”

Glen said this is the same pattern. Screw up the economy and cause such stress that the U.S. can promote a coup and install somebody horrible.

Larry said that one difference is that Nixon sent a lot of money to Chile’s military so they could apply military violence during the coup, but the U.S. government has not been able to turn Venezuela’s military against their constitutional government.

Glen said it is scary to see the U.S. repeating its Chilean crimes from 46 years ago now in Venezuela. Larry said that the U.S. government learned lessons from Chile and Nicaragua and is applying that template now in Venezuela.

**U.S. must NOT violate sovereignty of Venezuela, Latin America, or anywhere else.**

Glen said that in recent weeks when he has heard Larry speak about this crisis, Larry has always emphasized the point that Venezuela is a sovereign nation – and that the U.S. (or any other nation) has absolutely no right to violate Venezuela’s sovereignty by screwing up its internal affairs. We discussed this point.

Larry said that the main message he wants to convey during this interview is that “the United States has no right whatsoever to interfere militarily or have a coup in Venezuela or any other country. In fact, it’s only from literally a racist and imperialistic ideology that would give the American people the idea that we have a right to interfere in other countries.” He reiterated the point from John Pilger that if the U.S. coup against Venezuela were to succeed, that would be the 68th time the U.S. has overthrown the government of another nation.

Glen said that in American political life – and in American culture – we “tend to feel a sense of entitlement to do that. Americans think we are a beacon of liberty to the world, and whatever we do is for a righteous cause. We need to rein in that kind of egocentrism.”

Larry added that most Americans oppose Trump, and they know he is crazy, but even so, people take at face value much of what he says, as if he were a statesman. The notion that Trump cares about the people of Latin America really is an absurdity. He does not even care about Latin Americans who are U.S. citizens, such as the people of Puerto Rico. He does not care about Latin Americans trying to cross the border from Mexico. We should not let him fool us into thinking that he cares about the people of Venezuela.

Glen added that Trump does not even care about ordinary people within the United States. “He keeps doing things that screw us over.” Trump and the Republicans want to take away 23 million Americans’ health care. He is deliberately de-regulating the Environmental Protection Agency in ways that they **know** will cause **huge numbers** of cancers. “Republicans cause cancer!” Trump is happy to hurt many, many people.

Larry added that this is why the United Nations’ expert on human rights said in March 2018 that the U.S.’s economic sanctions against Venezuela are a war crime. They are illegal. But, Larry added, “The U.S. does not pay attention to the U.N.”

He added one more example. He said that every year a resolution comes up in the United Nations opposing U.S. policy toward Cuba. He said that in 2019 the vote was 189 against U.S. policy toward Cuba, and only 2 nations (the U.S. and Israel) supporting the U.S. policy. Overwhelmingly, the world’s nations oppose U.S. policy toward Latin America.

Larry said that of the approximately 50 nations that have recognized Guaidó, most are the old imperialist countries of Europe, plus the U.S. and Canada, plus some of the U.S.’s lackey nations in Latin America. In contrast, about 75% of the world’s nations recognize Maduro as the legitimate president and do **not** recognize Guaidó.

He added that – even if everything the U.S. says about Maduro were true – the U.S. would have absolutely no right to attack Venezuela. Under international law and the United Nations Charter, it would be illegal for the U.S. to attack Venezuela unless Venezuela were starting to attack the U.S.

**What if the shoe were on the other foot?**

Glen said that the U.S. has often intervened in other countries – and has destabilized and overthrown them – because the U.S. has said that they governed badly. What if the shoe were on the other foot and other countries did that to the U.S.? Our political leaders do bad things too, so should other nations overthrow our government? Glen gave examples:

1. Sometimes the U.S. has overthrown governments that have mistreated their people. The U.S. itself has a long history of mistreating people, including people of color. Would the U.S. abuse of African-Americans give an African nation (*e.g*., Nigeria) the right to overthrow the U.S. government in order to establish racial justice in the U.S.?

2. U.S. oil companies and government have caused the climate crisis that seriously endangers the rest of the world with droughts, storms, and rising sea levels. Trump and the Republicans are rapidly escalating the climate crisis, which scientists say absolutely will flood much of Bangladesh. So is Bangladesh entitled to overthrow the U.S. government and dismantle American oil companies in order to survive?

We did not have time for two other examples that Glen had wanted to propose:

3. President Clinton’s 1996 de-regulation of banks led directly to our 2007-2008 economic crash. President Obama refused to prosecute any of the greedy, corrupt big bank executives who broke laws that led to the crash. In contrast, Iceland convicted and imprisoned dozens of its corrupt bankers. Should Iceland overthrow the U.S. government because our government mismanaged our economy?

4. Big money has corrupted U.S. elections. We have the lowest voter turnout among modern democracies. Would that justify a nation with a better democracy in overthrowing the U.S. government and install a better democracy that will be clean and without corruption?

When “the shoe is on the other foot,” we can see the hypocrisy that the U.S. uses to justify overthrowing other nations’ governments. Americans would not want to be on the receiving end of what our government does to other nations.

Larry said that most Americans have illusions about our history. He said that African-Americans, Native Americans and Latin Americans living here have far fewer illusions, but most mainstream white Americans have been deceived. The white working class has become worse off, especially since the 1980s. He urged people to let go of the illusions and start working for more authentic freedoms and democracy.

**Oil is a major factor in the U.S.’s meddling in Venezuela.**

Glen said that much of U.S. foreign policy seems based on greed for oil. We know that Venezuela has more proven oil reserves than any other nation on earth. (Saudi Arabia is #2, and the U.S. is #10.) Glen said this topic would deserve more attention if we had more time during this interview, but he invited Larry to discuss oil as a factor in Venezuela’s current crisis.

He said Trump urged a war against Venezuela because, “They have all that oil and they’re right on our back door.”

Larry said that about two weeks before we taped this interview, Trump’s National Security Adviser John Bolton had admitted that it’s about Venezuela’s oil. Bolton said the U.S. oil companies should take over Venezuela’s oil.

Larry said it is another war for oil, and also another war to stop any kind of independence movement in Latin America or other places around the world.

He said Venezuela’s oil is a “dirtier” kind than the oil from Texas and Louisiana, so it needs more refining and it sells for a lower price. But Venezuela has a lot of oil, so the U.S. government is trying to prevent them from earning money from it. The vast majority of Venezuela’s exports are oil, so this is a crucial factor.

Glen said that in the past few years oil prices have been declining, so this also has reduced the revenue Venezuela has earned from selling oil. Larry said that oil prices started dropping in 2014.

Glen said Venezuela’s loss of oil revenue was not caused by President Maduro mismanaging anything. Venezuela’s financial crisis came partly from declining oil prices worldwide – and especially from the U.S. economic sanctions and other disruptions of Venezuela’s economy.

**Media bias supports U.S. foreign policy in general, including Trump’s coup attempt against Venezuela. To discover the truth, we need to read and support truthful media instead.**

Glen said it seems to him that in every aspect of U.S. foreign policy anywhere in the world, U.S. mainstream media reporting always seems biased in favor of the government’s opinion, regardless of the facts. They parroted the Bush-Cheney lies about “weapons of mass destruction” in Iraq – even though the truth was actually known and some people were trying to get the media to report the truth, but the media ignored the true facts and kept promoting the Bush-Cheney lies. We see that pattern over and over again when the mainstream media are obedient to whatever the U.S. government wants.

Larry said that it’s not a conspiracy. Both of us agreed that it’s based on who owns the media: big business corporations, including businesses that have biases regarding foreign policy. Larry urged us to consider whose interests are being served by this biased reporting.

He said this is quite different from Trump’s denunciations of “fake news.” The media do serve Trump and his foreign policy. He criticizes the media only when they criticize him.

He said the point is that the American people do not get accurate information about what’s going on around the world. Mainstream media “fall in line” with the government’s position – until it’s too late. He said U.S. press coverage kept supporting the Vietnam war until very late when Walter Cronkite went there and discovered the truth that the U.S. was not going to win. Only then did the media narrative change. He said the media waited about ten years into the war in Iraq before saying maybe we should get out.

Glen said that from the very beginning – even before the Iraq war started in 2003 – the peace movement and alternative and progressive media were reporting the truth and saying that the Bush-Cheney war was being built on lies. We kept speaking the truth and urging the mainstream media to report accurately, but they kept refusing to do that. They kept reporting the lies that Bush-Cheney were promoting.

Larry said that the media that supposedly try to be accurate (CNN, MSNBC, etc.) are failing to include CODEPINK, Ralph Nader, Pramila Jayapal, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, and other voices and viewpoints that are progressive and support peace. These people should have opportunities of 15 minutes each to explain clearly what’s going on.

Glen said that when he posts this video to his blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), he will also post a very thorough summary of what we said during this interviews. At the end of that thorough summary he will list some good sources of information. These include alternative and progressive news sources and non-profit organizations focusing on Latin America. ***(See pages 12-13 below.)***

**Congress has been failing us, but some Congress members oppose Trump’s policies.**

Earlier in this interview Glen said the U.S. Congress has been failing to protect Venezuela’s constitutional democracy. He said nearly all members of Congress are either supporting Trump or are silent. For example, he repeated his previous statement that U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell had called the coup merely a “leadership dispute.” She and other members of Congress need to be told that Trump is provoking an actual coup.

Relatively few Congress members actually oppose Trump’s attempted coup. Glen urged people to tell Congress to pass H.R. 1004 and S.J.Res. 11 to prevent U.S. intervention without Congress’s approval.

Larry said about 40 House members have signed on to H.R. 1004, but as of the date we taped this interview (March 14, 2019), our U.S. Representative Denny Heck had not signed on, so we need to strongly urge him to co-sponsor it. Glen said Denny Heck is “really, really timid about standing up for peace” and other good issues, so we need to urge him to take this stand.

**U.S.’s previous injustices to Latin America have caused suffering, migration, etc.**

Glen said that we began this conversation with information about the long history of U.S. interference in Latin America. The U.S. has opposed democracy. The U.S. has supported dictators and death squads and economic injustices (*e.g*., NAFTA) that have made it impossible for them to live safely in parts of Latin America. As a result, many people are moving from there to the U.S. in order to survive. But the U.S. compounds the injustices by refusing to let them in.

Glen asked Larry to “connect the dots” between U.S. policies there and immigration here.

Larry said in July 2018 he wrote an article for Counterpunch ([**www.counterpunch.org**](http://www.counterpunch.org)) titled, “On the Origins of the Current Immigration “Crisis” at the Border” ([**https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/07/27/on-the-origins-of-the-current-immigration-crisis-at-the-border/**](https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/07/27/on-the-origins-of-the-current-immigration-crisis-at-the-border/)) He invited people to visit [**www.counterpunch.org**](http://www.counterpunch.org) and search that site for his last name – Mosqueda – in order to see this and some other articles he has written.

Last summer he wrote the article linked above about the immigrant children who were imprisoned in cages. He emphasized that the U.S. had imposed brutal economic conditions upon Central America in the 1980s and 1990s. People have become more desperate based on the problems the U.S. had caused then.

He suggested the remedy of taking part of the $700 billion military budget – say, 10% of it – and use that $70 billion to rebuild those countries’ economies. Then Central America’s people won’t need to come here. The U.S. created and funded the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II. We could do something similar in Latin America. Solutions do exist.

He also said that if the U.S. were to use military violence in Venezuela, the bad results won’t be only immediate, but they will also worsen over the next 5, 10, 20 years. U.S. military violence in Venezuela will have bad long-term consequences, just like we are seeing now in Central America based on what the U.S. had done in the 1980s and 1990s.

Glen said that when the U.S. made it impossible for many Vietnamese and Cambodian people to live in their own countries during that war, we needed to welcome them here as refugees. Now the U.S. is committing horrible violence in many parts of the Middle East, but our government now is refusing to admit those refugees whom we had caused to leave their homes. The U.S. has been causing problems in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere, but the U.S. government refused to take responsibilities for the problems it has caused there.

Parents teach little kids that they must clean up the messes they cause, but the U.S. government is not acting as responsibly as a little kid. Glen said he wrote an article recently ([**http://parallaxperspectives.org/stop-hurting-other-nations-accept-all-refugees-caused-by-our-violence**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/stop-hurting-other-nations-accept-all-refugees-caused-by-our-violence)) saying Congress should pass a law prohibiting the U.S. from starting war or doing anything else that will hurt people in other nations unless we agree in advance that the U.S. will welcome as refugees all of the people our government displaces or hurts. This new law would deter U.S. militarism.

**Resistance does exist in the U.S. and worldwide.**

Glen said that some people in the U.S. and around the world do oppose what our government is doing to Venezuela, even if U.S. news media fail to report it.

Larry said that two days after we tape our interview on March 14, 2019, an international day of protest will occur on Saturday March 16, including an action in Olympia. More protests will occur on Saturday March 30, and his internet searches are showing many protests around the world.

He said it would not cost the U.S. anything to simply leave Venezuela alone. Earlier in our conversation we had said $23 billion or more is “being robbed from Venezuela” because of the economic sanctions. But if the sanctions were eliminated, Venezuela would have its own money returned to it so the government could spend it to help its own people. It is not a matter of the U.S. spending money for helping Venezuela. Glen said that without the sanctions, Venezuela would have its own money so it could solve its problems, instead of the U.S. causing more problems.

**What alternatives and solutions do we recommend instead?**

After discussing the problems we also recommended some solutions.

Just now we mentioned the need for something like the Marshall Plan, which would help restore the damage that U.S. policies have caused in various parts of Latin America.

Larry is active with Olympia’s Venezuelan Anti-Intervention Coalition. This local group developed a 4-point plan:

1. No to all U.S. military intervention in Venezuela.

2. End all sanctions against Venezuela.

3. Support providing food and medical aid to Venezuela through the United Nations. (Glen emphasized the need to provide this aid through an impartial body “so the U.S. does not get our hooks into it.”)

4. Support negotiations between Venezuela’s elected government and the opposition.

Regarding this fourth point, Glen said that Venezuela’s population is polarized. Neither side can conquer the other. Thoughtful people urge negotiation by a neutral outside mediator. The mediator must be truly neutral, not the U.S.

Larry said that President Maduro has offered to negotiate, but Guaidó and the U.S. have refused to negotiate. Larry said that actually Elliott Abrams [Trump’s appointee regarding Venezuela] has met with Venezuela’s actual ambassador in the U.S.

Glen said that this is really what has been useful in resolving many serious and long-standing conflicts, including civil wars. Even while each of the opposing sides has said it will not negotiate with the enemy, in practice they have carried out negotiations secretly and achieved peace. This happened in South Africa, Northern Ireland, and other places. Olympia’s Helena Meyer Knapp wrote a book about that, and it detailed several case studies, including those two. The only way to solve big problems is to talk with the “enemy” and practice honest diplomacy.

Larry agreed that talking to people is more effective than making wars and killing people.

Glen said that Trump hired John Bolton to be his National Security Advisor. Bolton has a long record of actually and blatantly hating diplomacy and wanting war and violent overthrows. Larry said that John Bolton and Elliott Abrams are the kind of people who would have been serving the Third Reich in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s – and Larry said, “I am not exaggerating. People should look at their records.” Glen agreed that that is their approach.

**How could ordinary Americans help?**

Glen said that governments can produce better solutions when ordinary people take responsibility to get informed and take smart actions. Ordinary Americans support democracy, peace, and fairness. Our personal values are much better than our government’s arrogant, cruel foreign policy.

Glen said the U.S. violates the Golden Rule, which says, “Do unto others what you would have others do unto you.” The U.S. has a double-standard. We do things to other countries that we would not want to have done to us.

He said our best values would prevent any U.S. harm to Venezuela’s economy or sovereignty. We must pressure Congress to pass H.R. 1004 and S.J.Res. 11 to prevent U.S. military intervention without Congress’s explicit approval.

Beyond Venezuela and Latin America, we need a more peaceful, just and humane foreign policy overall.

Glen also urged people to inform themselves: to get more accurate news and information than the mainstream sources provide, and to share the truth with other people.

He said he would list some very good sources of information in the thorough summary of this interview that you are reading now when he posts this document and the interview video to his blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) (both the “TV Programs” part and the “Latin America” part). ***See the information sources listed on pages 12-13 below*.**

Larry also urged people to inform themselves. He receives several mainstream newspapers. So he gets what he called “the official lies” delivered to his front door. But then he conducts additional research. Other people need to do that too. “There is plenty of information out there, but you have to look for it.”

He especially recommends [**www.venezuelaanalysis.com**](http://www.venezuelaanalysis.com) and videos (some only 5 minutes long by “Gray Zone” on You Tube. He also recommends [**www.therealnews.com**](http://www.therealnews.com) and its videos at “The Real News Network.”

We both like the Alliance for Global Justice. (See links in the next section below.)

Larry emphasized, “We are not helpless! We were not helpless during Vietnam. We were not helpless during the Iraq war. And we are not helpless now.”

Glen agreed. “We can solve these problems. Do not feel at the mercy of the tyrants trying to dominate us. We can solve these problems.”

**Consult these sources of accurate information and insights:**

A few minutes ago we said mainstream media has been failing to provide accurate information. We recommended several sources of information that people can seek out in order to become better informed about the realities. The ones we mentioned and many more are listed here:

Books

* Eva Golinger wrote a book titled, ***The Chavez Code: Cracking US Intervention in Venezuela***. The author exposed the U.S. government’s documents that provided its complicity with the 2002 coup.
* Gregory Wilpert wrote a book titled, ***Changing Venezuela by Taking Power: The History and Politics of the Chavez Government***

Non-Profit Organizations and News Sources

Alliance for Global Justice [**www.afgj.org**](http://www.afgj.org) and their “Activist Tool Kit” titled “U.S. Hands Off Venezuela” at [**https://afgj.org/activist-tool-kit-us-hands-off-venezuela**](https://afgj.org/activist-tool-kit-us-hands-off-venezuela)

AlterNet [**www.alternet.org**](http://www.alternet.org)

Center for Economic and Policy Research [**www.cepr.net**](http://www.cepr.net)

Common Dreams [**www.commondreams.org**](http://www.commondreams.org) For example, see several articles about Venezuela posted at [**https://www.commondreams.org/search/site/venezuela**](https://www.commondreams.org/search/site/venezuela)

Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) [**www.coha.org**](http://www.coha.org)

Counterpunch [**www.counterpunch.org**](http://www.counterpunch.org) including Larry Mosqueda’s article titled, “On the Origins of the Current Immigration “Crisis” at the Border” at [**https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/07/27/on-the-origins-of-the-current-immigration-crisis-at-the-border/**](https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/07/27/on-the-origins-of-the-current-immigration-crisis-at-the-border/)

Democratic Socialists of America (DSA – [**www.dsa.org**](http://www.dsa.org)) is organizing efforts through Congress. California’s U.S. Representative Ro Khanna and Washington’s U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal are circulating a letter for other U.S. House members to sign opposing economic sanctions and threats of U.S. military intervention, and supporting dialogue.

Democracy Now! [**www.democracynow.org**](http://www.democracynow.org) On the day we taped our interview (March 14, 2019), the broadcast on Democracy Now! included this: [**https://www.democracynow.org/2019/3/14/regime\_change\_via\_sanctions\_us\_uses?utm\_source=Democracy+Now%21&utm\_campaign=386102801c-Daily\_Digest\_COPY\_01&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_fa2346a853-386102801c-191704661**](https://www.democracynow.org/2019/3/14/regime_change_via_sanctions_us_uses?utm_source=Democracy+Now%21&utm_campaign=386102801c-Daily_Digest_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fa2346a853-386102801c-191704661)

Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting (FAIR) [**www.fair.org**](http://www.fair.org) does a truly excellent job of revealing establishment-oriented bias in news reporting. They cover international affairs and a variety of domestic issues.

Glen Anderson’s blog – [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) – has many issue categories. The categories most relevant to this TV program include the ones for “TV Programs” and “Latin America” and “Peace” and “Media.” On March 22, 2019, Glen posted to his blog two items he wrote:

* I wrote this article to put Venezuela’s current crisis in the context of U.S. foreign policy and to raise interesting implications:  [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/see-venezuelas-crisis-in-the-context-of-the-u-s-s-foreign-policy**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/see-venezuelas-crisis-in-the-context-of-the-u-s-s-foreign-policy)
* I created this one-page fact sheet with links so you can urge the U.S. House of Representatives to support HR 1004, which would prevent Trump from militarily interfering in Venezuela:  [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/prevent-u-s-military-attack-on-venezuela-urge-your-u-s-representative-to-support-hr-1004**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/prevent-u-s-military-attack-on-venezuela-urge-your-u-s-representative-to-support-hr-1004)

Just Foreign Policy [**www.justforeignpolicy.org**](http://www.justforeignpolicy.org)

Mainstream news media distort coverage of Venezuela: [**http://notseeamerica.com/Venmedia.html**](http://notseeamerica.com/Venmedia.html)

Peace Action [**www.peaceaction.org**](http://www.peaceaction.org)

TruthDig [**www.truthdig.com**](http://www.truthdig.com)

Truthout [**www.truthout.org**](http://www.truthout.org)

Veterans for Peace ([**www.veteransforpeace.org**](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)) including [**www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/position-statements/veterans-call-us-troops-resist-illegal-orders-invade-venezuela**](http://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/position-statements/veterans-call-us-troops-resist-illegal-orders-invade-venezuela) and [**www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/news/2019/03/15/veterans-call-us-troops-resist-illegal-orders-invade-venezue**](http://www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/news/2019/03/15/veterans-call-us-troops-resist-illegal-orders-invade-venezue)

***Works in Progress*** is an Olympia-based monthly progressive publication. See [**www.olywip.org**](http://www.olywip.org) and the Venezuela article posted in Vol. 29, No. 8 (February 2019): [**https://olywip.org/page/2/?s=venezuela**](https://olywip.org/page/2/?s=venezuela) and [**https://olywip.org/aggression-against-the-legitimacy-of-the-elected-government-of-nicolas-maduro/**](https://olywip.org/aggression-against-the-legitimacy-of-the-elected-government-of-nicolas-maduro/)

[**www.popularresistance.org**](http://www.popularresistance.org)

[**www.readersupporttednews.org**](http://www.readersupporttednews.org)

[**www.therealnews.com**](http://www.therealnews.com) and its videos at “The Real News Network.”

[**www.venezuelaanalysis.com**](http://www.venezuelaanalysis.com)

[**www.youtube.com**](http://www.youtube.com) On YouTube see some videos by “Gray Zone”

**Glen offered brief closing encouragement.**

Glen thanked Larry Mosqueda for sharing his knowledge and insights with us during this hour. He also thanked the people who have been watching our interview.

In a democracy, ordinary people must take responsibility to be in charge. Just like Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and our nation’s other founders insisted, **“we the people”** are the rightful leaders, and we create governments to serve our interests. Governments need our wisdom and our guidance.

Ordinary people have better values than the people who run our government and our economy.

Our best values would prevent any U.S. harm to Venezuela’s economy or sovereignty.

Our best values would protect human rights for people in Latin America and in the U.S.

I urge people to practice our best values and hold our government and media accountable.

**I offer workshops in Nonviolent Grassroots Organizing to strengthen people’s ability to do that.** I offer these at various times and locations. Please contact Glen if you’re interested in taking these workshops in the future. The announcement at this link (for a recent series in Olympia) provides information about the workshop series: [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/sign-up-now-for-6-workshops-on-nonviolent-grassroots-organizing-saturday-mornings-10-am-in-olympia**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/sign-up-now-for-6-workshops-on-nonviolent-grassroots-organizing-saturday-mornings-10-am-in-olympia)

**We did not have time to discuss these additional five pieces of information:**

**We packed a lot of information into our one-hour interview. But still more information is worth sharing, so immediately below I’m providing five more items.**

**#1:** President Nicolás Maduro was elected in a free and fair election. Even though he has made some errors – as any elected president may do – he is still the constitutionally elected president. His mistakes do not justify the U.S.’s attacks (economic, military, or other). Trump does not care about ordinary people – not the people of Venezuela any more than he cares about ordinary people in the U.S.

Do not let anti-Maduro propaganda be used to justify a coup or other abuses of Venezuela’s sovereignty. The U.S. has absolutely no right to overthrow Venezuela’s democracy and install Juan Guaidó, who was NOT elected but merely declared himself to be the nation’s new leader.

Before Juan Guaidó proclaimed himself president he had talked with the Trump regime and gotten their support. His self-appointment violates Venezuela’s constitution because the legitimately elected president – Maduro – had NOT “abandoned” the presidency. On January 24, the Organization of American States voted to recognize Maduro as the legitimate president. Also, the United Nations Security Council voted against the U.S. claim that Guaidó is president.

**#2:** I summarized this paragraph’s information from another source, but now I don’t remember what that source was: The political party that includes Juan Guaidó is called “Voluntad Popular.” It has only 14 out of 167 seats in the National Assembly. Other leaders in that party would be more favorable towards negotiations, but they picked Guaidó because he is a hard-liner who opposes negotiations. That political party really wants a coup to overthrow Venezuela’s democracy, and they’ve publicly stated their rigidity. Even after the pope offered to mediate, and even after the neutral governments of Uruguay and Mexico had offered to negotiate, Guaidó and the Trump administration immediately rejected negotiations. They are bullying Venezuela with hard-line extremism to accomplish their coup. Both Trump and Bolton have actually stated publicly that they want the oil.

**#3:** The overwhelming majority of Venezuela’s people oppose the U.S.’s economic sanctions – and they also oppose foreign intervention to remove President Maduro.

The Trump regime’s slanderous labeling of Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua as a “troika of tyranny” is just as ridiculously false as George W. Bush’s slanderous labeling of Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an “axis of evil.” Those three countries were not collaborating, despite the slanderous label. Using the Russian word “troika” now seeks to imply that they are serving the defunct Soviet Union.

Trump’s shipping a little “humanitarian aid” to Venezuela’s border was a cynical PR stunt. Trump’s cruel economic sanctions have prevented Venezuela from importing much more than the trivial amount Trump shipped. The United Nations and Colombia’s Red Cross dismissed Trump’s scam as a political stunt.

**#4:** Veterans For Peace (VFP) calls on all members of the U.S. military to refuse illegal orders to intervene in Venezuela. Furthermore, VFP urges all U.S. military leaders to inform the president that they will order their units to stand down from preparations to invade Venezuela.

Illegal, immoral and irresponsible U.S. actions, including "sanctions" (economic war) have already taken a great toll on the people Venezuela. Nonetheless, the vast majority of Venezuelan people and military are standing firm against foreign intervention. Now there is a very real possibility that President Trump will order U.S. troops to intervene in Venezuela, whether through a direct invasion and occupation, or through support for irregular counter-revolutionary forces. This would likely lead to a widening war that could spread to other Latin American countries and the Caribbean, bringing increasing suffering to the peoples of Latin America and the U.S.

It is illegal under both U.S. and international law to launch a military attack against another nation unless it is clearly in self-defense, and is approved by the United Nations. There are a number of options for GI’s who do not wish to follow illegal orders. Veterans For Peace wants service-members to be fully informed as they make profound choices with possibly serious consequences. We urge GI’s facing possible deployment to contact the National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force at (619) 463-2369 and/or **help@militarylawhelp.com** for referral to a civilian attorney to discuss your options. Many of their member lawyers are willing to do an initial pro-bono (free) consultation.

Read VFP’s statement at this link: [**https://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/position-statements/veterans-call-us-troops-resist-illegal-orders-invade-venezuela**](https://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/position-statements/veterans-call-us-troops-resist-illegal-orders-invade-venezuela)

Read VFP’s press release at this link: [**https://www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/news/2019/03/15/veterans-call-us-troops-resist-illegal-orders-invade-venezue**](https://www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/news/2019/03/15/veterans-call-us-troops-resist-illegal-orders-invade-venezue)

**#5:** Senator Jeff Merkley just introduced a bill to block Trump’s path to war — and we need to act fast to get our senators behind it before Trump plunges ahead toward war. Click this link: [**Urge Congress to sign on to Sen. Merkley’s bill S.J.Res. 11 to oppose unauthorized military intervention in Venezuela!**](http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=3p1NBcDMHjNlIKorCuSY1TSkOcACmYwV)

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at **glenanderson@integra.net**

I end each TV program with this encouragement:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**