



Crs Report for Congress: Venezuela: Issues in the 111th Congress: February 8, 2010 - R40938

By Mark P. Sullivan

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 48 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Under the populist rule of President Hugo Chavez, first elected in 1998 and reelected to a six-year term in December 2006, Venezuela has undergone enormous political changes, with a new constitution and unicameral legislature, and a new name for the country, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. U. S. officials and human rights organizations have expressed concerns about the deterioration of democratic institutions and threats to freedom of expression under President Chavez, who has survived several attempts to remove him from power. The government benefitted from the rise in world oil prices, which sparked an economic boom and allowed Chavez to increase expenditures on social programs associated with his populist agenda. These programs have helped reduce poverty levels significantly. After he was reelected, Chavez announced new measures to move the country toward socialism, but his May 2007 closure of a popular Venezuelan television station (RCTV) that was critical of the government sparked protests, and his proposed constitutional amendment package was defeated in a December 2007 national referendum. State and local elections held in November 2008 were a mixed picture of support for...



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