

Onsite Session: English 1. – Security Dynamics

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Is the Bolívar Dream Alive Again?! - Venezuela in the Sea of World Politics

Its geography, potential natural resources and geopolitical location could make Venezuela a key player in the South American region and on the international level too. A complex set of factors explains why the modern left-wing model state became a country hit with serious political and economic crisis by the end of the 2010s. The most important in its recent history was the presidency of Hugo Chávez, the impact of the associated 'Bolivarian Revolution', and the period of crisis that culminated under his successor Nicolás Maduro. The change of leadership and the economic challenges exposed the weaknesses caused by the excessive leadership and political clientelism. The aim of this presentation is to analyze how the changes in the global security system have brought new opportunities and challenges into the life of the South American country, and what the impacts of the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict are on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Although the easing of sanctions may have boosted the Venezuelan economy, now the question is whether 2024 could bring a turnaround in the Latin American country's life, allowing the long-awaited development to really take off. Is there a chance of restoring its international reputation and domestic democracy? Will Venezuela seize the opportunity offered by international events or will it continue to add fuel to the fire and remain a country of unfulfilled dreams for the next decade?

Keywords: *South America, Venezuela, Russian-Ukrainian war, Crisis, Geopolitics*