The Venezuelan Revolution

What happened on April 11th? Was the U.S. Involved? Who is Hugo Chavez? Is the current government communist? Are the changes in Venezeula a true revolution?

VENEZUELAN REVOLUTION

100 QUESTIONS — 100 ANSWERS CHESA BOUDIN, GABRIEL GONZÁLEZ & WILMER RUMBOS How have Venezuela and the U.S. been having a "battle of the microphones"? What do Venezuela's new strategic alliances mean? Is it true that Venezuela gives free oil to Cuba? Will there be another coup attempt?

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There is one country in the Americas that the Bush Administration regards as a significant threat to U.S. interests, and it is not Cuba. Oil-rich Venezuela's democratically-elected government has survived repeated, U.S.-supported attempts to undermine its power, including a short lived military coup. Its leader, President Hugo Chávez, is neither communist nor capitalist, and instead claims to be creating an alternative 21st Century socialism that courts international capital. What is the real story behind this leader of Latin America's lurch to the left? Is it a new petro-populism in the tradition of Peron and Fujimori, or is it truly a progressive, home-grown democratic revolution that will address the massive economic and social inequalities plaguing the region for more than three centuries? The curiosity of a North American living in Venezuela and the expertise of two Venezuelans—one an adviser in the Presidential Palace, and the other a journalist with a weekly column in one of Venezuela's leading newspapers—bring insiders' answers to outsiders' questions, such as: Is Chávez a dictator? What was the role of the Bush Administration in the 2002 military coup? What is Chávez's political platform? Does Chávez work with terrorist governments to undermine U.S. interests?

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