

# What would King say about Venezuela? What would King Do about it?



First off King said in 1967 to the Southern Conference Leadership Council: **“The evils of capitalism are as real as the evils of militarism and evils of racism,”**

In particular what would King have to say about the Venezuelan Coup cobbled together by the Trio of Terror, Trump, Pompeo and Bolton? Would he have recognized it with the same kind of scorn he showed for the Vietnam war. **“A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”**

Would he have seen underneath the words of the pompous Pompeo about democracy and freedom to warn us about the use state violence in the cause of freedom? King said: **Let us not seek to satisfy our**

**thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.**

What would King have said to the current crop of war-makers and profit seekers savagely exploiting their own citizens while posing as saviors to other nations. King did say: **“The dream of American democracy is a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few.**

What would King have said about those who prefer nonaction in the cause of peace and justice in favor of waiting to the next news cast or the next election? King had a comment on Time. **“I’m convinced that the forces of ill will have often used time much more effectively than the forces of goodwill. And we may have to repent in this generation, not merely for the vitriolic words and the violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around saying, “Wait on time.”**

**And somewhere along the way it is necessary to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals who are willing to be co-workers with God. And without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the primitive forces of social stagnation. And so we must help time, and we must realize that the time is always ripe to do right. This is so vital, and this is so necessary.”** MLK,jr.

What would King have said about the superiority of American Capitalism over the kind of Socialism as practiced by Venezuela, Nicaragua or Cuba? King said: **America must begin the struggle for democracy at home. The advocacy of free elections by American officials is hypocrisy when free elections are not held in great sections of America. We are saying that something is wrong with capitalism. There must be better distribution of wealth and maybe America must move toward a democratic socialism. Good and just society is neither the thesis of capitalism nor the antithesis of communism, but a socially conscious democracy which reconciles the truths of individualism and collectivism.**

King saw the incompatibility between the American Way of Life and its arrogant approach to other nations whose resources it sought to seize. King said: **Call it democracy, or call it democratic socialism, but there must be a better distribution of wealth within this country for all God's children. Again we have deluded ourselves into believing the myth that Capitalism grew and prospered out of the Protestant ethic of hard work and sacrifice. The fact is that capitalism was built on the exploitation and suffering of black slaves and continues to thrive on the exploitation of the poor – both black and white, both here and abroad. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered.**

King did not believe that to be a witness to history was enough. When Pompeo demands that we choose a side between the US Empire run by billionaires, white nationalists and corporate neoliberals or a Venezuela run by socialists with their hobbled together constitutional democracy, which side do you think King would be on? That same King who when he was murdered had a negative approval rating by 72 percent of white people and 50 percent of black people.

King would have been relentless, disregarding popularity, in calling out the Endless War which taken up most of our 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He would have been a beacon for us, staggering under by the betrayals of Obama in his failure to prosecute war criminals like Cheney, Rumsfeld and Bush, leaving the future open for his drones and for Trump. King would have eloquently expressed his outrage when the first foreign policy activity that Obama undertook was the overthrow of a democratically elected President in Honduras, leaving the country prey to the armed gangs and the drug traffickers out of Colombia and fueling the torrent of Asylum Seekers which have morphed into the current madness under Trump. King would have been uncompromisingly critical of our 1st Black President as a Bush clone.

I mention Obama because it leaves our imagination wide-open to how King would have approached the current Regime of Trump. Visualize King speaking out on the border wall, the treatment of asylum seekers, the shut-down of the government. But what King would do is not the question because he was murdered in 1968 as a result of the things he was doing. This included his final intervention on behalf of the striking of black sanitation workers in Memphis. It was Memphis where government agents gathered to assassinate him. What will we do without King is the real question.

The activities of the Trio of Terror, Trump, Pompeo and Bolton, are amping up civil war hour by hour. Swallowing a huge defeat over the shut down, these forces know that they need something that will get CNN, MSNBC, the nytimes, the Post and all the fake corporate media off his back: **a real war.** It will shut up the neoliberal, moderate fascists in the Corporate Democratic Party who, like the mainstream media, never saw a war that they couldn't justify or a war criminal they couldn't cover for.

Remember the bloody fingers of Chile, hacked off protest singers. Remember the bloody fingers of Khashoggi, to teach journalists not to type the truth? Get ready for the heaps of bloody fingers in Venezuela. The Trio of Terror are ready and eager. And the corporate elite who guzzle money while the planet burns are smiling at all that Venezuelan oil, gold and rich resources in their pockets already. The destruction of a movement of 7 million poor Chavistas won't even appear on their balance sheets.

This won't be another Grenada, a cheap triumph, Reagan-style. This is a Kissinger style coup, with Trump casting about for a General Pinochet right now - to oversee a repeat of 17 years of horror on behalf of Milton Friedman's hokey trickle down economics?

Our neoliberal and outright fascist allies in South America are positively enthusiastic to bring down any government with the slightest taint of Socialism. Colombia won't mind. It helps cover up its horrific human rights record which threatens a civil war there. Nor will Brazil's Bolsonaro, breathless admirer of fascist militarism at home and abroad. Nor the Argentinian neoliberal Macri, who is reeling from a growing Yellow Vest movement like his neoliberal look-alike – Macron of France. Nor will Chile, undergoing a fascist renewal on its one.

France is one of the European Nations that gives Venezuela days to have elections when France itself is in a crisis which may demand a new constitution. England is another – with its lame duck Prime Minister who would have been replaced by Corbyn if not for the votes of its racist and colonial puppet in Northern Ireland. Germany meanwhile is falling prey to the forces of neo-Nazism as the centrist government of Chancellor Angela Merkel moves ever more swiftly to the right. These are our models? These are the countries which trashed Libya for its sweet smelling oil and won't take responsibility for the immigrants its capitalist colonialism created in Syria. What will they do when all hell breaks out in Venezuela? Fill the pockets of its corporations as a share in the seizure of Venezuela's oil, gold and rich resources.

Maybe we should ask what King wouldn't do. He wouldn't wait. He wouldn't solve this by nodding off by the radio while Amy lays out the horrific state of the world. He wouldn't solve this by waiting for the next election – maybe just to get Hilary in a rerun. He would say what I wish to say- that it is time again for a massive return to the streets on behalf of peace and opposing the Imperial Presidency and the corporate neoliberals, time to put into action nation-wide nonviolent civil resistance. **But King is dead and I am old.** Our solutions are old solutions. You tell me how we solve this. Better yet, show me how we solve this. I'll follow you. Let's pick a place and time.

**Paul Encimer, aka ThePeoplesWhistle**



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*“The question is not whether we will be extremist, but what kind of extremist we will be- will we be extremist for hate, or for love”*

*-MLK*

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