

## SAMPLE THESIS CHAPTER INTRODUCTION WITH ROADMAP

\*Thanks to Luis Calvo, from his NPS thesis, [Venezuela: A Revolution on Standby](#)

Chapter II showed how Venezuela's food crisis derives from a combination of the government's neglect to establish agricultural sector and failed policies, rather than external non-evidenced factors conspiring against Venezuela. This chapter shows, in turn, that Venezuela's energy crisis is as dire as their food crisis and results from similar poor planning. The combined crises have resulted in "looting and violence...in parts of Venezuela as the country faces widespread food and power shortages, forcing the government to ration food and electricity."<sup>118</sup> The energy crisis further worsens the food crisis as citizens do not have the means to store or cook the minimal food they can procure. Power outages also endanger people in what is already one of the most violent countries in the world. Streets go unlit at night, and water tanks powered through electric pumps have left Venezuelans without running water.<sup>119</sup> The lack of running water encourages thieves to ambush water trucks, families to channel rainwater off their roof into buckets, and children to fill water cans from wells that they then have to purify using vinegar and further recycle from the kitchen to the toilet.<sup>120</sup> An unexpected blackout even took Venezuelan President Maduro off the air as he was delivering a national address on live television, leaving him seemingly surprised and confused.<sup>121</sup>

According to President Maduro, Venezuela's energy crisis, also referred to as an electricity crisis, derives primarily from two factors: "a drought caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon and repeated acts of sabotage."<sup>122</sup> Again, similar to the food crisis, President Maduro blames the nation's energy crisis on external conspiratorial factors, rather than acknowledging how his ineffective policies or decisions have aided in exacerbating the situation. Furthermore, although reduced water levels attributed to El Niño could be considered a factor, it is unlikely the sole reason, and evidence has yet to be provided supporting the notion that sabotage and conspiracy aim to diminish Venezuela's ability to produce electricity. That said, Chapter III demonstrates that, contrary to what President Maduro states, Venezuela's energy crisis derives from the following: the government's decision to depend primarily on hydropower for energy production while failing to adequately maintain, appropriately invest, and effectively diversify its sources of energy. Furthermore, the government's willful disregard of corrupt tendencies within the energy sector has also contributed to the crisis. The aforementioned factors and the increased energy demands of a growing population have resulted in a failed energy security and an unreliable power grid. Therefore, Chapter III begins by first exploring Venezuela's energy infrastructure and describes how its deterioration hinders the nation's ability to increase oil production, thereby reducing the nation's revenue. Second, Chapter III describes why Venezuela primarily elected to use hydropower in lieu of facilities that use petroleum for energy production, how hydropower is vulnerable to inadequate maintenance, and how inadequate investments and droughts affect the energy crisis. Third, the chapter describes Venezuela's energy capacity vs. consumption of electricity, expands on Venezuela's quest to produce energy via constructing a nuclear power plant, and then discusses corruption within the energy sector. The chapter concludes by describing the measures President Maduro implemented to address the energy crisis and why they will unlikely bring the nation out of these this crisis.

