US and Venezuela Sign Huge Oil Deal

By Dr. R. Pletsch

I recently attended a large function of adults. I asked some of them if they like the deal with Venezuela. Most I asked had no idea what I was talking about. A few heard something, they don't really know what happened.

In an effort to make it known to more people, I used The Global Podcast, BBC, and Newsmax. In short, this is a deal we should all know about. Some recent history of Venezuela is that at one time, it was the wealthiest country in South America and the most Democratic. In 1958, during the time of the Castro revolution in Cuba, the party in power became unpopular and other parties worked to get rid of them. In 1999, Socialist Hugo Chavez was elected to start a new government. If you would like to read about this, there are plenty of books about the subject, both pro and con.

Chavez and his government began to give themselves more power and become more Socialist. They took control of the National Assembly, the Supreme Court and the Justice Department and controlled all national elections. Then the government took over the country's most profitable business -- oil.

When Chavez died in 2013, he had already named his successor and that was Nicolas Maduro. There were some questions asked, but being in control of all the branches of government, his choice of Maduro was elected. Then reelected in 2018 and 2024. These were turbulent and often bloody times for the people.

The United States made a raid, arrested Maduro and helped acting president Delcy Rodriguez put down some riots and sent millions of pounds of food to feed the people. This new government signed a series of agreements with the United States that gave the US control of 66 billion barrels of oil for international companies to invest in, allowing companies like Chevron, who had been one of the biggest suppliers in Venezuela, to fix the infrastructure of the old pumping machines.

These oil reserves in Venezuela are extra-heavy crude. This is hard to extract and refine. When the US companies were in charge, they pumped up to 3.5 million barrels a day. But since they took it over and did not upgrade the fields, they are pumping less than a million barrels a day.

We have gained vast amounts of oil reserves and by allowing companies to upgrade the systems, the people of Venezuela hope to gain back the many high paying jobs they once had. The BBC believes that it might take 12 to 24 months, but that oil prices could go way down.