

## **Thomas Hobbes' Interpretation of Russia-Venezuelan Relations in Response to The U.S Hegemonic Power**

To begin, Thomas Hobbes' state of nature or a "war of every man against every man", describes the ongoing struggle of power throughout the world today. In recent years, primarily the shaping the U.S. Hegemonic power after the Cold War, Venezuela and Russia have had close economic and political ties. This material will address how Thomas Hobbes would have perceived the cooperation between Russia and Venezuela in response to the domination of the United States.

Since, in Thomas Hobbes' state of nature, there is no government and everyone enjoys equal status, every individual has a right to everything; that is, there are no constraints on an individual's behavior. Anyone may at any time use force, and all must constantly be ready to counter such force with force. Hence, driven by acquisitiveness, having no moral restraints, and motivated to compete for scarce goods, individuals are apt to "invade" one another for gain. Being suspicious of one another and driven by fear, they are also likely to engage in preemptive actions and invade one another to ensure their own safety(Stanford,1). Recent strategic moves suggest the strengthening of Russia-Venezuelan relations(both economically and politically). Russia and Venezuela have signed an agreement on a \$4 billion loan for the oil-rich Latin American partner to buy Russian weaponry, Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez said

on Thursday. "Two billion will be provided next year and another two billion in 2013," Chavez said (Novosti, 1). Thomas Hobbes would contest that it is only natural for Russia and Venezuela to create a reciprocal relationship in response to the U.S. Hegemonic power. This helps ensure the safety of each individual state. To Thomas Hobbes, this coalition and its explanation are quite obvious. To date, the serious analysis has been centered on arms deals and other agreements resulting from the relationship instead of long term goals of the parties involved. "Russia and Venezuela are forging closer ties. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced earlier this week in Caracas that his country could sell Venezuela up to \$5 billion worth of weapons. That's on top of \$4 billion in arms that Venezuela previously purchased from Russia. Some analysts are warning of where the close relationship will lead... (Presutti, 1)" The first Latin American country to sign an atomic energy agreement with Russia, Venezuela's Chavez recently revealed that Russian nuclear technicians were already at work in Venezuela. Venezuela remains one of Russia's most important trading and military allies in South America. There may not be a nuclear threat, no Cold War, and no clear-cut, ideological conflict such as existed in 1962, but the arrival of Russian bombers, fleet maneuvers, and the frequent sales of Russian military hardware to Venezuela reflect Moscow's unwelcome readiness to trigger memories of the "Bear in the Backyard" and the decade-long struggle to contain Communism in the Western Hemisphere (Walser, 1). Whether it actually leads to asymmetric warfare, terrorism or yet another cold war, Thomas Hobbes would not be quite sure, but it is imperative as they grow to expand their power. Any result, including war is simply an extension of foreign policy. Thomas Hobbes would argue that the U.S. must keep a close watch on both countries.

### Citation

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Presutti, Carolyn. "Russia, Venezuela Strengthen Economic, Political Ties." *Voice of America*. (2010): 1. Web. 16 Nov. 2011. <<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/Russia-Venezuela-Strengthen-Economic-Political-Ties-90078272.html>>.

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