

Venezuela Annexes Guyana! Invasion Imminent!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STZ2RTzNMvE>
Transcript: <https://dontveter.com/ec/guyana2.pdf>

Is war coming to South America? Is Venezuela making a play for its weaker neighbor's oil? Are we're going to be seeing another playback of the Gulf War?

I'm Paul, US Army combat veteran. We are going to be doing a deep dive into Venezuela's annexation of the Essequibo. Let's get into it.

Okay, so that is the big news that's popped up in the last 12 hours, is that for a while, and by a while I mean a week or two, the country of Venezuela has begun to annex, or assert that they are the rightful owners of a region in Guyana, its neighbor called the Essequibo.

And the Essequibo, for those of you keeping track at home is a region that encompasses almost half of the region of Guyana, right.

You can see, let's see if we can pull it up on a map here for you guys.

Here is the Essequibo River and as you can see, here's the the nation of Guyana, right, sort of carved out here situated next to which much larger neighbors, Venezuela and Brazil.

And you can see that the Essequibo region here in green is, is huge and occupies almost a majority of the country.

Now why is Venezuela not just claiming that it owns the Essequibo, um, but asserting that before they've even invaded it, that they immediately are going to start exploiting the oil, gas and mines in the region.

Well, the answer is complicated. If you ask the Venezuelans they will say that they have been entitled to the region since Guyana was a British protectorate.

This is in the 1890s, but there have been a number of International tribunals that have consistently ruled that Guyana, and before that, British Guyana, has been the rightful country to own, or, or, encompass the Essequibo region.

Venezuela, of course accepted this ruling up until very recently, right because two key changes happened.

First, over the last several years the Venezuelan economy has been in sort of a nose dive and two, the region has been the source has been or has had a lot more oil, minerals and natural gas than people anticipated.

And, so, Venezuela, looking to likely shore up its failing economy, has begun to assert that it is the rightful owner of this resource rich region.

A very, very classic, very predictable, kind of, of play by Venezuela.

Now it also helps, of course, that there's a number of, of other minor advantages.

We know that Maduro is not exactly a fully democratically elected leader.

It's being generous (to say he was democratically elected) and that it can be very beneficial when you're an autocrat to take your military, if you worry about your military conspiring against you, and put them somewhere far away from your capital.

In this case, the jungles of Guyana and that may be part of it.

There may be some sort of internal politics at work, but it's also true that Venezuela.

You may be asking yourself, Paul, Venezuela is one of the most oil rich nations in the entire world.

It should be as rich as Saudi Arabia. How come it is not?

Well, there's two reasons. The first is, of course, is because the US has sanctioned Venezuela for some time and prevented their oil from reaching much of the world market.

But, more realistically, it's because because when you have something like, a, a literal money machine which is what, (Venezuela is), being the leader of (such) an autocratic country or a non-democratic country that sits at top large oil reserves, you essentially have a very easy to extract resource that will essentially deliver money to your state's coffers.

And if you are a non-corrupt state like, for example, Norway. [Norway] has large reserves of oil and gas off its coast.

Norway, um, has a state-backed oil industry.

That oil industry extracts the oil in a relatively technologically sophisticated way, and with a relatively high level of integrity.

And, so, much of those reserves go into Norway's government and fund the social safety net fund, resources, schools, roads, etc., um, as well as the Norwegian Sovereign wealth fund that will pay dividends to its citizens long after the oil runs out.

But if you have an autocratic corrupt state, much like Saudi Arabia, or Venezuela, what happens is you don't put qualified engineers or qualified managers, to run these state oil companies.

Instead, you put your crooked friends, (and) your crooked friends line their pockets.

But the problem is when you put your crooked friends in charge of an oil company, right, then they're going to put their friends in key positions.

Those friends are going to line their pockets and they're going to be kind of clueless (about how to operate an oil company), right?

It's like your, your brother-in-law, you know he's a good guy (and isn't that smart) and you know you don't need to be that smart to run an oil rig right?

Well, then, the brother-in-law brings in his trashy friends from college to be key lead engineers.

And suddenly you turn around and you go, "man this oil rig, it hasn't produced any oil in two years, what happened?"

And they go, well, our maintenance guy, he went to high school with the buddy of the dude who ... and it turns out no one's actually qualified to be there.

And and everyone in the process lined their pockets, either with literal oil revenues, or kind of other do nothing jobs getting awarded overprice contracts.

There's all kinds of ways [to cheat] and the thing with this system is that when you have something that looks like a money machine for a long time, Venezuela still made money for the government even with everybody getting paid.

But you can't run a country that way and so Venezuela starts to realize that even though they're a resource rich nation, right, they cannot actually receive the benefits of that oil.

And they made some other mistakes too.

For example, they said, listen, we're making so much money with this oil, but we want to have some social programs, and so instead of waiting for us to pump this oil out and sell it, why don't we get the International Community to give us a loan?

For a bunch of money, we're going to build some infrastructure, maybe we want to build new oil platforms, we want to build some roads, we want to hire more teachers, right.

We want to do all these good things and the IMF was, like, sure, here you go man, like, and and we know it's going to be worth it.

We know you can pay back this loan because you're sitting on top of a ton of oil.

[The] problem is, [the] price of oil when they made these [loans] was sky high.

Remember, about five to 10 years ago, the price of oil was, like, scary high.

That's when they took out all these loans. They were, like, we're rich, we're printing money!

Well now, the price of oil has tanked and because of Venezuela's hostile stance against the US, sanctions have further tanked the price of oil that Venezuela can get.

Meanwhile every crooked friend is mad because they still want their hand-out.

There's only one way to make sure every single person gets the amount of money they want, and you're able to pay back the IMF, even though you're not actually pumping out oil and selling it, and that is to print money.

So that's how Venezuela ended up hyperinflating their currency, plunging their entire country into poverty and ultimately not not being able to extract real meaningful development from this absolutely eye popping wealth of oil.

And so, to solve this problem, instead of practicing good governance or cracking down on corruption, or having a new government entirely, Maduro is simply saying, well if we can't get enough money from our oil, we're going to steal someone else's.

He has ordered the immediate exploitation of oil gas and mines in Guyana's Essequibo [region], which is fascinating because their military hasn't even secured yet the region and it's still full of Guyanans, right.

So, Maduro, of course, is immediately going to be granting operating licenses for state-backed companies and creating local subsidiaries of these Venezuelan companies in order to start extracting resources from the region.

And, as this article politely points out, it's not clear how the Maduro Administration intends to implement the idea of exercising jurisdiction over the territory after it's officially declared [to be] part of Venezuela.

But they're still going to figure it out and this is kind of how autocracies work.

The guy in charge decides how things are going to be, and then you rely ~~it's relied~~ on the lackies in the government to figure out how it's going to actually get done.

Of course, Maduro is simultaneously creating what he's calling a comprehensive defense operational zone, which will be basically a military zone, or a military occupied zone, it's 2/3 of Guyana and it's probably almost certainly going to result in a war.

Now, how's that war going to go? Well, not great, not great. Why? Well let's take a look at the militaries.

The Venezuelan Army, right, they call themselves the Bolivarian Army of Venezuela.

Bolivarian being a reference to Simone Bolivar, a, a South American liberation figure.

The military currently sits, as of 2021, at 115,000 people, right, a large security service, and while it's not modern, it's relatively properly equipped, right.

They have a big influx of material from Russia, so they do have a fairly modern modernized force, right.

They have real tanks, um, they have a substantial (number of) armored vehicles, and an Air Force.

You can see a large aviation command, a proper logistics command, a number of divisions.

The military is one of the entities in ~~this conflict~~ [Venezuela] that gets regular paychecks and in the face of hyperinflation, being a military member is an important way to ensure your family can eat.

So the military has remained very loyal to the president but it is very extensive.

That's, that's, the key takeaway here, it is indeed extensive and you can see there's actually already Wikipedia article.

The guy on in (the) defense force (the Guyana military) in contrast is tiny.

It is 4,600, 4,600 people with another 3,000 reservists.

So at their best they can jin up about 7,000 people and when we look at the equipment that they possess, you can see they have, you know, relatively normal rifles, a pretty wide array of, you know, individual small arms, RPG7s, but here's where things get kind of weird.

They don't have tanks, they have some armor, what they call armored cars or wheeled vehicles and you can see they the most they have is the VEC M1 Spanish armored car and they have 42 of them, which is not a lot guys.

They have APCs from Brazil, 24 of them.

They also, get this, in the utility vehicles, their version of a Jeep is a Ford F350, 10 of them, that's, that's less than your local car dealership guys.

Okay, plus some of these old school utility trucks literally no heavy artillery.

Well, no, sorry, a Soviet, six Soviet era field guns and a couple of mortars, that's it.

That's what they have to go to fight with. So this is it, guys.

And literally a handful, literally five, six combat aircraft, no sorry, five combat aircraft and one VIP transport.

This is really a mismatch, this is a really bad mismatch, and it's not clear honestly that Guyana will even waste its soldiers lives trying to defend the Essequibo.

They may simply allow Venezuela to occupy it, given how one-sided this appears to be, while they try to use diplomatic tools and their diplomatic persuasions to try to get their allies to sanction Venezuela.

Or try to kick Venezuela out, but again, it's, it's, it's not really clear that even if the Venezuelans were to were to deploy only 10% of their total military they would still outnumber the Guyanans by nearly 2 to one.

So this is a, a, going to be a, if this is to become a war it's going to be a brutal, brutal one-sided thrashing.

And a real, just potential disaster, the only thing that might change things is potentially if Guyana, can find some allies right.

They fear, you know Brazil's military, for example, (and it) is comparable to Venezuela's, and would likely put up a much more aggressive fight in Venezuela.

Or if Brazil chose to intervene to ensure the territorial integrity of Guyana which is not unheard of.

Again you think about the uh Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1991 where you saw a small relatively insignificant country have its territory annexed by its larger more aggressive autocratic neighbor and the International Community wouldn't stand for it and they said we're going to kick this military out of the region.

I think Venezuela probably believes that the International Community, between its support of Ukraine and Israel, is likely exhausted, and won't have the the international wherewithal to actually kick the Venezuelans out.

And that they are calculating that they will be able to make a tremendous amount of money for their failing state and not face major International sanctions particularly in the face of this global inflation crisis, right.

Very few countries want to take a major oil producer and pull them off the market and drive the price of oil higher.

We've already kind of done that with Russia, we can't do it with another one.

So I think Maduro's calculations are not un-sophisticated, the only problem will be is if countries, enough countries, and it would take just a couple in South America to get together and say, no you don't get to annex our small neighbors.

We are going to put you in your place, we're tired of your antics.

But it remains to be seen what is going to happen exactly, but I'll keep you posted.

Thank you guys, as always, of course if you want access to the uncensored combat footage when the fighting starts, YouTube won't let me show you combat footage.

Instead it's going to be featured on combatvetnews.com.

This is my premium site. Think of it like patreon, um, it is a subscription site where twice a week I find the viral combat footage from all over the internet and we do a deep dive analysis.

I can't even show you the thumbnails or I'll get demonetized, but it's the only way to support the channel.

It's the best way, because you know I don't really get that many advertisers because I cover military content.

Any one of these tiers is going to get you access to the members only section where you'll get those twice a week uncensored combat videos.

So if you want to check out the fighting from from Gaza, from Ukraine, from Burkina Faso, from apparently Guyana, this is the site to do it.

Anyway, thanks a lot guys, check out the link in the description.

See you in the next one, cheers.