
Did Socialism Cause Venezuela's Crisis?

Segment Length: 2:33 minutes; 5:01 minutes

Videos:

“Don't blame socialism for Venezuela's woes - UpFront Reality Check”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkNeNtzm7s>

“Venezuela IS Socialism”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WQgTRBugRg

Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

Analysis Questions:

1. John Stossel and Al Jazeera agree that mismanagement is responsible for Venezuela's crisis, but Stossel argues that mismanagement is inevitable under socialism. How would Al Jazeera respond?
2. Al Jazeera says we shouldn't ignore the improvements socialism brought to Venezuela, such as access to education and healthcare. How would John Stossel respond?
3. John Stossel explains how inflation and government intervention negatively impacted private businesses. How does this relate to Al Jazeera's claim that Venezuela's private sector provided most of its economic activity?
4. Both John Stossel and Al Jazeera point to inflation as a cause of Venezuela's economic crisis, but Al Jazeera argues that inflation is not unique to socialism. How would John Stossel respond?
5. The World Bank said that Venezuela's socialist policies led to a decline in poverty and inequality. Does this justify socialism in Venezuela?
6. Al Jazeera concludes that we should stop talking about socialism in regards to Venezuela's problems. Do you agree or disagree? Should socialism be part of the conversation?
7. One side of the debate holds socialism responsible for Venezuela's crisis, while the other side absolves socialism. Is there a middle ground?