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USA

# The United States Prepares for War on Venezuela

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**The United States is preparing for war against Venezuela. While President Donald Trump has asserted that the country's goal is to stop shipments of Venezuelan drugs to the United States, in private conversations U.S. officials have made it clear that Secretary of State Marco Rubio plans to remove Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. This forms part of Trump's goal of reasserting U.S. domination in Latin America such as it exercised in the nineteenth century by gunboats and in the twentieth century by installing friendly governments.**

The preparations for the war have involved attacks on small boats that began in early September. Trump claims the boats were carrying drugs, though no proof has been provided. Altogether as of this time (Oct. 26), the United States forces have destroyed ten boats and killed 43 people in international waters in the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean. The Trump administration claims that the United States is engaged in national self-defense because drugs like fentanyl kill tens of thousands of Americans, though Venezuela is not a significant producer or trafficker of fentanyl nor is it a major source of cocaine. Many legal experts have stated that these extra-judicial killings are simply murder on the high seas,

On October 2, 2025, the Trump administration designated several Latin American cartels as "foreign terrorist organizations" and "unlawful combatants," and said that the cartel actions constitute an "armed attack against the United States." The U.S. government claims that Maduro controls el Cartel de los Soles, the criminal organization responsible for drug trafficking. "Just as al-Qaida waged war on our homeland, these cartels are waging war on our border and our people," said Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. Democrats and some Republicans have criticized the operation. Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island has argued that the military is not "empowered to hunt down suspected criminals and kill them without trial." Others have suggested that if he is serious, Trump should ask for a declaration of war, but he says he will not do so.

## The Real Goal: A Coup against Maduro

The real goal of the United States is the removal of Maduro. The drive to eliminate the Maduro government comes from Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American Miami and former Florida Senator. On August 7, the U.S. offered a bounty of \$50 million for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, a measure clearly intended to foment a coup. In mid-October Trump authorized the CIA to conduct covert actions in Venezuela while about the same time, turning up the pressure, B-52 bombers began to fly along the Venezuelan coast.

The United States has about 10,000 troops and many military aircraft in the Caribbean. And for years it has also had several warships in the region, including destroyers with guided missiles. Now Trump is sending the Gerald Ford aircraft carrier, the world's largest warship, to Venezuela, accompanied by five destroyers, a cruiser, and a submarine. The Ford carries about 75 fighter jets and a crew of 4,500. Clearly such enormous military power is not about drug interdiction but is rather preparation for an attack on Venezuela.

It is unlikely that U.S. troops will fight on the ground; rather Trump will take a page from Russian dictator Vladimir Putin's playbook and use artillery and bombs to destroy military bases and to terrorize and demoralize the population. All of this to bring about a coup.

## The United States Prepares for War on Venezuela

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Trump ran for president as an opponent of foreign wars and regime change, but now the “peace president,” as he calls himself, will wage war. It looks like American imperialism in Latin America is back-with a vengeance.

*26 October 2025*

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