INTRODUCTION
Venezuela was one of three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 (the others being Ecuador and New Granada, which became Colombia). For most of the first half of the 20th century, Venezuela was ruled by generally benevolent military strongmen who promoted the oil industry and allowed for some social reforms. Democratically elected governments have held sway since 1959.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Nicolas MADURO Moros
note: The US recognizes Juan GUAIDO as Interim President
Head of Government
President Nicolas MADURO Moros
note: The US recognizes Juan GUAIDO as Interim President
Government Type
federal presidential republic
Capital
Caracas
Legislature
bicameral National Assembly or Asamblea Nacional (167 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 912,050 sq km
Land: 882,050 sq km
Water: 30,000 sq km
Climate
tropical; hot, humid; more moderate in highlands
Natural Resources
petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, bauxite, other minerals, hydropower, diamonds

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
South American economy; ongoing hyperinflation since mid-2010s; chaotic economy due to political corruption, infrastructure cuts, and human rights abuses; in debt default; oil exporter, hydropower consumer; rising Chinese relations
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $269.1 billion (2018 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $7,700 (2018 est.)
Industries - agricultural products, livestock, raw materials, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, construction materials, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, iron and steel products, crude oil, petroleum products
Agricultural products - sugarcane, maize, milk, rice, plantains, bananas, pineapples, potatoes, beef, poultry
Exports $83.40 billion (2018 est.)
crude and refined petroleum, industrial alcohols, gold, iron (2019)
partners: India 34%, China 28%, US 12%, Spain 6% (2019)
Imports $18.43 billion (2018 est.)
refined petroleum, rice, corn, tires, soybean meal, wheat (2019)
partners: China 28%, US 22%, Brazil 8%, Spain 6%, Mexico 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
29.1 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
2.46% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
unspecified Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Arab, German, African, indigenous people
Language
Spanish (official), numerous indigenous dialects
Religion
nominally Roman Catholic 96%, Protestant 2%, other 2%
Urbanization
urban population: 88.3% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 1.16% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

as of October 2021