Venezuela

- **2002:** Bush administration supports military coup that briefly ousted Hugo Chávez, democratically elected President. US aid to opposition groups in Venezuela jumps from about $200,000 in 2000 to about $4 million in 2002.

- **2003:** Bush administration uses economic sabotage campaign to destabilize Chávez' government. Funds groups that led a nation-wide strike against oil production costing the Venezuelan economy about $10 billion.

- **2004:** US funds opposition to stage referendum to oust Chávez. Chávez wins 59% of vote in election declared free and fair by the Jimmy Carter Center and the Organization of American States (OAS). Venezuela becomes the first South American country to suspend collaboration with the School of the Americas (SOA), which has trained numerous torturers and death squad leaders across Latin America.

- **2005:** US pressures regional allies in attempt to isolate Venezuela in Latin America. Televangelist Pat Robertson calls for assassination of Chávez.

- **2006:** Venezuela expells the naval attaché to the US Embassy in Caracas for passing classified information from Venezuelan military leaders onto the pentagon.

- **2010:** Obama administration authorizes economic and political war against Venezuela to destabilize Chávez's government. US is overtly and covertly funneling money to anti-Chávez groups, many of whom operate under the cover of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and through the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and groups affiliated with George Soros. Massive street demonstrations planned to protest Chávez's devaluation of the bolivar and pressure is being applied against the gasoline chain Citgo, which is owned by the Venezuelan state oil company.

Venezuela holds the largest oil reserves outside the Middle East.