

# TOPIC NO # 01

Sameera Bukhari  
Batch 85

## US-Venezuela CRISES: The arrest OF Nicolas Maduro

—: (Outlines): —

### 1. Introduction:

#### 1.1 Hook

#### 1.2 Background

#### 1.3 Thesis Statement: Like a

tempest breaking over a restless sea, Operation Absolute Resolve descended upon Venezuela, and in its wake the long entrenched ruler Nicolas Maduro and his wife was taken from heart of Caracas to redefine how national security, law enforcement and military force intersect in the pursuit of geopolitical objectives.

### 2. The Operation Absolute Resolve

#### 2.1 Details of arrest and transfer.

### 3. Sanctions and Economic Pressure

## 4. Regional and Political Reactions

## 5. Global Reactions

### 5.1 Russia and China

### 5.2 UN and International Law Debate

## 6. US Seizes Russian flagged Tanker IN Atlantic

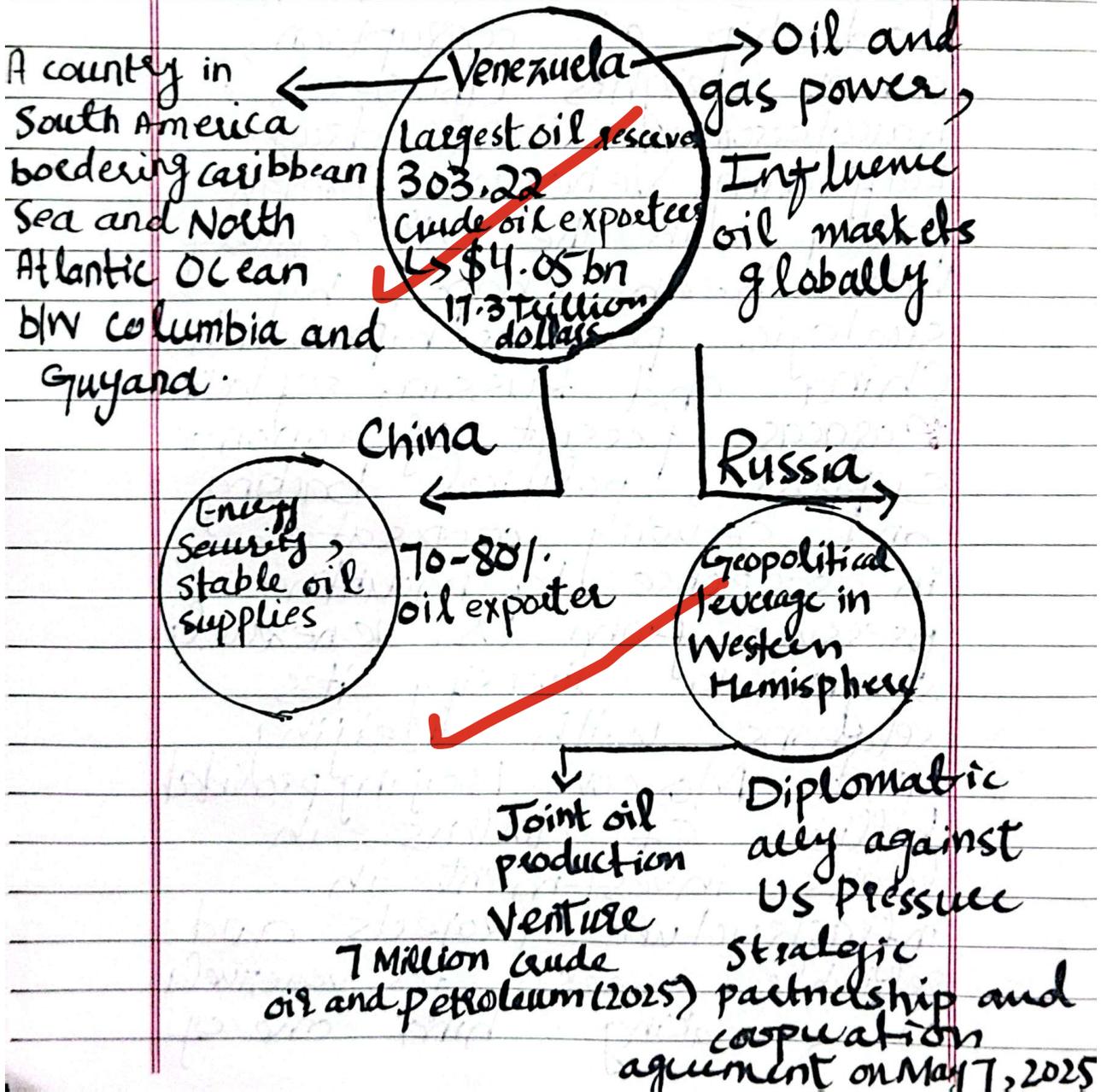
no need for a detailed outline for a 20 marks answer.....

## 7. Conclusion

**Introduction:** When the United States launched Operation Absolute Resolve and seized Nicolas Maduro on 3 January, 2026, it didn't just topple a regime it shattered long standing norms of sovereignty and launched a new chapter in International Relations forcing the world to confront a future where military power and legal authority collide on the global stage. The US first formally recognizes Venezuela in 19th century. Relations were shaped by Venezuela's rich natural resources, especially oil which become a key of

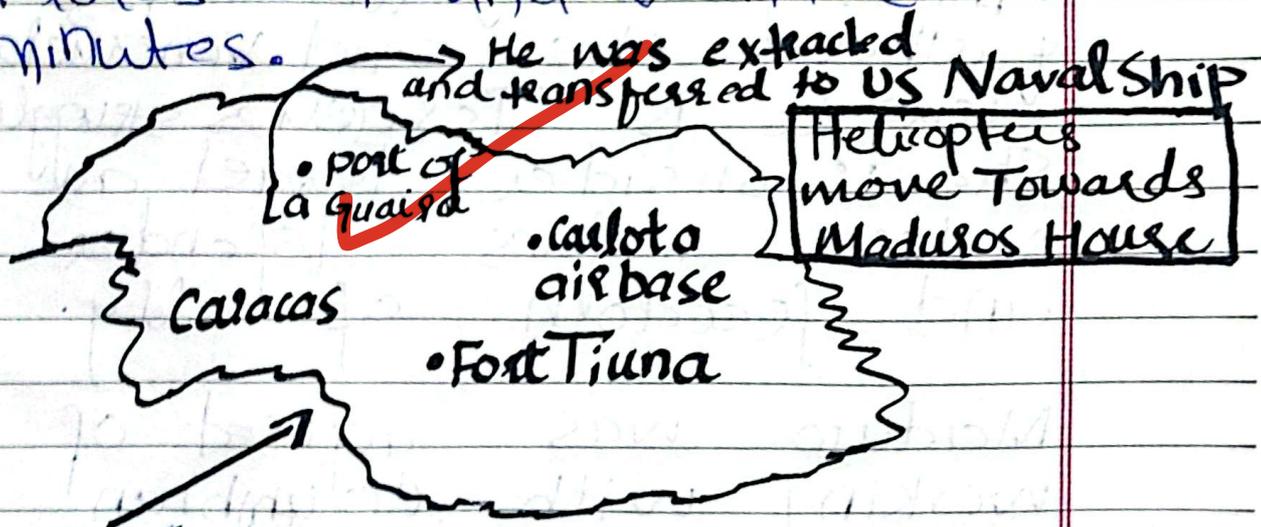
drive of economic ties. By 1920's, US companies were heavily involved in Venezuelan oil production, making Venezuela one of America's major oil suppliers. Prior to 2026, relations between both were strained. The U.S. government had imposed sanctions, accused Venezuela's leadership of corruption, human rights abuses, narcoterrorism and drug trafficking. Venezuela's foreign policy in the 21st century has been shaped by strategic partnership with China and Russia, reflecting Caracas' pursuit of economic support, political backing and security cooperation in response to mounting pressure from US. Venezuela sought to diversify its relations with Beijing and Moscow. Beijing provided billion of dollars in loans, investment in infrastructure projects and reliable market for Venezuela oil, making China one of

Cuba's leading partner. Russia and Venezuela built longstanding cooperation in energy and oil joint ventures, military and defense equipment, signed treaties to expand bilateral trade and cooperation to counter US influence.



## 2. The Operation Absolute Resolve

In early 2026, on January 3, the United States launched military strikes on Venezuela to capture President Nicolas Maduro, the operation was named as "Operation Absolute Resolve". The operation began with a cyberattack on Caracas energy grid, followed by an aerial assault involving stealth fighters and bombers that suppressed Venezuelan air defense. Simultaneously, Nightstalker helicopters carrying Delta force and FBI HRT operators approached Maduro and capture Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores in under three minutes.



Strikes forces move into positions

The U.S. Department of Justice accused Maduro of leading and protecting a major drug trafficking network as the 'Carter of the Sun'. He was conspired to import cocaine. Venezuela has 303.22 billion of oil reserves its worth is 17.3 trillion dollars. US want to control this. Venezuela export 90% of oil to China, US want to cut this line of export. The next reason is US wanted that the opposition leader Maria Corina became president of Venezuela because she said as soon as we conquer freedom, I will move our Israeli embassy to Jerusalem, further she said Venezuela's struggle is Israel's struggle. She considered Israel and western values defender and freedom of ally.

Maduro was accused of working with Colombian rebel groups like FARC and international criminal

naturalists The UN office of High Commissioner Human Rights issued report in July 2019 committed 6,800 extrajudicial killings from January 2018 to May 2019.

### 3. Sanctions and Economic Pressure.

The US has increasingly employed sanctions as a policy tool in response to activities of Venezuelan government. Since 2019, the State Department has revoked more than 1,000 visas. Financial sanctions prohibit financial transactions. Sanctions have also targeted Venezuela's central bank, state gold company and other economic sectors.

US economic pressure on Venezuela's oil sector. The state oil company has reduced foreign currency earnings, restricted access to global markets and banking, amplified inflation and economic contraction.

## 4. Regional and Political Actions

Many Latin American leaders strongly condemned U.S. military action. Brazil president called it a dangerous precedent that undermines international law. Mexico and Spain expressed "profound concern and firm rejection of unilateral use of force by the US". Iran and Cuba called it violation of territorial integrity.

use more specific and self explanatory headings.....

## 5. Response of Russia. Putin said,

~~Mister Trump~~ today I am not speaking only as president of Russia, I am speaking on behalf of history. What you are doing with President Maduro is wrong. He said this is not justice this is the abuse of power, you believe that a courtroom in New York can decide fate of another nation, it cannot. The world is not

ruled from Washington. Today  
 it is Maduro being  
 dragged in chains tomorrow  
 it could be any leader  
 who refuses to obey you  
 and yet you still  
 called it democracy.  
 When a superpower starts  
 placing itself above international  
 law, its fall is always  
 loud. Mr Trump, history  
 does not respect bullies  
 you may control the  
 cameras in New York  
 but you cannot control  
 the judgement of the world.  
 Intimidation creates enemies  
 not order.

Great Powers do not collide  
 by accident, they collide  
 when warnings are  
 ignored. (Putin).

## Reaction of China

Xi Jinping said, Venezuela is  
 a sovereign country its  
 future belongs to its  
 people, not the foreign pressure  
 or power grabs. Maduro's

capture poses diplomatic test for China-Venezuela relations. Beijing said US action violated international law and basic norms of international relations.

## 6. US Seizes Russian flagged Tanker in Atlantic.

The US seizure of Russian flagged tanker in North Atlantic in January 2026 represents a significant escalation in maritime enforcement of economic sanctions, highlighting complex intersection of international law, geopolitical rivalry and efforts to disrupt oil trading networks. The US has seized an oil tanker sailing under Russian flag that it has accused of breaking American sanctions and shipping Iranian oil. The *Marineca*, formerly *Bella 1*, was intercepted in North Atlantic by US forces after they attempted

work on the structure of the answer.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments/subheadings.....

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

to board it in the Caribbean last month.

## 7. Conclusion.

The dramatic escalation of tensions between Washington and Caracas from sanctions and military pressure to the detention of sitting head of state underscored a pivotal shift in US foreign policy towards Latin America and highlights deep fractures within the region over sovereignty, external influence and future of governance in Venezuela.