

peak point when a group of men stole a black stallion and butchered it for meat¹⁹. Maduro attempts to fix the crisis by printing more money to prevent devaluing of Venezuelan currency, which is proven to be ineffective resulting in the continued rise of inflation. Projections of future inflation rates are so dire that money will be greatly devalued and may result in difficulties printing sufficient currency.²⁰

One of the smarter moves Maduro has made recently is the deal made with OPEC in attempt to stabilize the oil price. Though the deal is yet to be finalized, Maduro is optimistic regarding the result of the meeting with OPEC as he is also desperate to save his country from starvation.²¹ This could be seen as a middle-ground to his wariness towards the influence from the outside states and we believe it's one of the few effective policies he has made so far. He also tried to protect the image of Venezuela's economic state by manipulating information and not letting statistics or reports regarding its economy be printed or distributed. This ongoing issue of transparency is another systematic problem of Venezuelan governance, where crucial information is mutually distorted or never disclosed²².

Maduro's wariness of the outside world proved to be deadly for the country as his policy in prohibiting humanitarian aid from entering and helping Venezuela resulted in the anger of its people, the policy is ineffective in rebuilding the economy of the country. However, his reluctance to accept influence from the outside showed the application of realism. His recent policy, which involves opening the borders between Colombia and Venezuela (the first time in years) between July and August 2016 to let Venezuelans buy necessities in Colombia showed his willingness to compromise with his ideals during

¹⁹ "Hungry Venezuelans Break into Zoo and Butcher Animal for Meat | Fusion," accessed September 26, 2016, <http://fusion.net/story/330834/hungry-venezuelans-break-into-zoo-and-butcher-animal-for-meat/>.

²⁰ "This Is The End: Venezuela Runs Out Of Money To Print New Money | Zero Hedge," accessed September 19, 2016, <http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-04-27/end-venezuela-runs-out-money-print-new-money>.

²¹ "OPEC Deal to Stabilize Oil Markets Close, Venezuela's Maduro Says - Business - CBC News," accessed September 19, 2016, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/oil-opec-deal-maduro-1.3768353>.

²² "In Venezuela's Data Blackout, It's All a Guessing Game," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, April 21, 2015, <http://www.smh.com.au/business/world-business/in-venezuelas-data-blackout-its-all-a-guessing-game-20150421-1mqdta.html>.

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