

## **The Empire Strikes! Regime Changes and Coups d'état. Is the Empire Adding More Countries to Its Hit List? We Must Demand it Stop!**

The Washington administration has been alluding all year to regime change, when not calling for it outright, in the oil-rich countries of Iran and Venezuela. Such comments are often dismissed as just so much posturing and rhetoric – empty threats to pressure countries to get concessions from them. But it might be a good idea, in light of our nation's history, to take the threats seriously if we don't want to see them carried out – because we know how that turns out: the destabilization, the blood.

### **U.S. Acknowledged Overthrows**

The U.S. has actually acknowledged overthrowing the governments of seven countries around the world: Iran (1953), Guatemala (1954), Congo (1960), Dominican Republic (1961), South Vietnam (1963), Brazil (1964), Chile (1973).<sup>1</sup>

### **Chalmers Johnson's List**

Even more countries were included in a list by political scholar, Chalmers Johnson, who had acted as a consultant to the CIA for several years, and became a severe critic of U.S. imperialism, warning the public of the dangers.<sup>2</sup> In his last book, *Dismantling the Empire: America's Last Best Hope*, he wrote:

Even though the American people may not know what has been done in their name, those on the receiving end certainly do: they include the people of Iran (1953), Guatemala (1954), Cuba (1959 to the present), Congo (1960), Brazil (1964), Indonesia (1965), Vietnam (1961–73), Laos (1961–73), Cambodia (1969–73), Greece (1967–73), Chile (1973), Afghanistan (1979 to the present), El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua (1980s), and Iraq (1991 to the present).

## William Blum's List, WWII to 2014



Map 2:

### US Military and CIA Interventions since World War II

■ targeted countries    ✨ US bombings    — US government assassination plots

Source: William Blum, *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Intervention Since World War II*, 2004 and *Rogue State, 2005*. (<http://www.killinghope.org/>)

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Map: from William Blum's list: coups and attempts.

Another list of U.S. coups d'état was made by historian and foreign policy critic William Blum, the author, among other works, of *Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II* and *Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower*. His list extends from the World War II through 2014. (See these and his recent work at [williamblum.org](http://williamblum.org)) It could be updated.

- China 1949 to early 1960s
- Albania 1949-53
- East Germany 1950s
- Iran 1953 \*
- Guatemala 1954 \*
- Costa Rica mid-1950s
- Syria 1956-7
- Egypt 1957
- Indonesia 1957-8
- British Guiana 1953-64 \*
- Iraq 1963 \*
- North Vietnam 1945-73
- Cambodia 1955-70 \*

- Laos 1958 \*, 1959 \*, 1960 \*
- Ecuador 1960-63 \*
- Congo 1960 \*
- France 1965
- Brazil 1962-64 \*
- Dominican Republic 1963 \*
- Cuba 1959 to present
- Bolivia 1964 \*
- Indonesia 1965 \*
- Ghana 1966 \*
- Chile 1964-73 \*
- Greece 1967 \*
- Costa Rica 1970-71
- Bolivia 1971 \*
- Australia 1973-75 \*
- Angola 1975, 1980s
- Zaire 1975
- Portugal 1974-76 \*
- Jamaica 1976-80 \*
- Seychelles 1979-81
- Chad 1981-82 \*
- Grenada 1983 \*
- South Yemen 1982-84
- Suriname 1982-84
- Fiji 1987 \*
- Libya 1980s
- Nicaragua 1981-90 \*
- Panama 1989 \*
- Bulgaria 1990 \*
- Albania 1991 \*
- Iraq 1991

- Afghanistan 1980s \*
- Somalia 1993
- Yugoslavia 1999-2000 \*
- Ecuador 2000 \*
- Afghanistan 2001 \*
- Venezuela 2002 \*
- Iraq 2003 \*
- Haiti 2004 \*
- Somalia 2007 to present
- Honduras 2009 \*
- Libya 2011 \*
- Syria 2012
- Ukraine 2014 \*

*\*indicates successful ouster of a government*

# 56 U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA



*U.S. military interventions are a root cause of instability and violence in Latin America, affecting generations and producing conditions that result in desperate asylum seekers from Central America fleeing for their lives to the U.S.*

<sup>1</sup> This is explained in [“Mapped: The 7 Governments the U.S. Has Overthrown”](#) by J. Dana Stuster, in *FB*, the publication of the Council on Foreign Relations, on August 20, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Among his works prior to this, Chalmers Johnson is perhaps best known for the *Blowback Trilogy: Blowback, Sorrows of Empire, Nemesis*