



## **Economist flabbergasted by *New York Times* article on failure of Venezuela omitting socialism**

October 13, 2020

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Economist Daniel Mitchell penned an op-ed slamming the *New York Times* over an article describing the economic collapse of Venezuela without mentioning socialism.

“But here’s what shocked me,” Mitchell wrote in his response to the article titled “Venezuela, Once an Oil Giant, Reaches the End of an Era.” “The article never once mentions socialism. Or statism. Or leftist economic policy. Instead, there is one allusion to 'mismanagement' and one sentence that refers to government policy.”

"It truly is amazing that the supposed paper of record could write an article about Venezuela's economic collapse and somehow not mention the massive expansion in the size and scope of government," Mitchell, a former Cato Institute senior fellow, told the *Washington Examiner*.

In his article, Mitchell describes the *New York Times*'s omission as “journalist malpractice” akin to “writing about 2020 and not mentioning coronavirus or writing about 1944 and not mentioning World War II.”

“Almost 1800 words in the article, yet virtually no discussion of how maybe, just maybe, Venezuela’s hard shift to the left (as illustrated by the chart, economic freedom has steadily declined this century) may have contributed to the collapse of the country’s major industry,” the article reads.

Several conservative Twitter accounts echoed Mitchell’s criticism, including longtime ABC reporter and self-described libertarian John Stossel.

“@nytimes does LONG story on Venezuela becoming even poorer than Haiti... without once mentioning socialism,” Stossel tweeted.

“@nytimes you know that oil industry wasn’t actual culprit here right?” Republican North Dakota Rep. Kelly Armstrong tweeted. “And neither were U.S. sanctions. In less than a decade socialism destroyed the entire Venezuelan economy. Corruption, government seizure of business. Seems at least worth a mention.”

The *New York Times* did not immediately respond to a request for comment.