

Interventions & Aftermath: Lessons from Experience

Venezuela Series: Power, Legitimacy, & the Limits of Force

What has intervention actually achieved — and at what cost?

This session examines what decades of intervention and nation-building efforts have delivered in practice, drawing lessons from Venezuela, the region, and beyond. Rather than debating intentions, the discussion focuses on outcomes: when the use of force helps, when it harms, and why legitimacy often proves more decisive than short-term security gains.

Participants, experts in diplomacy, security and governance, will explore the difficult tradeoffs policymakers face—and what past experience suggests about the limits of military and coercive tools in building durable governance.

Webinar: February 5 at 1:00 PM ET

[**Register to Attend**](#)



(ret) Ambassador David T. Johnson



Jordan Kane (moderator)



David Mandel-Anthony



Amanda Curtis Mattingly



Justin Richmond



Joe McSpedon



**TRUMAN NATIONAL
SECURITY PROJECT**

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Jordan Kane (moderator)

Jordan Kane served as the foreign assistance subject-matter expert at the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), translating complex policy and oversight challenges into clear, actionable analysis. Prior to her federal service, she worked across development, defense, and diplomacy in conflict-affected environments, including Afghanistan, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Yemen, bringing a comparative, practitioner-grounded perspective on stabilization, reconstruction, and the limits of external intervention. She is a Security Fellow with the Truman National Security Project.

Ambassador David T. Johnson

Ambassador David T. Johnson is a retired career U.S. diplomat and senior foreign policy leader with decades of experience across governance, security, and international institutions. He served as Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, overseeing global efforts to strengthen the rule of law, justice sectors, and institutional capacity in partner countries, and later as a member of the International Narcotics Control Board. Earlier in his career, he was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in London, the U.S. Coordinator for Afghanistan, and U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, bringing deep insight into diplomacy, institutional legitimacy, and complex international engagement.

David Mandel-Anthony

David G. Mandel-Anthony is a senior national security and stabilization expert with extensive experience in conflict prevention, political transitions, and post-conflict governance. He has served in senior roles at the U.S. Department of State, including as Deputy Ambassador in the Office of Global Criminal Justice, where he worked on fragile states and multilateral policy at the intersection of diplomacy, development, international law, and national security. His work offers a strategic, systems-level perspective on the challenges of external intervention, political transitions, and accountability frameworks for mass atrocities.

Joe McSpedon

Joe McSpedon is a national security and stabilization practitioner with experience at the intersection of security, governance, and political transition. He served as a senior transition advisor for the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) at USAID, working on complex political transitions and stabilization efforts in fragile environments. His background brings practical insight into how external actors engage during moments of political upheaval and the tradeoffs between security and legitimacy.

Amanda Curtis Mattingly

Amanda Mattingly is the founder of ACM Global LLC, an international risk consulting firm specializing in strategic business intelligence and political-economic risk analysis. She is also the co-founder of Art of Diplomacy, which has led multiple US delegations to Cuba since 2023. Amanda previously worked in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and the National Security Council. She served at the US Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela, between 2002 and 2004.

Justin Richmond

Justin Richmond is the founder and executive director of impl. project and a practitioner with extensive experience in stabilization and post-crisis implementation. He previously worked as a forward-deployed engineer at Palantir Technologies, leading field implementation during humanitarian response operations in the Philippines, and served with USAID in Afghanistan, mentoring joint civilian, military, and local teams on stabilization efforts. Earlier in his career, he served in the U.S. Army, focusing on stabilization, counterinsurgency, and information operations.



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