

Power, Politics & the Region

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

How did Venezuela get here, and what regional dynamics shape the crisis?

This session grounds the conversation about Venezuela in political evolution, regional context, and structural realities.

Moving beyond personalities and headlines, this intimate fireside chat will examine how institutions eroded, how power consolidated, and how oil dependence, illicit economies, and regional dynamics shaped the current moment.

Participants will build a shared factual and analytical baseline to better assess U.S. policy choices responsibly, with attention to legitimacy, regional impact, and long-term consequences.



Amanda Curtis Mattingly

Webinar
February 20 at 1:00 PM ET
[Register to Attend](#)



(ret) Amb. James B. Story

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Ambassador James B. Story

(ret) Ambassador James B. Story is a retired career U.S. diplomat and nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela and Chargé d'Affaires for the Venezuela Affairs Unit from 2018 to 2023, leading U.S. diplomatic engagement during one of the most complex periods in bilateral relations. His career spans nearly three decades of service across Latin America and senior leadership roles at the U.S. Department of State.

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.

