**Rev's Reflections**

*More Chaos in the World*

In 1855, a businessman and adventurer from the United States, William Walker, declared himself president of the sovereign nation of Nicaragua. He wanted what the US wanted: to build a canal through the isthmus. He ruled from 1856 to 1857 and lost power only after Cornelius Vanderbilt withdrew his financial support, and a coalition of Latin American countries captured him. Walker was killed by firing squad in 1860.

That was neither the first nor the last time the US interfered in Nicaragua. In fact, the Somoza family's 42-year dynasty — which led to the revolution begun after the 1972 earthquake — was enthusiastically supported and even funded by the US, even as that nation devolved to the the rank of second poorest country in the Northern Hemisphere. And this arrest of Nicolás Maduro is not the first time international forces have basically kidnapped the leader of a nation in order to place their own puppet in power.

In the 19th century it was about expediting global shipping. In the 21st century it's about oil. Nobody seems to be pretending any differently.

Maduro, of course, is widely despised among the people of Venezuela and Latin America. It's probably a good thing he's gone, though who knows if the "solution" will be any better.

Over the weekend, my fear was that this illegal attack and seizure will likely serve as a blueprint for other nations to seize control in their global regions, and now it looks like China is already making plans, according to some sources.

Worse, I can't ignore the feeling that this — like Operation Desert Storm 30+ years ago — is going to lead to a conflict that lasts decades and costs thousands or even millions of lives.

I wish I had some kind of insight about any of this, beyond a cliché statement that amounts to "We've been here before, and we'll make it through again." But, I am no prophet, nor am I a political analyst. All I can do is hope. And continue to resist the march of authoritarianism in any small way I can.

Thankfully, we have each other.

In Peace,
Rev Denis