**Cuba’s migration reform:**

The Cuban government has put in action a new reform, which has surprised not only Cubans but also the whole international community: A migration reform that is aimed to grant Cuban nationals the right to go out of the country. Is this a sign that the communist government of Cuba is partially renovating its political system? Or is this an indication of weakness? The regime initiated by Fidel Castro after the Cuban Revolution, and now under the wing of his brother, Raul, has faced some challenges that have threatened the stability of this island of the Caribbean. Cuba represents a strong ally of Venezuela, and a strong opposition of the U.S in Latin America, nevertheless its viability as a Nation-State has been many times questioned. Can this Migration Reform be seen as the cornerstone of a major reform in the island that could lead Cuba to a different administrative and political system and provoke a new reconfiguration in the geopolitics of the Americas?

**Chavez’s Illness**

On June 30th, 2011, Venezuelan President, Hugo Chavez, announced he had cancer. For the following months he was treated in Cuba, and it appeared as though he was getting better. Now it seems that President Chavez is ill again and this time he will not be able to assume power. Venezuelans are in the midst of confusion. Chavez is still in Cuba and news of his health has not reached the media or the people. Chavez’ leadership style was shaped after his main supporter, Fidel Castro. Therefore it was thought that he would lead Venezuela for as long as Castro has led Cuba. However, his illness proves that he is not immortal and that the future of the South American country might be very different from that of the Caribbean island. This brings a whole new spectrum of possibilities for the future of Venezuela. Chavez’ supporters are convinced that their ideology can transcend the President, led by Vice-President, Nicolas Maduro. However, the opposition will not give up that easily, and they will try to reach power with Diosdado Cabello. The question is whether or not the ruling party will manage to stay strong without Chavez and whether the opposition will eventually overcome the division.Either way, things do not look easy. But one thing is certain, Chavez’ illness is a weak signal for the future of Venezuela.