A Bolivarian political myth and populism as exemplified by the doctrine of the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez

The article presents the most important determinants of populism and distinctive features of this stream in the context of the leadership style of the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, as well as reflections on functions of a political myth and the ways in which it is personified. It also contains a listing of the main features characteristic of this political phenomenon and undertakes the issues of its influence on democracy. Additionally, these considerations constitute an attempt at answering a query as to the degree to which a political myth, a Bolivarianism, is an ideological instrument, and the role it performs in political rhetoric, social integration and the praxis dimension of specific actions taken by the President and related to the building of a particular type of socialism.

In view of the wide extent of the issues raised, the author focuses primarily on the dimension of Chavez’s political rhetoric and the character of the populist notes resorted to therein He also refers to the determinants and nature of the transformations Latin America has undergone in the last ten or fifteen years, when it was the left-wing politicians who, in many countries of the region, took the helm of power into their hands. Giving consideration to the context of theoretical attitudes and contemporary political transformations in Venezuela will make it possible to explore the phenomenon of Chavizm.