12-11-1998

Trends. The Inside Threat to the Outsider: Venezuela's Hugo Chavez Frias

Editor

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The political strategy of running for political office as an "outsider" in representative democracies has had a long and--at times--successful history. Successful candidates who are outsiders are usually successful at maintaining a public image of being an outsider while becoming more and more like an insider in the running of a campaign and the making of expedient decisions that may violate professed political positions. To remain in office, the outsider must master the reins of power and make enough compromises--again threatening the public image of "outsider" by too often appearing to be an insider. The threats to the outsider from the campaign and from assuming the office may even become actualized so that one who psychologically begins as an outsider becomes an insider, often through an insidious phenomenon of insider and outsider doppelgangers competing for one's soul.