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► Chief theorist of '21st Century Socialism' breaks with Chavez

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Heinz Dieterich Steffan, the German sociologist and political analyst who is regarded as the ideologue of the so-called 21st Century Socialism, explained in an article written as an explanatory memorandum including seven items and published by leftist website Kaosenlared.net the reasons why he has broken with Venezuela's President Hugo Chávez.

Heinz Dieterich, who has been internationally regarded as a Venezuelan government adviser, reported in an article that he has gone through a gradual process of uncertainty and disappointment that began in 2005, when the sociologist visited Venezuela to present his ideological proposal to those attending the World Festival of Youth and Students held in Caracas.

Dieterich said that at that time Chávez was upset because the sociologist said in his speech: "Here (in Venezuela) there is no socialism in the historical sense of the term. The government is creating the conditions for a fairer society [...] Venezuela was destroyed by poor management, and the strategy President Chávez chose to rebuild it was the same one Germany implemented following its own destruction in 1945: social market economy [...]."

After the statement of reasons, Dieterich concludes that Chávez's opportunity to build the first scientific and democratic socialism of the 21st century has been lost. The German analyst describes the Venezuelan structure as "a humble hut, built on the foundations of a skyscraper," constructed by Marx and Engels.