Venezuela’s Power Sector and the 2019 Blackouts

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Humanitarian Impacts

- Food rotted due to lack of refrigeration
- Shortages of clean water
- Strained healthcare system collapsed
- Economy ground to a halt
- Transportation system crippled
- Hundreds of businesses looted
- Communications systems down
Long-term Causes of Blackouts

- Poor maintenance
- Lack of qualified personnel
- Over-reliance on hydropower
- Highly subsidized electricity tariffs
- Weak finances and capacity of state electricity monopoly
- Corruption
In 2014, ½ of installed capacity was thermoelectric power, but a lack of fuel, maintenance, and replacement parts, as well as overuse of turbines, meant that 2/3 of this capacity was unavailable.
Thank you.

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