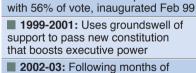
## Chavez in second bid for extended rule

Venezuelans are to vote in a new referendum on Hugo Chavez's plan to scrap term limits, allowing him to stay in office indefinitely as long as he wine elections. Chavez has been in power for 10 years and says he wants to rule the oil-exporting

South American country for at least

another decade



protests. Chavez survives military coup and two-month national strike that cripples oil industry 2003: Starts massive social spending campaign offering education, health

KEY EVENTS IN CHAVEZ'S PRESIDENCY

1998: Chavez elected president

**2004:** Wins opposition-led recall referendum with 58% of vote 2005: Signs decree on land reform aimed at eliminating large estates

and low-cost food to poor majority

2006: Wins third term as president

with 63% of vote 2007: Announces nationalizations in

electricity and telecom sectors Suffers first defeat at ballot box when referendum on proposals to extend

his powers is narrowly rejected ■ 2008: Signs oil and gas cooperation accord with Russia and discusses developing civilian nuclear programme

2009. Feb 15: Venezuelans to vote for second time on proposal to scrap

rules barring him from re-election

