

## A CHILEAN CHRONOLOGY

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1541 Pedro de Valdivia marches from Peru, settles Santiago and meets fierce resistance from the indigenous Araucanos in the south.

1552 Lautaro, once Valdivia's page, leads Araucanos in battles against the Spanish. Valdivia is killed. Insurrections recur for three centuries.

1810 September 18th, still a national holiday, marks Chilean independence from Spain.

1817 "Great Liberator" Bernardo O'Higgins becomes Chile's first head of state. He ends his life in voluntary exile.

1831 Darwin sets out on the six year-long voyage of the Beagle.

1833 The first Chilean constitution establishes elections of president and parliament.

1879–1882 In the War of the Pacific, Chile wins the vast copper and nitrate wealth of the Atacama desert from Peru and cuts off Bolivia's access to the sea. Actual mine ownership remains mainly in British hands.

1906 Valparaíso, Chile's Pacific port, is destroyed by earthquake and firestorm. Printer Luis Emilio Recabarren is elected to Parliament.

1907 Government troops fire on nitrate miners who gather in the desert port of Iquique to protest brutal working conditions. As many as two thousand are killed.

1911 Guggenheim acquires the world's largest open pit copper mine from the British. It is then sold to Anaconda in 1923.

1925 The Constitution of 1925 (remaining in effect until 1973 military coup) includes provisions for separation of Church and State, direct taxation and social welfare.

1932 Air Force Col. Marmaduke Grove proclaims a Socialist republic which is overthrown after twelve days.

1938 Native Nazis attempt a coup, but get little support.

1948 The "Law for the Defense of Democracy" is passed, the Communist Party is outlawed and many members sent to jail or internal exile. Senator Pablo Neruda, who later received the Nobel Prize for literature, is unseated.

1949 Women get the vote.

1952 Salvador Allende runs for president for the first time as the

candidate of the Socialist party.

1953 The CUT (Central Workers Union) is founded.

1958 Allende runs for president a second time.

1964 Allende runs again but Christian Democrat Eduardo Frei wins, with the help of a \$3 million campaign gift from the U.S.

1965 The MIR (Revolutionary Left Movement) is founded.

1969 A military uprising led by right-wing Gen. Roberto Viaux is put down by Frei. The U.P. (left-of-center Popular Unity) is formed. Kennecott Copper's rate of return on Chilean investment is 205% while its worldwide profit is 10%.

1970 U.P. candidate Allende wins presidential election over Christian Democrat Rodimiro Tomic and National Party's Jorge Alessandri, with 36.3% of the vote. Army Chief-of-Staff René Schneider is assassinated; Ex-Gen. Viaux is jailed. Congress ends uncertainty by ratifying Allende victory. General Augusto Pinochet appears by his side at inaugural celebrations.

1971 Copper is nationalized by unanimous vote of Congress.

1972 "The Secret Documents of ITT," based on revelations by American columnist Jack Anderson, is published in Chile. The best seller consists of photocopies of correspondence from ITT officers revealing schemes with the CIA and the "40" Committee, headed by Henry Kissinger, to subvert the election process and make Allende's government unworkable. Richard Nixon announces a hard line policy. Allende addresses U.N. on foreign intervention in his country. The U.S. disburses cash to finance a 26-day truck owner's strike which paralyzes the country's distribution system, and funnels money to fascist "Fatherland and Liberty" group.

1971–1973 An "invisible blockade" strangles U.P. government. Export-Import Bank loans go from \$600 million total to zero; US commercial credit from \$300 million under Frei to \$30 million; Inter-American Development Bank loans from \$46 million to \$2 million; World Bank loans from \$234 million total to zero. Washington continues aid to the military for weapons, counter-insurgency training and parties and trips to the U.S. for officers; also to American Institute for Free Labor Development for infiltrating unions.

1972–1973 The period is marked by increasing opposition stridency, government blunders, uncontrolled peasant land seizures, high inflation, lack of spare parts for foreign-made machinery, shortages of goods and food, hoarding, capital flight and growing power of the military.

1973 June 29th abortive coup is probably a dress rehearsal for real coup. Chief-of-Staff Gen. Carlos Prats, supporter of constitutional rule, is hounded from his post. He and his wife are later assassinated in Buenos Aires. The presidential palace is bombed and the military overthrows the elected government on September 11th. Allende commits suicide. High officials are banished to a bleak Antarctic island. A three-man military junta begins 17 years of dictatorship. Americans Charles Horman and Frank Teruggi are murdered but the U.S. embassy impedes an investigation and discovery of the bodies (subject of film "Missing"). Pablo Neruda dies and hundreds of people, including the Swedish ambassador and heads of the Christian Democratic Party and Catholic University, defy a prohibition on gatherings to attend his funeral. The ruling junta takes over universities, suspends political parties and trade unions, revokes citizenship of political opponents.

1974 Pinochet demotes his junta partners and becomes sole dictator.

1975 U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee hearings reveal the shocking extent of American intervention in Chile. Economist Milton Friedman and his "Chicago Boys" are invited there to begin "shock treatment" to control raging inflation and privatize the economy.

1976 On a Washington, D.C. street, ex-ambassador to the U.S. Orlando Letelier and American colleague Ronni Moffit are assassinated by a remote control car bomb. The Carter administration cools relations when Chile refuses to cooperate. Bombing planner Michael Townley pleads guilty and talks, implicating two anti-Castro Cubans.

1981 The Chilean economic miracle grows, then deflates as banks go into crisis and collapse. Pinochet intervenes to bail out scandal-ridden banks. Chile, owing \$21 billion, becomes the world's most indebted nation, per capita. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Jeanne Kirkpatrick praises Pinochet.

1983 May 11th marks the first big public protests against the dictatorship. An opposition press surfaces.

1986 Young Chilean Carmen Gloria Quintana and Washington, D.C. resident Rodrigo Rojas, an exile's son, are doused with kerosene by soldiers and set afire. He dies after two days. Badly burned, she survives. The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front attacks Pinochet's motorcade as it approaches Santiago from his vacation home. Pinochet escapes unscathed when two shells which make direct hits on his car misfire, but guards are killed. Repression increases.

1987 Repression eases for a Papal visit. Pope John Paul II embraces the disfigured Carmen Gloria.

1988 The October plebiscite, designed to legitimize a Pinochet presidency backfires when 92% of eligible voters vote 43.04% YES to 54.68% NO. Now Pinochet cannot become president.

1989 The first presidential election in 19 years is on December 14th. Pinochet's candidate Hernán Büchi and self-made businessman Francisco Errázuriz are soundly defeated by 71 year-old Christian Democrat Patricio Aylwin, candidate of the unified center-left opposition. A bellicose Pinochet still controls the Army.

1990 Exiles continue to return. Aylwin appoints 80 year-old jurist Raul Rettig to head a nine-person commission to investigate violations of human rights. Even after incontrovertible evidence, punishment is unlikely because Pinochet had declared an amnesty for crimes between 1973 and 1978, when the greatest number of atrocities were committed.

1991 The five-volume report of the Commission of Truth and Reconciliation, documenting some 2500 deaths and disappearances, shocks the nation, but coverage of the Rettig report is soon supplanted by headlines about terrorism. The popular head of a right wing party is assassinated after publicly insulting Gen. Manuel Contreras, ex-head of the secret police. In the U.S. another Cuban is arrested in the Letelier-Moffit killings as a result of an "America's Most Wanted" television broadcast. In Chile, only days before the statute of limitations runs out, Justice Bañados orders the arrest of Gen. Contreras and his operations chief Col. Pedro Espinoza for the same crime. Digging commences in a pauper's section of the Santiago General Cemetery and scores of tortured, bullet-ridden corpses, some of them children, are disinterred. Pinochet quips that doubled-up corpses found in some graves show sound economics.

1992 An international arbitration panel orders the Chilean government to pay \$2.5 million in reparations to the families of Letelier and Moffit.