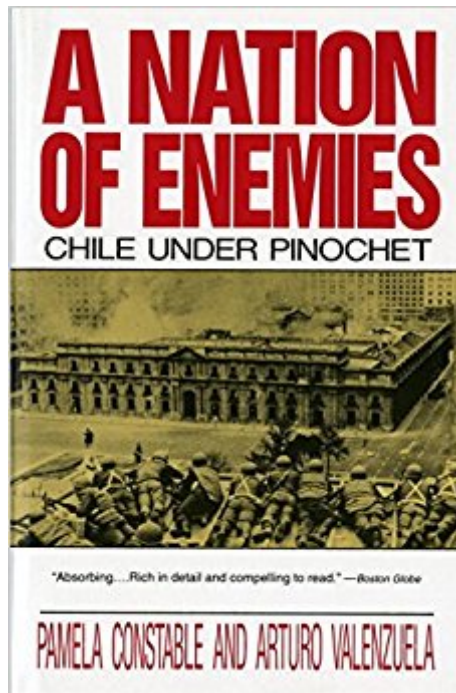




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# **A Nation Of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet (Norton Paperback)**



## Synopsis

"This will stand as the definitive work on Chile under Pinochet for many years to come." —[Library Journal](#) How Chile, once South America's most stable democracy, gave way to a culture of fear. The authors explain and illuminate the rift in Chilean society that widened dramatically during the Pinochet era.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this rigorous study, based on hundreds of interviews with Chileans, the authors chronicle the divisive dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Veteran journalist Constable and distinguished academic Valenzuela re-create life for most ordinary Chileans during the past 20 years when "they were dubious spectators caught in a system that they had not chosen." Chile had a 150-year-old tradition of stable democracy and civilian rule. Yet from the coup that ousted President Allende in September 1973 until March 1990 when Patricio Aylwin was inaugurated as President of Chile, General Augusto Pinochet and the military completely dominated Chilean life. Based on broad sources, including many interviews, this book chronicles without ideological bias the lengthy struggles for the reemergence of democracy in Chile and concludes that after two decades Chileans grew tired of hating each other and have regained "new appreciation for the values of moderation and compromise." Written for both general and academic

audiences, this will stand as the definitive work on Chile under Pinochet for many years to come. It belongs in all public and academic libraries.- James Rhodes, Luther Coll., Decorah, Ia. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book discusses how Pinochet overthrew the Allende Government and then ruled Chile for 17 years, from 1973-90. The work delves into the different parties, including the Communists who elected Salvador Allende, only to see him overthrown in a coup d'etat. The battle was brief, and, shockingly, many people approved. Despite that, the forces of democracy remained in play, though cautiously. It took 17 years, until 1990, when a president was finally elected. The author does a first-rate job of research and writing to tell the story.

A compelling read. As someone who is not especially a connoisseur of political books, I became fascinated with the workings of the Chilean government under the Pinochet political regime and the tactics it used to suppress any socialistic movements. I became interested after hearing about the recent trial in Florida of the man responsible for the torture and murder of Chilean folk singer Victor Jara back in 1973 as part of Pinochet's crackdown on socialists and would be communists. According to the book Victor Jara's only crime was of composing songs glorifying the working class. Interviews and testimonies from all sides are frequently used throughout the book to give it emotional impact. How does a supposedly civilized nation resort to becoming so divided that it resorts to unspeakable cruelties in order to suppress political opposition? The book takes the reader through its paces demonstrating how animosities had been brewing for decades in Chile between the elite, middle class, the military and the struggling working class. It all seemed to explode like a firecracker as thousands of so called socialists were hunted down, tortured, exiled or even killed because of their support for a socialist agenda that would have raised the living standards but seemingly threatened the interests of the elite and big international corporate powers as well as the interests of the United States. The book documents the participation of the United States government in the overthrowing of the democratically elected Chilean President Salvador Allende in order to place Pinochet at the helm of what became one of the worst authoritarian witch hunting regimes. I recommend this book for those who are interested in real life stories of political intrigue. I also recommend the recently released movie "Colonia" which depicts how the Pinochet regime was able to commit the worst human rights atrocities without accountability for so long.

My husband really enjoyed it.

This is a sad and stunning tale of a country overtaken by a military which was bent on remaking Chile in its own image: to be rigid; to be unbending; to enslave itself; to torture the soul and people of Chile. Pinochet ushered in an ugly period which the idle observer may discern as bringing order to disorder; however walk a step into the National Stadium and the other torture centers and you would have seen that only disorder and calamity could come of such extreme conditions. As a person who has studied and written about this time in Chile, I would recommend this book as a primer in understanding the basics of the Pinochet era. It may not delve in other aspects, such as what role the U.S. had (which was considerable) in bringing about and sustaining the Pinochet regime; it may not touch upon every aspect of Chile during this time; but it is a solid basis in understanding the nature of the Pinochet regime and their repressive aims.

A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet is a fairly balanced look at Chilean society under General Augusto Pinochet with interviews with both civilians of Chile and the military officials that were shrouded in power through 1989. The United States did not want Salvador Allende in power because they feared a Communist force uprising, so they sought to destabilize his regime virtually any way they could. Eventually Augusto Pinochet seized power and proved to be even worse for the people of Chile and a thorny issue for American policy makers who often sent mixed signals to the Pinochet regime often condemning actions, while still providing Chile with aid. For the Chilean people, Pinochet was a blessing to some and a curse for others, the economy went into the toilet twice because Pinochet became too enamored with his men in the Chicago Boys in the second case and even when the economy was thriving, the money never really touched the poorest of the poor and when the economy faltered the newly secure suddenly became poor again through mismanagement and disillusionment began to spread among those who weren't prospering. Pinochet was a deathnail for leftists who were either forced into exile or excruciatingly mauled and tortured by the Contreras led DINA and other military forces. There was no middle road for Chile, America feared a Communist Allende so he couldn't be allowed to retain power and under Pinochet many people were murdered for Political Beliefs or even potential sympathies for the Communists. Schools were taken over by the military personal and free thought was stifled, professors were fired, and the curriculum was changed to embrace the new culture, many mothers and fathers lost their children to prisons never to be found again facing false hope and conflicting information...but at least Pinochet wasn't a Communist. My one complaint is that many of the personal intimate stories

felt chopped up to fit everything else in.

It was hard to find an impartial book about Pinochet but this one did the trick. It was well-researched and fair in it's perspective.

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