Human Rights in Chile
by Stephanie Raessler

Chile might evoke memories of Augusto Pinochet and his brutal reign, though there is more to this country than an oppressive authoritarian regime. A history of politics longer than Pinochet's rule has shaped Chile's current situation. Many issues recur across Chilean history, and continue to influence the present. In particular, Chile's experience in the some key areas deserves special focus:

General Background

Although Chile shares a similar history with other countries of the Southern Cone, it also has proved unique in many aspects of its development, political movements, and social issues.


Abstract: Reviews the book 'The Legacy of Human Rights Violations in the Southern Cone: Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay,' by Luis Roniger and Mario Sznajder.


Chapters include: Explaining political change in Latin America -- Issues and political change -- Neoliberal reform in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile -- Democratization in the Andean region -- Human rights and the Chilean courts -- Regional security in Central America -- Environmental degradation, drug trafficking, and immigration -- Issues, political science, and policy making.


Abstract: The purpose of this article is to explore a civil society initiative that seeks to promote truth, justice, and reconciliation in the post-transitional society of Chile. The article will describe the role of civil society in promoting a site of memory on Villa Grimaldi, a former torture center in Santiago, Chile. The site of memory demonstrates the role that a nongovernmental organization (NGO) actor can play in complementing and in extending the work of a formal transitional justice process (i.e., a truth and reconciliation commission) in promoting truth about a past period of human rights abuses and promoting a sense of justice and reconciliation, particularly for survivors of the abuses. The case also outlines many of the relative advantages and disadvantages of civil society involvement in such initiatives.


Abstract: This article argues on archival preservation of primary documentation on human rights abuses in countries of the Southern Cone of Latin America. To make this point, the article examines the state of documentation relating to human rights abuses under military rule in three Southern Cone countries-- Chile (from
1973 to 1990), Argentina (from 1976 to 1983), and Uruguay (from 1973 to 1984); and discusses the political, social, technical, and financial challenges that face advocates of archival preservation. The article is, in part, a result of the author’s visits with each of the Human Rights Nongovernmental Organizations (HRNGOs) discussed in this article, as well as interviews with members of these HRNGOs; scholars; human rights experts; social scientists; lawyers from Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay; and bibliographers and library experts from major research libraries and national library systems. Ultimately, the article is meant to be a call for action in a sphere of activity that is sometimes neglected in human rights discourse.


Abstract: The article focuses on the revolutions in Latin America that resulted in the overthrow of governments in Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama during World War II. The article discusses the Latin American pattern of revolution; analyzes whether recent outbreaks do in fact conform to or deviate from it; and what the prospects are of continued revolutionary activity in the future. Compared with earlier periods the number of revolutions was relatively small. Since the close of the war, however, the revolutionary tendency has reappeared with such vigor as to suggest that it may no longer be following the usual Latin American pattern. Recent events have excited apprehension in some quarters as to possible revolutionary developments in the entire area. Factors making for a violent change in the status quo exist in many parts of Latin America. Almost everywhere opulent minorities flament their riches before a melancholy sea of illiterates. The wealthy few, who maintain estates of thousands of hectares, derive lucrative fees and commissions from foreign business firms and drive about in expensive American limousines, have little in common with the miserably underprivileged masses of the people, whose role throughout life is to serve as beasts of burden, shine the shoes of the upper class in the town plaza, or sell lottery tickets. With the possible exception of Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay, the Latin American countries contain only an infinitesimally small middle class. The social ladder has only two rungs—the lowest and the highest. The low is very low, and the high is very high. The gap is so wide that those on the lowest rung can almost never reach the one above.


Abstract: Reviews the book *The Legacy of Human Rights Violations in the Southern Cone: Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay,* by Luis Roniger and Mario Sznajder.


Abstract: Focuses on the legacy of human rights violations, crises committed by security forces in Argentina, Uruguay and Chile under the military rule in the 1990s. Arrest of Chilean General Augusto Pinochet in London, England in October 1998; Background of policy making in the Southern Cone of the Americas; How the political leaderships of countries adopted the idea of national reconciliation.

**Capitalism and Development**

The pursuit of free market policies for nearly three decades has allowed Chile to enjoy a fairly continuous growth record. Though a recent economic downturn has plagued the economy and unemployment remains a problem, signs show that recovery is taking hold, and continued economic
development is likely in the future. As a pioneer in free trade, Chile remains committed to economic growth and the development of trade relations with other states.


Abstract: Discusses the impact of the 1981 Water Code adopted by the Chilean government. Previous praises given for its adoption; Claim that the impact is mainly negative; Principles and objectives of the Water Code; Background information on the implementation of water codes in Chile; Details on the Chilean water market; Lessons to be learnt from the Chilean situation; Conclusions of discussion.


Abstract: Presents information on a study which examined the case of water rights and river basin management in contemporary Chile from 1981-1995. Description of Chile’s 1980 Constitution and new institutional order emphasizing the role of the courts; Information on the neo-liberal water law in 1981; Judicial behavior in water rights law; Reformation of river basin management.


Abstract: Argues that the training and employment policies of Chile’s transition governments since 1990 have failed significantly to promote the development of human resources and occupational citizenship. Identification of structural and political causes; Economic and institutional legacies of the period of dictatorship; Identification of the problem of institutional coordination.


Abstract: This article looks at the interaction between states and labour representation in the surfacing of new economic rights in emergent economies (EEs). Economic liberalisation in the 1980s and 1990s profoundly changed the governance of labour markets in EEs. The division between formal and informal sectors was blurred as employment shifts became more frequent and volatile. A traditional site-based approach to conceptualising employment problems is no longer tenable given this fundamental shift. A clearer conception of the relationship between public policy and labour institutions is needed that proceeds from an understanding of how core (both formal and less formal) institutions are linked, through labour law, welfare schemes and labour relations. In this article we assess the cases of four EEs where economic pressures have been relatively dramatic—Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Korea—and compare their political and institutional outcomes. This approach allows us to categorise the problems of market governance associated with the transition from “traditional” (firm-based) to “new” (labour market or society-centred) rights in terms of alternative employment regimes with distinct implications for economic efficiencies and individual freedom.

Abstract: Focuses on the process of industrialization, social mobility and origin of social classes in Chile. Comparison of American business elites and Chilean industrial managers; Overview of the stages of industrialization in Chile; Mobility patterns of Chile's working class; Process of class formation and its relation with social mobility.


Abstract: Addresses the issues of property rights in the mining industry in Chile. Problems caused by the reform granted by the Chillean government; Terms of the constitutional mining laws of the country; Effects of the changes in the mining industry on the economy of Chile.

**Democracy and Elections**

Socialist, Marxist, and democratic forces have shaped the Chillean populace for years, leaving ordinary people with a varied yet sophisticated political outlook. Beginning in the 1980's, the Pinochet regime was accompanied by numerous human rights violations and various forms of political repression. After General Pinochet was denied a second term, a transition period began for the Chillean people. Recent events have brought the first female president in Chillean history, and a positive outlook for democracy and free and fair elections.


Abstract: Reviews the book “Student Politics in Chile,” by Frank Bonilla and Myron Glazer.


Abstract: This article evaluates 38 bills seeking to expand women's rights in Chile and finds that the successful ones often originated with the Executive National Women's Ministry (SERNAM), did not threaten existing definitions of gender roles, and did not require economic redistribution. These factors (plus the considerable influence of the Catholic Church) correlate in important ways, and tend to constrain political actors in ways not apparent from an examination of institutional roles or ideological identity alone. In particular, the Chillean left's strategic response to this complex web of interactions has enabled it to gain greater legislative influence on these issues over time.

Abstract: Examines the democratizing impact of the constitutional reforms in Chile. Origin of the 1980 'Constitution of Liberty'; Restrictions on democratic and human rights; Objections raised by the opposition regarding the constitutional prerogatives of the military; Immutability of the constitution.


Abstract: Characterizes the campaign climate and the victory of Socialist Ricardo Lagos in December 1999 presidential election in Chile. Dominance of the style and theme of rightist Joaquin Lavin in the campaign; Evidence of bipolar presidential electoral division; Support of Lagos for human rights and true democracy; Continuity of the 1988 plebiscite patterns of electoral behavior.


Abstract: Reviews the book “Political Groups in Chile,” by Ben G. Burnett.


Abstract: Recent judicial reforms after democratic transition have been substantial and relatively successful in Chile, but much less so in Argentina and Brazil. This article traces this variation in outcomes to the legal strategies of the prior authoritarian regimes. The Brazilian military regime of 1964-1985 was gradualist in its approach to the law, and had a high degree of civilian-military consensus in the legal sphere. It was not highly repressive in its deployment of lethal violence, and this combination of factors contributed to a gradualist and consensual transition in which judicial reform was not placed high on the political agenda. The Argentine case of military rule between 1976 and 1983 was almost the opposite. The military side-stepped and even attacked the judiciary, engaging in almost entirely extrajudicial violence. This generated a “backlash” reform movement after the transition to democracy that was mostly retrospective and only partially successful. In Chile, in contrast, the military engineered a radical break with previous legality, engaged in violent repression, and made considerable efforts to reconstruct a judicial order. It was in the aftermath of this situation that reformers were able to push through a prospective and relatively successful judicial reform. This article's findings suggest that judicial reform may be more likely to succeed where the prior authoritarian regime was both repressive and legalistic, as in Chile, Poland, and South Africa, than where high degrees of repression were applied largely extrajudicially, as in Argentina, Cambodia, and Guatemala, or where the authoritarian regime was legalistic but not highly repressive, as in Brazil, Mexico, and the Philippines.


Abstract: Focuses on the success of Socialist Ricardo Lagos in 2000 presidential election in Chile. Impact of the television campaign commercials and projected images of Lagos and rightist candidate Joaquin Lavin on the public; Factors that contribute to the victory of Lagos; Advocacy of Lagos for human rights, independent justice and sustainable economic growth.


Abstract: There is abundant comparative evidence that political parties differ substantially in the support they receive from different social classes, whether or not their appeals manifestly have class content. In particular, Socialist and Communist parties, for reasons inherent in their theoretical position and political programmes, have focused their organizational efforts and agitational appeals on urban industrial workers. And, wherever such parties have gained mass followings, their predominant core resides in the working classes. No other party has been as thoroughly and completely the party of the working class as the Communist Party. Chile is the only country in Latin America in which the organized working class is politically and socially significant and is led by Marxist socialists and communists. The socialist movement has had a political base in the working class for many decades, especially among miners, and in the fifties, based on growing working class support, it began to become a serious contender for political power.

**Gender and Women**

As in many regions and countries around the world, women have struggled for equal rights in Chile for decades. Though these issues affect men as much as women, the fight for equal rights has largely fallen upon women's shoulders. With the election of the first female president in Chile’s history, the battle seems to be won. However, much work remains, particularly in the more impoverished regions of Chile where women's rights are largely considered a luxury good. As in many other countries, progress has been made, but true equality still eludes much of the population.


Abstract: This article relates how Oxfam, through its partner ACTIVA, is empowering women at the grassroots in Chile, who had never even heard of the Millennium Development Goals, to monitor the progress of local authorities towards meeting their commitments, and to hold their government accountable to its promises. A manual is used as a tool for working with other groups affected by discrimination and social exclusion, such as young people, indigenous peoples, and minority groups.


This book focuses on the cultural-ideological plans of the military for women, the socio-economic policies of the military government, the women’s movement and women’s organizations in Chile, the women’s movement and the rise of the democratic opposition, and the subject of women, the state and civil society.


Abstract: This article comparatively analyses the cases of Mexico and Chile to understand how women’s movements contest the meaning of citizenship in various national contexts. We also assess the consequences that different movement strategies, such as “autonomy” versus “double militancy,” have for movements’ citizenship goals. To explain the different outcomes in the two cases, we focus on the nature of the democratic transition, the
internal coherence of women’s movements, the nature of alliances with other civil society actors, the ideological orientation of the newly democratized state, the form of women’s agency within the state, and the nature of the neoliberal economic reforms. We argue that a serious problem for women in both Chile and Mexico is the fact that governments themselves are deploying the concept of citizenship as a way to legitimate their social and economic policies. While women’s movements seek to broaden the meaning of citizenship to include social rights, neoliberal governments employ the rhetoric of citizen activism to encourage society to provide its own solutions to economic hardship and poverty. While this trend is occurring in both Chile and Mexico, there are some features of the political opportunity structure in Chile that enable organized women to contest the state’s more narrow vision of democratic citizenship. In Mexico, on the other hand, the neoliberal economic discourse of the current government is matched by a profoundly conservative ideological rhetoric, thereby reducing the political opportunities for women to forward a gender equality agenda.


Abstract: Discusses the case of Chilean women who protested against the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet from 1973-1989. Popular manifestations by women against the actions of government; Participation of Chilean women in the political development of the country; Testimonies on the political domination and violation of human rights.


Abstract: While the Catholic Church opposes both artificial contraception and abortion, is the latter stressed more vehemently in Latin American countries facing rapid population growth than the former? While 90 per cent of Mexicans say their religion is Catholic, government policy encouraging the use of contraception has been quite successful. In twenty years the average family size in Mexico has fallen from 7 to 2.5. The population growth rate has dropped from 3.5 to 1.88 in 25 years. This article explores changes over time in government family planning policy in the two larger more developed countries of Mexico and Chile and the two smaller less developed countries of Haiti and Guatemala. The article seeks to identify the factors that most influence governmental policy action. Three forces are examined: neo-liberalism, women’s rights groups, and the Catholic Church. To explore the influence of these three forces we employ a comparative case study approach, analyzing statements of Catholic Bishops, news article reports, government statistics and policy statements, and the reports of non-governmental organisations that focus on family planning. We find that neo-liberal forces are most dominant in Mexico and Chile, while the traditional cultural and religious forces of the Church are still very influential in Guatemala and Haiti. Additionally, due to extreme poverty, Haiti remains the most dependent on foreign-aid and outside political pressure to get family planning policies funded. The article demonstrates how governmental policy in the
more developed nations of Chile and Mexico has been primarily influenced by neo-liberal forces in practice, but has attempted to appease both the Catholic Church and women's and human rights groups.


This book examines women's rights, women's activism and the Chilean state, national development, social policy, and the poor, participation and the representation of pobladoras in the state, state goals, national identity, and the Mapuche, and the Vision de Pueblo and the representation of Mapuche women in the state.


Abstract: Focuses on the conditions of charity, rights and entitlement in Chile during the early 20th century and their correlation with gender, labor and welfare. Why not all impoverished Chileans gained equal benefits from government efforts to expand its services and democratize welfare; Gender bias on the distribution of state benefits; Actions taken by the government agency Caja de Seguro Obligatorio in providing social security and health care benefits to laborers.

Human Rights

With a legacy of human rights abuses, Chilean citizens have endured a difficult past. From the era of colonization to “The Disappeared” in the 1980's, Chile has had a long history of fighting for human rights. As Chileans have only regained their rights of assembly, speech, and association in the last twenty years, the road ahead is long. Though Chile is in the unfortunate position of having to fight the ghosts of past human rights violations along with those that are just emerging, much of the population is committed to progress in this area and will continue to fight for the basic human rights of all Chileans.


Abstract: This paper describes steps taken in order to deal with information regarding human rights abuses in Chile during the Pinochet regime, focusing on the most recent initiative, the Mesa de Dialogo (1999-2001) whose final report was given to president Lagos in January 2001. Two national initiatives, i.e. the establishment and reports of the Comision de Verdad y Reconciliacion (1991) and the following-up of this inquiry by the Corporacion Nacional de Reparacion y Reconciliacion (1996) preceded La Mesa and are discussed in this paper. The paper concludes by suggesting that the Chilean transition to democracy will remain incomplete if the fate of the disappeared is not fully known and legally investigated.


Abstract: Discusses the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission in Chile in the pursuit of justice for state-sponsored terrorism and human rights violations. Difficulty of reaching a societal consensus about the
past; Negotiated transition; Distinction of reconciliation from justice; Forgiveness and reconciliation as results of the reconstruction of the moral order.


Abstract: The article focuses on the work of a mental health team facing the individual and social consequences of human rights violations by the military government in Chile from 1973 through 1989. The Chilean people democratically elected a new government in 1989. Although this event does not guarantee that democracy now reigns, there can be no doubt that a process of transition to democracy has begun and that absolute military rule has come to an end. Outside of Chile, the military regime was known mainly for its record of human rights violations, as well as for its economic success in comparison to other Latin American countries. These two issues are often discussed separately, or if a connection is made, it is usually in order to suggest that the economic success could at least partially justify the political repression. This paper neither presents a profound political or economic analysis of the dictatorship, nor develops a moral argument about it. The central issue of the paper is the effect of systematic political repression on both the victims and society as a whole.


Abstract: Focuses on a study which examined documentary collections of major human rights non-governmental organizations in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. Relationship of human abuses and democratization processes in Latin America; Human rights organizations in Argentina; Collections in Uruguay.


Abstract: This article analyzes international instruments on political disappearances. The Nazi regime was probably the first to practice forced disappearances of persons to eliminate its victims without a trace. In the 1960’s, the Guatemalan security forces began to use forced disappearances as part of their counter-insurgency campaign, a tactic replicated in the 1970’s and 1980’s by military regimes throughout Latin America. Now, however, it is governments in Asia, including Iraq and Sri Lanka that hold the record for disappearing their citizens. For the most part, those disappeared have been political opponents and members of grass-roots organizations. Disappearances are perhaps the cruelest form of government abuse, causing agony not only to the detainees but to their relatives as well. Detainees are cut off from the outside world, deprived of any legal protection, and subject to the whim of their captors. Most often they are tortured and then secretly killed. The relatives of detainees, meanwhile, are unable to ascertain their fate—whether and where they are being held, whether they are even dead or alive.


This book focuses on the denial of police violence in Chile, advocacy groups in Argentina, fluctuating influence, the corporate police force in Argentina, the Chilean government's reactions toward international and local reports, social groups' responsiveness in Argentina, and corruption.

Abstract: Focuses on the status of human rights in Chile. Significance of improvements and progress of the country’s human rights record; Conditions necessary for lifting the special rapporteur; Assessment of personal freedoms in the country.


Abstract: “Twenty authors analyze factors behind genocidal situations worldwide, with detailed case studies, and an evaluation of attempts to prevent genocide and of the implications for human rights policies, with a particular concern to develop new and practical insights”


Abstract: International pressures on authoritarian regimes to respect human rights are increasingly common yet their impact is relatively unknown and hotly debated. Recent studies suggest that international pressures can have a limited yet important effect when they strengthen and reinforce favorable domestic processes. I identify three domestic conditions conducive to a limited impact - low costs of easing repression; responsive regime factions; and relatively strong societal human rights norms. In a case study of Chile from 1973 to 1980, I find that extensive international pressures and a soft-line faction combined to alter the political strategy of the authoritarian regime in ways not foreseen or intended by international actors. The research suggests that scholars should more carefully consider the normative dimensions of international pressures and their role in undermining the legitimacy of domestic regimes.


Abstract: Focuses on a report by the Committee for Human Rights of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) citing violations of human rights and environmental laws arising from a hydroelectric dam project on the Bio-Bio river in Chile. Recommendations presented by the AAA; Complaints of anthropological consultant Theodore Downing; Why the International Finance Corporation did not release the Downing report to the Pehuenche.


Abstract: Under what conditions will individuals risk their lives to resist repressive states? This question is addressed through comparative analysis of the emergence of human rights organizations under military dictatorships in Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina. While severe state repression is expected to lead to generalized demobilization, these cases reveal that repression may directly stimulate collective action. The potential for sustained collective action in high-risk contexts depends upon the relationship between strategies of repression and the particular configuration of embedded social networks; it is more likely where dense yet diverse interpersonal networks are embedded within broader national and transnational institutional and issue networks.

Abstract: Because we started to work with teachers on human rights education in Latin America in the middle of the 1980s, with dictatorial regimes in power, we understood that our pedagogical approach needed to be a critical one. This transformative process of change has not been easy. Many personal, social, political and cultural challenges have been faced. In this article I mention some of those challenges, especially: (1) the lack of a critical approach; and (2) the cultural “incapacity” to recognize the “other” as a legitimate “other” and to accept the existence of social and cultural diversity. Finally, the article gives theoretical and practical recommendations on how to overcome these two main obstacles.


Abstract: Describes the process of initiating a human rights education project in Chile. Relation between critical relationality and instrumental rationality; Conservation versus change; Problematizing education versus consensus-oriented education; Pragmatic legitimacy versus axiological legitimacy; Separate subject versus integration into the curriculum; Extensive versus intensive treatment.


Abstract: The article examines why human rights trials against military offenders were held in Argentina and not elsewhere. Although nearly all South American countries were afflicted by state repression and terror during the decade of the 1970’s, Argentina remains the only nation that has indicted and prosecuted military officers for their role in repression. The trials of the former members of the military juntas that ruled Argentina between 1976 and 1982 engendered intense curiosity and scrutiny in the international community. Not since the Nuremberg trials of the Nazi criminals of World War II had a trial of this nature anywhere in the world captured so much public attention. Given the extent of the atrocities committed by the previous military government, such proceedings certainly seemed warranted. Yet, despite terrible anguish suffered under repressive military rule, neither Uruguay nor Chile has conducted similar trials. Arguably, all the Southern Cone democratic Presidents who assumed power after the transition were justified in investigating and prosecuting those military officers who had abused their authority by committing human rights crimes while in office. Although the scope and severity of the crimes varied, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay easily qualified as consistent, gross human rights-offending regimes.


Abstract: Examines human rights violations and the reshaping of collective identities in the Southern Cone of South America, during the breakdown of democracies and during military rule. Ways in which intellectuals and social actors attempted to grapple with their experiences of the military period; Effects of human rights violations to the collective life in Southern Cone societies.


Abstract: The article discusses the foreign policy of the U.S. on human rights. The U.S. has helped encourage attention to human rights. International initiatives are bearing fruit. The Helsinki Final Act of 1975 has surprised signatories by assuming a life of its own, shown in the proliferation of monitoring groups in communist nations and pressure for implementation of the so-called Basket Three on humanitarian measures at the Belgrade
meeting for follow-up on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Human rights have become a focus in the Organization of American States (OAS), constituting the debate at the 1977 OAS General Assembly and the reason OAS member states voted, 13 to 10, to shift this year’s meeting from Uruguay, a violator of human rights, to the U.S. The United Nations (U.N.) shows promise in the area of human rights. U.S. delegates to the 1978 session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission report continuing movement, away from the selective morality criticized by Senator Moynihan when he was U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., to concern with countries other than Israel, Chile and South Africa. Many West European nations are increasing their attention to human rights. There has been an increase in activity within the U.S. and elsewhere to complement the moves of official international actors. To reinforce or to respond to this range of activity, the administration has tried to institutionalize the process of decision-making on human rights within the U.S. government.

The Pinochet Regime

Much of the recent history of Chile still revolves around the former dictator and his policies. Current events bring many of the human rights abuses back to the forefront of memory for the citizens affected negatively by his regime. The trial of Pinochet will hopefully bring closure for those Chileans seeking to put the past behind them.


Abstract: Examines the implications of Great Britain’s highest court to deny General Augusto Pinochet immunity from arrest. Pinochet’s claim of immunity according to his lawyers; Amnesty law in Chile.


Abstract: This article assesses the significance for Chile of the effort, begun in Spain and continued in Chile, to prosecute former dictator Augusto Pinochet for human rights crimes. It argues that the arrest and its aftermath proved an important catalyst for change in the political and judicial spheres, accelerating and deepening developments already underway that have had the effect of marginalizing the figure of Pinochet and his political legacy. It contends that the fallout from the case has helped to break down obstacles that hitherto hindered efforts to achieve retroactive justice for the human rights crimes of the dictatorship, and furthered Chile’s attempt to achieve truth and reconciliation, which had reached an impasse by the mid 1990s. These developments in turn have changed the context for remembrance of the 1973 coup, adding a new element to its enduring symbolism.


Abstract: Focuses on the terrorism and political violence in Chile during the regime of Augusto Pinochet. Level of political and social polarization in Chilean society during the regime; Relative economic stability achieved by the country in the years following the establishment of the regime; Violations of human rights committed between 1973 and 1989.

Abstract: Explores the geographic nature of arbitrary armed violence through the works of geographers. Violation of human rights accompanying armed violence; Scope of state terror of Augusto Pinochet’s dictatorship in Chile; Description of imperialist Russia by Peter Kropotkin.


Abstract: Focuses on the issue regarding the right of Spanish authorities to extradite former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet on the grounds of his abuses of power while serving as head of state. Pinochet’s human rights violations; What force governments to tighten their restrictions for asylum.


Abstract: Discusses a study which examined the authoritarian regimes of Argentina, Brazil and Chile. Theoretical background; Methodology; Findings and its implications.


Abstract: This article assesses the impact, if any, of Spanish and British Court rulings on the Pinochet case on human rights progress in Chilean courts. Chilean judges chafe at the notion that foreign courts exerted any influence on them, arguing that, based solely on Chilean law and the evidence already before them, they were empowered to strip Pinochet of his immunity, and proceeded to do so. Human rights critics allege that the courts had been thoroughly immobilized by the authoritarian legacy to which they were enjoined. No progress at all would have occurred were it not for the dramatic verdicts handed down in British courts. The author contends that change was underfoot in Chile prior to Pinochet’s arrest in London, but that Europe set Chile on a faster and steeper trajectory toward justice than would have been possible otherwise. It did so by shaming the Chilean Government into pressuring its own high courts to deliver a modicum of justice to the victims of Pinochet.


Abstract: Focuses on the international law governing state official criminal responsibility for crimes against humanity in Chile. Human rights violations of former president Augusto Pinochet Ugarte; International judicial inquiry on Pinochet; Implication of the arrest of Pinochet and the decision on immunity for international law.