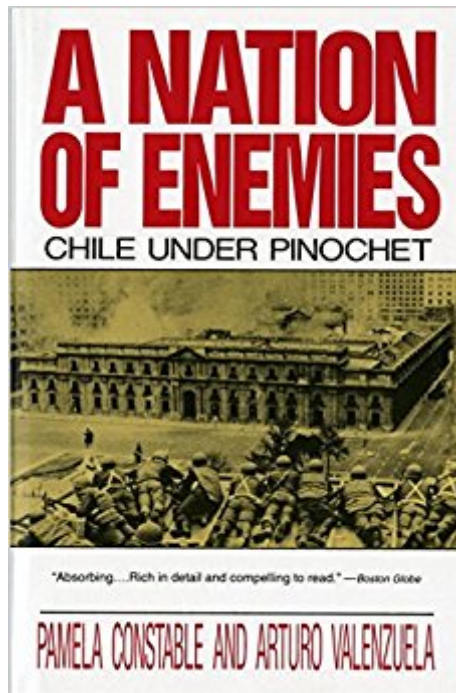




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A Nation Of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet (Norton Paperback)



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.

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Customer Reviews

As a Chilean who lived this period I must say a few things: first, Chile was NEVER a stable democracy before the coup. There were revolutions, coup attempts, president that resigned or went into exile, the agrarian reform, constitutions reforms (like today), the communists, etc. so if you actually take the time to carefully read Chilean history you will understand that Allende was nothing else than the culmination of decades of a failing democracy. It is a complete fallacy to state that Chile was this sort of democratic paradise- I guess that compared to the rest of Latin America we weren't the worst. Second, Pinochet wasn't eager for power or planned the coup, it was Merino- the chief of the navy who had to convince Pinochet to go along. The truth is that except for a few failed attempts to take control of the government when Allende took power by single units of the navy or army, Pinochet had zero intentions to do anything against the very same president that have named him chief of the army. He later on became drunk with power, but that's another book. Third, after Allende committed suicide (HE WAS NOT KILLED BY THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES) there

was nothing left of Chile:, the economy was in ruins, at that time we had only 2 TV channels, no phone lines or even phones, middle class people couldn't afford to buy a car, tv, etc, most of the country had no tap water, electricity, roads, etc, things that today we take for granted. The Junta (navy, cops, air force and army) ruled with an iron fist because there was no other chance especially after most of Allende extreme supporters went into guerrilla warfare supported from Europe and Cuba; the question here should be how do we handle a broken country on the brink of civil war?.

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