

"Allende" requires an attention span of more than 10 minutes but is a good, short and concise account of a fascinating event in 20th century history. Read more.

Chilean presidential election, Allende won the Chilean presidential election as leader of the Unidad Popular "Popular Unity" coalition. On 4 September, he obtained a narrow plurality of According to the Chilean Constitution of the time, if no presidential candidate obtained a majority of the popular vote, Congress would choose one of the two candidates with the highest number of votes as the winner. Tradition was for Congress to vote for the candidate with the highest popular vote, regardless of margin. Indeed, former president Jorge Alessandri had been elected in with only Hospitalized, he died of his wounds three days later, on 23 October. Allende assumed the Presidency on 3 November after signing a Statute of Constitutional Guarantees proposed by the Christian Democrats in return for their support in Congress. This included nationalization of large-scale industries notably copper mining and banking, and government administration of the health care system, educational system with the help of a United States educator, Jane A. Hobson-Gonzalez from Kokomo, Indiana, a programme of free milk for children in the schools and shanty towns of Chile, and an expansion of the land seizure and redistribution already begun under his predecessor Eduardo Frei Montalva, [32] who had nationalized between one-fifth and one-quarter of all the properties listed for takeover. In December that same year, bread prices were fixed, 55, volunteers were sent to the south of the country to teach writing and reading skills and provide medical attention to a sector of the population that had previously been ignored, a central commission was established to oversee a tri-partite payment plan in which equal place was given to government, employees and employers, and a protocol agreement was signed with the United Centre of Workers which granted workers representational rights on the funding board of the Social Planning Ministry. In addition, the exemption from general taxation was raised to a level equivalent to twice the minimum wage. Exemptions from capital taxes were also extended, which benefitted, small proprietors. The extra increases that Frei promised to the armed forces were also fully paid. Educational, food, and housing assistance was significantly expanded, with public-housing starts going up twelvefold and eligibility for free milk extended from age 6 to age This promise was kept, with no farm in Chile exceeding this limit by the end of From through to, enrollments in kindergarten, primary, secondary, and postsecondary schools all increased. The Allende Government encouraged more doctors to begin their practices in rural and low-income urban areas, and built additional hospitals, maternity clinics, and especially neighborhood health centers that remained open longer hours to serve the poor. Improved sanitation and housing facilities for low-income neighborhoods also equalized health care benefits, while hospital councils and local health councils were established in neighborhood health centers as a means of democratizing the administration of health policies. These councils gave central government civil servants, local government officials, health service employees, and community workers the right to review budgetary decisions. With eighteen-year-olds and illiterates now granted the right to vote, mass participation in decision-making was encouraged by the Allende government, with traditional hierarchical structures now challenged by socialist egalitarianism. The Allende Government was able to draw upon the idealism of its supporters, with teams of "Allendistas" travelling into the countryside and shanty towns to perform volunteer work. Cheap editions of great literary works were produced on a weekly basis, and in most cases were sold out within a day. Culture came into the reach of the masses for the first time, who responded enthusiastically. Through the supply of cheap textbooks, it enabled the Left to progress through the ideological content of the literature made available to workers. An unprecedented, students were enrolled by the universities, which became accessible to peasants and workers. Secondary education grew at a rate of As a result of new initiatives in nutrition and health, together with higher wages, many poorer Chileans were able to feed themselves and clothe themselves better than they had been able to before. Public access to the social security system was increased, while state benefits such as family allowances were raised significantly. In addition, while the average annual increase in personal spending had been 4. According to Jennifer E. Pribble, this new spending "was reflected not only in public health campaigns, but also in the construction of health

infrastructure". Complementary nutritional schemes were applied to malnourished children, while antenatal care was emphasized. In enterprises in the Area of Social Ownership, an assembly of the workers elected half of the members of the management council for each company. These bodies replaced the former board of directors. The incomes of , retirement pensioners were increased by the government from one-third of the minimum salary to the full amount. Labor insurance cover was extended to , market traders, , small shop proprietors, 30, small industrialists, small owners, transport workers, clergy, professional sportsmen, and artisans. The public health service was improved, with the establishment of a system of clinics in working-class neighborhoods on the peripheries of the major cities, providing a health center for every 40, inhabitants. Statistics for construction in general, and house-building in particular, reached some of the highest levels in the history of Chile. Four million square metres were completed in 1972, compared to an annual average of two-and-a-half million between and 1960. Workers were able to acquire goods which had previously been beyond their reach, such as heaters, refrigerators, and television sets. As further noted by Ricardo Israel Zipper, "By now meat was no longer a luxury, and the children of working people were adequately supplied with shoes and clothing. The popular living standards were improved in terms of the employment situation, social services, consumption levels, and income distribution. Not only was a major restructuring program organized the Vuskovic plan , he had to make it a success if a socialist successor to Allende was going to be elected. The average Real GDP contracted between 1960 and 1970 at an annual rate of 5. Allende also froze all prices while raising salaries. His implementation of these policies was strongly opposed by landowners, employers, businessmen and transporters associations, and some civil servants and professional unions. The rightist opposition was led by the National Party , the Roman Catholic Church which in 1970 was displeased with the direction of educational policy , [63] and eventually the Christian Democrats. There were growing tensions with foreign multinational corporations and the government of the United States. Allende also undertook Project Cybersyn , a system of networked telex machines and computers. Cybersyn was developed by British cybernetics expert Stafford Beer. The network was supposed to transmit data from factories to the government in Santiago, allowing for economic planning in real time. Shortly afterward, Cuban president Fidel Castro made a month-long visit to Chile. Originally the visit was supposed to be one week; however, Castro enjoyed Chile and one week led to another. In October 1973, the first of what were to be a wave of strikes was led first by truckers, and later by small businessmen, some mostly professional unions and some student groups. Other than the inevitable damage to the economy, the chief effect of the day strike was to induce Allende to bring the head of the army, general Carlos Prats , into the government as Interior Minister. Government supporters also helped to mobilize trucks and buses but violence served as a deterrent to full mobilization, even with police protection for the strike-breakers. Allende and his opponents in Congress repeatedly accused each other of undermining the Chilean Constitution and acting undemocratically. State Department officials to "put pressure" on the Allende government. But when Chile nationalized its copper industry , Washington cut off United States credits and increased its support to opposition. Trade between the two countries did not significantly increase and the credits were mainly linked to the purchase of Soviet equipment. When Allende visited the USSR in late 1973 in search of more aid and additional lines of credit, after 3 years, he was turned down. Eduardo Frei would then be constitutionally able to run again since the Chilean Constitution did not allow a president to hold two consecutive terms, but allowed multiple non-consecutive ones , and presumably easily defeat Allende. The Chilean Congress instead chose Allende as President, on the condition that he would sign a "Statute of Constitutional Guarantees" affirming that he would respect and obey the Chilean Constitution and that his reforms would not undermine any of its elements. Track II was aborted, as parallel initiatives already underway within the Chilean military rendered it moot. The CIA was notified by its Chilean contacts of the impending coup two days in advance but contends it "played no direct role in" the coup.

Chapter 2 : Allende dies in coup - HISTORY

To ask other readers questions about Allende, death of a Marxist dream, please sign up. Be the first to ask a question about Allende, death of a Marxist dream Allende versus Pinochet -- a Chilean political discussion of the past that continues to present. Given the propaganda, one may be quick to.

See Article History Alternative Title: Allende, born into an upper-middle-class family, received his medical degree in from the University of Chile, where he was a Marxist activist. After election to the Chamber of Deputies in , he served 42 as minister of health in the liberal leftist coalition of President Pedro Aguirre Cerda. Allende won the first of his four elections to the Senate in Allende ran for the presidency for the first time in but was temporarily expelled from the Socialist Party for accepting the support of the outlawed Communists; he placed last in a four-man race. He ran again in with Socialist backing, as well as the support of the then-legal Communists and was a close second to the Conservative-Liberal candidate, Jorge Alessandri. Again with the same support he was decisively defeated by the Christian Democrat Eduardo Frei. For his successful campaign Allende ran as the candidate of Popular Unity , a bloc of Socialists, Communists, Radicals, and some dissident Christian Democrats, leading in a three-sided race with Because he lacked a popular majority, however, his election had to be confirmed by Congress, in which there was strong opposition from the right. Nevertheless, it was confirmed on October 24, , after he had guaranteed support to 10 libertarian constitutional amendments demanded by the Christian Democrats. Inaugurated on November 3, , Allende began to restructure Chilean society along socialist lines while retaining the democratic form of government and respecting civil liberties and the due process of law. He expropriated the U. His government also took steps to purchase several important privately owned mining and manufacturing sectors and to take over large agricultural estates for use by peasant cooperatives. In an attempt to redistribute incomes, he authorized large wage increases and froze prices. By Chile was suffering from stagnant production, decreased exports and private-sector investment, exhausted financial reserves, widespread strikes, rising inflation, food shortages, and domestic unrest. International lines of credit from the United States and western Europe had completely dried up. In foreign affairs, he established relations with China and Cuba. Allende retained the support of many workers and peasants; his electoral coalition won 44 percent of the vote in the March congressional elections. His government, however, was overthrown on September 11, , by a military coup led by Augusto Pinochet. During a concerted attack on the presidential palace, Allende died, and the manner of his death became a subject of controversy. Military officials claimed that he had committed suicide, while others believed that he had been killed and that an apparent suicide had been staged. In his body was exhumed from an unmarked grave and given a formal public burial in Santiago. The results confirmed that he had committed suicide. Learn More in these related Britannica articles:

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Get this from a library! Allende, death of a Marxist dream. [James R Whelan] -- When Salvador Allende took power in Chile a decade ago, he was the world's first freely-elected Marxist president.

Alessandri was a very close second with Therefore, the incumbent president, Eduardo Frei Montalva , was ineligible as a candidate. Frei would then be eligible to run. Congress then decided on Allende. Soon after hearing news of his win, Allende signed a Statute of Constitutional Guarantees, which stated that he would follow the constitution during his presidency. Among the participants were small-scale businessmen, some professional unions, and student groups. Other than damaging the national economy, the principal effect of the day strike was drawing Army head, Gen. Carlos Prats , into the government as Interior Minister, an appeasement to the right wing. Prats had succeeded Army head Gen. Roberto Viaux , whom the Central Intelligence Agency had not attempted to discourage. The internecine parliamentary conflict, between the legislature and the executive branch, paralyzed the activities of government. Using his daughter as a messenger, he explained the situation to Fidel Castro. Castro gave four pieces of advice: Subsequently, most military officers remained under-funded, having only subsistence salaries. Because of the low salaries the military spent much time in military leisure-time facilities e. The military remained apart from society, being to some degree an endogamous group as officers frequently married the sisters of their comrades or the daughters of high-ranked older officers. Many officers had also relatives in the military. The Tacnazo was not a proper coup, but a protest against under-funding. On 22 August, the Chamber of Deputies with the Christian Democrats united with the National Party accused the government of unconstitutional acts and called upon the military to enforce constitutional order. He was forced to resign both as defence minister and as the Army commander-in-chief on 24 August , embarrassed by the Alejandrina Cox incident and a public protest of the wives of his generals at his house. General Augusto Pinochet replaced him as Army commander-in-chief the same day. Finally, the resolution condemned the creation and development of government-protected armed groups, which. It can be argued that the resolution called upon the armed forces to overthrow the government if it did not comply, as follows " To present the President of the Republic, Ministers of State, and members of the Armed and Police Forces with the grave breakdown of the legal and constitutional order He noted that the declaration had not obtained the two-thirds Senate majority "constitutionally required" to convict the president of abuse of power: It is neither the work nor the gift of the exploiting classes, and it will be defended by those who, with sacrifices accumulated over generations, have imposed it. With a tranquil conscience. I sustain that never before has Chile had a more democratic government than that over which I have the honor to preside. I solemnly reiterate my decision to develop democracy and a state of law to their ultimate consequences. Parliament has made itself a bastion against the transformations. He concluded by calling upon "the workers, all democrats and patriots" to join him in defending the Chilean Constitution and the "revolutionary process". In early newspaper reports, the U. Senate opened an investigation into possible U. The report stated that the CIA "actively supported the military Junta after the overthrow of Allende but did not assist Pinochet to assume the Presidency. He states that its covert support was crucial to engineering the coup, as well as for the consolidation of power by the Pinochet regime following the takeover. Winn documents an extensive CIA operation to fabricate reports of a coup against Allende, as justification for the imposition of military rule. The first, non-military, approach involved attempting a constitutional coup. This was known as the Track I approach, in which the CIA, with the approval of the 40 Committee , attempted to bribe the Chilean legislature, tried to influence public opinion against Allende, and provided funding to strikes designed to coerce him into resigning. It also attempted to get congress to confirm Jorge Alessandri as the winner of the presidential election. Alessandri, who was an accessory to the conspiracy, was ready to then resign and call for fresh elections. The other approach of the CIA, also known as the Track II approach, was an attempt to encourage a military coup by creating a climate of crisis across the country. False flag operatives contacted senior Chilean military officers and informed them that the U. By , the U. Newly-elected Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was informed of the operation in February and signed a document ordering the

closure of the operation several weeks later. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. September Learn how and when to remove this template message By 7: President Allende and Defence minister Orlando Letelier were unable to communicate with military leaders. Despite evidence that all branches of the Chilean armed forces were involved in the coup, Allende hoped that some units remained loyal to the government. Despite the lack of any military support, Allende refused to resign his office. Pinochet ordered an armoured and infantry force under General Sergio Arellano to advance upon the La Moneda presidential palace. When the troops moved forward, they were forced to retreat after coming under fire from GAP snipers perched on rooftops. General Arellano called for helicopter gunship support from the commander of the Chilean Army Puma helicopter squadron and the troops were able to advance again.

Chapter 4 : Allende, death of a Marxist dream by James R. Whelan

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The over the top star spangled. What about the [insert X event that they largely simplify and pretend is somehow unique to the history of the United States]??? Christmas just came days early. The narrative is quite simple. The premises are even simpler. Violence is bad and thus Pinochet was mean. Each of them are either patently false or backward. But it was razor thin. In , Allende received First runner up was Jorge Alessandri, with The overwhelming Chilean consensus was anti-communist, whether it be of a liberal conservative, nationalist or Christian Democratic flavor. This was a deeply unpopular government from the start. Now in fairness to Allende, his presidency was confirmed by Chilean legislature, as was required by the constitution. However they did so after he agreed to abide by a Statute of Constitutional Guarantees. Meanwhile, you know who else was democratically elected? The Chilean Chamber of Deputies. After three years of Allende, this is what they had to say about his government; That it is a fact that the current government of the Republic, from the beginning, has sought to conquer absolute power with the obvious purpose of subjecting all citizens to the strictest political and economic control by the state and, in this manner, fulfilling the goal of establishing a totalitarian system: The Chilean Supreme Court stood by this assessment of events with its own resolution. Herein lies the problem for the would be mourner of Allende. As we all know, once the CIA is invoked, you lose the argument. Problem is CIA involvement was limited and, largely, woefully inept. In the civil war, we sided with Balmaceda who, after nine months, lost the war and committed suicide. Ironically it was the British who were accused of engineering his downfall, starting a weird trend of Chilean presidents shooting themselves in September. Things picked up in when Alessandri won the presidential elections, beating Allende. Ironically when a Chilean air force officer approached the US embassy and the CIA regarding a potential coup, they were strongly rebuffed. The CIA spent but not like it had before. Given how the anti-communist vote was divided, it did not focus on backing a singular candidate but rather discrediting Allende. This time they lost. The second track was to look into dusting off that old coup idea. The Committee has found no evidence that it was. For once the CIA and Church agreed. The latest round of declassification and analysis found that the CIA had not taken any action to instigate, support or direct the coup. You know who was one of these stooges, unpatriotically taking foreign money and seedy election assistance? Since , Allende was an open asset of the KGB. All those elections the US was spending their dastardly Yanqui greenbacks? If you hate foreign interference and love democracy, Allende may not be your guy. British journalist and historian, Robin Harris goes into length about the violence of the Allende presidency and its steady and inevitable calcification into a violent, repressive regime. The calcification started from the beginning. Allende, as a founder of the Socialist Party outlined this lovely little gem emphasis added: The Socialist Party as a Marxist-Leninist organisation proposes the taking of power as a strategic objective to be accomplished by this generation, to establish a revolutionary state which will free Chile from dependence and economic and cultural backwardness and begin the process of socialism. Revolutionary violence is inevitable and legitimate. It constitutes the only way that leads to taking economic and political power. Its goal was the violent destruction of the Chilean state. Allende also set up his own personal guard, nicknamed GAP, or Grupo de Amigos Personales, which functioned as a praetorian guard. Additionally Chilean foreign intelligence soon played host to a variety of Latin American communist guerrillas. By it was estimated conservatively at at least 5, received some level of training in Chile. Most ominously, starting in literally tons of military armament from Cuba starting coming into Chile, directly bypassing Chilean customs. These included semiautomatic military rifles, machine guns, sniper rifles, artillery, detonators, TNT and the like. To accompany the weapons, Castro sent two of his right-hand thugs to Santiago in August of Some maintained this was simply a friendly visit some friends , but Castro thought otherwise; Dear Salvador, Under the pretext of discussing with you questions concerning the meeting on non-aligned countries, Carlos and Pineiro have

gone to see you. The real purpose is to discuss with you your situation and, as always, to offer you our willingness to cooperate in the face of the difficulties and dangers which hinder and threaten the process. It seems there are doubts about this theory, as even the CIA at the time questioned its validity. The Valech Report called into question the various inconsistencies of Plan Z, while some Chilean historians insist that it was largely correct. Self coup or not, it is hard not to take the independently attested actions and words of the Chilean left at face value. That leads us to the violence of the coup and Pinochet. The testimony at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is staggering and is a sobering reminder of the ugliness of trade offs. However we owe it to history to do some contrast. Reliable estimates put it around 17, Additionally between , to 1. While the junta had set out with plan to liberalize by , over half a century later the Castros show no sign of letting up. The purpose of this contrast is simple. If the coup had not gone forward, if the US had played no role at all, would Chile have been a more violent place? At best Chile faced an entrenched civil war, worse than what occurred in , in which 5, people were killed. At worst it faced a solidified Marxist government which tend to have pretty poor records of, well, almost everything. Today Chile is one of the envies of the Americas , while Cuba remains a desperate place where folks clamber up onto floating Oldsmobiles in the hope they make it to Key West. Conclusion So what did the US do right and what did it do wrong? First of all it backed the right horse. Allende was a disaster for Chile from the start. Though the CIA played a limited role, it did help keep an important country from falling to positively insane government. Secondly, it helped in moderating the excesses of Pinochet. The US policy in Chile was often inept and without proper understanding of local events. As a result we got into bed with violence, much of it probably unjustified. Americans are often under the impression that Latin Americans are are all Chomskyites, but when Pinochet died in , some 60, people attended his funeral. As complicated and ugly as the story gets, September 11th, is not one of US perfidy and Marxist nobility.

Chapter 5 : The Other September 11th: Chile – Musings On The Right

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Visit Website After the victory of Allende and his leftist coalition, U. Allende, after all, had threatened to nationalize U. He was murdered by a gang led by right-wing General Roberto Viaux. Years later, the CIA would claim it only wanted Schneider kidnapped. It would be much preferable to have this transpire prior to 24 October but efforts in this regard will continue vigorously beyond this date. In spite of U. A few days later, a bungled coup by a group of Chilean military officers helped to rally the country around Allende, who was inaugurated on November 3. In his nearly three years as Chilean president, Allende worked to restructure Chilean society along socialist lines while retaining democratic government and respecting civil liberties and the due process of law. Opposition groups received funding from the CIA, anti-Allende propaganda efforts continued, strikes were instigated in key sectors of the Chilean economy, and CIA agents maintained close contact with the Chilean military. However, the real cause of the coup against President Allende was not the insidious activities of American spies but rather the U. In , President Allende began nationalizing foreign businesses in Chile, including U. Nixon was outraged, and he created an interagency task force to organize economic reprisals against Chile. The task force plotted steps to sink the world price of copper and ordered a complete ban on U. Meanwhile, other foreign investment in Chile dried up out of fears of nationalization. By , the Chilean economy was in shambles. Inflation, labor strikes, and food shortages were rampant, and violence between the right and the left became a daily occurrence. President Allende still had the support of many workers and peasants, but the middle class was united in opposition to him. There was open talk of an impending military coup, and conspirators needed little help from the CIA to put it in motion. The CIA, however, was informed of the planned coup in advance, and on September 10 this information was passed on to President Nixon. Allende gathered with his loyal presidential guard at La Moneda, the presidential palace. Tanks and troops surrounded La Moneda, and Allende and his supporters were ordered to surrender by 11 a. I have faith in Chile and its destiny. Other men will overcome this gray and bitter moment where betrayal threatens to impose itself. Continue knowing, all of you, that much sooner than later, the great avenues will open through which will pass free men in order to construct a better society. These are my last words having the certainty that this sacrifice has not been in vain. Six more attack waves came during the next 20 minutes. The palace was in flames, but Allende survived in a wing of the building. Sometime around 2 p. The fascist soldiers, Castro said, cut him down in a hail of bullets. This account was taken up by many supporters of Allende and persists in various forms to this day. In the aftermath of the coup, General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, commander in chief of the armed forces, became dictator of Chile. In , Pinochet agreed to a national referendum on the future of Chile, and a majority of Chileans rejected the continuation of his dictatorship. Under pressure from prosecutors in Europe, U. The CIA refused to release many of the documents, however, citing fears that they would reveal operational methods still in use around the world by the CIA. Back in Chile he resigned his senatorial seat in after a Supreme Court ruling that he could not stand trial based on his failing health. In December he was charged with several crimes.

The Bloody End of a Marxist Dream death was irrelevant. Almost overnight, of Allende the Marxist martyr. The same day the body of Allende.

Latin America Throughout the twentieth century, Latin Americans wrestled with the enduring problems of foreign domination, social inequality, and poverty. Marxist popular movements, political parties, and intellectuals were often key players in these struggles, forming an important basis for trenchant social critique, mass social movement, and revolutionary organization. Even in countries where Marxist ideas, parties, and organizations never developed a mass following or consistent electoral presence, they exercised a broad influence on social movements, politics, and culture. Latin American Marxism cannot be abstracted from this broader social, political, and intellectual ferment. Despite the insistence of many Marxist political parties and regimes on ideological unity, the history of Latin American Marxism has been characterized by creative engagement, partisan debate, and heterodoxy. Antecedents and Origins This ferment is reflected in how Latin American Marxists tell their own history. Although Marxist parties and popular organizations, strictu sensu, did not exist until the s, many of the popular icons of latter-day Marxist movements have been drawn from earlier generations and other traditions of social struggle. Heterodox Marxist intellectuals have tended to echo radical currents in nineteenth-century liberalism, which suggested that village and ethnic communitarian traditions might be a foundation for radical social transformation. To some extent, these Jacobin intellectuals merely ratified a kind of organic popular liberalism, in which local and regional parties and militias sought to parlay their defense of community into broader visions of national transformation and sometimes into effective guerrilla resistance to foreign invasions ; the degree of contact and mutual influence between popular liberals and urban Jacobins is still an open question. The first communist parties in Latin America were founded in the wake of the Russian Revolution of , but they maintained a strong bent toward ideological heterodoxy. In Brazil , for example, former anarchists formed a communist party in , although many of their delegates were vetoed at Comintern congresses. International Crises and the Search for Common Ground Despite the independence of many Latin American Marxist thinkers, international developments also continued to shape Marxist ideas in Latin America. The resulting repression drove many of these parties into semiclandestine status; an attempted insurrection in El Salvador ended in catastrophe, with more than ten thousand killed. In the rise of fascism prompted the Comintern to call for a "popular front" of proletarian parties and the antifascist bourgeoisie. During World War II , Latin American communist parties also abandoned their earlier anti-imperialism in favor of a broad international alliance against fascism. They also built alliances with right-wing groups and local dictators such as Batista in Cuba and Somoza in Nicaragua. In Chile , the Popular Front of communist, socialist, and radical parties won the presidency in and pursued a program of moderate reform. In many other countries, however, communist parties lost ground to populist regimes or other left opposition movements. The wholesale repression of communist partiesâ€™ and the aggressive intervention of the United States â€™ encouraged Latin American communists to continue alliances with liberal and democratic parties in the postwar years. Latin American poverty, they held, stemmed from its economic dependency on the United States , whereby Latin American economies exchanged raw materials for manufactured goods at disadvantageous terms. They tended to view the development of a capitalist industrial economy and urbanized society as a prerequisite for socialist revolution. Other Marxist intellectuals, particularly in the Caribbean, emphasized connections with anticolonial struggles in other parts of the world as well as the struggle for racial justice in the United States. This trend was exemplified by C. James, whose work remains important in both international Marxist theory and cultural studies. Born in the then-English colony of Trinidad, C. It also presaged the broader internationalism of Latin-American Marxists following the Cuban Revolution. Foquismo Latin American communist parties tended to remain chary of insurrectionary strategies and labor radicalism in the postwar years. Indeed, the most militant opposition often came from other left dissidents. In Cuba, where the Communist Party had initially collaborated with the U. In the face of U. Latin American revolution was not simply a possibility, foco theory held, but also a moral imperative.

Revolutionaries must create "subjective" conditions for revolution rather than awaiting the proper objective conditions. The rural peasantry, rather than the urban proletariat, was the seedbed of socialist revolution. Similarly, a socialist, anti-imperialist revolution was a prerequisite for national economic development, rather than the other way around. During the 1960s and 1970s, urban guerrilla movements emerged throughout Latin America, most famously the Argentine Montoneros and the Uruguayan Tupamaros. None of these movements were strictly Marxist in orientation, and they often drew their leadership from the left wing of national populist movements as well as communist dissidents. Indeed, like foquista guerrillas, they tended to clash with mainline communist parties, which often viewed voluntarist and insurrectionary strategies as little more than dangerous adventures. The 1980s and After: New Heterodoxies Where possible, mainline communist parties tended to support a moderate strategy of trade unionism and broad electoral alliances. In the Chilean Marxist Salvador Allende was elected president at the head of a shaky coalition of radical, socialist, and communist parties. The Chilean Unidad Popular UP embarked on a modest program of social reforms within a constitutional framework. Strategic industries such as coal and steel were nationalized. Nonetheless, the opposition maintained control of the Chilean congress, and the UP itself was deeply divided. One of the more novel movements of the 1980s was the marriage of older traditions of social Catholicism and popular religiosity with Marxist ideas and political organization. Other religious activists—most famously the Colombian priest Camilo Torres and the Nicaraguan padre Ernesto Cardenal—embraced an insurrectionary strategy and participated in armed revolutionary movements. Many other priests and pastoral lay workers helped members of marginal barrios and villages form affinity groups known as comunidades eclesiales de base CEBs, viewing popular communitarian ideals as a revindication of the primitive church. Other communitarian traditions continued to be instrumental in Marxist ideas and movements in the final decades of the twentieth century. It also engaged in a moderate program of land reform generally along cooperative rather than collectivist lines, improved education and other public services, and enacted progressive social legislation. The Sandinista government survived an eleven-year CIA-sponsored campaign of intimidation, assassination, and sabotage that cost Nicaragua more than thirty thousand lives, and in it peacefully ceded power to the liberal opposition following an internationally supervised democratic election. The fall of the Soviet Union, the aging of the revolutionary elite, and the coming of age of a postrevolutionary generation forced the Cuban government to adopt a program of economic flexibility and Guevarist moral incentives, opening limited spaces for private entrepreneurs and developing ties with European social democracies. At the same time, the transnational movement of people, information, capital, and commodities—and the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements—spurred a new transnational focus in the Marxist left. In this regard it was perhaps inspired by recent Latin American guerrilla movements, which during the 1980s were able to negotiate democratic openings in their respective countries. The EZLN shared with other contemporary Marxist-influenced popular movements and Marxist thought an out-spoken opposition to the neoliberal hegemony in Latin America and around the world. These movements continued to draw from other popular traditions of community and protest as well as recent analyses of imperialism and modernity. Despite the near-disappearance of Latin American communist parties by the start of the twenty-first century, Marxist critiques of poverty, inequality, and foreign domination—and Marxist-inspired social movements—remained powerful influences in Latin American scholarly debates and political struggles.

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Chapter 7 : Leftist Salvador Allende elected president of Chile - HISTORY

Salvador Allende, in full Salvador Allende Gossens, (born June 26, , Valparaíso, Chile—died September 11, , Santiago), Chile's first socialist president. Allende, born into an upper-middle-class family, received his medical degree in from the University of Chile, where he was a Marxist activist.

Share via Email Chilean troops make arrests during the military coup that overthrew President Salvador Allende. Only now was he throwing in his lot with a US government that detested the idealistic but ramshackle coalition of six parties headed by Dr Salvador Allende, the country doctor and upstanding freemason who was set on introducing elements of social democracy in a country long organised for the benefit of the landowners, industrialists and money men. For months the original plotters had kept Pinochet at a distance, judging him too loyal to the elected "and, as the results of the recent local elections showed, increasingly popular" Allende, and too loyal to the constitution to be allowed into the conspiracy. Most foreign journalists had given up and left Chile after weeks of waiting, many returning from deprived and poor Santiago "proud but provincial" to bustling Buenos Aires and their homes across the Andes. As troops fanned out in the town awaiting the arrival of Hawker Hunter jets to bomb and destroy civilian government, Allende desperately but vainly tried to contact Pinochet and for a few hours was convinced that his military commander had been kidnapped and silenced by the insurgents. On Tuesday, the counter-revolution was in full flood, telephone and telex lines were cut and the airports closed. Before 10am my friend and colleague, Stewart Russell of Reuters, and I trekked through deserted streets to the British embassy, above the Bank of London and South America, in search of a line that would take our story to London. No line was available but, as the firing in the streets increased, we were given house room and refreshments and could not but observe the unalloyed joy of many in the embassy, notably the British naval representatives, at the coup. At that time Admiral Gustavo Carvajal, one of the plotters, was on the phone to Allende offering him a plane if he would leave the country. But the president, a man with high blood pressure, was trenchant: Stuff your plane up your arses! You are talking to the president of the republic! By four in the afternoon the city, ringed by its Andean peaks, was quieter, so Stewart and I, robbed of connections with London, marched out of the bronze doors down the centre of the deserted streets to our hotels, our hands in the air. They whooped as he announced on television the closing down of congress, the political parties, the trade unions and the judges. At the beginning, when the curfew was clamped down at 6pm, there was a nightly rush for transport, public and private, as people scrambled to get indoors promptly. The soldiers were initially frightening with their battledress and machine guns as they blundered in, messed up the houses of suspects and carried off whatever took their fancy. Foreigners who were fleeing persecution "in Brazil, for instance" and who had been given political asylum by Allende were in particular danger, as were office holders in the trade unions. Later on, the squaddies, many of them country boys, came to be seen as figures of fun as they took the presence of books on cubism, for instance, as evidence that the householder was an admirer of Fidel Castro and thus worthy of being arrested and interrogated. Comedians on television joked nervously about stupid people being as thick as a soldier without a car. Over the weeks at the Moneda the flames consumed what they could, leaving a thick layer of ash. Many had been brought to a peak of perfection in their trade in the US itself or in its bases in the Panama canal zone by US instructors. Seven years before, at a dinner party in during a prolonged stay in the Chilean capital with my wife Georgie, I met Allende and his wife Hortensia "Tencha" for the first time. He and I got on famously right up until he was killed in the attack on the presidential palace. Such an atrocity, had it been committed by any Arab or Iranian, or indeed a Muslim of any persuasion, would have brought down instant punishment, or even war. But Pinochet was in no danger.

Chapter 8 : Chilean coup d'État - Wikipedia

In his documentary Salvador Allende, Patricio Guzmán incorporates a graphic image of Allende's corpse in the position it was found after his death. According to Guzmán's documentary, Allende shot himself with a pistol and not a rifle.

Chapter 9 : Remembering Salvador Allende | openDemocracy

The Bloody End of a Marxist Dream For two terrible days last week, the capital of Chile turned into a bloody battleground. Planes roared in almost at rooftop level, firing rockets and sowing bombs.