

Military coup

- On September 11, 1973 a well coordinated military coup put an end to Allende's regime. Allende resisted the coup from the presidential palace in Santiago. Air force Hawker Hunters attacked the palace with rocket fire. As army troops entered the palace, Allende committed suicide.
- One of the main leaders of the coup was Gen. Augusto Pinochet, Army Chief.
- At least 2,000 died during the coup.



The Pinochet Dictatorship (1973-90)

- The military junta imposed an authoritarian regime from the very beginning
 - Congress was dissolved
 - Political party activities were closed
 - Constitution suspended
 - Limits to freedoms
- Pinochet achieved supreme authority
 - He outmaneuvered other members of the military junta
 - Using the traditional military hierarchies, he united the military around him
 - He created a highly personalized regime
 - Wrote a Constitution that place him in power indefinitely

The Pinochet Dictatorship

- Those conditions allowed the consolidation of a repressive and extremely authoritarian regime
 - All political activity was suppressed
 - The political decisions were highly centralized: hierarchy and discipline were keystone
 - Personalization of supreme leadership
- Pinochet and the military did not have a national project
 - They just wanted to stop the “Communist threat”
 - They wanted to reinstate the “capitalist model”
 - The coup was a reactive process

Gen. Augusto Pinochet



The Pinochet Dictatorship

- Massive violations of human rights.
- 1973-76 Worst period of human rights violations
- Up to December 1973, 18,000 were detained and by December 1975, 50,000 were detained.
- Between 1973-1990 Thousands of people were murdered, executed, disappeared, tortured, or killed by other measures.
- Majority of the victims belonged to left wing organizations.

The Pinochet Dictatorship

- With the help of civilian technocrats, the military achieved major economic changes in Chile. The technocrats were known as the Chicago boys because they were trained at the University of Chicago. The Chicago boys believed that state intervention in the economy restricted Chile's economic growth. It reduced competition, artificially increased wages and led to inflation. Formula: reduce role of the state, open up the economy, reduce tariffs, and cut back inflation. They emphasized on export promotion and

The Pinochet Dictatorship

- 1978 Granted Amnesty to military for any human rights violations.
- 1978 A plebiscite for legitimization. Appearance of support for Pinochet. He obtained the majority of the votes.
- 1980 Citizens approved a Constitution that confirmed Pinochet's hold on his office until 1990. Authoritarian constitution. It called for a plebiscite in 1988 in which the people would decide if the nominee selected by the military junta Pinochet would rule as an elected

The Pinochet Dictatorship

- 1986 Armed wing of the Communist unsuccessfully attempted to kill Pinochet.
- 1988 Pinochet reacting to international pressure to liberalize and sure that he will win, called for another plebiscite on his rule. He was the nominee to rule Chile. He lost. 55% of the votes for the no and 43% of the votes for yes.
- 1989 Elections: Patricio Aylwin, the candidate of the Concertación (coalition of 17 center and center left parties), won.

Conclusion

- After years of authoritarian rule, Chile enjoyed a long and stable democracy.
- Democracy came to an end with the military coup in 1973.
- In 1989, Chileans rejected the continuation of the authoritarian regime under Pinochet.
- The 1990 elections opened the way for a long transition to democracy.