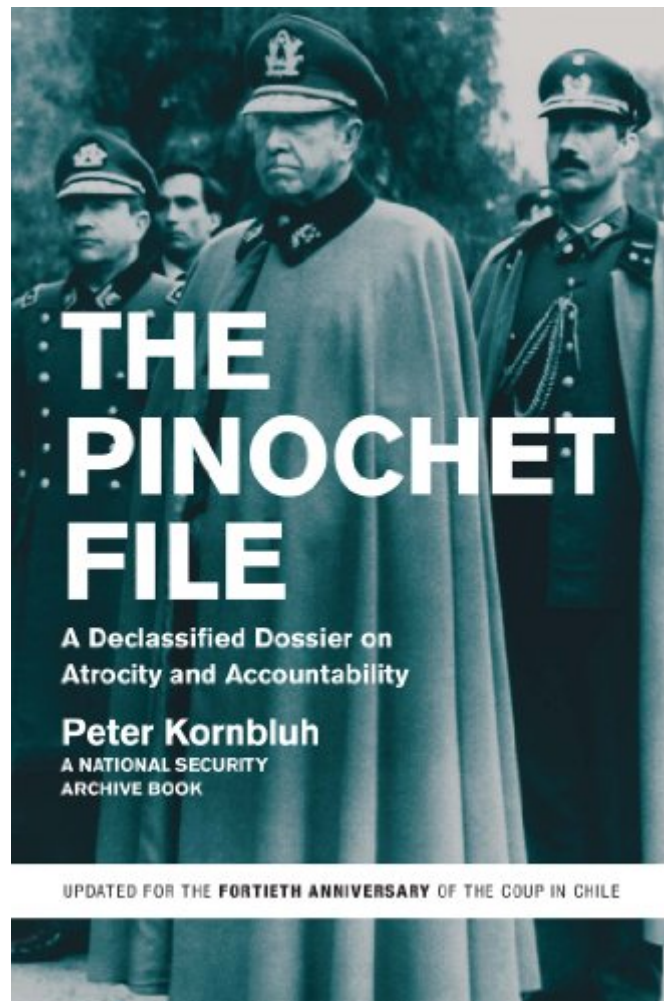


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The Pinochet File: A Declassified Dossier On Atrocity And Accountability



Synopsis

Revised and updated for the fortieth anniversary of Augusto Pinochet's September 11, 1973, military coup in Chile, *The Pinochet File* reveals a formerly secret record of complicity with atrocity on the part of the U.S. government. Documents that were first made publicly available in the original hardcover edition formed the heart of the international campaign to hold Pinochet accountable for murder, torture, and terrorism; a campaign chronicled for the first time in this updated edition. Peter Kornbluh spearheaded the effort to declassify some 24,000 secret CIA, White House, National Security Council, and Defense Department records on Chile, and when *The Pinochet File* was first published in 2003, Marc Cooper wrote in the *Los Angeles Times*, "Thanks to Peter Kornbluh, we have the first complete, almost day-to-day and fully documented record of this sordid chapter in Cold War American history." With the publication of this edition, that record becomes even more complete. This book now includes the story of Pinochet's 2004 indictment and trial, as well as new information about the famous cases of the American Charles Horman and Chilean folk singer Victor Jara; both executed by Pinochet's military after the coup. The new afterword also tells the story of *The Pinochet File* itself: Henry Kissinger's attempt to undercut the book's reception generated a major scandal that led to high-level resignations at the Council on Foreign Relations, illustrating the continued ability of the book to speak truth to power.

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Customer Reviews

After September 11th 2001 the big question on the mind of American's was, 'Why do they hate us?' Although the bloody military coup of Gen. Augusto Pinochet was over 30 years ago (ironically September 11th 1973) the lessons and ramifications still resound today. The main villain of the story is Nixon National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger but more so it's the belief that a purity of ideology trumps all other foreign relations concerns. Kissinger is quoted as saying "We [the United States] set the limits of diversity" and in Chile allowing a democratically elected Socialist to remain in power was unacceptable. The author writes, "This would be the first record of an American president [Nixon] ordering the overthrow of a democratically elected government". I am no fan of neo-conservatism but one aspect of the movement I can appreciate is the desire to merge foreign policy with morality. Whether this has actually occurred is a debate for another book. Kissinger took such an amoral approach to foreign policy with his 'realpolitik' that it's no wonder so many people around the world despise the United States. The United States did everything it could, including imposing economic sanctions using the World Bank, financing propaganda and fostering discontent among the military in order to bring down popularly elected president Salvador Allende. The goal was to wreck the economy and create conditions for a right wing takeover. So desperate to destroy Allende were Kissinger and Nixon that the CIA formed a working relationship with Patria y Libertad, a self-proclaimed neo-fascist paramilitary group that engaged in acts of terrorism including bombings who modeled themselves after Hitler's Brownshirts. After the violent coup that cost the lives of thousands of Chileans the U.S.

From [...] It was in 1973 that the world's only democratically elected marxist leader, in Chile, was assassinated in a bloody takeover by Augusto Pinochet. In the years that followed, 3000-5000 people were murdered and thousands more imprisoned and tortured at the hands of an autocratic regime installed by the United States government under Nixon. If you have trouble believing the stories coming out of abu-Ghraib prison in Iraq, read this book. We have experience in these matters. Thirty years after the coup, a mountain of cables, memos and internal documents became declassified as a matter of course, and Peter Kornbluh has artfully and masterfully put them into

order to paint what may be the first complete picture of what happened in Chile during those dark years. It's not your typical tell all book, like those coming out of Washington nowadays. There isn't finger pointing or the innuendo. The blame game is not played. It's simply evidence. Proof. Piles of it, neatly organized and painting a complete indictment of the United States as the perpetrator and supporter of crimes against humanity in 1970's Latin America. In one section, Henry Kissinger is quoted as saying, "We can't let a country go communist simply because its people are irresponsible." This idea set wheels in motion as the policy of containment morphed into something more horrible and inhumane. Was the US directly involved in the assassination and takeover? Yes. Did Kissinger and Nixon know how bloody it had become, and quietly acquiesce? Most definitely. Did arms shipments and financial aid help solidify the Pinochet regime? 'Fraid so. How soon after the coup were American businessmen back in the country to begin new resource export deals? Within six weeks.

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