

Deaths and Disappearances in the Pinochet Regime: A New Dataset*

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Abstract

... However, . This paper presents a georeferenced event dataset on

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1 Introduction

2 Conclusion: New Avenues for Research

The dataset we introduce in this paper describes more than 2,000 human rights violations perpetrated by the Pinochet regime from 1973 to 1990. We include rich information about the events, such as the specific dates when the abuses occurred, personal details of the victims, and the geographical locations of the incidents. In that regard, our dataset provides a quantitative presentation of, and an extension to, the findings of Report of the Chilean National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation (1991). All information contained in the Report, plus our own spatial coordinates, are available in spreadsheet format which scholars can readily employ in their analyses.

Our data opens a number of potential avenues of research. For instance, Lupu and Peisakhin (2017), Rozenas et al. (2017) and Zhukov and Talibova (2018) highlight that state repression has enduring effects on the political preferences and social attitudes of the victims. Researchers can test whether victims of the Pinochet regime show similar changes in political attitudes. Moreover, sociologists and criminologists may be interested in the relationship between the intensity of the human rights abuse and post-regime levels of social unrest or interpersonal violence.

Second, the dataset enables researchers to analyse the inner dynamics of authoritarian governments. This topic remains understudied in political science due to a lack of disaggregated information. By linking human right abuses to changes in Pinochet's support coalition, scholars can explore whether the violations affected levels of civilian or bureaucratic collaboration to the regime. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

Finally, scholars can investigate the connections between international legitimacy and domestic politics in repressive regimes. This is a promising area of research as the Chilean government and American intelligence services continue to declassify documents from the Pinochet era. One relevant question is whether pressure from foreign governments and organisations had any influence over the levels of human rights abuses in Chile. We hope our dataset is useful for scholars interested in these and other questions, and that the information it contains elicits hypotheses not only about the Pinochet period, but about authoritarian governments more generally.

References

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