

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

In this paper, we introduce a dataset with rich information about more than 2,000 human rights abuses perpetrated by the Pinochet regime from 1973 to 1990. We manually coded all information available in the Report of the Chilean National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation (1991), and added new variables on the geographical location of the incidents and, whenever possible, the specific dates when each of the violations occurred. The graphs and maps included in this article provide some preliminary results about the temporal and spatial variation of state violence during Chile's last military government.

We believe our data open a number of potential research avenues. 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 behaviour. Moreover, sociologists and criminologists may be interested in the relationship between human rights abuses and post-regime levels of interpersonal violence. Recent studies have shown that democracies which arise after military regimes have higher homicide rates (Frantz 2018; Karstedt and LaFree 2006), and our data can show whether areas with significant levels of military repression are also more violent today.

The dataset also enables researchers to examine how political coalitions affect the use of lethal violence in authoritarian regimes. Although the topic has received increasing attention in the last years (e.g., Fjelde 2010; Gandhi and Przeworski 2007; Rivera 2017), the internal dynamics of autocratic governments remains understudied due to a lack of fine-grained information. By linking human right abuses to changes in Pinochet's support coalition, scholars can explore whether the civilian or bureaucratic collaboration to the regime impacted the number and type of violations. Since our data are presented at the individual level, they can be easily combined with legislative or bureaucratic records aggregated at any level.

Qualitative scholars

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.

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