Country: Chile

Years: 1945

Head of Government: Juan Antonio Ríos Morales

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS identifies Ríos Morales’ party as Partido Radical (PR). However, while Perspective monde (2019) identifies Ríos Morales’s party as Alianza Democrática de Chile (AD) and AD as leftist, it also identifies PR as centrist. Lentz (1994: 158) corroborates party affiliation as PR. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PR/FP (Partido Radical/Frente Popular) and describes FP as a “left-wing coalition of PR (Partido Radical), PS (Partido Socialista de Chile), PCC (Partido Comunista de Chile).” Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PR as center-left.

Years: 1946-1951

Head of Government: Gabriel González Videla

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS identifies González Videla’s party as Partido Radical (PR). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PR but identifies the party as centrist. Lentz (1994: 160) writes, “Leading a campaign against the Communists in Chile, [González] banned the party and exiled prominent leftist figures.” World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PR/FP (Partido Radical/Frente Popular) and describes FP as a “left-wing coalition of PR, PS, PCC.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PR as center-left.

Years: 1952-1957

Head of Government: Carlos Ibáñez del Campo

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS identifies Ibáñez del Campo’s party as Alianza Popular Libertadora (APL). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as APL but identifies the party as rightist. Lentz (1994: 160) writes, “Ibáñez was an admirer of Argentina’s Juan Perón and attempted to instill a sense of Chilean nationalism and anti-American sentiment in the country with little success.” World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PAL (Partido Agrario Laborista). Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PAL as personalist. Bizzarro (2017: 437) identifies del Campo as rightist, writing, “the politically conservative Ibáñez del Campo…” Bizzarro continues, “In 1942 he ran for president again, with conservative, liberal and Nacista support, but the center and left united behind Juan Antonio Ríos Morales just to be sure of defeating Ibáñez. In the election of 1952, still a vigorous 75, he ran yet again, promising to ‘save the nation from the false democracy of Gabriel González Videla.’ With the Radicals badly divided, he won, receiving almost twice as many votes as liberal Arturo Matte Larraín, despite his dictatorial rule in 1927-31, his frequent plotting, his association with fascism and his admiration for Argentina dictator Juan Perón. Even most of the left supported him (the Partido Agrario Laborista, the Partido Radical Doctrinario, and the Partido Socialista Popular), disenchanted with González Videla’s repressive policies.” Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) corroborates his association with fascism, writing, “His propensity for unsuccessful coups coupled with his reactionary views and fascist associations caused his defeat when he ran for the presidency in 1942.” Funke et al. (2020: 95) identify Ibáñez as a “left-wing populist,” writing, “Economically, [Ibáñez] ‘promised […] ‘to put an end to the poverty of the people [and] to robbery and to fraud’’ (Grugel 1992, 178). While Ibanez was a nationalist, he ‘stressed not an antiforeign tack’ (Dix 1985, 41). Put differently, Ibanismo was ‘a disparate alliance of left-wingers and nationalists’ trying to ‘bring together the twin ideas of ‘the people’ as the masses and ‘the people’ as the nation [referring] to the urban and rural poor, and perhaps also the small middle class’ (Grugel 1992, 177).”

Years: 1958-1963

Head of Government: Jorge Alessandri Rodríguez

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies Alessandri Rodríguez’s party as Partido Conservador (PC). Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PC and identifies the party as rightist. Lentz (1994: 161) identifies Alessandri as “a right-wing conservative.” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PC. Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PC as rightist.

Years: 1964-1969

Head of Government: Eduardo Nicanor Frei Montalva

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies Frei Montalva’s party as Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC). Political Handbook of the World (2011) identifies PDC as centrist, writing, “Founded in 1957, the PDC is currently Chile’s third strongest party, although long divided into right-, center-, and left-wing factions.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PDC and identifies the party as center-right. Lentz (1994: 161-162) writes, “Frei favored a policy of ‘Chileanization’ of certain industries, including the copper mines… His domestic policies, which he promoted as ‘A Revolution in Liberty,’ including his ‘Chileanization’ and land reform efforts, were crippled in the legislature by supporters of Allende.” Later on, under Pinochet, “Frei remained an outspoken leader of the opposition, with his law offices serving as an unofficial headquarters of the banned [Christian Democratic] party.” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PDC. Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PDC as centrist. In V-Party, 6 experts identify PDC’s ideology as “Center” (0.128) in 1973.

Years: 1970-1972

Head of Government: Salvador Allende Gossens

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS identifies Allende’s party as Partido Socialista de Chile-Unidad Popular (PS-UP). Political Handbook of the World (2011) elaborates on Allende’s ideology, writing, “The failure of the Frei regime to accomplish these goals led to the election of Salvador Allende Gossens in 1970. Chile thus became the first republic in North or South America to choose an avowedly Marxist president by constitutional means.” Political Handbook also describes Allende’s foreign policy: “Chile has traditionally adhered to a pro-Western foreign policy, save for the Allende era, when contacts with Communist states were strengthened, including the establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba.” Perspective monde identifies Allende’s party affiliation as Unidad Popular (UP) and identifies the party as leftist. Lentz (1994: 161) writes that Allende, “favored a Cuban-style nationalization of Chilean industries.” Lentz continues, “During this period, [Allende] also wrote *Socio-Medical Problems of Chile*, which attacked capitalism as a leading factor contributing to the health problems of the poor…. Allende had become an admirer and friend of Fidel Castro following the Cuban revolution of 1959 and made many visits to Cuba. He again ran for the presidency in 1964, espousing a new Socialist order for Chile based on the Cuban model.” World Statesmen (2019) corroborates party affiliation as PS-UP (Partido Socialista de Chile- Unidad Popular), identifies PS as socialist, and describes UP as a “coalition of PS and Partido Comunista de Chile [Chilean Communist Party] PCC”. Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PS as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify PS’s ideology as “Left” (-2.801) in 1973.

Years: 1973-1989

Head of Government: Augusto José Ramón Pinochet Ugarte

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as rightist. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Manzano (2017) corroborates HoG and identifies ideology as rightist. Political Handbook of the World (2011) elaborates, writing, “Citing the need for harsh measures to combat communism, the Pinochet regime typically operated under either a state of siege or a somewhat less restrictive state of emergency.” Political Handbook also writes, about the 2010 elections, “The elections marked the first time a right-of-center government was handed power since the fall of the Pinochet regime.” Lentz (1994: 163) writes, “Pinochet was named president of the junta. The government then began a widespread purge of leftists and Allende supporters, who were either arrested or executed.”

Years: 1990-1993

Head of Government: Patricio Aylwin Azócar

Ideology: centrist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies Aylwin’s party as Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia (Concertación). Political Handbook of the World (2011) identifies the party as centrist. Perspective monde (2019) identifies Aylwin’s party affiliation as Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC) / Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia, and identifies PDC as center-right. Lentz (1994: 164) writes, “Alwyn was the presidential nominee of a centrist coalition in elections in December of 1989.” World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PDC but does describe Concertación as an “electoral coalition of PDC, PPD, PS, and PRSD.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PDC as centrist, PS and PPD as center-left, and PRSD as leftist.

Years: 1994-1999

Head of Government: Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS identifies Frei Ruiz-Tagle’s party as Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia (Concertación). Political Handbook of the World (2011) identifies the party as centrist. Perspective monde (2019) identifies Frei Ruiz-Tagle’s party affiliation as Partido Demócrata Cristiano (PDC) / Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia, and identifies PDC as center-right. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PDC but does describe Concertación as an “electoral coalition of PDC, PPD, PS, and PRSD.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PDC as centrist, PS and PPD as center-left, and PRSD as leftist.

Years: 2000-2005

Head of Government: Ricardo Froilán Lagos Escobar

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS identifies Lagos Escobar’s party as Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia (Concertación). Political Handbook of the World (2011) identifies the party as centrist. Perspective monde (2019) identifies Lagos Escobar’s party affiliation as Partido por la Democracia (PPD) / Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia, and identifies PPD as center-left. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PPD but does describe Concertación as an “electoral coalition of PDC, PPD, PS, and PRSD.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PDC as centrist, PS and PPD as center-left, and PRSD as leftist.

Years: 2006-2009

Head of Government: Verónica Michelle Bachelet Jeria

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS identifies Bachelet’s party as Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia (Concertación). Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies Bachelet as leftist, belonging to “the CPD’s Socialist component.” Political Handbook also describes the relations between Bachelet’s government and Hugo Chavez’s government: “Over time, the Chilean government became less sympathetic to Chávez’s ‘Bolivarianism’ and firmer in its defense of market-based, social-democratic policies.” Perspective monde (2019) identifies Bachelet’s party affiliation as Partido Socialista de Chile (PS) / Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia, and identifies PS as leftist. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PS and identifies the party as socialist, but World Statesmen also describes Concertación as an “electoral coalition of PDC, PPD, PS, and PRSD.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify PDC as centrist, PS and PPD as center-left, and PRSD as leftist.

Years: 2010-2013

Head of Government: Miguel Juan Sebastián Piñera Echenique

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS does not identify party. Lansford (2015) identifies Piñera’s party affiliation as Renovación Nacional, writing “Michelle BACHELET (New Majority) elected in runoff balloting on December 15, 2013; succeeding Sebastián PIÑERA Echenique (Coalition for Change—National Renovation)”. However, Lansford also identifies Piñera’s party in 2009 as the “new center-right” Coalition for Change (*Coalición por el Cambio—CC*). Political Handbook also writes, “Piñera, relying upon a conservative platform that featured job creation, economic progress, family values, and improved education, never relinquished a strong lead going into the 2009 presidential election.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as Coalición por el Cambio / Renovación Nacional, and identifies the parties as center-right. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as RN and identifies the party as center-right. Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) describes Piñera as a “conservative billionaire businessman.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify both Renovación Nacional and CC as center-right. Bizzarro (2017: 678) points to a rightist ideology, describing Piñera as, “a Harvard-educated investor who made the Forbes list of world billionaires and instituted a technocratic government whose economic model was that of the free market and the United States… After the center-left won several elections in the 1990s, Piñera became the leader of the center-right coalition of parties for change. His election was significant in that it marked the first elected right-leaning politician in Chile in 52 years.” Political Handbook of the World (2018-2019) identifies Piñera’s party affiliation in 2017 as Chile Vamos, writing, “The grouping backed former president Sebastián Piñera in the November 2017 presidential balloting.” Political Handbook describes Chile Vamos as “a coalition of center-right parties… previously known as the Coalition for Change (*Coalición por el Cambio—CC)*.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 15 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Chile Vamos as 8.7. In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify Renovación Nacional’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.67) in 2009 and 2013.

Years: 2014-2017

Head of Government: Verónica Michelle Bachelet Jeria

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS does not identify party. Lansford (2015) identifies Bachelet’s party as Nueva Mayoria, writing: “In parliamentary elections held on November 17, 2013, the New Majority coalition of former president Michelle Bachelet secured majorities in both chambers.” Perspective monde (2019) corroborates party affiliation as Nueva Mayoria and identifies the party as leftist. World Statesmen (2019) identifies party affiliation as PS and identifies the party as socialist, but World Statesmen also describes Concertación as an “electoral coalition of PDC, PPD, PS, and PRSD.” In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify PS’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.403) in 2013 and “Center-left” (-1.286) in 2017.

Years: 2018-2020

Head of Government: Miguel Juan Sebastián Piñera Echenique

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS does not identify party. Lansford (2015) identifies Piñera’s party affiliation as Renovación Nacional, writing “Michelle BACHELET (New Majority) elected in runoff balloting on December 15, 2013; succeeding Sebastián PIÑERA Echenique (Coalition for Change—National Renovation)”. However, Lansford also identifies Piñera’s party in 2009 as the “new center-right” Coalition for Change (*Coalición por el Cambio—CC*). Political Handbook also writes, “Piñera, relying upon a conservative platform that featured job creation, economic progress, family values, and improved education, never relinquished a strong lead going into the 2009 presidential election.” Perspective monde (2021) identifies party (alliance) affiliation as Independent/Chile Vamos and identifies the party as center-right. World Statesmen (2021) identifies party affiliation as RN and identifies the party as center-right. Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) describes Piñera as a “conservative billionaire businessman.” Huber and Stephens (2016: 11) identify both Renovación Nacional and CC as center-right. Bizzarro (2017: 678) points to a rightist ideology, describing Piñera as, “a Harvard-educated investor who made the Forbes list of world billionaires and instituted a technocratic government whose economic model was that of the free market and the United States… After the center-left won several elections in the 1990s, Piñera became the leader of the center-right coalition of parties for change. His election was significant in that it marked the first elected right-leaning politician in Chile in 52 years.” Political Handbook of the World (2018-2019) identifies Piñera’s party affiliation in 2017 as Chile Vamos, writing, “The grouping backed former president Sebastián Piñera in the November 2017 presidential balloting.” Political Handbook describes Chile Vamos as “a coalition of center-right parties… previously known as the Coalition for Change (*Coalición por el Cambio—CC)*.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 15 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Chile Vamos as 8.7. In V-Party (2020), 6 experts identify Renovación Nacional’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.67) in 2017.

References:

Bizzarro, Salvatore. 2017. *Historical Dictionary of Chile*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Encyclopedia Britannica. 2020. Carlos Ibáñez del Campo.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Carlos-Ibanez-del-Campo>

Encyclopedia Britannica. 2020. Chile – Chile in the 21st century.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Chile/Chile-in-the-21st-century>

Funke, Manuel, Mortiz Schularick, and Christoph Trebesch. “Populist Leaders and the Economy.” Centre for Economic Policy Research, 2020.

Huber, Evelyne, and John Stephens. 2016. *Latin America and Caribbean Political*

*Dataset, 1945-2012*. Codebook.

Lansford, Thomas (ed.). 2015. Chile. In: *Political Handbook of the World 2015*.

Washington: 273-280.

Lentz, Harris. 1994. *Heads of States and Governments Since 1945*. New York.

Manzano, Dulce. 2017. *Bringing Down the Educational Wall: Political Regimes,*

*Ideology, and the Expansion of Education*. Cambridge.

Norris, Pippa. 2020. Global Party Survey dataset.

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/GlobalPartySurvey>

Political Handbook of the World. 2011. 2018-2019. *Chile*.

Perspective monde. 2019. *Chile*. <http://perspective.usherbrooke.ca/bilan/servlet/BMGvt?codePays=CHL&ani=1975&moi=1&anf=2019&mof=8>

World Statesmen. 2019. *Chile*. <https://www.worldstatesmen.org/Chile.html>