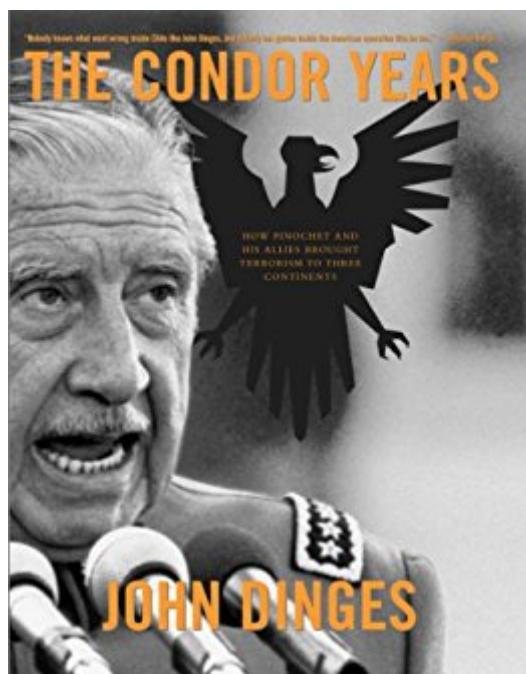


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The Condor Years: How Pinochet And His Allies Brought Terrorism To Three Continents



Synopsis

Throughout the 1970s, six Latin American governments led by Chile formed a military alliance called Operation Condor to carry out kidnappings, torture, and political assassinations across three continents. It was an early "war on terror" initially encouraged by the CIA which later backfired on the United States. Hailed by Foreign Affairs as "remarkable" and "a major contribution to the historical record," The Condor Years uncovers the unsettling facts about the secret U.S. relationship with the dictators who created this terrorist organization. Written by award-winning journalist John Dinges and newly updated to include recent developments in the prosecution of Pinochet, the book is a chilling but dispassionately told history of one of Latin America's darkest eras. Dinges, himself interrogated in a Chilean torture camp, interviewed participants on both sides and examined thousands of previously secret documents to take the reader inside this underground world of military operatives and diplomats, right-wing spies and left-wing revolutionaries.

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Customer Reviews

The book is incredibly well researched, but not a page-turner. The author spends a lot of time detailing his sources (which is nearly always newly disclosed CIA documents), but not enough time telling a compelling story. Pretty good though, overall.

Dinges presents a treatment of Operation Condor that is sober and well-grounded in research. He is careful not to go beyond where the evidence leads. Remember that many documents relating to Operation Condor remain sealed away in the bowels of the US national security complex, what what we do know is damning.

Well written book with documentation of a textbook. Living now in Chile I have had conversations with a number of Chileans who remind me of my conversations many years ago with Germans who had many excuses for what happened. There can be no excuses for what took place in either case. They are not equal except for " on one hand this happened but it was necessary or other things good occurred (autobahn, pan american highway, etc.)

So. Much. Knowledge.

great book

This book is excellent!! It is very well researched, well written, comprehensive and compelling. I don't share the same fondness that some other reviewers seem to have for communists, socialists, or so-called 'social democrats', but it is really distressing to read about how much brutality was used to conquer leftist subversion. The author makes an excellent point that the only solution that the country never contemplated was to create a true democracy. If it takes a brutal right wing regime to get rid of the leftists, then who wins?

I picked this up for a bit of a background on Chile, but I learned more about my own country in the process. Very factual, but reads like a novel. Engrossing, enlightening.

While informative, this book relies on a somewhat heavy-handed method of returning to a fairly simple thesis- That US and Pan-American involvement in these operations exceeded what could have been a coincidental level of cooperation between partner nations. A decent number of informative and enlightening facts, all hastily tied together with an amateurish narrative that states

"See?! Told you this couldn't have been coincidental.". This book, while highlighting important facts regarding US policy, falls victim to a seeming desire to extend the word count in support of something other than efficient narration. Good for facts, but heavy handed.

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