

**Summer Teacher Institute 2008:
Human Rights and Historical Memory in Latin America**

Print Resources

Postmemories of Terror: A New Generation Copes with the Legacy of the 'Dirty War'

by Susana Kaiser

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan (November 24, 2005)

Summary:

Postmemories of Terror focuses on how young Argentines remember the traumatic events of the military dictatorship (1976-83). This work is based on oral histories with sixty-three young people who were too young to be directly victimized or politically active during this period. All were born during or after the terror and possessed an entirely mediated knowledge of it. Susana Kaiser explores how the post-dictatorship generation was reconstructing this past from three main sources: inter-generational dialogue, education, and the communication media. These conversations discuss selected and recurrent themes like societal fears and silences, remembering and forgetting, historical explanations, and accountability. Together they contribute to our understanding of how communities deal with the legacy of terror.

Review:

"Well-researched and compelling, *Postmemories of Terror* is a significant contribution to the growing literature on the role of memory and identity in societies emerging from periods of mass violence."--Eric Stover, Director, Human Rights Center and author of *The Witnesses: War Crimes and the Promise of Justice in the Hague*

Latin America: Its Problems And Its Promise

by Jan Knippers Black

Publisher: Westview Press (February 1, 2005)

Review & Summary:

Jan Knippers Black's *Latin America: Its Problems and Its Promise* is one of the most successful textbooks on Latin America. A multidisciplinary collection of invited chapters edited by Black and intended for introductory courses on Latin America, the new fourth edition chronicles the region's ongoing struggle to attain effective sovereignty, democracy and equity. It has been updated to include chapters on the impact of globalization, changing gender roles, and new social movements, especially of peasants and indigenous peoples. Unlike other Latin America textbooks, this volume is purposefully multidisciplinary, including contributions from historians, geographers, economists, political scientists, sociologists, anthropologists, philosophers, and diplomats. Only contributors well-known for their expertise on specific relevant topics are invited to contribute to this volume. The multidisciplinary perspective introduces students to the history, geography, politics, and culture of Latin America. This fourth edition is streamlined yet includes a special focus on significant current events and trends.

Saving the America: The Dangerous Decline of Latin America and What the US Must Do

by Andres Oppenheimer

Summary:

Oppenheimer traveled to China, India, Poland, the Czech Republic, Ireland and more than a dozen Latin American countries to see first-hand what is pushing some nations ahead and others back. And in his characteristic style – mixing travel anecdotes, humor and political analysis – he came to surprising conclusion: that despite its current troubles, Latin America can rise from economic and political obscurity, to become a booming market and an influential player in world affairs.

Review:

“Once again, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Andres Oppenheimer shows his deep understanding of the dramatic changes in Latin America, and the impact of America’s ongoing indifference to the region. For anyone seeking to understand Latin America’s re-emerging populism and the effects of this administration’s disastrous foreign policy in the region, this book is a must read. Oppenheimer gives his readers hope for a new vision in Latin America.”

—Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico

Revolution!: South America and the Rise of the New Left

by Nikolas Kozloff

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan (April 1, 2008)

Summary & Review:

In the past five years, Latin America's new cadre of leftist leaders have been struggling to shake off the legacies of faltering economies and military dictatorships that have long haunted the region. Kozloff (Hugo Chavez: Oil, Politics, and the Challenge to the U.S.) offers a series of snapshots of steady transformation, focusing heavily on Venezuela's Chavez and key issues like oil, media and multiculturalism. Compiling current anecdotes and concise historical summaries, Kozloff describes a number of overlapping trends in the region, such as indigenous rights movements and revived labor unions, as well as a widespread desire for economic independence from the United States. Kozloff interprets these similarities as proof of increasing regional integration, but fails to provide adequate hard evidence. If anything, he succeeds in showing how the countries he writes about have moved away from cookie-cutter solutions and are each working to develop equitable societies on their own terms.

State Terrorism in Latin America: Chile, Argentina, and International Human Rights (Latin American Silhouettes)

by Thomas Wright

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (February 28, 2007)

Summary & Review:

This cogent book examines the tragic development and ultimate resolution of Latin America's human rights crisis of the 1970s and 1980s. Thomas Wright focuses especially on state terrorism in Chile under General Augusto Pinochet (1973D1990) and in Argentina during the Dirty War (1976D1983). He offers a nuanced exploration of the reciprocal relationship between Argentina and Chile and human rights movements, clearly demonstrating how state terrorism in these countries strengthened the international human rights lobby and how, in turn, that more powerful lobby ultimately helped bring repressors to justice. These intertwined themes make this book important reading not only for Latin Americanists but for students of human rights and international relations as well.

When States Kill: Latin America, the US and Technologies of Terror

by Menjivar & Rodriguez (Editors)

University of Texas Press (July 1, 2005)

Summary:

Since the early twentieth century, technological transfers from the United States to Latin American countries have involved technologies of violence for social control. As the chapters in this book illustrate, these technological transfers have taken various forms, including the training of Latin American military personnel in surveillance and torture and the provision of political and logistic support for campaigns of state terror. The human cost for Latin America has been enormous—thousands of Latin Americans have been murdered, disappeared, or tortured, and whole communities have been terrorized into silence.

Organized by region, the essays in this book address the topic of state-sponsored terrorism in a variety of ways. Most take the perspective that state-directed political violence is a modern development of a regional political structure in which U.S. political interests weigh heavily. Others acknowledge that Latin American states enthusiastically received U.S. support for their campaigns of terror. A few see local culture and history as key factors in the implementation of state campaigns of political violence. Together, all the essays exemplify how technologies of terror have been transferred among various Latin American countries, with particular attention to the role that the United States, as a "strong" state, has played in such transfers.

Review:

I have given chapters of this book to our clients—survivors of state-supported terror in Latin America—and watched as they nodded their heads in agreement and then asked variations of the question: 'how can academics understand so well what was going on in our countries?' This book uses the lens of rigorous scholarship to bring out of the shadows the particularities and common patterns that enabled state repression to operate so effectively in the United States' sphere of influence for more than two decades. (Sandra Coliver, Executive Director, Center for Justice & Accountability, San Francisco)

Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice

by Jack Donnelly

Cornell University Press; 2 edition (November 2002)

Summary:

In a thoroughly revised edition of *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice* (more than half of the material is new), Jack Donnelly elaborates a theory of human rights, addresses arguments of cultural relativism, and explores the efficacy of bilateral and multilateral international action. Entirely new chapters address prominent post-Cold War issues including humanitarian intervention, democracy and human rights, "Asian values," group rights, and discrimination against sexual minorities. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Reviews:

"Every once in a while a book appears that treats the leading issues of a subject in such a clear and challenging manner that it becomes central to understanding that subject. *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice* is just such a book. . . . Donnelly's interpretations are clear and argued with zest."-American Political Science Review

"This wide-ranging book looks at all aspects of human rights, drawing upon political theory, sociology, and international relations as well as international law. . . . [Jack Donnelly] deals successfully with two of the principal challenges to the notion of the universality of human rights: the argument that some non-Western societies are not subject to Western norms, and the claim that economic development may require the sacrifice of some human rights."-Foreign Affairs

The Pinochet Affair: State Terrorism and Global Justice

by Robert Burbach

Zed Books (August 12, 2004)

Summary:

The case of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet was among the most sensational of recent international attempts to prosecute human rights violators. Few contemporary figures have galvanized progressive and socialist opinion like Pinochet, and indeed his sins, the overthrow of a legally installed president and the subsequent murder of 3,000 people by most estimates, are unpardonably atrocious. Burbach's excoriation of his subject, which unfolds in biographical material about Pinochet and in a summary of the drawn-out legal process--ultimately a failure--to put him on trial, is more than justified by the historical facts. Burbach, associated with the University of California at Berkeley, performs the organization and citation of these facts in a scholastically capable manner, which increases his work's general-interest value. It is also sympathetic to Pinochet's initial political victim, Salvador Allende, which affects the author's objectivity about Allende's policy of collectivizing the Chilean economy; however, Burbach proves a reliable guide to the activities of the opposition Pinochet provoked.

Review:

"This riveting book recounts the first historic September 11 in 1973 when Augusto Pinochet seized power in Chile and launched a seventeen-year reign of state and international terrorism with US backing. The dramatic consequences of this coup are still shaking our world today and enable us to understand why Washington is so fanatically opposed to the International Criminal Court."--Mike Davis

More Web Resources:

BOLIVIA:

“Bolivia: Racist Facism”

<http://www.alainet.org/active/24535&lang=en>

PERU:

“Fujimori on Trial: Third WOLA Observer Mission Report (From the “Washginton Office on Latin America)

http://www.wola.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=viewp&id=724&Itemid=2

COLOMBIA:

“Colombia: The Other Half of the Truth: (From the Latin America Working Group):

<http://www.lawg.org/> -- click on the link on the right-hand side which will take you to the pdf file of this report