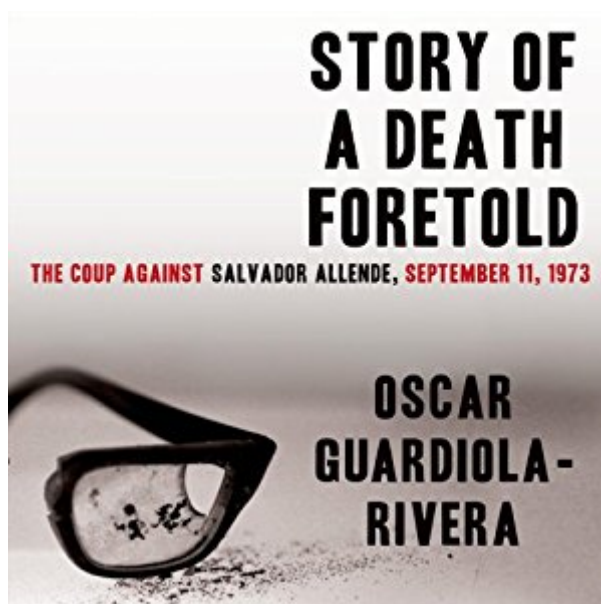


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Story Of A Death Foretold: The Coup Against Salvador Allende, 11 September 1973



Synopsis

On the fortieth anniversary of revolution and rebellion in Chile, a searching history of the rise and fall of the world's first and only democratically elected Marxist president. On September 11, 1973, President Salvador Allende of Chile was deposed in a violent coup led by General Augusto Pinochet. The coup had been in the works for months, even years. Shortly after giving a farewell speech to his people, Allende died of gunshot wounds - whether inflicted by his own hand or an assassin's remains uncertain. Pinochet ruled Chile for a quarter century, but the short rise and bloody fall of Allende is still the subject of fierce historical debate. In a world in the throes of the Cold War, the seeming backwater of Chile became the host of a very hot conflict - with Henry Kissinger and the Western establishment aligned with Pinochet's insurgents against a socialist coalition of students, workers, Pablo Neruda, and folk singers, led by the brilliant ideologue Allende. Revolution and counterrevolution played out in graphic detail, moving the small South American nation to the center of the world stage in the dramatic autumn of 1973. Now the rising young scholar Oscar Guardiola-Rivera gives us a tour de force account of a historical crossroads, tracing the destiny of democracy, and the paths of power, money, and violence that still shadow Latin America and its relations with the United States.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An excellent read...The author knows what he's talking about, and that is a great advantage of this book.

The book starts out slowly. It is in parts as turgid as Arendt's *Origins of Totalitarianism*. Skip the Introduction if you want. Guardiola-Rivera is no fan of Nixon and Kissinger or of Pinochet. Well worth reading. Good elucidation of Allende's socialism.

Gripping, for me it joined a lot dots.

This book tells the reader nothing new about the events that took place in Chile prior to the election of Salvador Allende or during his government; nor does it add to our knowledge of the violent coup that brought him down or the subsequent dictatorship of Pinochet. What the reader does learn is a great deal, far too much, about the author's political views and his belief that the Allende experiment in socialism and democracy was, in many respects, a precursor of many contemporary events. Who knew that the digital era was foreshadowed by technical geniuses in Allende's government working to overcome the economic chaos which characterized the government's time in office? Almost nothing is made of the fact that even after spending all of Chile's reserves during the first period of the government, it never managed to achieve the support of half the Chilean people for its plan to radically remake Chilean society. I have read many books dealing with this unhappy period in Chilean history, books written from a rightwing perspective and those written by leftists, books written by former participants in Allende's government, and books dealing with the brutal suppression of human rights, torture etc., of the Pinochet government. Perhaps my memory fails me, but this one was the most difficult to finish, not because of a sophisticated or complicated argument, but because I genuinely felt I was wasting my time, that I was reading an ideological screed rather than a work of serious scholarship. As I mentioned above, one learns nothing new here; no original research is displayed. I would advise anyone with a serious interest in the topic to give this book a miss. There are many many books, in Spanish and in English, that will better reward a serious reader's time.

I expected an in-depth account of Allende's upbringing, rise to power, achievements and downfall. Instead this is a detailed analysis of the international and national politics surrounding his regime. Disappointed.

At times a little repetitive in the way that the text is organized: but an important historical text that allows a reader to understand the challenges of emerging nations and their desire of diversity. Too often the U.S. has backed neo-fascist dictators who guarantee unfettered access to extraction of

resources to corporations, especially our own and multinational at the expense of democratically elected governments and their people. This stance comes out of the hubris of American exceptionalism and a belief, in spite of the enormous inequality and abject poverty within our own borders, that our form of 'capitalism' and governance are the only viable forms of economic and political systems and it is our right to impose our systems on any country that we feel is below us in stature. There are also lessons here about how powers use propaganda against anyone we deem not acting in our national interest, as though they have no right to their own sovereign self interest. Perhaps by looking at internally and externally applied propaganda, we may learn how to recognise and question it's veracity. As it applies to agendas within our own borders and in countries where we exercise influence. If a sobering nation chooses democratically to set up an economic system we do not believe in, we should let it stand or fail on its own merits. If our system were the only and best economic system, then it would be self evident, we would not have to covertly try to destroy other systems, if we truly believed in our own systems. It is tragic that our government assisted, trained and plotted the overthrow of an elected government, but in that era, it was not the only democratically elected government that we covertly worked to overthrow. Then we backed and supported a military dictatorship that terrorized and slaughtered its own citizens for the crime of dissent. It is sad that in particular two constitutional Generals, Rene Schnider and Carlos Prats who placed their loyalty to uphold their country's constitution were assassinated and their President's death, and the deaths and disappearances of 40,000+ additional citizens were destroyed in the service of corporate profits. An important text to read today as we seem to be caught up in complicated international entanglements.

Only read few pages and hard 2 read. Vocabulary used in writing difficult 2 understand 4 someone like me

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