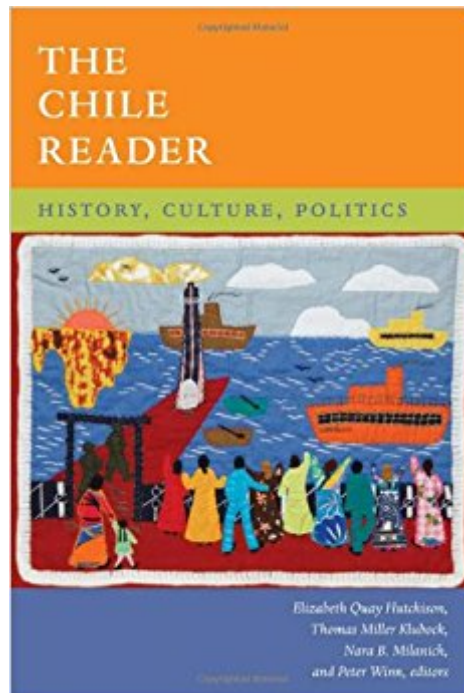


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# The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)



## Synopsis

The Chile Reader makes available a rich variety of documents spanning more than five hundred years of Chilean history. Most of the selections are by Chileans; many have never before appeared in English. The history of Chile is rendered from diverse perspectives, including those of Mapuche Indians and Spanish colonists, peasants and aristocrats, feminists and military strongmen, entrepreneurs and workers, and priests and poets. Among the many selections are interviews, travel diaries, letters, diplomatic cables, cartoons, photographs, and song lyrics. Texts and images, each introduced by the editors, provide insights into the ways that Chile's unique geography has shaped its national identity, the country's unusually violent colonial history, and the stable but autocratic republic that emerged after independence from Spain. They shed light on Chile's role in the world economy, the social impact of economic modernization, and the enduring problems of deep inequality. The Reader also covers Chile's bold experiments with reform and revolution, its subsequent descent into one of Latin America's most ruthless Cold War dictatorships, and its much-admired transition to democracy and a market economy in the years since dictatorship.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Chile Reader is terrific. It is organized into tightly conceived thematic sections and includes a superb range of documents. The editors' introductions to each of the volume's sections prepare the reader for the documents to come and provide overarching arguments about their collective meaning. Similarly, the brief notes that preface each selection explain why the particular document matters and suggest how it might be read. This book is perfect for students and anyone

interested in learning about Chile's complex history. I give The Chile Reader my highest praise." (Heidi Tinsman, author of *Buying into the Regime: Grapes and Consumption in Cold War Chile and the United States*) "There is no better introduction to this endlessly fascinating country. Chile has been a showcase for democracy and then for dictatorship, for radical and then for neoliberal economic experiments. This volume allows readers to get beyond and beneath the theorizing, to the source documents and to the writings of the historical actors themselves. The selection is masterful and provides a reliable and satisfying path to understanding this uniquely conflicted society." (John Dinges, author of *The Condor Years: How Pinochet And His Allies Brought Terrorism To Three Continents*) "For those who have never visited Chile or do not know a great deal about the country, this Reader is an impressive and accessible introduction to it. . . . For those who are more familiar with Chile, there is also a lot to reflect on and rethink in a new light. . . .

• The Chile Reader is a highly recommended, illuminating and thought-provoking read." • (Tanya Harmer LSE Review of Books)

• "This book is recommended as a general, non-narrative introduction to Chilean History and for use in courses in Latin American History or, more specifically, the Southern Core." • (Colonial Latin American Historical Review)

• "A major contribution of The Chile Reader to scholars is that many of these documents have never before been published in English. All these texts represent precious resources not just for scholars who are studying Chile and Latin America, but even for Chileans themselves who want to understand how their nation was forged." • (Fernando Pizarro Journal of Latin American Geography)

• "The Chile Reader is an invaluable teaching tool. Graduate and undergraduate students will find inspiration for research projects among its pages. This remarkable volume is essential for scholars, students, travelers, and anyone who wants to learn about Chile's complicated and fascinating history." • (Brandi Townsend The Latin Americanist)

• "The Chile Reader is an accessible, perceptive, and engaging text. It offers ... insightful and fresh syntheses, at the same time that it provides rich documents and images that afford ample opportunity for informed reflection from readers." • [T]he volume is not only an excellent resource, but also an impressive intellectual achievement." • (Edward Murphy The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology 2015-01-01)

Elizabeth Quay Hutchison is Associate Professor of History at the University of New Mexico. She is the author of *Labors Appropriate to Their Sex: Gender, Labor, and Politics in Urban Chile, 1900-1930*. Thomas Miller Klubock is Associate Professor of History at the University of

Virginia. He is the author of *Contested Communities: Class, Gender, and Politics in Chile's El Teniente Copper Mine, 1904–1951*. Nara B. Milanich is Associate Professor of History at Barnard College. She is the author of *Children of Fate: Childhood, Class, and the State in Chile, 1850–1930*. Peter Winn is Professor of History at Tufts University. He is the editor of *Victims of the Chilean Miracle: Workers and Neoliberalism in the Pinochet Era, 1973–2002*. All books mentioned are published by Duke University Press.

A great book for anyone—from the casual tourist trekking to Chile for the first time to students of Chile who want to go deeper and truly understand this country. For so long, Chile has been branded the “exception” to the rest of Latin America—a country that had, until 1973, a flowering democracy. A country with the first democratically elected Marxist president in the world. A country that flourished financially using neoliberal market reforms. So is Chile really exceptional, or is this a myth? Is Chile a model for Latin America, or does a clear-eyed look at the country through the eyes and words of conquistadors, poets like Pablo Neruda, and politicians like Salvador Allende turn that notion upside down? Told in the words of the country’s biggest movers and shakers over the past few centuries, I found this book eye-opening. It also made me think harder about the U.S.’s own claims to exceptionalism.

Good selection of source material not seen in English to date. Gives a cross-cutting picture of social and political situation that made Chile what it is today. I highly recommend it.

Long term history of Chile through short articles woven into eight themes. There is an attempt to include articles from different points of view on many of the subjects but there seems to be a heavy slant towards pro-socialism/communism as a whole. I was hoping for a more balanced perspective where the reader can be exposed to the best arguments from many perspectives and come to her or his own informed judgements on the wide vacillations Chile has seen in its political leadership.

iMe gusta!

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