

17.55, Introduction to Latin American Studies, Fall 2006
Prof. Chappell Lawson
Session 11: The Breakdown of Chilean Democracy

Handout: Chilean Chronology (abridged)

September 4, 1970	Socialist leader Salvador Allende wins election (36% of vote)
November 2, 1970	Allende takes office
September 11, 1973	Coup d'état overthrows Allende; 3,000-10,000 deaths
1973-1977	General Augusto Pinochet emerges as leader of military government
January 4, 1978	Pinochet orchestrates plebiscite confirming his authority
August 10, 1980	New Constitution promulgated; calls for plebiscite on return to civilian rule in 1988
1983-1985	Unsuccessful protests in favor of a return to democracy
1987	Registration begins for referendum; opposition forms broad front
October 5, 1988	Pinochet loses plebiscite (55% to 43%), forcing presidential elections
1989	Presidential campaign; Center and Left allied against the regime
December 15, 1989	Opposition alliance under Patricio Alwyn wins presidential elections with 55%; Pinochet remains Commander-in-Chief
March 11, 1990	Pinochet's last day in office
December 1994	Eduardo Frei (representing Center-Left coalition) elected President
March 10, 1998	Pinochet retires as Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces; takes post as Senator-for-Life
October 16, 1998	Pinochet arrested in Great Britain on orders of Spanish judge Baltasar Garzón
January 17, 2000	Ricardo Lagos (representing Center-Left coalition) elected President in close run-off against conservative Joaquín Lavín (51% to 48%)
March 2, 2000	Pinochet released on health grounds; returns to Chile