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“The constitution of 1833 was masterminded by a young businessman turned politician, Diego Portales. He wanted to ensure that wealthy landowners like himself would control the government,” (Childress). Chile is one of the most economically powerful countries in South America, but how it came to be so strong is rooted in hundreds of years of controversial history. This pattern of inequality was continued by Augusto Pinochet and similarly wealthy, higher class citizens, and he became the latest in a line of dictators who exploited the poor for their own benefit. The changes that were brought in by pinochet's junta closely resemble an originalist approach to constitutional reform, which sought to purposefully oppress dissenting voices.

The indigenous people of Chile have been oppressed since the Spanish explorers arrived in the 1520's. Dating back to 10,000 B.C. there is evidence of life in Chile, from migrating Native Americans. They decided to settle in Chile because of the fertile soil and rich coastal environment. Then in 1520, Spanish conquistadors came from the north into Chile. “Motivated by the search for gold, Diego de Almagro's expedition was comprised of 500 Spaniards and a hundred natives and slaves” (ThisisChile.Com). This is a great example of the early exploitation seen in Chile. For the next couple of hundred years natives to the land were pushed further south. Eventually, all native people were pushed out of their land. But the mixture of Spanish and Natives produced a new wave of anti-spanish activists. In 1810, with Napoleon Bonaparte leading them, Chile was able to declare independence from Spain. Although Spain did attempt to

re-establish power, the combined forces of Chile and Argentina were able to hold them off. With this new freedom, Chile developed its first constitution in 1829. It was called the Portales Constitution and had strong conservative policies. This new constitution would ensure that high class citizens would hold the highest ranks and power in government. However, Portales rule did not last long, conflict within his government resulted in its collapse. After, It was not until the 20th century that Chile developed a stable presidential system. The next constitution was established in 1925 and developed more liberal rights. This included social welfare and workers rights. Over the next sixty years Chile grew in population and wealth, the people grew increasingly separated politically. The Cuban Missile Crisis was in full effect and a new leader had emerged from Chile. His name was Salvador Allende and his support of communist countries like Cuba had made Chile an enemy of the United States. Quickly the U.S. stopped extending credit to Chile. Unable to support its people without support. Eventually with citizens outraged and strong U.S. support Chile's military overthrew Allende, putting Pinochet in power. This power switch also led to a new constitution of military rule led by Pinochet.

The wording of new Constitution of 1980 and military rule made targeting and oppression lower class much easier. "The establishment of a permanent tutelary role for the military; second, a prohibition upon persons, parties and movements whose views and objectives were judged by the Constitutional Tribunal to be hostile to democracy ("article 80")." (Constitution.org). The second part is an immensely important line for oppressing the lower class. According to this part of the constitution the government was able to get rid of anyone who they deemed 'hostile to democracy'. This was a big part of how they were able to justify killing and exiling any low class citizens. This is a perfect example of how Pinochet showed originalist

thinking. He was using wording in the current constitution to make it easier for wealthy citizens to stay on top of the decision making in government.

Pinochet's violent dictatorship mainly targeted the poor and lower class. Although Pinochet did bring a strong and stable economy to Chile, he also created massive wage gaps and pushed the poor people of Chile out. He made it easier for the rich to stay powerful and pushed his, mainly poor, opponents out by execution or exile. This made it impossible for them to vote in elections and policy change. "Pinochet's junta was widely condemned for its harsh suppression of dissent, although its reversal of the Allende's government socialist policies resulted in a lower rate of inflation and an economic boom between 1976 and 1979" (Britannica.com). Pinochet's campaign to exterminate leftism ended up murdering over 3,000 Chileans and exiling over 10,000 to neighboring countries. This is a perfect example of how he pushed out the lower class but fed the upper class. His 'free market policies' made big factories thrive and small companies struggle. This is directly how the first constitution of Chile ran. With support of land and business owners, against the poor.

The rule of Pinochet caused a great divide between the rich and poor in Chile. Although Pinochet did bring a strong and stable economy to Chile, he also created massive wage gaps and pushed the poor people of Chile out making it impossible for them to make change in government policies. "Chile's economic miracle was also associated with increased unemployment (reaching 25-30 percent by 1938), widespread poverty (affecting 45 percent of Chileans by 1988) and an increasingly unequal distribution of income (among the worst in Latin America, the world's most unequal region)." (*The Chile Reader* 439) The last leader of Chile, Salvador Allende, was a strong socialist and pushed for equal incomes. Pinochet had created one

of the most unequal economies that Chile had ever seen. The poor were struggling to come up in this economy. Many were forced to open ranches and work off the land. This meant the farming of cattle, sheep, grapes, and wheat, which are also Chile's main exports.

The lower class is an essential part of every government. Chile's government (under the rule of Pinochet) is a great example of what happens when the lower class doesn't participate in government. "More chilling is his apparent war, documented this week by The Wall Street Journal, against Chileans whose only offense is poverty. Campaigns of random terror and torture to intimidate restive slum dwellers are becoming routine." Said *The New York Times*. This quote shows how Pinochet would purposely seek out to intimidate the poor people of Chile. This would obviously drive the lower class to flee to neighbouring countries. Participating in any opposing force or disagreeing would almost always result in death.

It is apparent to see the similarities between the first constitution of Chile and . There is a clear indication between the wording in Pinochet's constitution that resembled the inequalities in the Portales Constitution. Pinochet was effectively able to murder over 3,000 and exile nearly 10,000 of lower class Chilean citizens. Pinochet's economic policies also closely resembled Chiles original policies by taking a more conservative and free market zone for commerce. This greatly weekend the lower class and created massive wage gaps like those that were seen when Chile first formed a constitution. Pinochet purposely used his organists views of the constitution to create an justifiable way to oppress the poor.

“Editors of Encycloedia Britannica” July 20, 1998

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Augusto-Pinochet>

<http://www.constitutionnet.org/country/constitutional-history-chile>