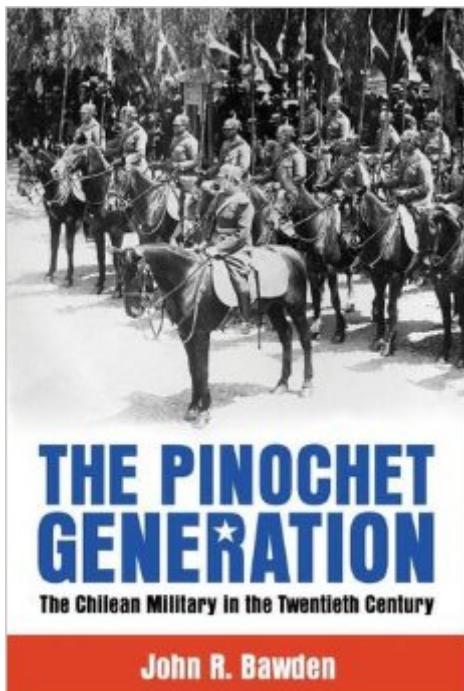


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The Pinochet Generation: The Chilean Military In The Twentieth Century



Synopsis

Chilean soldiers in the twentieth century appear in most historical accounts, if they appear at all, as decontextualized figures or simply as a single man: Augusto Pinochet. In his incisive study *The Pinochet Generation: The Chilean Military in the Twentieth Century*, John R. Bawden provides compelling new insights into the era and posits that Pinochet and his men were responsible for two major transformations in Chileâ™s constitution as well as the political and economic effects that followed. Â Determined to refocus what he sees as a âœdecontextualized paucityâ• of historical information on Chileâ™s armed forces, Bawden offers a new perspective to explain why the military overthrew the government in 1973 as well as why and how Chile slowly transitioned back to a democracy at the end of the 1980s. Standing apart from other views, Bawden insists that the Chilean militaryâ™s indigenous traditions and customs did more than foreign influences to mold their beliefs and behavior leading up to the 1973 coup of Salvador Allende. Â Drawing from defense publications, testimonial literature, and archival materials in both the United States and Chile, *The Pinochet Generation* characterizes the lens through which Chilean officers saw the world, their own actions, and their place in national history. This thorough analysis of the Chilean servicesâ™ history, education, values, and worldview shows how this military culture shaped Chilean thinking and behavior, shedding light on the distinctive qualities of Chileâ™s armed forces, the militaryâ™s decision to depose Allende, and the Pinochet dictatorshipâ™s resilience, repressiveness, and durability. Â Bawdenâ™s account of Chileâ™s vast and complex military history of the twentieth century will appeal to political scientists, historians, faculty and graduate students interested in Latin America and its armed forces, students of USâ™ Latin American diplomacy, and those interested in issues of human rights.

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