

# Intelligence Operations Supported by the United States

*author: Charles River Editors*

---

2026-06

# Synopsis

---

author	Charles River
readBy	Dan
inLanguage	english

Let's say there were 7,000 or 8,000 people who had to die to win the war against subversion... We couldn't execute them by firing squad. Neither could we take them to court... For that reason, so as not to provoke protests inside and outside the country, the decision was reached that these people should be disappeared. (General Jorge Rafael Videla)

For much of the 20th century, South American governments in large part lived under a system of military junta governments. The mixture of indigenous peoples, foreign settlers and European colonial superpowers produced cultural and social imbalances into which military forces intervened as a stabilizing influence. The proactive personalities of military heads and the rigid structures of such a hierarchy guaranteed the strong man commanding officer an abiding presence in the form of executive dictator. Such leaders often bore the more collaborative title of president, but the reality was, in most cases, identical. Likewise, the gap between rich and poor was often vast, and a disappearance of the middle class fed a frequent urge for revolution, reenergizing the military's intent to stop it. With no stabilizing center, the ideologies most prevalent in such conflicts alternated between a federal model of industrial and social nationalization and an equally conservative structure under privatized ownership and autocratic rule drawn from the head of a junta government.

The reign of Juan Peron in Argentina became the most iconic such arrangement to the Western observer, but General Augusto Pinochet's 17-year rule over Chile after an American-supported coup in the 1970s proved the most enduring and the most resistant to eradication by subsequent leaders of an opposite bent. Pinochet himself openly bragged, "My library is filled with UN condemnations." By combating Marxists and Communists during the Cold War, Pinochet ensured he would at the very least remain undisturbed by America, even as he carried out policies that would be labeled tyrannical by any objective

measurement. As writer Jacob C. Hornberger put it while analyzing appraisals of Pinochet based on political background, "error in the name of fighting terror is a grave criminal offense against humanity no matter what economic philosophy the state terrorist happens to hold."

*Operation Condor: The History of the Notorious Intelligence Operations Supported by the United States to Combat Communists Across South America* looks at the various intelligence operations and the winding chain of events that brought about conflicts in the region. You will learn about Operation Condor like never before.

## Reader's comments

---

comment 1:

â€"â€" ()