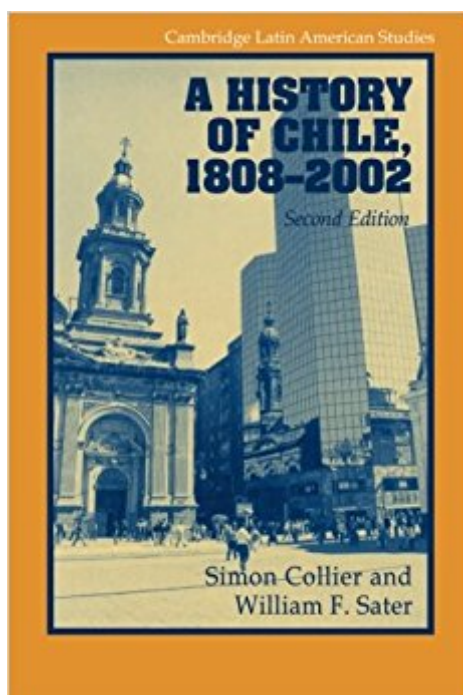


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A History Of Chile, 1808-2002 (Cambridge Latin American Studies)



Synopsis

Providing an overview of Chilean history for the general reader as well as the specialist, this text employs primary and secondary materials to analyze the nation's political, economic, and social evolution from independence to 2002. Unlike other works, the volume examines in depth the most recent events of Chile's history: the diversification of its economy, spread of democratic institutions, improvement of public health, and emergence of a rich intellectual culture. First Edition Hb (1996): 0-521-56075-6 First Edition Pb (1996): 0-521-56827-7

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Customer Reviews

"Collier and Sater have written the best general history of modern Chile available in any language. It is vast and comprehensive in scope, solid and dependable in factual information, reliable and complete in its sources, and consistently delightfully written." Choice

A History of Chile provides a overview of Chilean history which will appeal to the general reader as well as the specialist. Employing primary and secondary materials, it not analyzes the nation's political, economic, and social evolution from Chile's independence to 2002. Unlike other works, this volume examines in depth the most recent events of Chile's history: the diversification of its economy, the spread of democratic institutions, the improvement of public health, and the appearance of a rich intellectual culture.

As some of the reviews indicate, recent history of Chile is controversial and an effort like this one

will not find universal approval. The authors have written a concise, readable history of Chile for the general reader (e.g. without giving sources to everything they cite). The stated aim of the authors is to give a "basic narrative of political events" combined with "descriptions of broader economic and social tendencies" and occasional sections on culture. I think they succeeded well. Throughout the work, the authors' quest for fairness shines through. The work is very readable with occasional instances of wit and humor, but the writing is not brilliant and fascinating. The very last chapter was added in the second edition and is not completely integrated, but still brings up the history of Chile to almost the present. Despite rare typo's, the editing is competent. I personally found it a good read about a fascinating topic.

Is a general review of the history of Chile, good for beginners.

A terrible disappointment. I was looking for a readable overview of Chilean history, and instead received a treatise whose only possible upside is when it is used as an antidote to insomnia, or as a desiccant. Reminds me of why so many students despise history. Well, off to Chile I go.

Apparently purposed as a textbook, this tome reads as such. Full of excellent research and unbiased on the whole (to my amateur eye), it's thorough but doesn't exactly invigorate the senses. A solid accompaniment to travel in Chile, as your experiences there will flesh out the straightforward details presented here.

Great book. I was born in Chile, 66 years ago. So to me the book is a very detailed narrative of main events that constitute the history of Chile. A language ease to read.

This review is more of a response to two of the other reviews thus far. One review writes completely of the Chilean road to socialism section of the book (and everything thereafter in the book), and never mentions anything before this last section of the book, despite that section only being the last 80 pages, thus leaving the first 330 pages to obscurity; it seems as though this reviewer read the last 80 pages of the book and left the rest untouched. Beyond this, the section the reviewer commented on was unbelievably balanced, pointed out clearly the economic difficulties of the Unidad Popular era, but also pointed out the money dedicated to social programs. As this same reviewer wrote, it is important for foreigners to study the history of Chile. And as Collier wrote in the introduction, "a fresh eye can sometimes be cast over the changing Chilean scene from outside" (p.

xv). From this perspective, I think Collier and Sater do a wonderful job covering the history of Chile from 1808 to 2002. In fact, they have done such a good job that I have seen this book (in Spanish translation) on college syllabi in Chile. Another reviewer wrote that the book seemed as though it was "written by an undergraduate: A compilation of a bunch of facts from many sources (usually without a reference)." I'm not sure what this person knows about Simon Collier, but he was visiting professor in Chile in 1994 and 2002 and was so important to the writing of *Chile from Outside of Chile* that in 2000, he received from the Chilean state the *Orden Bernardo O'Higgins en el grado de 'Comendador'*, and was a *Miembro Correspondiente de la Academia Chilena de la Historia*. When he died, a book and conference (in Chile) were due to his great importance in Chilean history. The reviewer also remarks on the lack of citations, although in the introduction they write exactly what the book will footnote and what they will not. With the amount of information in this book, it is comforting to have a well organized at the end of the book on suggested further reading with comments by the authors on most books suggested. Overall, this book, although dry at times (as a history student, I know that it is hard to find a history book that doesn't drift into dryness every now and then), was enjoyable and gives any person that wants a general overview of the history of Chile, just that: a general overview. And Collier and Sater knew this, as they wrote in their introduction: "Our aim in this book is to present a general account of Chile's history as an independent nation-state for English-language readers...." The suggested reading section is great for furthering your insight into Chilean history, as well. Also, the added sections on "culture" add a lot to the book, such as the section that talks about Nueva Canción, something any person visiting Chile should know about (I have been in gatherings here in Chile where the entire night was spent singing Nueva Canción music).

A thorough, but sometimes editorialized history of Chile. Lacks a bit in narrative style, and at times departs on unnecessary tangents, but useful for academic pursuits.

Please do not be skewed by the last reviewer "Juan Alberto Díaz Wiechers". His review is completely biased and clearly shows his right-wing take on Chilean history and the socialist movement. It is precisely this kind of mentality that emphasizes the strong need to read an unbiased review of the history of Chile. "Juan Alberto Díaz Wiechers" tries to evoke a sentiment that the coup of 1973 was a legal and democratic action. It was completely non-democratic and completely illegal. Salvador Allende was a democratically elected president chosen by a free people in a fair election. And his comment that instead of the 3,000 that died because of the military government (as if that is

very little), millions would have died under socialism, screams of the fascist propaganda that "communists eat babies". The United States has even expressed regret for the actions taken in Chile in the early 70's. Colin Powell stated that those were dark days in the history of the CIA and the foreign policy of the United States government towards Latin America (specifically the supporting of Operation Condor). These policies actually increased anti-US sentiment that continues to be felt to this day in Latin America. I did read this book and found it a bit dry but VERY informative for its stated purpose. I would recommend it, although I do believe there are some better readers on the history of Chile. The books that I have read that bring the history of Chile to life in a more vivid manner have been written in Spanish and not yet translated. Well thank you for reading.

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