

# Delve Deeper into *Nostalgia for the Light*

A film by Patricio Guzman

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Penny Talbert and Rebecca Zinner of the Ephrata Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Nostalgia for the Light*.

Patricio Guzmán's *Nostalgia for the Light* is a remarkable meditation on memory, history and eternity. Chile's remote Atacama Desert, 10,000 feet above sea level, provides stunningly clear views of the heavens. But it also holds secrets from the past in its arid soil: human remains, from pre-Columbian mummies to the bones of political prisoners "disappeared" during the Pinochet dictatorship. In this otherworldly place, earthly and celestial quests meld: Archaeologists dig for ancient civilizations, women search for their loved ones and astronomers scan the skies for new galaxies.

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## ADULT NONFICTION

**Kornbluh, Peter.** *The Pinochet File: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability.* New York: New Press, 2003.

Documents declassified in 2003 provide the framework to Kornbluh's investigative narrative on Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet. Correspondences and government records reveal the sympathetic stance expressed by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger regarding General Pinochet's military coup as well as efforts made by the White House and CIA to conceal the atrocities committed by Pinochet.

**Frazier, Lessie Jo.** *Salt in the Sand: Memory, Violence, and the Nation-State in Chile, 1890 to the Present.*

Durham, NC: Duke University Press Books, 2007. From the labor strikes and massacres in the late nineteenth century to the atrocities that occurred during General Pinochet's reign as Commander in Chief,

northern Chile has often been characterized as a site of violent upheaval. This historical ethnography considers these events and analyzes the creation of official and alternative memories of specific instances of state violence. From this we gain an understanding of how memory works to affect political change in what Frazier argues is the always-ongoing process of nation-state formation.

**Poltzer, Patricia and Diane Wachtell.** *Fear in Chile: Lives Under Pinochet.* New York: The New Press, 2001, reprint edition. *Fear in Chile* is a collection of first-person accounts of life under Augusto Pinochet's fifteen-year dictatorship. Stories provided by men and women from every political persuasion offer a vivid picture of Chilean life under military rule.

**Foote, Elly and Nathan Foote.** *Hidalgo, The Desert Diaries: 100 Days Across the Atacama.* Independence, MS: NE Publishing, 2004.

Join Nathan and Elly Foote on their journey across the longest, driest desert on Earth, the Atacama of Chile. Diary entries chronicle the detailed strategies employed to complete this brutal leg of their equestrian campaign from Patagonia to Canada. A feat once considered impossible, the Footes make 100 days in the Atacama seem like an effortless jaunt.

**Spooner, Mary Helen.** *The General's Slow Retreat: Chile After Pinochet.* California: University of California Press, 2011.

After 17 years under military rule, Chile has since emerged as one of South America's strongest countries both economically and politically. This success, as Spooner makes evident in *The General's Slow Retreat*, has not come easily. Former dictator, Augusto Pinochet, possessed a great deal of influence over Chile, well after he ceded his power to the democratically elected Patricio Aylwin, as both commander of the Chilean

armed forces and a senator. Discover how Pinochet's long shadow continues to burden the people of Chile.

**Arce, Luz and Stacey Alba Skar.** *Inferno: A Story of Terror and Survival in Chile.* Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004.

*Inferno* is the testimony of Luz Arce, a woman who had fought against the coup d'état led by Augusto Pinochet, but later collaborated with Pinochet's military when she and her family received threats against their lives. As an agent of the National Intelligence Directorate, she aided in the capture of former friends and colleagues who challenged military rule. This narrative provides a unique and rare perspective from within the confines of Pinochet's Chile.

**Lomnitz, Larissa Adler and Ana Melnick.** *Chile's Political Culture Parties: An Anthropological Explanation.* Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2000.

*Chile's Political Culture Parties* is an in depth anthropological examination of the Chilean political culture. The authors explore what they label as the political culture's "grammar," or the ability of each society member to function within social categories, as well as the coexistence of these individual subcultures and their acceptance of a common legal framework.

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## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Holiday, Jane.** *Exploring Chile with Five Themes of Geography.* New York, NY: Rosen Publishing, 2005.

Explore Chile's varied geographical regions from the Valdivian temperate rainforest to the volcanoes, both active and dormant, of the Chilean Andes to the arid Atacama Desert. Learn how Chileans interact with and make use of their unique surroundings.



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**DiPiazza, Francesca. *Chile in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2007.** Alongside passages describing Chilean history, government, geography, and culture, beautiful pictures bring Chile to life!

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## FILMS, VIDEOS and BROADCASTS

***Pinochet's Last Stand*. A film by Richard Curson Smith. New York, NY: HBO Video, 2006. DVD: Spanish.** Reknown actor Derek Jacobi portrays former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet in this political drama. Pinochet, a ruthless dictator responsible for the deaths of 3,000 civilians and the torture of many more, is taken into custody by Amnesty International and put on trial for crimes against humanity. However, the legal and political complexities of this case make it uncertain whether Pinochet will ever answer for the atrocities committed against his people.

***The Battle of Chile*. A film by Patricio Guzman. Icasus Films Home Video, 2009. DVD: Spanish.** First-hand footage presents the chaotic reality of the Chilean political struggle during 1973. Guzman's 3-part documentary chronicles the rising political tension and resulting coup d'état led by Augusto Pinochet. This critically lauded film is a must-see for history and documentary lovers alike.

***Chile: Hasta Cuando?* A film by David Bradbury. New York, NY: Filmmakers Library, 2008. DVD, Spanish.** Australian documentarian, David Bradbury, led a camera team to Chile in 1985 under the ruse that they were reporting on a music festival. In reality, their intention was to document the oppression of the Chilean people under General Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship. Scenes of police brutality alongside interviews with supporters as well as opponents of Pinochet present a portrait of militarily ruled Chile near the end of Pinochet's reign.

***The Judge and the General*. A film by Elizabeth Farnsworth and Patricio Lanfranco. PBS Home Video, 2008. DVD.** When Juan Guzmán, a conservative judge and long-standing supporter of Augusto, begins to investigate the crimes levied against the Chilean dictator, he undergoes a drastic change of heart. Follow the twists and turns of two of the investigations that resulted in Guzmán working to challenge Pinochet's immunity from prosecution.

***Muchaca*. A film by Andres Wood, Gerardo Herrero, Mamoun Hassan, Roberto Brodsky and Matias Quer. Venice, CA: Menemsha Films, 2007. DVD, Spanish.** As part of a social integration project, Pedro, a poor boy of tribal descent, is sent to an upper class private school. His blossoming friendship with Gonzalo, who comes from a family much wealthier than Pedro's, introduces both boys to new worlds. Pedro is struck by Gonzalo's unhappy home life while Gonzalo discovers the poverty that plagues Pedro's family.

