

HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL
Topic A: Assisting in Containing Turmoil in
Latin America

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Background Information

The Cold War

Everywhere in the world, during the period of the Cold War (1947-1991), had its country divided into two poles, the Communist pole and the Capitalist pole. Countries such as the United States and the Soviet Union used the spread of their ideology to proxy their domination over economically smaller nations around the world.

The Cold War split the temporary wartime alliance against Nazi Germany, leaving the USSR and the US as two superpowers with profound economic and political differences: the former being a single-communist party state, and the latter being a capitalist democratic state.

The two superpowers never engaged directly in full-scale armed combat, but they each armed heavily in preparation of an all-out nuclear World War III. Each side had a nuclear weapon that frightened an



attack by the other side, on the basis that such an attack would lead to total destruction of the attacker. Aside from the development of the two sides' nuclear resources, and positioning of conventional military forces, the struggle for dominance was expressed via proxy wars around the globe through psychological warfare, propaganda, and espionage.

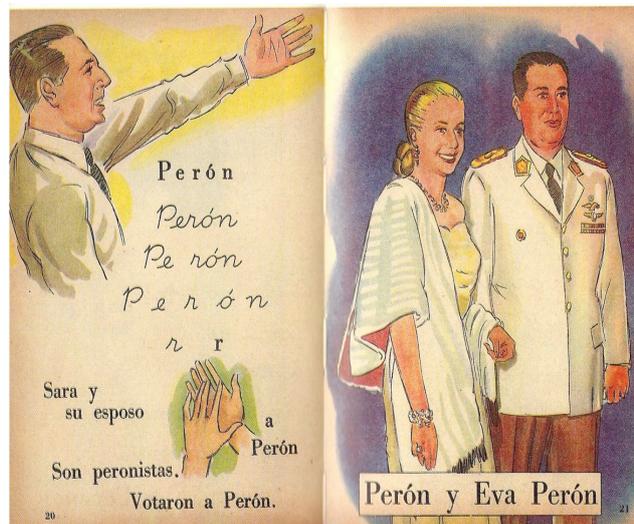
United States moved thereafter to expand the policy of containment into Asia, Africa, and Latin America, in order to counter revolutionary nationalist movements often led by communist parties financed by the USSR. This "containment" operation was part of the Truman Doctrine that pledged to end the "Domino Effect" across other smaller nations. These communist vs. capitalist "invasions" gave room for strong authoritarian governments to

establish governance in all parts of the world. In Latin America this period was known as “The Latin American Dark Ages”.

Dictatorships in Latin America

In Argentina (1973-1974) -“Peronismo and The Dirty War ”

The Dirty War was the name used by historians to identify the state of terrorism in Argentina against political revolutionists, with military and security forces conducting urban and rural guerrilla violence against left-wing guerrillas, political dissidents, and anyone believed to be associated with socialism. Victims of the violence included an estimated 15,000 to 30,000 left-wing activists and militants, including trade unionists, students, journalists, Marxists, Peronist guerrilla and alleged sympathizers. “Some 10,000 of the “disappeared”



were believed to be guerrillas of the Montoneros (MPM), and the Marxist People's Revolutionary Army (ERP)” . Even though being small in size, historians believe the guerrillas were responsible for instigating at least 6,000 fatalities among the military, police forces and civilian population according to a *National Geographic Magazine* article from 1980s, and for that the government led by Peron, used this argument to crush these future “threats”. The disappeared ones were considered to be political or ideological hazards to the military junta and their disappearances an attempt to silence the opposition and break the determination of the guerillas.

According to Declassified documents of the Argentinian secret police, Argentinian officials estimated that 22,000 people were killed or "disappeared" between 1975-1978. During this period, in which it was later revealed, 8,625 "disappeared" in the form of PEN (*Poder Ejecutivo Nacional*, anglicized as

"National Executive Power") detainees who were held in clandestine detention camps throughout Argentina before eventually being freed under diplomatic pressure. The National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons (NCDP) estimates that around 13,000 were disappeared.

The exact chronology of “Argentina’s Dirty War” is still debated, however, Historians believed that the dictatorship truly started by 1969, since it was the year that Peron started his “Personality Cult” campaign through education and propaganda (see figure 1). These types of propaganda, had the intent of stimulating mind manipulation of the young, as seen in the school text-book above, and to motivate the psychological compliance to a “father figure”; while Peron conducted tragic and brutal assassinations of those opposed to his regime. Events such as the Bombing of Plaza de Mayo in 1955, The Trelew massacre of 1972, the actions of the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance since 1973, and Isabel Martínez de Perón's "annihilation decrees" against left-wing guerrillas during *Operativo Independencia* in 1975, have also been suggested as dates for the beginning of the Dirty War.

Juan Peron

Juan Peron was born in October 8th 1895, and he was an important military officer during his youth. After gaining prominent attention due to his heroic image, he took advantage of it in politics. Hence, he joined the Justicialist Party (*Partido Justicialista*), which derived its name from the Spanish words for "social justice" (*justicia social*) in 1943.



The pillars of the Peronist ideal, known as the "three flags", are social justice, economic independence, and political sovereignty. The ideology developed by Peron, known as “Peronismo” can be described as a third position ideology,

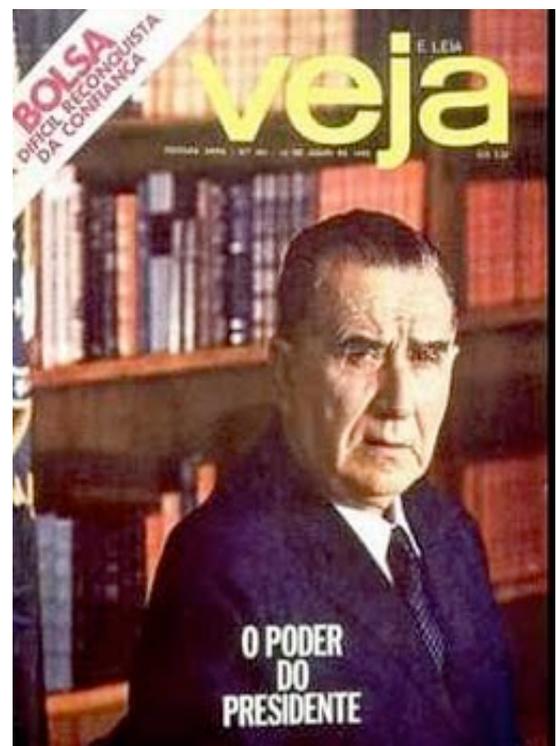
as it rejects the extremes of capitalism and communism. Peronism embraces corporatism and thus, aims to mediate tensions between the classes of society, with the state responsible for negotiating compromise in conflicts between managers and workers.

Peron was president of Argentina twice, one from 1946-1955, where he was praised as a special military figure. Then he was president a second time from October 1973 to July 1974, where he was seen more as a dictator rather than a martyr.

Many historians believe that after his wife's death to cancer, Eva Duarte (later known as Eva Peron), his popularity decreased and people did not convey as much to his image as a savior as his wife used to portray publically. Thus, Peron was no longer a "symbol" of confidence.

In Brazil (1964-1985) – “Brazil: Love It or Leave it”

The Brazilian military government was the authoritarian military dictatorship that ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985. The dictatorship began with the 1964 coup led by the Armed Forces that were financed by the US, against the democratically elected left-wing President João Goulart ; and ended with the election of José Sarney in 1985. Historians believe that Brazil's military regime provided a model for other military regimes and dictatorships around Latin America, which helped systematize the “Doctrine of National Security”; since it justified the military's actions as operating in the interest of National Security in a time of crisis.



After the Paraguayan war, the Brazilian armed forces become prominently popular in Brazil, and this led to their desire of becoming

politically active since the beginning of the 1900's. The politicization of the Armed Forces was evidenced by the Proclamation of the Republic, which overthrew the Empire, or within Tenentismo and the Revolution of 1930 in São Paulo. The issue was that tensions later on escalated again in the 1950s, as important military circles joined right wing activists in attempts to stop João Goulart from taking office, due to his perceived alignment with Communist ideology because of his advocacy base reforms ("Reformas de Base"). While previous president Juscelino Kubitschek proved to be friendly to capitalist institutions, Goulart promised agricultural reforms and openly demonstrated sympathy for Communism through his speeches.

In 1961, Goulart finally took office as the Brazilian President under an arrangement that decreased his powers as such, due to the implementation of Parliamentarianism. The country returned to presidential government in one year, and as Goulart's powers developed, it became apparent that he would seek to implement leftist policies in many sectors, regardless of having acquiescence from established institutions such as the Congress. Society became deeply polarized, with many fearing Brazil would join Cuba as part to the Communist Bloc in Latin America. One of the many that feared this was US President John F. Kennedy, who ordered the investment of two million dollars to impede Brazil from turning "Red". President Kennedy feared that by having such an economically rich, vast and prosperous country like Brazil fall to the Communist regime, this would signify the complete fall of Latin America to Communism. In order to impede the "Domino Effect" from reaching Latin America, he sent one of the US's most cherished and respected ambassadors to look after the the spread of Communism in Brazil. His name was Lincoln Gordon, who also worked together with the CIA and sent letters that concerned the political state in Brazil.

In 1964, rebel troop operations started within Brazil, finally the so overlooked Coup started and Goulart fled to Uruguay, leaving General Castelo Branco as the new Brazilian President. He implemented in his mandate "communist hunting" and new constitutional mandates that were very oppressive, such as the AI-2, which dissolved the opposition parties and

closed the Congress. Castelo Branco's new regime adopted nationalism, economic development, and opposition to Communism as guidelines listed by the American government in exchange for financial and political support. However, it was only in 1970s that the dictatorship reached the height of its power, due to the Economic Miracle. Medici, one of Brazil's most authoritative and oppressive leaders, implemented this program named "Economic Miracle". He also implemented the article AI-5, which censored all media and prohibited freedom of speech. As a consequence, people that were against Medici were either tortured or banished from the country. He stimulated a campaign known as "Brazil: Love it or Leave it" (Brazil: Ame-o ou Deixe-o) after having won the World Cup, and was responsible for the greatest amount of deaths in Brazil during dictatorship.

Our debate will be focused during the 1970's, in Medici's regime, and the kidnapping of the American Ambassador, Charles Burke Elbrick, who was kept hostage by a Communist Brazilian Guerilla force in exchange for the liberation of Brazilian hostages that were being tortured under Medici's police.

In Chile (1973-1990) – "The Fall of Allende"

The Chilean military dictatorship was a government that ruled from 1973- 1990, after the fall of the previous socialist President Salvador Allende. The dictatorship was established after the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende was overthrown by a CIA-backed coup on September 11th, 1973. The dictatorship was headed by a military junta presided by General Augusto Pinochet. Pinochet used the perceived breakdown of democracy and the economic crisis that took place during Allende's presidency as justifications to seize power. The dictatorship presented its mission as a "national reconstruction from Communism".

Similar to other regimes in Latin America, Pinochet forced the systematic suppression of political parties and the persecution of nonconformists to an extent that was unprecedented in the history of Chile. Historians believe that overall, the regime left over 3,000 dead or missing and forced 200,000 Chileans into



exile, most prominently to England or France. The dictatorship shaped much of modern Chile's political, educational, and economic life. In 1980, it replaced the Constitution of 1925 with a new set of laws by regime collaborators. The constitution was approved in a highly controversial referendum in 1980, but Pinochet's plans to remain in power were prevented in 1988 when the regime admitted defeat in a referendum that opened the way for democracy to be reestablished by 1990. Furthermore, before the regime resigned power, an amnesty law was passed which prevented 90% of the members of the military from being prosecuted by the subsequent government.

In the debate, delegates should focus on the understanding of Pinochet's regime from his long-lasting neoliberal reforms in collaboration with various economists dubbed the "Chicago Boys" to his hardline persecution of "communist rebels". It is important to note that the regime not only re-privatized some previously expropriated property but also privatized part of the education and healthcare system, which are still one of the most well planned social plans in action to this day.

Timeline

1946: Peron's first term as president, signs the Rat Lines, which granted Nazi's the free diplomatic passage to Argentina as they ran from the Nuremberg Trials.

1952: Eva Peron dies of Cancer.

1955: Peron's second Term as President ends, and he is exiled.

1960-: CIA plots to depose or assassinate Fidel Castro in what is eventually named "Operation Mongoose."

1961: Eisenhower administration breaks diplomatic relations with Castro in Cuba.

1961: Failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

1962: Missile Crisis with the US, Cuba, and the USSR.

1970: Kidnapping of American Charles Burke Elbrick, who was kept hostage by a Communist Brazilian Guerilla force in exchange for the liberation of Brazilian hostages that were being tortured under Medici's police.

1961-69: Kennedy's Alliance for Progress tries to bring reform and development to Latin America.

1961: Paraguay becomes the last country in Latin America to grant women the right to vote.

1961: Nicaraguan guerrillas organize the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

1964: Military coup of João Gullar and the Start of Brazilian Dictatorship.

1965: US forces, fearing a Communist takeover, occupy Dominican Republic.

1967: Guerrilla hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara is killed in Bolivia while attempting to spark a revolutionary uprising.

1968: A large and important Student Movement ends with police and army massacring on students at the Plaza of Tlatelolco in Mexico City.

1970: Salvador Allende in Chile elected president in Chile, and becomes the first democratically elected socialist to take power in Latin America.

1973: CIA-backed coup overthrows Allende in Chile; military government under General Augusto Pinochet kills thousands of opponents.

1976: On March 24, generals Videla, Massera and Agosti form a military junta in Argentina. Their resulting "guerra sucia" (Dirty War) lasted until 1983 and killed or "vanished" thousands of people.

1977-80: President Jimmy Carter makes human rights a major goal in his Latin American policy.

1979: Sandinistas take power in Nicaragua

1980: Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) guerrilla warfare starts in Peru.

Key Terms

Peronism: An Argentine political movement based on the legacy of former President Juan Domingo Perón and his second wife, Eva Perón. The party, the Justicialist Party (*Partido Justicialista*), derived its name from the Spanish words for "social justice" (*justicia social*).

Salvador Allende: Marxist who was elected president of Chile in 1970. He set the country on a radical course, which aroused opposition from the middle class and the army. He was overthrown during an army coup supported by the CIA in 1973.

Medici: a Brazilian military leader and politician. His characteristically conservative rule from 1969 to 1974 marked the apex of the military dictatorship in Brazil.

Pinochet : Commander-in-Chief (*Comandante en Jefe*) of the Chilean Army from 1973 to 1998. He was also president of the Government Junta of Chile between 1973 and 1981.

Democracy: is a form of government in which all eligible citizens are meant to participate equally – either directly or, through elected representatives, indirectly – in the proposal, development and establishment of the laws by which their society is run.

Interventionism: is a political term for significant activity undertaken by a state to influence something not directly under its control. It is an act of military, economical intervention that is aimed for international order, or for the benefit of the country.

Authoritarianism: is a form of government characterized by absolute or blind obedience to [formal] authority, as against individual freedom and related to the expectation of unquestioning obedience.

Socialism: is a social and economic system characterised by social ownership of the means of production and co-operative management of the economy, as well as a political theory and movement that aims at the establishment of such a equalitarian system.

Privatization: it is the process of transferring ownership of a business, enterprise, agency, public service, or public property from the public sector (a government) to the private sector, either to a business that operates for a profit or to a nonprofit organization.

Nationalism: is a belief, creed or political ideology that involves an individual identifying with, or becoming attached to, one's nation. Nationalism involves national identity, by contrast with the related construct of patriotism, which involves the social conditioning and personal behaviors that support a state's decisions and actions.

Personality Cult: arises when an individual uses mass media, propaganda, or other methods, to create an idealized, heroic, and at times, worshipful image, often through unquestioning flattery and praise.

Capitalism: is an economic system in which trade, industry, and the means of production are largely or entirely privately owned and operated for profit. Central characteristics of capitalism include capital accumulation, competitive markets and wage labor.

Guiding Questions

- What do all three regimes have similarly?
- How did the USA/USSR act differently in each of these countries? And why?
- How can peace be established?
- How should the international community react to these governments?
- How can democracy be reestablished?
- To what extent can the US be blamed for the violence spurred by the Latin American dictatorships?
- What should be the role of the UN towards civilian oppression?
- Should there be punishment for the hard line leaders?
- To what extent are the governments affecting human right laws?

Further Research

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<http://www.fsmitha.com/h2/ch24u.html>

<http://latinamericanhistory.about.com/od/thehistoryofargentina/p/09juanperon.htm>

<http://latinamericanhistory.about.com/od/historyofsouthamerica/a/evita.htm>

<http://www.thedailystar.net/the-fall-of-allende-41097> (Amazing Article about Allende)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusto_Pinochet

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2006/12/10/AR2006121000302.html>

<http://www.donquijote.org/culture/chile/society/people/pinochet.asp>