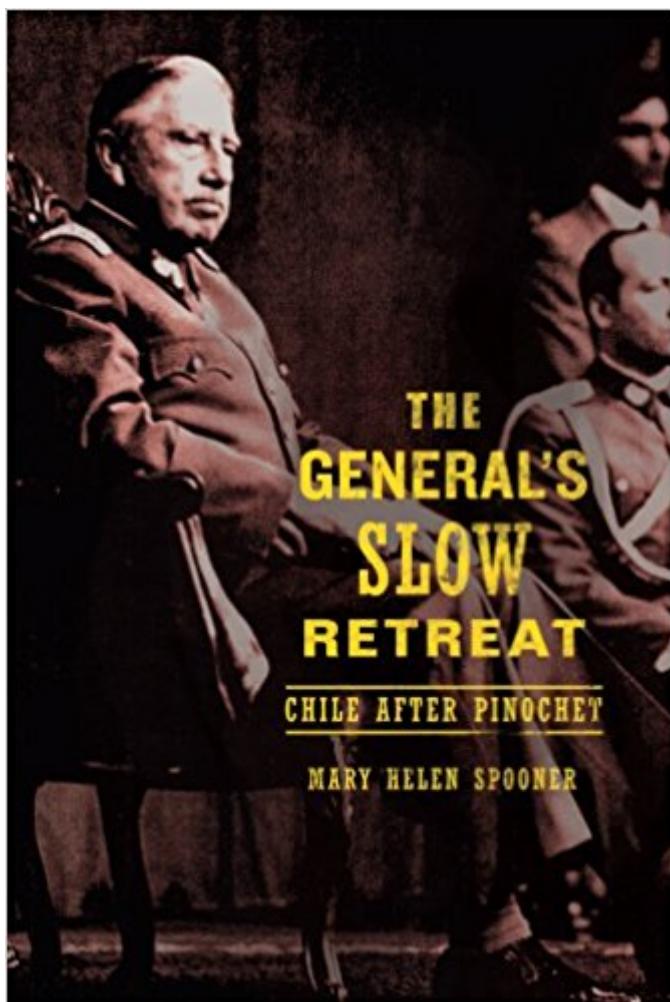


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The General's Slow Retreat: Chile After Pinochet



Synopsis

In her acclaimed book *Soldiers in a Narrow Land*, Mary Helen Spooner took us inside the brutal dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Carrying Chile's story up to the present, she now offers this vivid account of how Chile rebuilt its democracy after 17 years of military rule; with the former dictator watching, and waiting, from the sidelines. Spooner discusses the major players, events, and institutions in Chile's recent political history, delving into such topics as the environmental situation, the economy, and the election of Michelle Bachelet. Throughout, she examines Pinochet's continuing influence on public life as she tells how he grudgingly ceded power, successfully fought investigations into his human rights record and finances, kept command of the army for eight years after leaving the presidency, was detained on human rights charges, and died without being convicted of any of the many serious crimes of which he was accused. Chile has now become one of South America's greatest economic and political successes, but as we find in *The General's Slow Retreat*, it remains a country burdened with a painful past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

âœA human account of Chile's particular experience that is thoughtful, well researched and immensely readable.â • (Tanya Harmer International Affairs 2012-04-01)

“Pinochet's supporters will continue to believe what they will believe, but the well-educated reader needs to have a solid historical record to turn to, and *The General's Slow*

Retreat provides just that. Few books offer the kind of engaging narrative Spooner is capable of. I have been looking for such a text for years.â • —Steven Volk, Professor of History, Oberlin College

This book gives a thorough explanation of how the democratic forces took back Chile from the dictatorial reign of Pinochet. Even after Pinochet lost some power to a duly-elected president in 1990, the forces of democracy had to move slowly--ever fearful of the general who had seized power. Little by little, the democratic forces strengthened their hold as Pinochet became older and weaker until he finally died in 2006. The author extensively researched the subject and writes well about the struggle between the dictator and democracy. As a recent visitor to Chile, I enjoyed touring the country and meeting some of the people. This is a democracy that only regained its footing in the last few years, and there are still signs of Pinochet. A documentary film recently opened in Chile about the general, and many pro-Pinochet supporters praised the film. This book explains the cross currents between Pinochet, his followers and the people who believed and still believe in democracy.

I thought the book was well written and easily understood. I think it was very well documented. So sad to read about all of these tragedies.

Another former politico saying again and again and again how pure his intentions were and what great things he achieved.

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