

Unit 1 Human Rights in Chile 1

Before reading

1. Work on the following vocabulary exercise related to the coup d'état in Chile. Match the concepts to their definitions.

a. <i>Coup d'état</i>	a. ___	1. a great deal of money, property or possessions.
b. Political party	b. ___	2. a reddish-brown metal used as an electrical conductor.
c. wealth	c. ___	3. to name or assign someone officially
d. wage	d. ___	4. to fire someone.
e. copper	e. ___	5. a political group seeking political power to direct the government policies
f. Trade union	f. ___	6. the judicial branch of the government.
g. To appoint	g. ___	7. to plan secretly something hostile or evil.
h. unaware	h. ___	8. the removal of members of an organization who are considered disloyal or undesirable.
i. To plot	i. ___	9. a sudden and decisive action that results in a forceful change of government
j. To dismiss	j. ___	10. an association of employees formed to improve their income and working conditions.
k. Purge	k. ___	11. not knowing about something.
l. judiciary	l. ___	12. money paid or received for work or services.

2. Read the first part of an article about the *coup d'état* in Chile.

In 1970 Salvador Allende, the leader of the Chilean Socialist Party, was elected president. He therefore became the first Marxist in the world to gain power in a free democratic election. The new government faced serious economic problems. Inflation was running at 30 per cent and over 20 percent of the male adult population were unemployed. It was estimated that half of the children under 15 suffered from malnutrition.

Allende decided to take action to redistribute wealth and land in Chile. Wage increases of around 40 per cent were introduced. At the same time companies were not allowed to increase prices. The copper industry was nationalized. So also were the banks. Allende also restored diplomatic relations with Cuba, China and German Democratic Republic.

In June 1973, Salvador Allende appointed Augusto Pinochet as commander-in-chief of the Chilean Army. Allende was unaware that Pinochet was plotting with the CIA to remove him from power. On 11th September 1973, Pinochet led a military coup against Allende's government. Allende died in the fighting in the presidential palace in Santiago.

Pinochet immediately closed down the Chilean Parliament, suspended the constitution, banned all political and trade union activity and imposed strict controls over the media. Pinochet, who had appointed himself president, ordered a purge of the left in Chile. Over the next few years more than 3,000 supporters of the Allende regime were killed.

People in positions of authority who were suspected of holding liberal opinions were also removed from power. It is estimated that around 10 percent of the Chilean judiciary were dismissed during this period. Pinochet was also responsible for thousands of people being tortured and large numbers were forced into exile.

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After Reading

3. Answer the following questions considering the first part of the article.

a. What did Allende become when he was elected president in 1970?

b. What economic problems did Allende's government face?

c. What changes did Allende introduce?

d. What was Pinochet's plan against Allende?

e. Name three actions Pinochet took when he appointed himself president.

5. Look at these events from the text. Transform them into active sentences and add an agent if needed.

a. The 11th of September is commemorated every year in Chile.

b. La Moneda was bombed by the military forces on the 11th of September in 1973.

c. Before the coup, Chile was considered an example of democracy.

d. The events that happened in Chile in 1973 will never be forgotten.

e. Democratic elections have been held in Chile since 1989 when the dictatorship ended.
