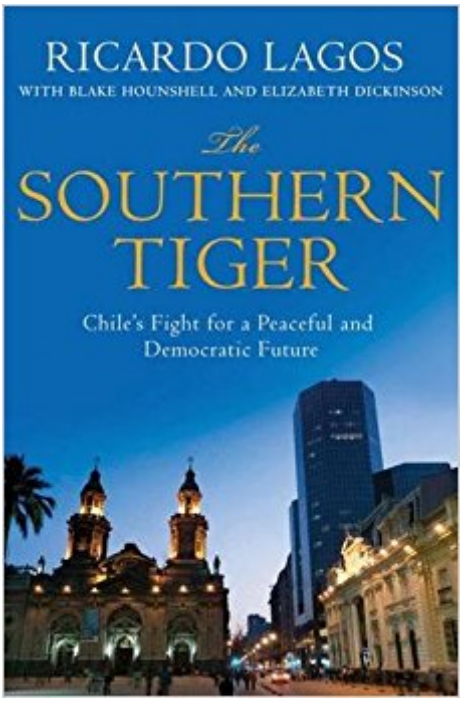
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The Southern Tiger: Chile's Fight For A Democratic And Prosperous Future



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Synopsis

Former Chilean president Ricardo Lagos provides a fascinating glimpse inside his country's meteoric rise on the world stage. A leader in the underground resistance movement against Augusto Pinochet and his Dirty War, Ricardo Lagos burst onto the national stage in 1988 when he gave a speech denouncing the dictator, the first of its kind. Revolution soon followed, as Chileans took to the streets to oust a criminal despot and pave the way for democracy. In The Southern Tiger, Lagos chronicles Chile's journey from terror and repression to a thriving open society, and from crushing poverty to one of the wealthiest nations in Latin America. His thrilling stories of surviving Chile's political prisons, standing up to President George W. Bush over the war in Iraq, and rebuilding Chile's education system demonstrate why President Obama recently called Chile 'a model for the region and the world.' As citizens across the globe rise up to demand more from their governments, The Southern Tiger is an inspiring story of political and economic rebirth in the wake of fear.

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Customer Reviews

"...Ricardo Lagos...gives an extraordinary account of his fight against Pinochet's regime, his struggle in transitioning Chile into a democracy, and his role in lobbying against the Iraq war. Once started, it is hard to put this autobiography down because it is much more than a personal account of a political figure. It is the story of a country's fascinating recovery from dictatorship and devastating political economic policies...Lagos narrates with refreshing clarity, exhibiting humor and

optimism...An essential and timely read." - The Global Journal

Ricardo Lagos was president of Chile from 2000 to 2006, and the former UN special envoy for climate change. He has been profiled in media worldwide, including the BBC and The New York Times, and he has lectured at Harvard University, Yale University, Berkeley University (honored with Medal), Vanderbilt University, the London School of Economics, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. He is the former cochair of the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington and an editorial board member of Americas Quarterly. Currently a professor at large at Brown University, he lives in Santiago, Chile where he is Chairman of FundaciÃƒÂ n Democracia y Desarrollo.Blake Hounshell and Elizabeth Dickinsonare the managing editors of Foreign Policy magazine. They live in New York City.

There’s little out there in terms of a current history of Chile and Ricardo Lagos provides a lot of detail and thorough analysis on the past 40 years of the country. The history is mostly through his eyes but it seems like a fairly unbiased approach. Even if your not going to Chile it’s still an interesting read, particularly about parts with the US influence and support of Pinochet. Lagos does a good job of simplifying what are otherwise complicated economic policies.

Lagos was probably the best President since the return to democracy and he can be well credited with the growth surge Chile has seen since his term. I would suspect he was the puppeteer behind Bachelet’s term as well. The book is well written and very factual. Misses the Trans Santiago fiasco but politicians cannot be expected to get it 100% every time.

I wasn’t looking forward to reading this but was actually pleasantly surprised. The book reads easy from cover to cover and the story immediately grabs you. There are two major elements in this book; (1) the story of how Chile reclaimed democracy and (2) an explanation of why Chile has been such a success story in Latin America...

Reads like every politicians account of something. As an outsider (USA) it’s hard to know just what’s true and what’s fluff, but the book does explain some of what happened at the end of the military rule of Chile.

very interesting! i think the most awesome part is I got President Lagos’s signature inside the cover.

it’s truly riveting, the history of the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile and his role in taking down that dictatorship.

Already involved in politics before the coup that brought Pinochet to power, Ricardo Lagos was one of the leaders in the movement to restore democracy to Chile and subsequently went on to become its democratically elected President.In this book, Lagos starts by telling the story of how many of the various opposition parties came together with one purpose - to find a way to oust Pinochet without a violent struggle. The horrors of the Pinochet era are somewhat downplayed; Lagos concentrates more on the ideological and economic effects, although he does give enough information about the ’disappeared’ and the victims of torture to remind us of the excesses that were carried out by the regime. He is also honest about the amount of support Pinochet had within Chile - when a referendum on the regime was finally held, 44% of people voted for Pinochet to remain in power.Lagos then goes on to describe the restoration of democracy and the social and economic restructuring that has happened in the two decades since the regime fell. As one of the group of left-leaning leaders who embraced Blair’s Third Way, Lagos looked for innovative ways to involve both private and public sectors in rebuilding Chile’s infrastructure, restoring its economy and tackling the worst effects of poverty. To go by his own account in this book, Chile would seem to have taken huge steps towards becoming a fairer and richer society, although Lagos admits there’s still much more work to be done.In the last section, Lagos recounts Chile’s role in the UN discussions around the resolutions sought prior to the invasion of Iraq. It’s interesting to see this told from the point of view of one of the smaller countries - to read of the schmoozing and arm-twisting employed by the US and to a lesser extent the UK to get the votes of the unaligned countries. Lagos uses the epilogue to ponder on some of the political challenges remaining to Chile as well as some of the global challenges such as climate change.Overall, this book is interesting and easy to absorb. Sometimes a little self-congratulatory, that can surely be forgiven from a man who is clearly very proud of how far his country has come in such a short time. An enjoyable, informative and sometimes inspiring read - recommended.

This is a biography from Ricardo Lagos the first `socialist’ president of Chile. It tells of the long road that brought Chile from the terror of the Pinochet junta to free and democratic elections. Lagos is clearly an intelligent man and has a gentle spirit, the many stories he recounts in this book all have the theme of humanity at heart. It is a remarkable tale and all the more so as it is true.He also uses the book to advertise Chile and its people which is fair enough and takes us through the times of

repression and the disappearances, to how the new united government had to use education reforms, public works, infrastructure improvements and political lobbying of foreign powers to make the world start to notice that Chile had come out from the failing policies of the Dictator.The only criticism I have, and I do feel churlish for having the temerity to criticise a man I admire, is that it often has the feeling of being a diary. That is that it can come across a monologue of what he did and it seems a bit sterile. When it really comes to life is when he puts in the human touches, the anecdotes or the shared conversations. That is where the true story is. There is also a lot about reconciliation and the healing of what Lagos calls `the two Chile's, the right and the centrist left. Whilst I wanted a damning expose of the tyrant Pinochet, it is all a bit air brushed and the reason is obvious, digging up the past for retribution is not very healthy. The same is happening in Northern Ireland and Rwanda to name but two. Chile has made great strides and is coming to terms with the past and more importantly the present.I enjoyed this book, but would have liked more of the human side even though what Lagos writes about is superb in terms of achievements and personal sacrifice, there is really so much more to share with the rest of the world. I like Chilean cinema too and as Chile grows so does her output of art etc and I think that can only be a good thing. Ricardo Lagos has a lot to be proud of. The foreword in by Bill Clinton who clearly has a lot of respect for Lagos and his admirable efforts to bring democracy and peace to a split country.

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