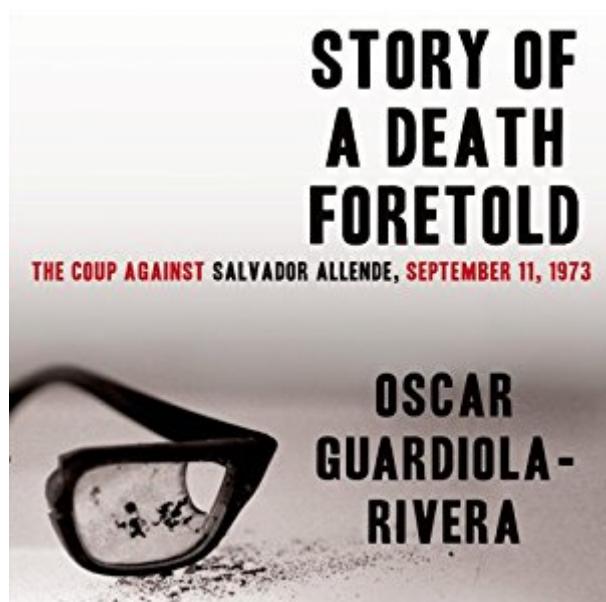


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Story Of A Death Foretold: The Coup Against Salvador Allende, 11 September 1973



Synopsis

On the fortieth anniversary of revolution and rebellion in Chile, a searching history of the rise and fall of the world's first and only democratically elected Marxist president. On September 11, 1973, President Salvador Allende of Chile was deposed in a violent coup led by General Augusto Pinochet. The coup had been in the works for months, even years. Shortly after giving a farewell speech to his people, Allende died of gunshot wounds - whether inflicted by his own hand or an assassin's remains uncertain. Pinochet ruled Chile for a quarter century, but the short rise and bloody fall of Allende is still the subject of fierce historical debate. In a world in the throes of the Cold War, the seeming backwater of Chile became the host of a very hot conflict - with Henry Kissinger and the Western establishment aligned with Pinochet's insurgents against a socialist coalition of students, workers, Pablo Neruda, and folk singers, led by the brilliant ideologue Allende. Revolution and counterrevolution played out in graphic detail, moving the small South American nation to the center of the world stage in the dramatic autumn of 1973. Now the rising young scholar Oscar Guardiola-Rivera gives us a tour de force account of a historical crossroads, tracing the destiny of democracy, and the paths of power, money, and violence that still shadow Latin America and its relations with the United States.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

At times a little repetitive in the way that the text is organized: but an important historical text that allows a reader to understand the challenges of emerging nations and their desire of diversity. Too

often the U.S. has backed neo-fascist dictators who guarantee unfettered access to extraction of resources to corporations, especially our own and multinational at the expense of democratically elected governments and their people. This stance comes out of the hubris of American exceptionalism and a belief, in spite of the enormous inequality and abject poverty within our own borders, that our form of 'capitalism' and governance are the only viable forms of economic and political systems and it is our right to impose our systems on any country that we feel is below us in stature. There are also lessons here about how powers use propaganda against anyone we deem not acting in our national interest, as though they have no right to their own sovereign self interest. Perhaps by looking at internally and externally applied propaganda, we may learn how to recognise and question its veracity. As it applies to agendas within our own borders and in countries where we exercise influence. If a sobering nation chooses democratically to set up an economic system we do not believe in, we should let it stand or fail on its own merits. If our system were the only and best economic system, then it would be self evident, we would not have to covertly try to destroy other systems, if we truly believed in our own systems. It is tragic that our government assisted, trained and plotted the overthrow of an elected government, but in that era, it was not the only democratically elected government that we covertly worked to overthrow.

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