

Unit 5 Crime Wave in the Southern Cone

II Red Light/ Green Light: Interview with John Dinges, *The Condor Years*

Democracy Now! Operation Condor Trial Tackles Coordinated Campaign By Latin American Dictatorships To Kill Leftists. Mar 7, 2013 Hosts Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez interview John Dinges, author of "The Condor Years: How Pinochet and his Allies Brought Terrorism to Three Continents," about the pan Latin American coordinated effort to eliminate political dissidents during the 1970's and 1980's.



Watch the interview with John Dinges, respond to the questions and write your reflections below.

http://www.democracynow.org/2013/3/7/operation_condor_trial_tackles_coordinated_campaign

Key People	Terms
Allende, Salvadore	activists, leftists, subversives
Banzer, Hugo	Automotores Orletti
Dinges, John	Chilean Coup, 1973
Kissinger, Henry	DINA (Chilean secret police)
Kotch, Ed	ICC (International Criminal Court)
Letelier, Orlando and Ronni Moffitt	
Pinochet, Augusto	

1. Why was the trial of March 5, 2013 in Buenos Aires an unusual trial?

2. Explain why Operation Condor is considered a Chilean venture?

3. How did Pinochet convince other countries to join him in the effort to hunt down and eliminate subversives?

4. Why did so many exiles settle in Argentina?

5. Why was Pinochet arrested in London, 1998?

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6. What was the U.S. Role in Latin America during the 1970's

7. When did the U.S. learn about Operation Condor? According to Dinges, was it a CIA invention?

8. Explain the importance of the second Condor meeting.

9. Why was Orlando Letelier assassinated? Did the CIA play a role in the assassination?

10. Why did Henry Kissinger say that he was under pressure from the Democrats? How did this impact his attitude toward events in the Southern Cone?

11. Explain why Ed Koch, former congressman and mayor of New York, was targeted for assassination?

12. Why does Dinges consider Henry Kissinger a human rights criminal?

13. Why has President Obama not responded to requests for Kissinger to testify?

14. What do you think that John Dinges meant when he said the United States had a “Schizophrenic, Machiavellian attitude” towards the mass killings?

15. Analyze and react to the following quote in a well organized essay.

The current discussion about drones, I think, is very frightening, because I'm having a hard time distinguishing between what they did with Operation Condor, low-tech, and what a drone does, because a drone is basically going into somebody else's country, even with the permission of that country—of course, that's what Operation Condor did, in most cases: You track somebody down, and you kill them. Now, the justification is: "Well, they were a criminal. They were a combatant." Well, that may or may not be true, but nobody is determining that except the person that's pulling the trigger. ~John Dinges