Chile

- **1964:** US funded the candidacy and subsequent regime of President Eduardo Frei Montalva, and both the conservative upper class and the Marxist left resented this support.

- **1970:** Socialist Salvador Allende democratically elected as President of Chile. President Richard Nixon directs CIA director Richard Helms to foster a coup. One month later, CIA station chief in Santiago receives Henry Kissinger's instructions that "It is firm and continuing policy that Allende be overthrown by a coup," and that these operations were to be conducted so as to hide the "American hand."

- **1973:** U.S. government initiates overthrow democratically elected socialist government of Salvador Allende and supports military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

  Over 20,000 dead or disappeared, estimated 1,000,000 in exile following coup.

- **1976:** Pinochet orders assassination of Orlando Letelier, Chilean diplomat under Allende. Letelier and Ronni Moffitt, U.S. activist, were killed in Washington D.C. by a car bomb set by Pinochet's secret police.

- **1977-1981:** Under President Carter, the US distanced itself from Chile in response to human rights atrocities committed during Pinochet's first term.

- **1990:** Democracy re-established in Chile. US-Chile relations stabilized during George H.W. Bush's administration when Chile moved toward democratic and free-market policies under President Patricio Aylwin.

- **1998:** Pinochet (82) takes seat as a life-long senator in Chile - a role he wrote into the country's constitution. As a senator, he is immune from prosecution under Chilean law. In October, Pinochet was arrested at a London hospital by police acting on a request from Spain, alleging that between 1973 and 1983 he committed atrocities against Spanish citizens.

- **2000:** Pinochet released, returns to Chile.

- **2006:** Pinochet dies. At the time he was under house arrest and had been implicated in over 300 criminal charges in Chile