

CHILE

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
1X	CHL	-5	34	2	12	1818	12	8	1851	3	1	6
1Xa	CHL	0	23	12	9	1851	6	30	1874	7	2	6
1Xb	CHL	3	14	7	1	1874	6	30	1888	7	4	6
1Xc	CHL	5	3	7	1	1888	9	19	1891	8	5	6
1Xd	CHL	3	33	9	20	1891	11	9	1924	3	7	7
1Xe	CHL	-88	1	11	10	1924	9	18	1925	-88	-88	-88
1Xf	CHL	-2	10	9	19	1925	6	30	1935	3	3	7
1Xg	CHL	2	20	7	1	1935	9	3	1958	7	3	7
1Xh	CHL	5	9	9	4	1958	11	2	1964	8	4	7
1Xi	CHL	6	9	11	3	1964	9	11	1973	8	5	7
1O	CHL	-7	7	9	12	1973	3	10	1981	4	1	1
1Oa	CHL	-7	2	3	11	1981	8	6	1983	5	1	1
1Ob	CHL	-6	5	8	7	1983	10	5	1988	5	1	2
1Oc	CHL	-1	1	10	6	1988	12	15	1989	5	2	8
1Od	CHL	8	10	12	16	1989	3	10	2000	7	7	9
1Oe	CHL	9	6	3	11	2000	3	10	2006	8	7	9
1Of	CHL	10	13	3	11	2006	99	99	9999	8	7	10

PITF Problem Events:

1) 09/73-12/76 (ARC 09/73; GEN 09/73-12/76)

Factionalism based on fundamentally opposed political perspectives between landed (conservative) and landless (socialist/populist) economic sectors had characterized Chilean politics since independence. The influence of mass-based political parties remained largely restricted until the turn of the century and largely divided through the early decades of the 20th century. Class divisions, as in many other Latin American societies, were mediated by the military but, unlike many of these other countries, the military's influence in politics remained mainly indirect and elected, civilian government was the norm. Conservative and liberal parties representing elite interests controlled the government through most of Chile's history, largely due to the inability of the popular opposition to organize effectively. The 1970 presidential election, however, resulted in victory by Salvador Allende, candidate of the leftist coalition Popular Unity Party (UP). The UP quickly began to take steps to socialize the economy, including the nationalization of copper mines and many large estates, which were turned over to workers. The coalition remained fragile, however, and Allende faced many political obstacles both within his own coalition and from opposition parties. The greatest opposition came from the Christian Democratic Party and the National Party, who together formed a bloc against the president in Congress.

Identify Main factions (Economic class/Oppositional):

- *Popular Unity Party (UP)* — coalition party formed in 1970 that sought to create socialism within a democratic and constitutional framework. This leftist coalition consisted of socialists, communists, radicals, and dissident Christian Democrats.
- *Christian Democratic Party (PDC)* — the PDC was the ruling party from 1964-1970. During President Allende's term, sectors of the socially conservative Christian Democrats shifted to the right and formed an anti-Allende bloc in Congress along with the National Party.
- Lesser factions:
 - Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR)* — small organization headed by radicalized students with a political stance that was further left than that of the Popular Unity. The MIR encouraged

peasants and workers to take property and speed the revolutionary process at a rate faster than Allende and the UP supported.

National Party (NP) — political party established in 1965 by Conservatives and Liberals that worked with the PDC to conduct congressional protests against President Allende.

Fatherland and Liberty — extreme right-wing movement that conducted acts of violence against State property and called on the public for a united front against the Government and the Left.

Changes within Factional-Democratic Period:

IXh) September 4, 1958 (presidential election) – In August 1958, President Ibáñez finally made good on his promises to repeal the controversial Law for the Defense of Democracy that had prohibited the Communist Party and, also, to institute electoral reforms and incorporate the secret ballot. Presidential elections held on September 4, 1958, were the first to be held under the liberalized election procedures and resulted in no candidate reaching the required majority. The rightist candidate, Jorge Alessandri Rodríguez, was the front-runner with only 37.2% of the vote (followed by leftist Allende and centrist Frei); Alessandri was subsequently elected by an overwhelming majority in the rightist-controlled Congress; his inauguration was boycotted by the Socialists and Communists.

IXi) November 3, 1964 (presidential inauguration) – In September 1964 presidential elections, the centrist candidate, Eduardo Frei Montalva, gained majority of the vote (55.7%) over the runner-up, Allende (38.5%) and was inaugurated on November 3, 1964. In September 1970 elections, Salvador Allende Gossens gained a plurality of the vote (36.3% to Alessandri's 34.9%) and was subsequently elected to the presidency by a vote in Congress when the Christian Democrats decided to support him over Alessandri.

10) Date of Change from Factional-Democratic: September 12, 1973 (coup – adverse regime change)

Brief Explanation of Change From:

Adverse Regime Change: September 1973

President Allende's government was overthrown on Sept. 11, 1973, in a coup carried out by the leaders of the Army, Navy, Air Force and National Police. On Sept. 12 the junta issued an ultimatum to all resisters to lay down their arms and surrender. The September 11, 1973, coup was one of the bloodiest in Latin America in the twentieth century. Gen. Pinochet became leader of the junta, consolidated power, dissolved Congress and suppressed left and center opposition. All political and trade union activity was banned. In June 1974 he appointed himself president and also remained head of the junta, which assumed legislative and executive powers.

Politicide: September 1973 – December 1976

In the wake of the 1973 military coup, supporters of the Allende regime and other leftists were arrested, tortured, disappeared, exiled, and summarily executed by government forces.

Changes within Stabilization/Democratic Consolidation Period

10a) March 11, 1981 (new constitution) – On March 11, 1981 a new constitution, promulgated in September 1980, came into force, on the same day that General Pinochet was inaugurated for an additional eight-year term. The constitution had been voted on in a national plebiscite on September 11, in which voting was mandatory. Pinochet promised to return the country to democratic governance through a “slow and gradual” transition process. Notably, the constitution called for legislative and presidential elections in 1989.

10b) August 6, 1983 (formation of opposition coalition) – Pinochet’s gradual opening of politics in Chile was complicated in 1983 with the formation of several opposition groups and widespread labor strikes in reaction to the government’s conservative economic policies and harsh rule. On August 6, 1983, the Democratic Alliance (AD) was formed in opposition to the government and in support of a swift return to democratic, civilian rule. Although the protests and strikes of the period were met by force, President Pinochet’s government allowed the AD and other opposition groups to continue operating, under military scrutiny and within limits.

10c) October 5, 1988 (national plebiscite) – On August 24, 1988, President Pinochet suspended the state of emergency that he had imposed in March 1973, in preparation for a plebiscite on his continued rule. In accordance with the constitution, Pinochet could appeal to the people for another term, which would allow him to remain in power until 1998. Opposition groups began to unify and operate openly in September, and military support for President Pinochet began to wane as opposition to his continued rule escalated. Pinochet was soundly defeated in the plebiscite; he acknowledged defeat and pledged to step down after December, 1989 elections.

10d) March 11, 1990 (presidential election) – On August 23, 1989, Gen. Pinochet made in clear in a public speech that the future civilian government would have to give advance guarantees to leave him in command of the military, to respect the general amnesty law of 1978, and not to challenge the preeminent role of the military to oversee political developments and ensure public order. Chile held its first competitive elections since the 1973 coup on December 14, 1989; candidates required prior approval by the military. Patricio Azocar of the Christian Democratic Party, and candidate of the seventeen-party Coalition for Democracy, emerged victorious with 53.8% of the vote. Azocar was inaugurated on March 11, 1990, and immediately restored the National Congress and suspended the security measures put in place under the Pinochet regime.

10e) December 12, 1999 (presidential election) – Multi-party presidential elections held on December 12, 1999, resulted in a virtual tie. Ricardo Lagos Escobar (*Concertacion* alliance) narrowly won the presidency in a tense second round runoff ballot on January 16, 2000, against the right-wing, Alliance for Chile candidate; he was inaugurated on March 11, 2000. Although the military was no longer directly involved in politics, Lagos would have to deal with a Senate controlled by the conservative opposition due to the designated senators left behind as a safeguard by the Pinochet regime that could block substantial legislation and any attempt to change the constitution.

10f) March 11, 2006 (presidential election) – Presidential elections, held on December 11, 2005, included candidates from four political coalitions and were conducted in a fair, open, and orderly

fashion. No candidate gained the required majority of the vote and, so, a run off election was required between the top two candidates: Michelle Bachelet of the *Concertación* coalition and Sebastian Pinera of the Independent Regional Alliance (won by Bachelet with 53.5% of the vote to become Chile's first female president). Bachelet was inaugurated on March 11, 2006.