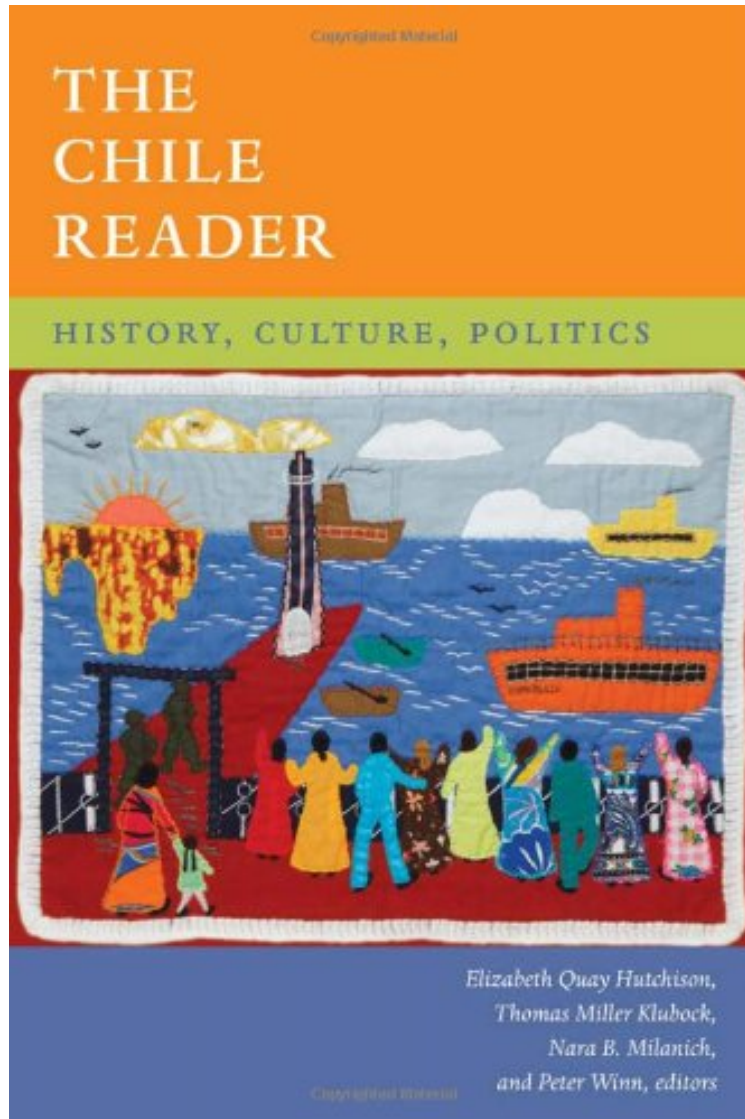


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## The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)

*From Elizabeth Quay Hutchison*  
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**From Elizabeth Quay Hutchison : The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great book for anyone who wants to understand Chile By sonia nazario A great book for anyone from the casual tourist trekking to Chile for the first time to students of Chile who

want to go deeper and truly understand this country. For so long, Chile has been branded the exception to the rest of Latin America a country that had, until 1973, a flowering democracy. A country with the first democratically elected Marxist president in the world. A country that flourished financially using neoliberal market reforms. So is Chile really exceptional, or is this a myth? Is Chile a model for Latin America, or does a clear-eyed look at the country through the eyes and words of conquistadors, poets like Pablo Neruda, and politicians like Salvador Allende turn that notion upside down? Told in the words of the country's biggest movers and shakers over the past few centuries, I found this book eye-opening. It also made me think harder about the U.S.'s own claims to exceptionalism. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent--Second I've bought in the series By JKMWest Good selection of source material not seen in English to date. Gives a cross-cutting picture of social and political situation that made Chile what it is today. I highly recommend it. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I was hoping for a more balanced perspective where the reader can be exposed to the best arguments from many perspectives and co By Thomas H. Long term history of Chile through short articles woven into eight themes. There is an attempt to include articles from different points of view on many of the subjects but there seems to be a heavy slant towards pro-socialism/communism as a whole. I was hoping for a more balanced perspective where the reader can be exposed to the best arguments from many perspectives and come to her or his own informed judgements on the wide vacillations Chile has seen in its political leadership.

The Chile Reader makes available a rich variety of documents spanning more than five hundred years of Chilean history. Most of the selections are by Chileans; many have never before appeared in English. The history of Chile is rendered from diverse perspectives, including those of Mapuche Indians and Spanish colonists, peasants and aristocrats, feminists and military strongmen, entrepreneurs and workers, and priests and poets. Among the many selections are interviews, travel diaries, letters, diplomatic cables, cartoons, photographs, and song lyrics. Texts and images, each introduced by the editors, provide insights into the ways that Chile's unique geography has shaped its national identity, the country's unusually violent colonial history, and the stable but autocratic republic that emerged after independence from Spain. They shed light on Chile's role in the world economy, the social impact of economic modernization, and the enduring problems of deep inequality. The Reader also covers Chile's bold experiments with reform and revolution, its subsequent descent into one of Latin America's most ruthless Cold War dictatorships, and its much-admired transition to democracy and a market economy in the years since dictatorship.

"The Chile Reader is terrific. It is organized into tightly conceived thematic sections and includes a superb range of documents. The editors' introductions to each of the volume's sections prepare the reader for the documents to come and provide overarching arguments about their collective meaning. Similarly, the brief notes that preface each selection explain why the particular document matters and suggest how it might be read. This book is perfect for students and anyone interested in learning about Chile's complex history. I give The Chile Reader my highest praise."