

COLONIA DIGNIDAD
STATE AUTHORITIES IN CHILE
AND (WEST) GERMANY (1950s–2025)

Grzegorz Ziółkowski



2025

COLONIA DIGNIDAD: STATE AUTHORITIES IN CHILE AND (WEST) GERMANY (1950s–2025)

Grzegorz Ziolkowski¹

Last updated: 1 September 2025

This is an Open Access (OA) document.² License: Creative Commons Attribution International CC BY 4.0

DOI: [10.60629/9qtk-yj77](https://doi.org/10.60629/9qtk-yj77)

This document is one of the results of the author's research project titled "The Performative Realm of 'Colonia Dignidad,' a German Enclave in Chile, in Historical and Political Contexts" (*Performatywna strefa „Kolonii Godności”, niemieckiej enklawy w Chile, w kontekście historycznym i politycznym*), financed by grant no. 2021/43/B/HS2/00360 from the National Science Centre (*Narodowe Centrum Nauki*, NCN) under its OPUS 22 Programme.

See also other files containing research data resulting from the project:

- *Colonia Dignidad*: Annotated Catalogue of Archival Audiovisual Recordings from the Colonia Dignidad Progress Film Collection
- *Colonia Dignidad*: Collaborators, Supporters and Sympathizers
- *Colonia Dignidad*: Photographs
- *Colonia Dignidad*: Sources
- *Colonia Dignidad*: Timeline

In Spanish / *En español (castellano)*:

- *Colonia Dignidad*: Catálogo comentado de las grabaciones audiovisuales de archivo de la colección Colonia Dignidad Progress Film
- *Colonia Dignidad*: Cronología

All files are available at: http://grzeg.home.amu.edu.pl/?page_id=4310.

¹ Grzegorz Ziolkowski is a full professor of the anthropology of performances at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. He has authored *A Cruel Theatre of Self-Immolations: Contemporary Suicide Protests by Fire and Their Resonances in Culture* (Routledge, 2020) and Polish monographs on the work of Peter Brook and Jerzy Grotowski. He has also co-edited special issues of *Theatre, Dance and Performance Training (Martial Arts Revisited)*, vol. 13, no. 3, 2022), *Polish Theatre Perspectives (Voices from Within: Grotowski's Polish Collaborators)*, 2014), *Performance Research (On Performativity)*, vol. 13, no. 2, 2008), and *Contemporary Theatre Review (Polish Theatre after 1989: Beyond Borders)*, vol. 15, no. 1, 2005). See: www.grzeg.home.amu.edu.pl; ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1888-9023>.

² If you would like to share any comments or make corrections to this document, please contact the author (e-mail: grzegorz.ziolkowski@amu.edu.pl). All improvements are most welcome and would be greatly appreciated.

Chile					The Federal Republic of Germany					
Presidents		National Congress			Chancellors		Ministers for Foreign Affairs		Ambassadors to Chile	
Dates in office	First name and surnames (birth–death) Political affiliation	Elections date	Senate (senators serve eight-year terms, with half of them being replaced every four years)	Chamber of Deputies	Dates in office	First name and surname (birth–death) Political affiliation	Dates in office	First name and surname (birth–death) Political affiliation	Dates in office	First name and surname
Presidential Republic (1932–73)					The FRG (1949–present)					
3 Nov 1958 3 Nov 1964	Jorge Alessandri Rodríguez (1896–1986) Independent, supported by the conservatives	3 Mar 1957	45 seats PL 10 PR 9 FRAP 8 PCU 6 Others 12	147 seats PR 36 PL 30 FRAP 21 PCU 21 FSC 19 Others 20	15 Sep 1949 15 Oct 1963	Konrad Adenauer (1876–1967) CDU	15 Mar 1951 6 Jun 1955	Konrad Adenauer (1876–1967) CDU	1952–59	Carl von Campe
		5 Mar 1961	45 seats FRAP 13 PR 13 PL 9 Others 10	147 seats FRAP 40 PR 39 PL 28 PDC 23 PCU 17			6 Jun 1955 30 Oct 1961	Heinrich von Brentano (1904–1964) CDU	1959–64	Hans Strack
3 Nov 1964 3 Nov 1970	Eduardo Frei Montalva (1911–82) PDC	7 Mar 1965	45 seats PDC 13 PR 10 PS 7 PCCh 6 Others 9	147 seats PDC 82 PR 20 PCCh 18 PS 15 Others 12	15 Oct 1963 30 Nov 1966	Ludwig Erhard (1897–77) Independent, affiliated with CDU	14 Nov 1961 30 Nov 1966	Gerhard Schröder (1910–1989) CDU	1965–67	Gottfried von Nostitz-Drzewiecky
3 Nov 1964 3 Nov 1970	Eduardo Frei Montalva (1911–82) PDC	7 Mar 1965	45 seats PDC 13 PR 10 PS 7 PCCh 6 Others 9	147 seats PDC 82 PR 20 PCCh 18 PS 15 Others 12	30 Nov 1966 21 Oct 1969	Kurt Georg Kiesinger (1904–88) CDU	1 Dec 1966 20 Oct 1969	Willy Brandt (1913–92) SPD	1967–70	Rudolf Salat
3 Nov 1970 11 Sep 1973	Salvador Allende Gossens (1908–73) PS, supported by the left-wing coalition <i>Unidad Popular</i> (UP, Popular Unity)	2 Mar 1969	50 seats PDC 22 PR 9 PCCh 6 PN 5 PS 5 Others 3	150 seats PDC 55 PN 34 PR 24 PCCh 22 PS 15	21 Oct 1969 7 May 1974	Willy Brandt (1913–92) SPD	21 Oct 1969 15 May 1974	Walter Scheel (1919–2016) FDP	1970–71	Horst Osterheld
		4 Mar 1973	50 seats PDC 19 PCCh 9 PN 8 PS 7 Others 7	150 seats CODE 87 UP 63					1971–73	Lothar Lahn
Civic-military rule (1973–89/90)										

11 Sep 1973 17 Jun 1974	President of the Government Junta	Gen. Augusto Pinochet Ugarte (1915–2006)			16 May 1974 1 Oct 1982	Helmut Schmidt (1918–2015) SPD	17 May 1974 17 Sep 1982	Hans-Dietrich Genscher (1927–2016) FDP	1973–76	Kurt Luedde-Neurath		
17 Jun 1974 17 Dec 1974	Supreme Chief of the Nation								1976–79	Erich Strätling		
17 Dec 1974 11 Mar 1981	President by decree								1979–83	Heinz Dittmann		
11 Mar 1981 11 Mar 1989	President under the 1980 constitution for 8-year term						1983–86	Hermann Holzheimer				
11 Mar 1989 11 Mar 1990	President in the interim period								1986–88	Horst Kullak-Ublick		
Presidential Republic (1989/90–present)					1 Oct 1982 27 Oct 1998	Helmut Kohl (1930–2017) CDU	1 Oct 1982 17 May 1992	Hans-Dietrich Genscher (1927–2016) FDP	1988–89	Günter Knackstedt		
11 Mar 1990 11 Mar 1994	Patricio Aylwin Azócar (1918–2016) PDC, supported by the centre-left coalition <i>Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia</i> (Coalition of Parties for Democracy)	14 Dec 1989	47 seats <i>Concertación</i> + ind. pro-C. 22 <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 18 Others 7	120 seats <i>Concertación</i> + ind. pro-C. 69 <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 48 Others 3					18 May 1992 26 Oct 1998	Klaus Kinkel (1936–2019) FDP	1990–93	Wiegand Pabsch
		11 Dec 1993	46 seats <i>Concertación</i> 21 <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 19 Others 6	120 seats <i>Concertación</i> + ind. pro-C. 70 <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 50							1993–97	Werner Reichenbaum
11 Mar 1994 11 Mar	Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle (b. 1942)	11 Dec 1997	49 seats <i>Concertación</i> 24	120 seats <i>Concertación</i> 69	27 Oct 1998 22 Nov	Gerhard Schröder (b. 1944)	27 Oct 1998 22 Nov	Joschka Fischer (b. 1948)	1997–2000	Horst Palenberg		

2000	PDC, supported by the centre-left coalition <i>Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia</i> (Coalition of Parties for Democracy)		<i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 18 Others 7	<i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 47 Others 4	2005	SPD	2005	Alliance90/The Greens	2000–03	Georg Clemens Dick
11 Mar 2000 11 Mar 2006	Ricardo Lagos Escobar (b. 1938) PPD, supported by the centre-left coalition <i>Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia</i> (Coalition of Parties for Democracy)	16 Dec 2001	49 seats <i>Concertación</i> 24 <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 18 Others 7	120 seats <i>Concertación</i> + ind. pro-C. 62 <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 57 Others 1	22 Nov 2005 8 Dec 2021	Angela Merkel (b. 1954) CDU	22 Nov 2005 28 Oct 2009	Frank-Walter Steinmeier (b. 1956) SPD	2003–06	Joachim Schmillen
11 Mar 2006 11 Mar 2010	Michelle Bachelet Jeria (b. 1951) PS, supported by the centre-left coalition <i>Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia</i> (Coalition of Parties for Democracy)	11 Dec 2005	38 seats <i>Concertación</i> 20 <i>Alianza</i> 17 Others 1	120 seats <i>Concertación</i> 65 <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 54 Others 1			28 Oct 2009 17 Dec 2013	Guido Westerwelle (1961–2016) FDP	2006–08	Peter Scholz
11 Mar 2010 11 Mar 2014	Sebastián Piñera Echenique (1949–2024) RN, supported by the <i>Coalición por el Cambio</i> (Coalition for Change)	13 Dec 2009	38 seats <i>Concertación</i> and <i>Juntos Podemos</i> 19 <i>Alianza</i> 17 Others 2	120 seats <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 58 <i>Concertación</i> and <i>Junto Podemos</i> 57 Others 5			17 Dec 2013 27 Jan 2017	Frank-Walter Steinmeier (b. 1956) SPD	2008–12 2012–15	Michael Glotzbach Hans Henning Blomeyer-Bartenstein
11 Mar 2014 11 Mar 2018	Michele Bachelet Jeria (b. 1951) PS, supported by the centre-left coalition <i>Nueva Mayoría</i> (New Majority)	17 Nov 2013	38 seats <i>Nueva Mayoría</i> + ind. pro-NM 21 <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 15 Others 2	120 seats <i>Nueva Mayoría</i> + ind. pro-NM 67 <i>Alianza</i> + ind. pro-A. 49 Others 4			27 Jan 2017 14 Mar 2018	Sigmar Gabriel (b. 1959) SPD	2015–19	Rolf Schulze
		19 Nov 2017	43 seats <i>Chile Vamos</i> 19	155 seats <i>Chile Vamos</i> 72			14 Mar 2018 8 Dec 2021	Heiko Maas (b. 1966) SPD	2019–22	Christian Hellbach

			<i>La Fuerza de la Mayoría</i> 15 <i>Convergencia Democrática</i> 6 Others 3	<i>La Fuerza de la Mayoría</i> 43 <i>Frente Amplio</i> 20 <i>Convergencia democrática</i> 14 Others 6						
11 Mar 2018 11 Mar 2022	Sebastián Piñera Echenique (1949–2024) Independent, supported by the centre-right to right-wing coalition <i>Chile Vamos</i> (Let's Go Chile)	21 Nov 2021	50 seats <i>Chile Podemos Más</i> 24 <i>Nuevo Pacto Social</i> 18 <i>Apruebo Dignidad</i> 5 Others 3	155 seats <i>Chile Podemos Más</i> 53 <i>Apruebo Dignidad</i> 37 <i>Nuevo Pacto Social</i> 37 Others 28	8 Dec 2021 6 May 2025	Olaf Scholz (b. 1958) SPD	8 Dec 2021 6 May 2026	Annalena Baerbock (b. 1980) Alliance90/The Greens	2022–24	Irmgard Maria Fellner
11 Mar 2022 incumbent	Gabriel Boric Font (b. 1986) CS, supported by the left-wing coalition <i>Apruebo Dignidad</i> (Approve Dignity)				6 May 2025 Incumbent	Friedrich Merz (b. 1955) CDU	6 May 2025 Incumbent	Johann Wadephul (b. 1963) CDU	Aug 2024	Susanne Fries-Gaier

Acronyms

CDU	<i>Christlich Demokratische Union</i> – Christian Democratic Union
CODE	<i>Confederación de la Democracia</i> – Confederation of Democracy (the 1972 electoral alliance of centre-right wing parties)
CS	<i>Convergencia Social</i> – Social Convergence
DP	<i>Deutschen Partei</i> – German Party
FDP	<i>Freie Demokratische Partei</i> – Free Democratic Party
FRAP	<i>Frente de Acción Popular</i> – Popular Action Front (left-wing alliance)
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany – <i>Bundesrepublik Deutschland</i>
FSC	<i>Federación Social Cristiana</i> – Social Christian Federation
PCCh	<i>Partido Comunista de Chile</i> – Communist Party of Chile
PCU	<i>Partido Conservador Unido</i> – United Conservative Party
PDC	<i>Partido Demócrata Cristiano</i> – Christian Democratic Party
PL	<i>Partido Liberal</i> – Liberal Party
PN	<i>Partido Nacional</i> – National Party
PPD	<i>Partido por la Democracia</i> – Party for Democracy
PR	<i>Partido Radical</i> – Radical Party
PS	<i>Partido Socialista de Chile</i> – Socialist Party of Chile
RN	<i>Renovación Nacional</i> – National Renewal
SPD	<i>Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands</i> – Social Democratic Party of Germany
UP	<i>Unidad Popular</i> – Popular Unity