

Note on... Jorge Palacios *Chile: An Attempt at “Historic Compromise”*

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[Chile: An Attempt at Historic Compromise](#)-The Real Story of the Allende Years, by Jorge Palacios (1926-2004).

Published in Spanish language edition in 1977, the first in English was produced by the Canadian-based Norman Bethune Institute connected to Hardial Bains-led CPC (ML), as well as an English translation of the [RCP Chile: Open Letter to the Communist Party of China](#) .

Its National Publications Centre assisted in other Spanish language publications of the PCR/ Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile produced by its Ediciones *Marxista-leninistas* publishing house in Toronto. One such text was the collection, “50 issues of *EL PUEBLO clandestinely*” covering the years 1974-1977 of the Chilean paper. There was also the use of material from ANCHA, monthly of the Chilean Anti-Fascist News Agency, produced by the external section of the *Frent Del Paeblo* (People’s Front) established by the PCR.

However the relationship faded as the PCR, although aligned with the anti-three worlds position of the Albanian party, gradually moved away as Albanian criticism expanded to encompass condemnation of Mao Zedong. The organisation’s paper, *El Pueblo* carried its view in the article “Comrade Mao Tsetung was a great Marxist-Leninist and a great internationalist” (#101 October 1978). Such an appreciation differed from the trajectory in Enver Hoxha’s book *Imperialism and the Revolution* , first published [in Albanian] in

April 1978 for distribution within the PLA, then multi-language editions distributed internationally in the December.

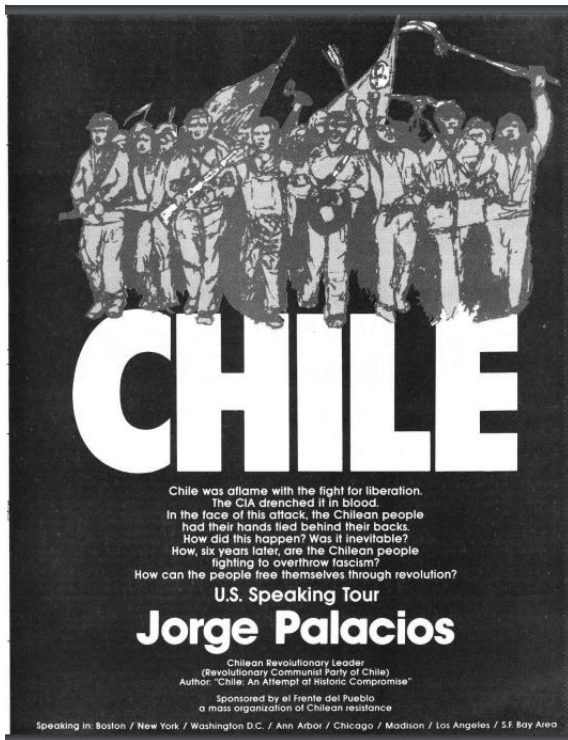
The Chilean party did not become part of the Albanian grouping but joined with the Revolutionary Communist Party USA (RCP) led by Avakarin in efforts to establish an international alignment of Maoist parties who rejected the successors of the Mao Zedong as they drew up a joint declaration with the RCP setting forth, “*Basic Principles for the Unity of Marxist-Leninists and for the Line of the International Communist Movement.*” The PCR-Chile played an important formative role in the regroupment of Maoists after 1976 (according to one participant)

“presenting a form of communist thinking and politics that was marked by its both creative and fiercely revolutionary character. A few of the PCR-Chile’s writings have been broadly available. In the crucial period around 1980, the PCR-Chile (and its leading figures in post-coup exile in Europe) actively helped regroup Maoists internationally, in the project that would give rise to the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.”ⁱ

The Canadians sold the publishing rights to the book by Jorge Palacios entitled *Chile: An Attempt at “Historic Compromise”* to the Revolutionary Communist Party U.S.A. prominent defenders of both the arrested Gang of Four and the abandoned Cultural Revolution. Much too the disgust of the Canadians’ fraternal comrades in the COUSML/ the Central Organization of U.S. Marxist-Leninists.

“...the “RCP, USA’s” publishing of this book was used as a way to make it appear that the “RCP, USA,” which in actual fact had never done any work at all for the support of the resistance movement of the Chilean people, was actually a supporter and enthusiast of the solidarity movement.”

“Helping the “RCP, USA” to find a way to promote itself internationally, especially among certain forces in Latin America which are still considering the question of Mao Zedong Thought and which have respect for the RCP of Chile, although they do not presently follow the position of the RCP of Chile.”ⁱⁱ



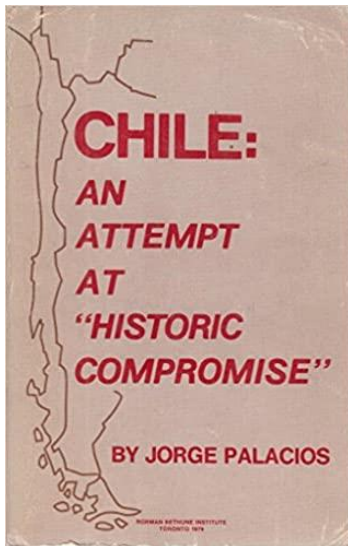
The RCP run Chicago publishing house, Banner Press took on [Chile: An Attempt at Historic Compromise](#) and published its English language edition in November 1979. The book was made available in the U.S. in conjunction with a nationwide tour by the author being sponsored by El Frente del Pueblo, a mass organization of the Chilean resistance abroad as well as in Chile. It helped pave the way to the U.S. tour by Jorge Palacios with the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA actively building support for the tour.

The favourable RCP, USA review of “an excellent Marxist analysis” notes: “The book documents in painful detail the efforts of the CP to restrain and derail the mass movement of the workers and the oppressed, all the while protecting the bourgeois state and other reactionary institutions from the attack of the masses. As Palacios points out, this was a policy which the CP had pursued for many decades and for which it was rewarded by being allowed to be one of the few Communist Parties in Latin America that enjoyed a long period of legal, open activity.... While *An Attempt At Historic Compromise* correctly concentrates on unmasking the falsifiers of Marxism and the revisionist CP, it also serves as excellent material exposing the U.S. imperialists’ crimes and intrigues in Chile.”ⁱⁱⁱ

An academic review thought that,

“This is by no means a scholarly work. There is no pretense to objectivity. This should not deter scholars from using Palacios’s work, however, in order to learn still more of the inside story of recent Chilean political history. As an inside view, it is quite valuable.”^{iv}

And indeed, there is a section in the book where Jorge Palacios also discusses the views and activities of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile all during this period. The account Palacios provides found expression in English, Spanish and French editions. Its arguments and analysis remain relevant to what was called **The Tragic Events in Chile, A Lesson for the Revolutionaries of the Whole World** in an article published in the Albanian newspaper “*Zeri i Popullit*” [October 2, 1973].



REFERENCES

ⁱ Mike Ely of the now defunct Kasama project (2007-2013) highlighted the theoretical work of Chile's Revolutionary Communist Party as they summed up their experiences in the Allende years, the Pinochet coup, and the international communist movement. These essays are from the period of the late 1970s to 1981 when the PCR was seeking to help regroup the international communist movement, and thinking through the implications of events in China in the post-Mao period. Kasama, thanking those who did the work of making this material available and Rosa Blanc, provided pdfs in Spanish of several issues of the organization's theoretical journal *Causa Marxista-Leninista*.

[Causa Marxista-Leninista, Issue #27](#)

[Causa Marxista-Leninista, Issue #28](#)

[Causa Marxista-Leninista, Issue #29](#)

[Causa Marxista-Leninista, Issue #30](#)

ⁱⁱ The truth about the relations between the Marxist-Leninist Party of the USA and the Communist Party of Canada (M-L)
<https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/ca.firstwave/mlp-cpc/letter-2.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ Reviewed <https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/periodicals/revolution/rev-4-9.pdf>

^{iv} Frederick M. Nunn *Hispanic American Historical Review* (1981) 61 (2): 330–331.
<https://doi.org/10.1215/00182168-61.2.330>