

Discussion Questions: **Lessons of Chile**

"I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people."

- U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger

1. When Allende was first elected, the ruling class attempted to undermine support for the revolutionary movement through parliament, the media, and economic sabotage. When those tactics failed to stop the revolution, what measures did the U.S. government and the Chilean ruling class resort to?

2. Why would Allende's government have tried to slow down the revolutionary process at times? What concrete measures should Allende have taken to overthrow capitalism and consolidate workers' rule?

3. Is a peaceful revolution possible? If Allende had distributed arms to the working class and peasants, would that have decreased the chance of a successful military coup and reduced bloodshed? Or do you think the coup and violence were inevitable?

4. What does the Chilean revolution show about the role of the state under capitalism?

5. What is the Marxist theory of the origins and the role of the state? Have human societies always had a state to maintain the social order?