
William Houston Gilbert, East Tennessee State University

Degree Name
MA (Master of Arts)

Program
History

Date of Award
12-2005

Committee Chair or Co-Chairs
Melvin E. Page

Committee Members
Henry J. Antikiewicz, Kenneth J. Mijeski

Abstract
This study examines how the administrations of Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan responded to the widespread human rights abuses committed by the Argentine military during the country's Dirty War between 1977 and 1982. The objective is to gain a broader understanding of the policies pursued by both administrations. Under Carter, who brought human rights to the forefront of American foreign policy, Argentina was heavily targeted and sanctioned with the anticipation that such measures would enhance the human rights status in Argentina. Ultimately, such policies resulted in open hostility in bilateral relations, culminating in Argentina's refusal to support Carter's proposed grain embargo on the Soviet Union in 1980. Reagan moved to restore relations until Argentina's invasion of the Falklands in April, 1982. The works of many authors were consulted in conjunction with newspapers, journal articles, government proceedings and declassified documents obtained from the National Security Archives.

Document Type
Thesis - Open Access

Recommended Citation

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BUENOS AIRES — When President Obama lands in Buenos Aires this week, he will be arriving on the eve of one of the most traumatic dates in our history. On March 24, Argentina commemorates the 40th anniversary of a military coup that "disappeared" thousands of people, a deep trauma in Argentina's national psyche. There were other, greater atrocities in South America in that era, like the ones that occurred during virtual civil wars in Colombia or Guatemala. The killings in Argentina may have been lesser in number, but this was premeditated mass murder. Argentina's military dictatorship organized The foreign policy of the Ronald Reagan administration from 1981 to 1989 was characterized by a strategy of "peace through strength." Dedicated to upholding even authoritarian governments in foreign countries to keep them "safe" from Soviet influence, Reagan was also desperate to put to rest Vietnam Syndrome (the reluctance to use military force in foreign countries for fear of embarrassing defeat), which had influenced U.S. foreign policy since the mid-1970s. However, in a break from the Carter policy of arming Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act, Reagan agreed with the communist government in China to reduce the sale of arms to Taiwan. The Strategic Defense Initiative. The remarkable success of Reagan's foreign policy accounts significantly for his lofty ranking, in particular the indispensable role he played in defeating the Soviet Union, an evil, totalitarian empire existentially threatening freedom for more than four decades. President Carter not only elevated human rights to a primary concern for American foreign policy, but treated America's traditional allies, often democratic ones, more sternly than he treated more repressive enemies of the United States.[10]. Thereafter, Carter vehemently opposed President Reagan's national security strategy in all of its dimensions.[16]. By 1980, the prestige of American power had declined to its lowest point since the 1930s.