

Ln. 1 – Democracy In The Contemporary World

1. How did the power shifted from an elected government to the military officers in Chile?
  - In Chile on 11 September, 1973 General Augusto Pinochet , led the coup.
  - The government of United States of America was unhappy with Allende's rule and has supported and funded activities that led the coup.
  - Pinochet became the president of the country and ruled it for next 17 years.  
Thus from a government that was elected by the people, the power shifted to the military officers.
  
2. State the conditions of the supporters of Allende under Pinochet's government.  
Pinochet's government tortured and killed several of those who supported Allende and those who wanted democracy to be restored. These included-
  - a) Gen. Alberto Bachelet of the Chilean Airforce and many other officers who refused to join the coup were arrested and killed.
  - b) Bachelet's wife and daughter were put in prison and tortured.
  - c) More than 3000 people were killed by the military.
  - d) Many more were reported missing. No one knows what happened to them.
  
3. How was democracy restored in Chile?
  - Pinochet's military dictatorship came to an end after he decided to hold a referendum in 1988. He felt confident that in this referendum, people would say 'yes' to his continuing in power.
  - But their vote was a decisive 'no' to Pinochet. This led Pinochet first loosing his political and then his military powers. Since then Chile has held four presidential elections.
  - Political freedom was restored. Slowly the army's role in the country's government has been eliminated.
  - The elected government's that came to power ordered inquiries into Pinochet's rule, these showed that his government was not only brutal but also very corrupt.
  
4. What type of government was ruling Poland in 1980?  
In 1980 Poland was ruled by the 'Polish United Worker's Party'. This was one of the communist parties that ruled in several East European countries.
  - In these countries no other political party was allowed to function.
  - People could not freely choose their leaders or government.
  - There was no freedom of speech.
  - The government was supported and controlled by the government of Soviet Union, a vast and powerful communist state.
  
5. Mention some of the facts of the strike of Lenin Shipyard.
  - On 14 August 1980, the workers of Lenin Shipyard in the city of Gdansk went on a strike. The shipyard was owned by the government. This strike was illegal as the trade unions *independent of the ruling party was not allowed to in Poland.*
  - As the strike continued, a former electrician of shipyard, Lech Walesa joined the strikers. He was dismissed from shipyard in 1976 for demanding higher pay. He emerged as the leader of the striking workers.  
They demanded-
    - a) to take back a crane operator, a woman worker who was unjustly removed from the service.
    - b) Right to form independent trade unions.
    - c) Release of political prisoners and
    - d) An end to censorship on press