Literature and Movie

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# Dictatorship in South America

## Question 1

What is the meaning of "state violence"? The article talks about detention, torture, murder, and disappearance but could you use some other examples of state violence? Is state violence something exceptional to dictatorial countries?

State violence is suffering and harm caused by the state using legitimate government authority. The victim of state violence can be a certain group of people or individuals. In most cases of state violence, victims are threat to the unjust rules and regulations of dictatorial government. Apart from detention, torture, murder, and disappearance; there are various other factors like, rule of law, denial of citizenship rights, freedom of speech, and genocide that result in state violence. State violence is also practiced by democratic governments by refusing the basic human rights of its citizens.

## Question 2

The paper talks about numbers: what makes the difference between one number or another (the gap between 30,000 or 14000 murdered people in Chile)? Why post-dictatorial justice is needed?

Under the regime of General Pinochet, there are almost 30,000 people tortured, murdered and imprisoned in the first two weeks. The number and timeline reflect the severity of state violence. 30,000 is a big number when discussing the victims of state terrorism or violence. There has also been report of 140,000 people being a victim of state violence in Chile. The gap between numbers is due to lack of sources to get the actual data especially under a harsh dictatorial rule (State Violence in Latin America, 2018). Post-dictatorial justice is needed to develop relationship between politics, democratization, and judicial accountability (Agata Fijalkowski, 2015).

# The Official Story

## Question 1

What class does Alicia teach? And why does the literature teacher says that literature and history always collapse? What is in your opinion the difference between literature and history? Is History more real than literature or is History just one of the versions of reality?

Alicia Maquet teaches history in high school. The literature teacher says that the literature and history always collapse, this is because history is always written by victors. In my opinion, history and literature are closely related. Tradition, customs, aspirations, and feelings of a race are written in literature. History includes the facts which are recorded by individuals that are influenced by leaders to address their achievements. History is always written by victors but it is still more reliable source as compared to literature. Literature is written by an individual usually based on his imagination rather than actual facts.

## Question 2

What do you think of the scene in which the children scare Gaby when she is playing with her doll? What is Gaby´s role in the movie?

Gaby was the adopted daughter of Alicia Maquet. The scene in which Gaby was playing with her doll and got scared shows Gaby’s psychological weakness due to witnessing domestic violence.

# References

Agata Fijalkowski, R. G. (2015). *TRANSITIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN POST-DICTATORIAL AND POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES.* Retrieved from https://intersentia.be/nl/transitional-criminal-justice-in-post-dictatorial-and-post-conflict-societies.html

State Violence in Latin America. (2018, 9 13). *Bookreview - Jerry Davilas Dictatorship in South America*. Retrieved from State Violence in Latin America: https://dictaduras.digitalwcu.org/book-review/jerry-davilas-dictatorship-in-south-america/