

This dissertation examines the possibility of “National Reconciliation” and the role of government within this process through considering the case of Chile after the dictatorship, 1988 to the present. “National Reconciliation” has become one of the most important subjects after the Cold War especially among the third world countries, however no concrete solution has been made so far. In the first chapter of the essay, the effort made by the Chilean government was reviewed separately by dividing the data into four groups, which includes Group1: The victims and their families, Group2: The pro-Pinochets, Group3: Others, and Group4: Future generations. Regarding the process of “National Reconciliation,” it is often discussed whether the government’s foremost problem is either public peace or justice. This chapter concluded that in the case of Chile, the government intended to maintain the public peace first and gradually shifted to pursue justice which involved the accusation of the guilty. The second chapter examined whether Chile has moved closer to the achievement of “National Reconciliation” by considering the events after the dictatorship. Despite the effort towards “National Reconciliation” by the first democratically elected president after the dictatorship, President Aylwin, the era of dictatorship was a “taboo” topic among Chileans for long time. However, in 1998, the restriction of the former dictator, Augusto Pinochet in London forced the Chilean government to modify the situation. They assembled “Mesa de Diálogo” with the representatives of armed forces, the clergy, and civilians in order to discuss the future of Chile. Thanks to the achievement of the assembly and work of the President Michelle Bachelet, whose father was killed by the dictator, the survey of 2013 showed that only 9% of the population answered that the Pinochet regime was right while the percentage was 22% in 1989. Finally, the third chapter generalized, as much as possible, the role of government within the process of “National Reconciliation” according to the case of Chile. There are three important points; the government should not falsify the facts in favor of one particular group, the government should not rely too much on idealism, and as for the fundamental value of “National Reconciliation,” forgetting the past cannot be the solution. Lastly, a few issues that may occur in the future are mentioned in the end of the chapter.