


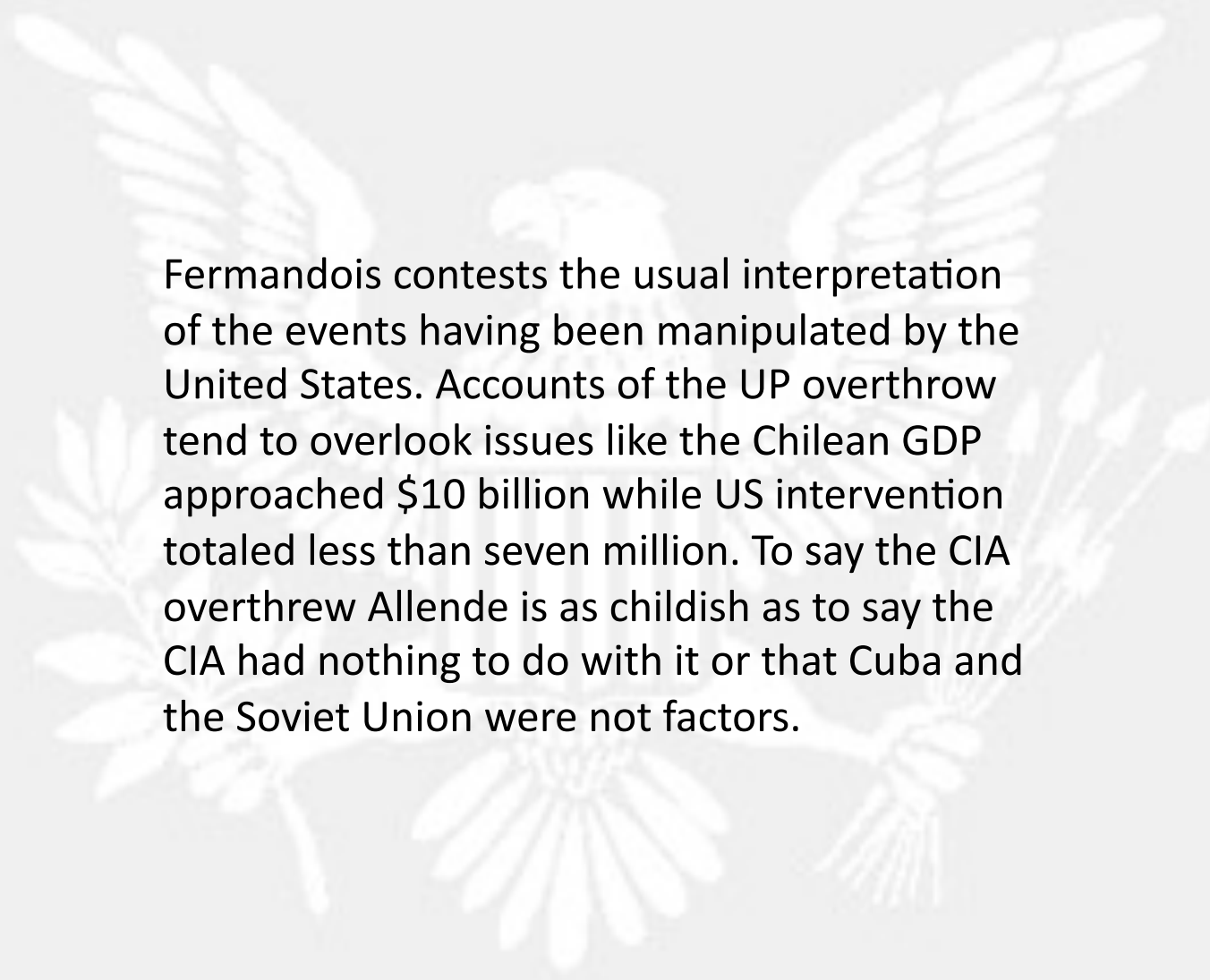
Fernandois, J. 2003. The persistence of myth:
Chile in the hurricane of the cold war. *Estudios
Públicos* 92: 1-25.





British Ambassador D.H.T. Hildyard reported in March 1973, “If Chile has some sort of importance in the world, it is because the struggle between the Marxists and the anti-Marxists, as well as the one between the various Marxist groups, is being carried out in an open society and not behind an iron curtain.”



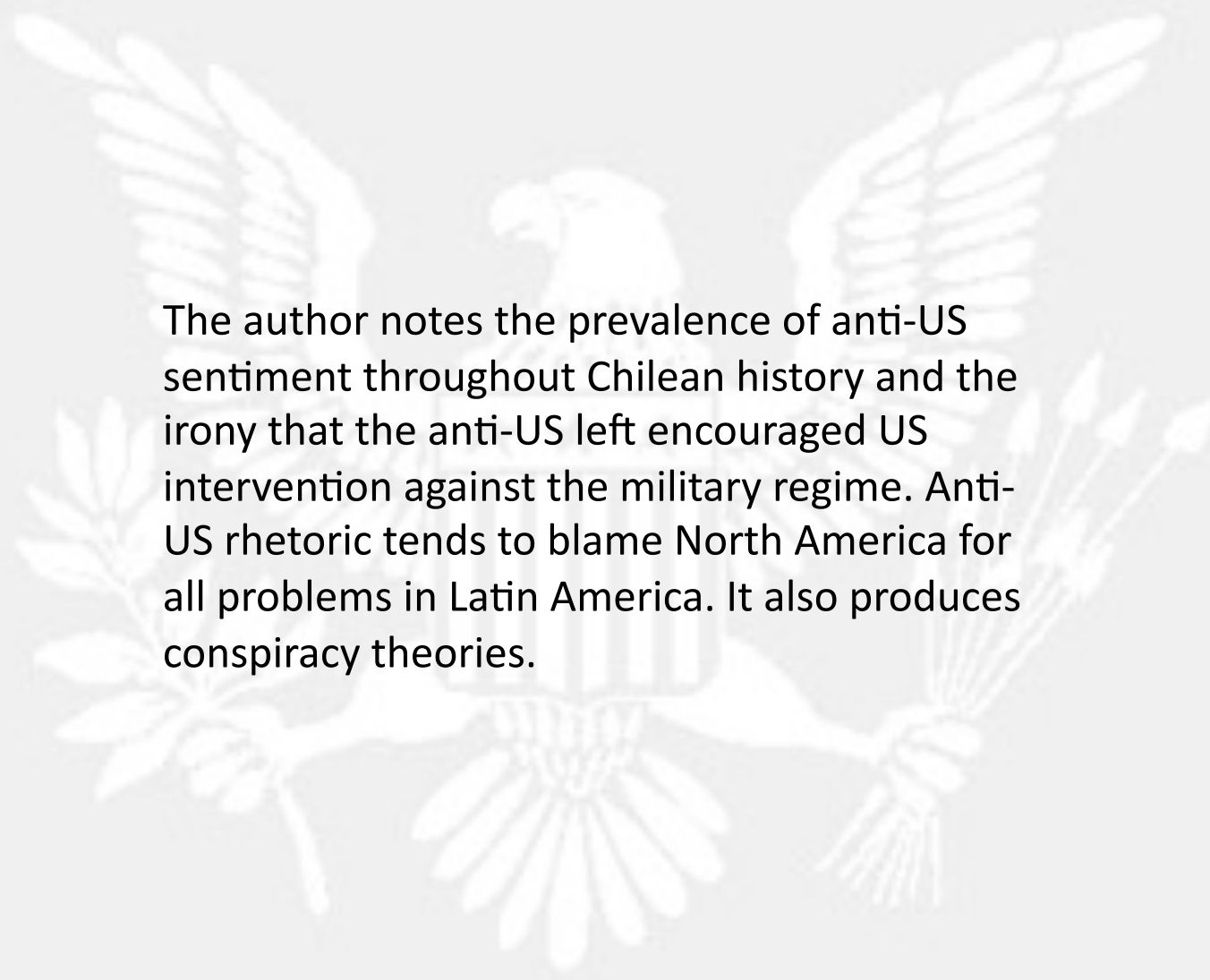


Fernandois contests the usual interpretation of the events having been manipulated by the United States. Accounts of the UP overthrow tend to overlook issues like the Chilean GDP approached \$10 billion while US intervention totaled less than seven million. To say the CIA overthrew Allende is as childish as to say the CIA had nothing to do with it or that Cuba and the Soviet Union were not factors.



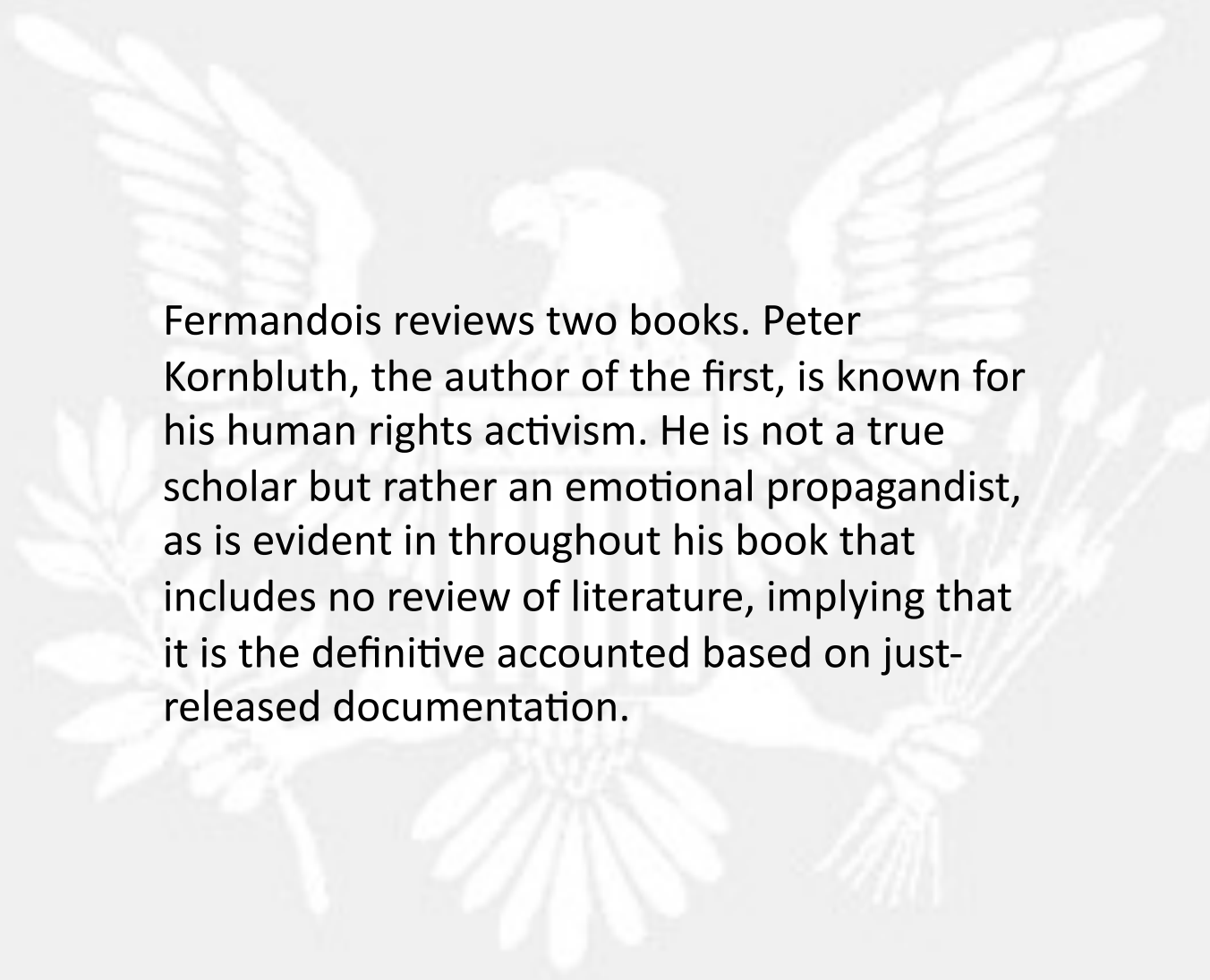


Cultura Norteamérica, Dr. Jason Kendall Moore, Universidad de Playa Ancha, Campus San Felipe, Primer Semestre 2015
Unit 3: The persistence of myth




The author notes the prevalence of anti-US sentiment throughout Chilean history and the irony that the anti-US left encouraged US intervention against the military regime. Anti-US rhetoric tends to blame North America for all problems in Latin America. It also produces conspiracy theories.






Fernandois reviews two books. Peter Kornbluth, the author of the first, is known for his human rights activism. He is not a true scholar but rather an emotional propagandist, as is evident in throughout his book that includes no review of literature, implying that it is the definitive accounted based on just-released documentation.





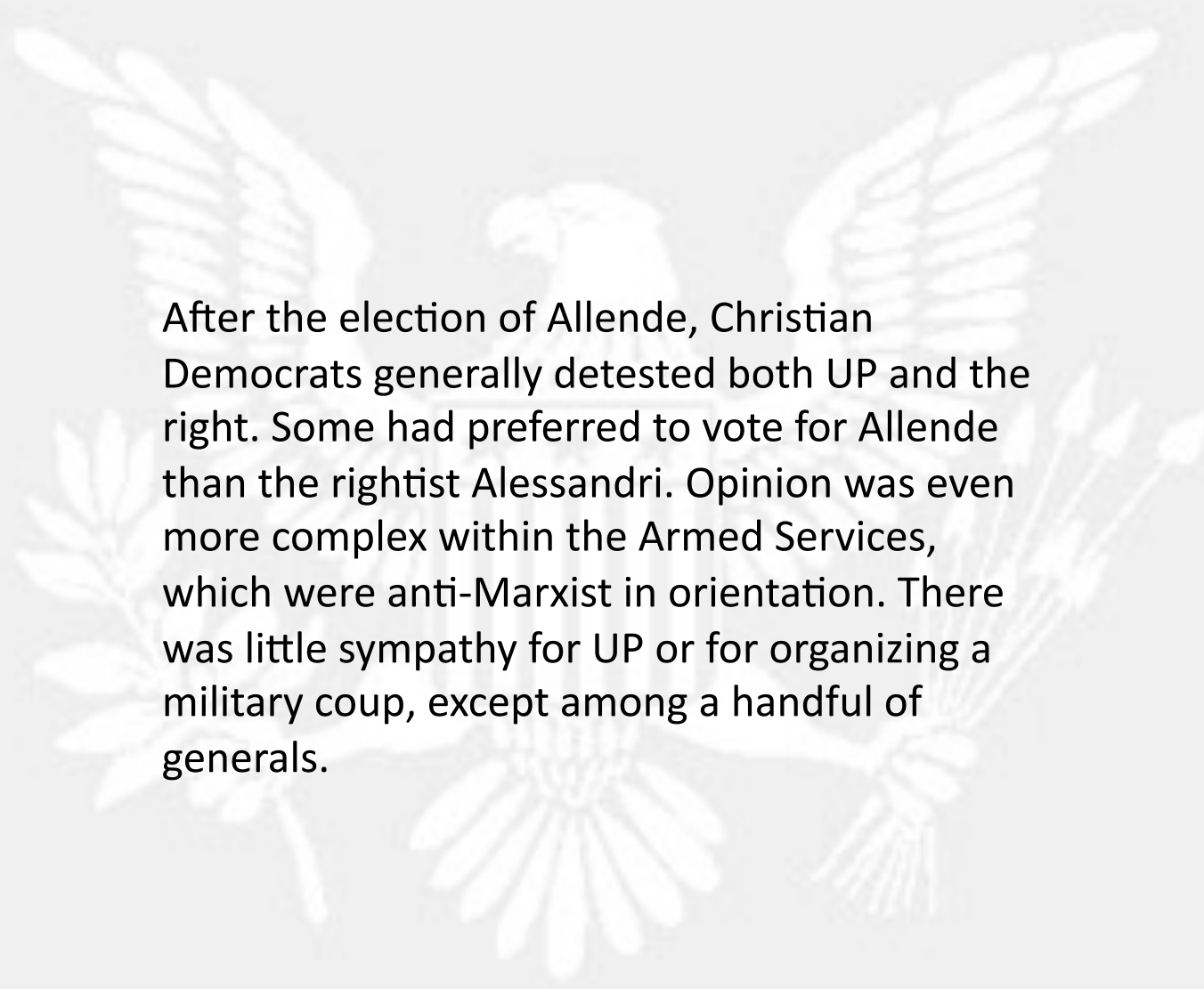
The author of the second book, Patricia Verdugo, is a better writer and investigative journalist. However her book is “superficial and suffering from a lack of historical and political knowledge and analytical maturity.” While Kornbluth limits himself to the proverbial facts, as many historians tend to, Verdugo adopts a much broader scope that carelessly mixes fact and supposition.





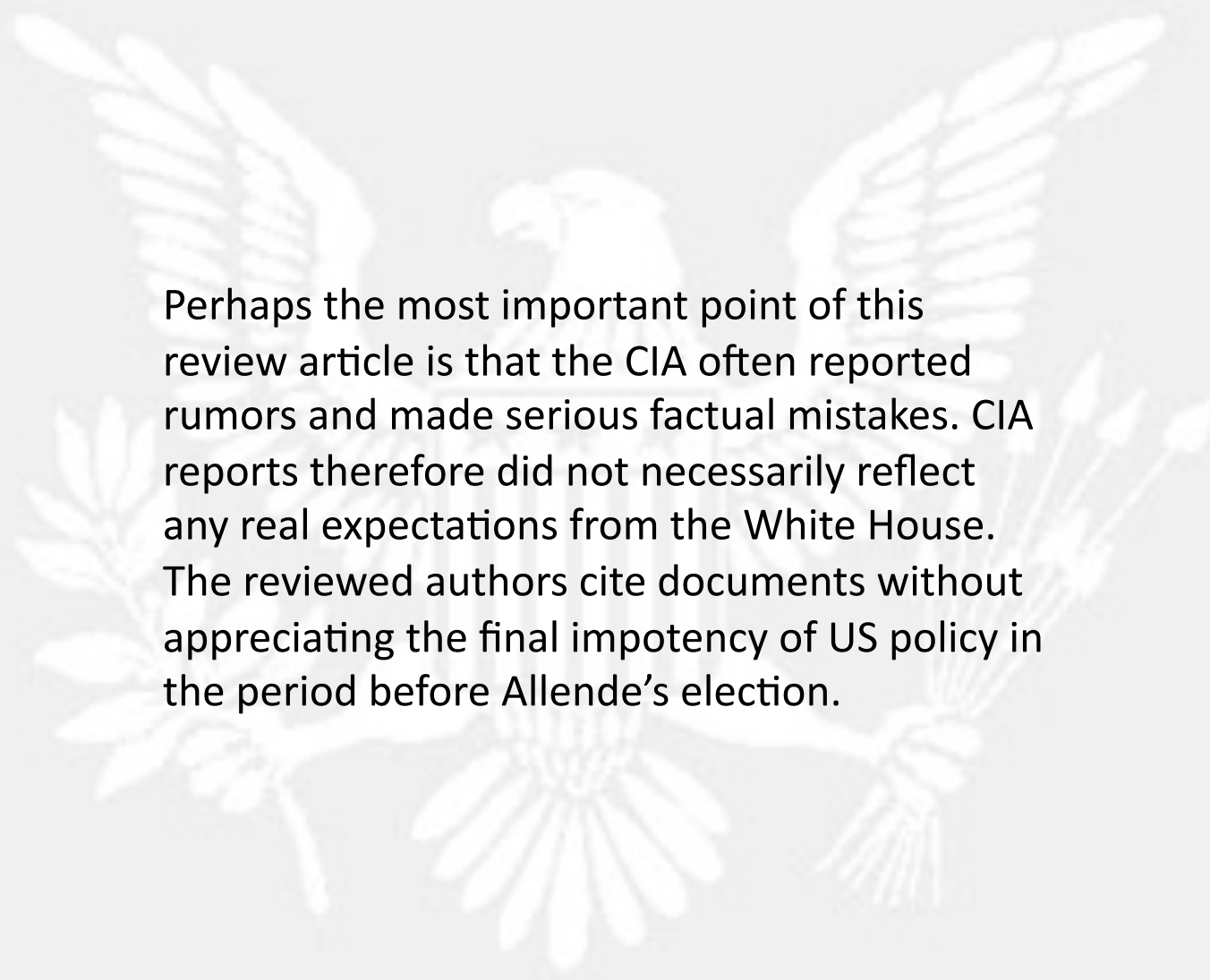
Both books are US-centric; that is, they imply that Washington is the center of the universe and responsible for everything that happens anytime anywhere. Both dwell on Nixon's support for the coup but not on the remarkably complex bilateral relationship starting in 1977. As early as 1975 Washington realized that Pinochet could be a liability, and that trend accelerated until 1989.





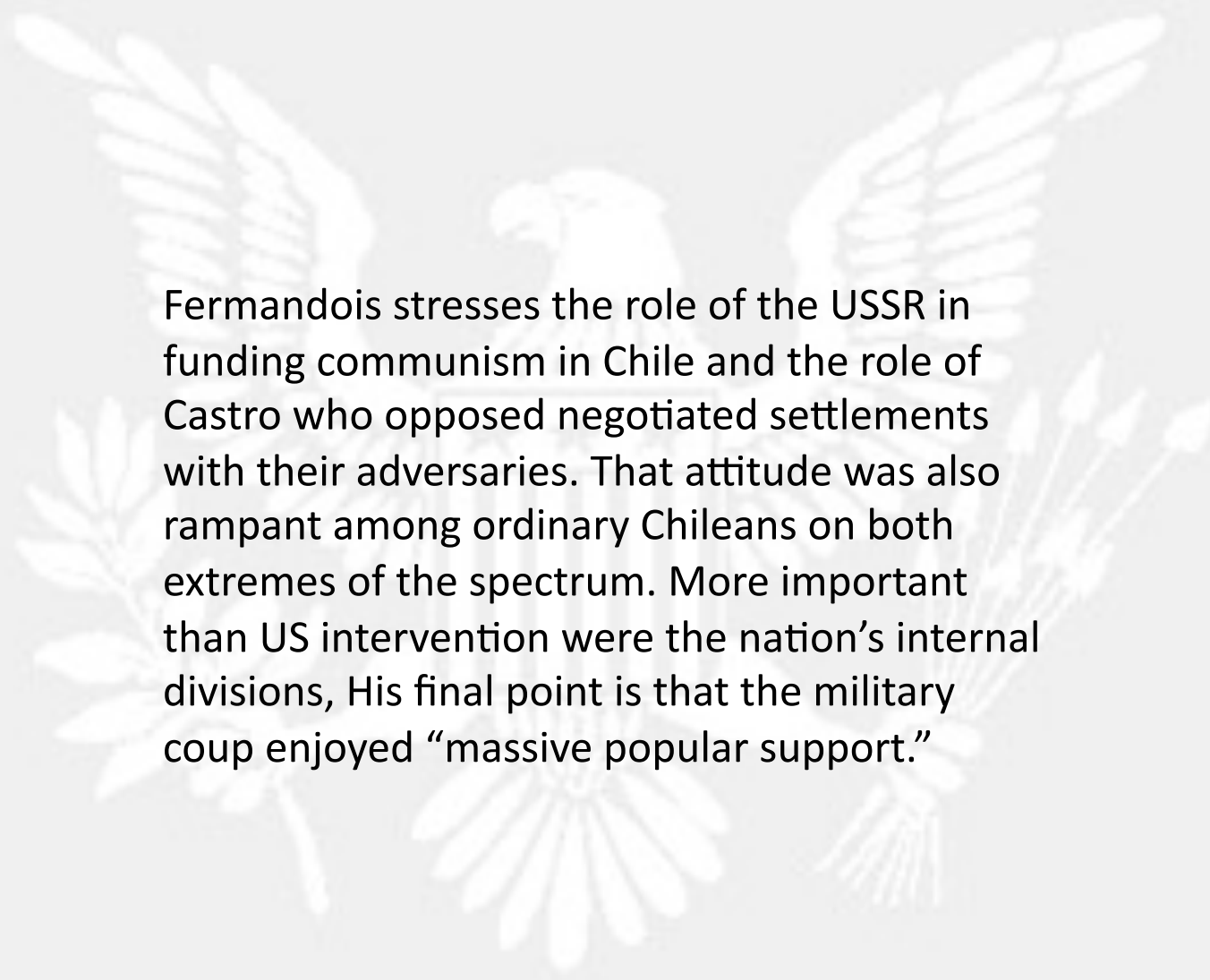
After the election of Allende, Christian Democrats generally detested both UP and the right. Some had preferred to vote for Allende than the rightist Alessandri. Opinion was even more complex within the Armed Services, which were anti-Marxist in orientation. There was little sympathy for UP or for organizing a military coup, except among a handful of generals.





Perhaps the most important point of this review article is that the CIA often reported rumors and made serious factual mistakes. CIA reports therefore did not necessarily reflect any real expectations from the White House. The reviewed authors cite documents without appreciating the final impotency of US policy in the period before Allende's election.





Fernando stresses the role of the USSR in funding communism in Chile and the role of Castro who opposed negotiated settlements with their adversaries. That attitude was also rampant among ordinary Chileans on both extremes of the spectrum. More important than US intervention were the nation's internal divisions, His final point is that the military coup enjoyed "massive popular support."





Cultura Norteamérica, Dr. Jason Kendall Moore, Universidad de Playa Ancha, Campus San Felipe, Primer Semestre 2015
Unit 3: The persistence of myth



On the 30th anniversary of September 11th 1973, even Chilean television, on various channels, broadcast the same message, if we listen carefully to the semantics in the language of TV: that the CIA (or generically the United States) played a leading role in the fall of the Unidad Popular.



The “conspiracy theory” arises out of the unquenchable human need to deliver simple explanations for complex events and processes.



Few times do we pause to reflect that espionage, and its most dangerous component “covert action”, only show the weakest link in the chain. The activity known as intelligence reaches its true dimension only when it begins to be analysed.



In reality, Kornbluth's book has no explicit thesis. From beginning to end he unfolds his thesis according to the principle "let the sources speak for themselves", but in fact organising them in such a way that everything that happened in Chile pointed to Nixon and Kissinger and their use of the CIA as their instrument.



It is certain that some of the affirmations that are made here are perfectly debatable for the simple fact that knowledge of these types of events, like any type of human reality, is always going to be debatable.



There is nothing strange about British Ambassador Hillyard's observation that in Chile the same battle was being waged that had been waged in Europe some decades previously.



