Chile Ongoing Crisis: A History of Social Class Inequalities –

On October 18, 2019, high school students in Santiago, Chile initiated a revolt that was triggered by the government's transportation fare increase of thirty pesos to travel by metro. What began as a student protest quickly extended to violent protests across the country that led to the death of 36 people, 2,500 injuries and 2,840 arrests. These protests go beyond the transportation fare increase; in fact, Chileans’ anger originates from decades of social class inequality in Chile. Chilean citizens found themselves struggling to pay their bills and expenses each month.

For a long time, Chile had been considered an economic model in Latin America. The reason for this status is that, in economic terms, Chile occupied first place in South America for a long time with a gross domestic product (GDP) of $ 24,588. President Sebastián Piñera, current president in Chile for a second mandate, promised the country he would address social and economic reforms for problems such as affordable medical insurance, reduction of drug prices and stabilization of electricity prices. My presentation will compare Chile's past and present economic situation and evaluate the social class disparity in Chile.