

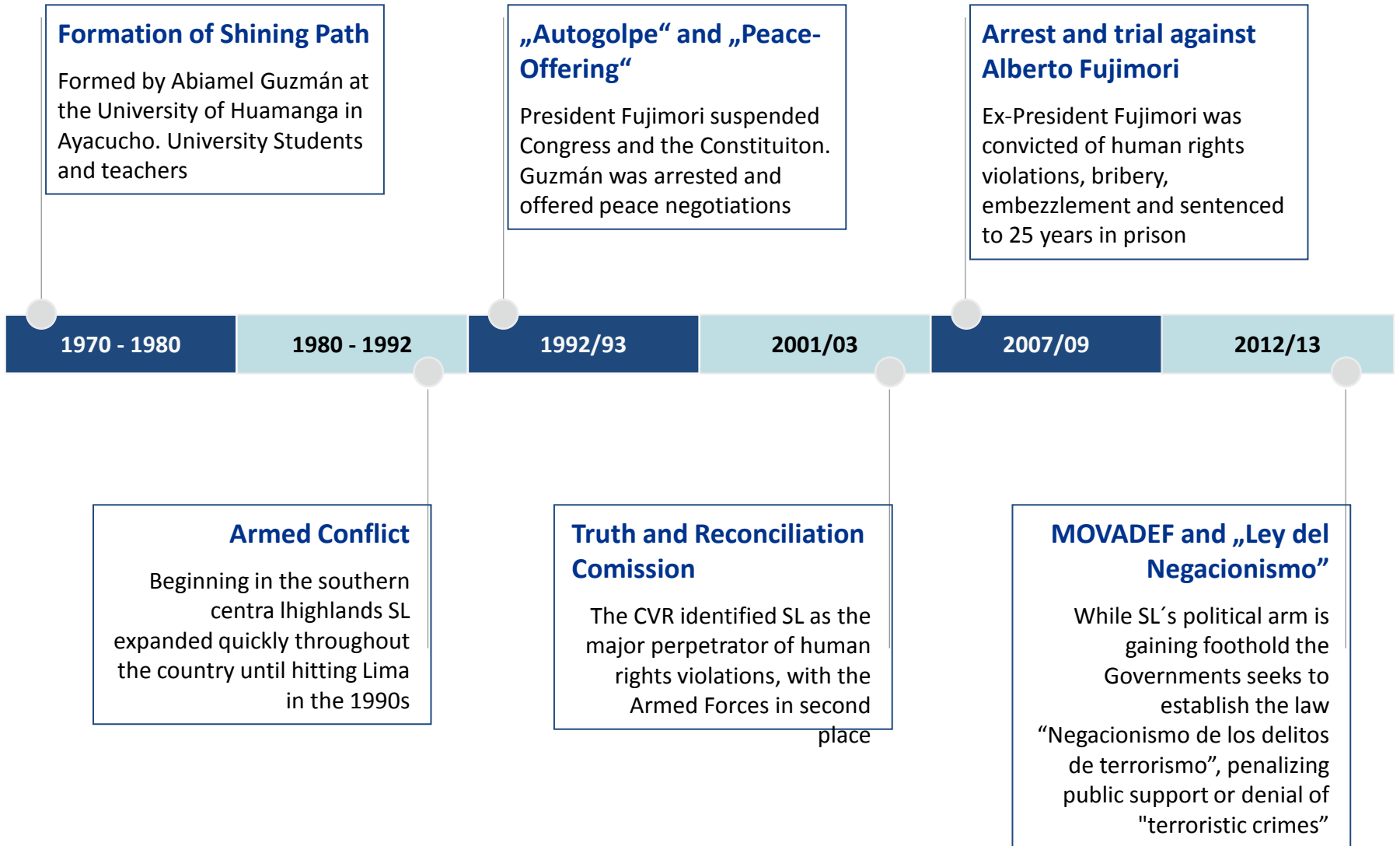
Violent Demons – Peru's Political Legacy of the Past

Jornada Peruana, 08.03.2013, University of St. Gallen

Dr. Sebastian Chávez Wurm

Berlin, Germany

Timeline





1970 – 1992: From „Senderito“ to „Sendero Ganador“

1 Maoist group without ties to the strong leftist Peruvian movement of the 70s

2 Almost completely ignored by political elites and state authorities

3 Peruvian State and political parties unable to agree on joint approach against SL

4 Economic and political decline nourish the impression of a victorious SL

2001 – 2003: Reconciling history? The CVR and its task of coming to terms with the past

1 Set up by Pres. Toledo as part of the re-democratization process after Fujimori

2 SL identified as major perpetrator of human rights violations, with the Armed Forces in second place(70.000 casualties in total)

3 Fear criticism from politics and military against conclusions of the CV, accusing commission members of an alleged leftist bias

4 Ambivalent outcome: Political elitist discourse keeps avoiding debate on findings and responsibility of the States; judicial impact is limited to a few, yet spectacular cases. However, the CVR found continuing repercussion in the arts, historiography and led to new civil society mobilization

2013: 10 years after the CVR, demons still haunt

1

During the presidencies following Alejandro Toledo reconciliation was not a priority on the political agenda. Instead President García and President Huamala have both been accused of human rights violations during the armed conflict

2

Political debate on the adequate ways of historical and political classification of the armed conflict has delayed important milestones, e.g. the Museo/Lugar de la Memoria in Lima

3

SL's political arm MOVAREF is gaining foothold and the Government seeks to establish the law "Negacionismo de los delitos de terrorismo", penalizing public support or denial of "terroristic crimes"

4

For many the conflict lingers on: In February 2013 26 families in Cusco were able to bury relatives killed in the 80s; corresponding to current studies more than 50% of the population in Ayacucho have experienced some kind of psychological disorders; thousands still wait for indemnification

Conclusion: The political legacy of the armed conflict is still unresolved

1

The political elites and parts of the Peruvian civil society still refuse to apply a balanced perspective on the past

2

While Alberto Fujimori and the leadership of SL have been trialed and sentenced other protagonists and participants of the conflict remain untouched

3

Within an atmosphere of unresolved conflicts and without strong mediators dialog between radical and opposed protagonists will be difficult to establish

4

The balanced voice of science, arts, intellectuals, and dedicated parts of the Peruvian civil society has become stronger. But these groups still lack the power to be the main driver for a nation wide reconciliation with the past