

## **Caminos Indigenas: Mapuche people voices from Chile and Argentina**

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Mapuche people in Chile and Argentina were forced to live in two states with same history of loss of freedom. The long-lasting war against the Spanish Empire and afterwards with two republics finally produced the breakup of the Mapuche territory. Nowadays, their people are still suffering the consequences of loss of the most valuable good that any indigenous people in the entire world have, their territory.

Between 1960 and 1883, the Mapuche people, now in Chile and Argentina, lost their territory after two coordinate military campaigns. Currently known euphemistically as the 'Pacification of the Araucania' (Chile) and 'Conquest of the Desert' (Argentina) respectively. As in other Latin-American countries, the interest was to incorporate indigenous territories into the new economies. But also, it was understood as an opportunity to obtain the available resources without any social and environmental costs; for example, a territory with strategic products highly demanded by European and North American countries such as salt, livestock and fertile soils to produce and trade high demanded crops and animal products.

However, the economic achievements of those countries took no account of the indigenous population. Many families were forcibly displaced and confined to small areas in their own territory. Horrific stories from that time are still remembered by the Mapuche today, as are the consequences and repercussions. Afterwards, traditional life changed dramatically for many families. The many resources that had been available to them were no longer. This was because the new Chilean and Argentine administrations enforced their own rules, which no longer included Mapuche cultural values.

Even after 100 years, the Mapuche have preserved and continue to defend their traditions, their culture and their voice of freedom. Despite the natural and political separation of their territory, they continue to raise their voices on both sides of the Andean Cordillera. The reason for this is that people cannot live sustainably on earth without contact with nature. This is also necessary to maintain a healthy body and mind. But not only that, personal responsibility, cultivating values such as reciprocity, respect, care and defense are fundamental to becoming a complete human being, which is called "CHE" in the Mapuche language, Mapudungun.

Nature (Ñuke Mapu) and, beyond that, spiritual forces are part of the Mapuche cosmovision. These fundamental elements of Mapuche culture have since been severely damaged. The effects of the laws and policies applied in the past and to this day clearly show the physical damage to the natural ecosystems, but also to the Mapuche way of life. From the Mapuche perspective, natural forces, both physical and spiritual, are out of balance and humans, with their way of life and actions on the earth, directly affect them. From this comes the responsibility to protect and respect the ancestral land entrusted to them during their lifetime, and then to leave it to reunite with their ancestors.

This story of resistance continues with policy forces targeting specific Mapuche communities in Chile and Argentina. Meanwhile, underground groups' operations are taking place aiming to continue the extraction of all resources available either legally or illegally. Moreover, big investments in different areas such as forestry, mining, dam and recently fracking, wind farms left people in serious difficulties in both side of the Andes. Monoculture practices in forestry operations produce a dramatic biodiversity loss and water contamination and lack of water for the communities. Dammed rivers change and destroy the habitat of

local communities together with the flora and fauna. Furthermore, no participation of local communities in running investments shows a lack of adequate policies applied to regulated sustainable development, despite the international recognition of the indigenous people in the area of human Rights and development such as Agenda 2030 and Paris agreement.

Finally, local stakeholders such as Mapuche people continue to face great difficulties to perform their integral vision of development in their territory even though this is considered essential to contribute to build a kind of development that does not harm the sustainable livelihoods of millenary local cultures.

### Overview of companies and facts.

Companies in Chile	Companies In Argentina
Arauco, CMPC, Masisa: 2,4 million Ha*, species: <i>E. globulus</i> and <i>E. nitens, radiata pine</i>	Barrick, Vino Tinto, BHP, Xstrata, Anglogold, Blue Sky Uranium Corp.: main mining players. Example: hydrocarbon exploitation: Vaca Muerta Neuquen province, Patagonia.
Statkraft, Wpd: example hydroelectric project Los Lagos, Wind Farm Malleco, Araucaria region.	China's Envision Energy SA, Wind Farm, Cerro Alto in the province of Rio Negro.
<b>Current situation:</b> State of exception extended over Mapuche people communities: Use of military forces.	<b>Currently:</b> Ancestral Land appropriation and Militarization to protect Monocultural forestry investment in Lof Quemquemtrew, Cuesta del Ternero, Rio Negro
Military campaign coordination of two countries (1860-1881) to performs Araucania Pacification and Conquest of the Desert. Nowadays, coordination of Intelligence services operations between Chile and Argentina aiming to suppress indigenous claims, increment internal conflicts, and repression.	

\*Tree companies own a little more of 50% of the country's planted forests.