

Webisode 57DHYj October 11 2025 How China Powers Its Electric Cars and High Speed Trains

In Webisode 57DHYj 1 How China Powers Its Electric Cars and High Speed Trains 2 Trump Cuts Solar for All Program Cuts Hit GOP and Democrat Voters Alike 3 Trump upends lives of millions with mass firings during a government shutdown 4 A Chilean Dictator and an enabler in the United Kingdom Reading History 5 Headlines Main Content

RAWSEP View The drawback of some electric power lines in China is that some emit static that people can feel when for instance a person is holding a metal fishing pole But the existence of these power lines shows the strength of electricity that is generated by China and increasingly generated from clean energy sources within China The contrast of the Chinese government investing in clean energy and selling clean energy vehicles and other modern electric devices and the United States under Trump retreating from clean energy such as wind and solar could not be starker in October 2025 Half the vehicles manufactured in China today are batter powered electricity rechargeable vehicles and 30 thousand miles of high speed rail lines run on electricity China is not without fault in polluting emissions from coal burning in particular The more efficient power lines in China have broad consequences for the global race against climate change They will help determine how quickly China can reduce its world leading use of coal a stain on the China clean energy track record China uses as much coal as the entire rest of the world and emits more greenhouse gases than the United States and the European Union combined **RAWSEP** speculates that China may also continue to use highly polluting wood burning for home heating **Back to the article description** Construction of the power lines has helped China **reduce its emissions of toxic air pollution and greenhouse gases** Beijing once notorious for smog mostly stopped burning coal for electricity in 2020 and now relies partly on wind power delivered from hundreds of miles away Some signs in China tell a cautionary story about high voltage electricity lines **Image of A person riding a scooter near a body of water and a sign with a caution symbol against fishing A sign warning locals against fishing in the pond and showing a photo of the burned body of an electrocuted man** The line described in this article carries mostly solar and wind energy as well as some coal fired power A farm manager in a village next to lines that pass within 30 yards of homes expressed concern **When you hold an umbrella in the rain sparks will fly from it and you will feel numb** 1 How China Powers Its Electric Cars and High Speed Trains **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** In China the longest ultrahigh voltage power line stretches more than 2 thousand miles from the far northwest to the populous southeast the equivalent of transmitting electricity from Idaho to New York City The line starts at solar panel farms in Xinjiang one of the sunniest regions in China and ends in Anhui powering major cities along the coast The power line starts in a remote desert in northwest China where vast arrays of solar panels and wind turbines generate electricity on a monumental scale It snakes southeast following an ancient river between mountain ranges before reaching Anhui Province near Shanghai home to 61 million people and some of **the most successful electric car and robot manufacturers in China That is a single power line China has 41 others Each is capable of carrying more electricity than any utility transmission line in the United States** That is partly because China is using technology that makes its lines far more efficient than almost anywhere else in the world The feat is owed to the ambitious national energy policies in China and the fact that few residents along the path of these lines dare object even though **the lines emit static electricity that local**

people said they could feel when holding a metal fishing pole As long as you do not fish directly underneath the wires and keep the fishing line from getting tangled in the wires it is basically fine an air conditioning repairman said matter of factly showing off a six inch fish he had just caught The aggressive embrace of clean energy technologies in China at a faster pace than even its own government expected or planned has left it with an unquenchable thirst for electricity Half the new cars in China are battery powered and the 30 thousand miles of high speed rail lines run on electricity Wind and solar energy provided over a quarter of power in China in April a milestone that few other countries can brag about But much of that clean energy is produced in the sunny windy western and northern regions of China far from most of its people and factories More than 90 percent of the 1 point 4 billion people in China live in the east where cloudy days windless nights and sluggish rivers limit the potential for clean energy So to move the electricity to where it is needed most China is urgently upgrading its power grid The Beijing central planners having underestimated the swift adoption in China of solar and wind energy are building the first nationwide grid of ultrahigh voltage power transmission lines in the world The Beijing expansion of its power grid contrasts sharply with the Trump Drill baby drill approach of doubling down on fossil fuels and rolling back federal programs to spur greater use of clean energy In July the Energy Department terminated its commitment to provide a 4 point 9 billion dollar loan guarantee for construction of the Grain Belt Express power line to take wind power from Kansas to cities in Illinois and Indiana That 800 mile ultrahigh voltage line which would have covered a shorter distance than dozens of lines already built in China ran into criticism from rural landowners and Republican lawmakers Even before Trump took office other renewable energy projects in the United States had to wait as long as 17 years for permits to be approved for transmission lines running a few hundred miles Many of the ultrahigh voltage lines in China use direct current technology which allows them to carry electricity for long distances with barely any of the transmission losses that affect most high power lines in other countries More efficient power lines in China have broad consequences for the global race against climate change They will help determine how quickly China can reduce its world leading use of coal a stain on the China clean energy track record China uses as much coal as the entire rest of the world and emits more greenhouse gases than the United States and the European Union combined The more advanced power grid is starting to address a central problem facing the energy planners in China In its western regions where the weather is favorable for solar wind and hydroelectric power China produces more renewable energy than it can use Xi Jinping the top leader in China set a goal in 2020 of tripling the China capacity to generate wind and solar energy by 2030 The country reached that mark last year six years ahead of schedule The China government owned electricity transmission giant State Grid was caught unprepared State Grid is good at building things but not six years ahead said an electricity consultant in Shanghai In some recent months a tenth of the wind and solar capacity in China has gone unused partly because the grid was unable to move all the power generated To improve the ability of the power system to absorb new energy we must accelerate the construction of power grid projects supporting new energy the electricity director of the National Energy Administration in China said in 2024 China already consumes twice as much electricity as the United States By 2050 China plans to triple its count of ultrahigh voltage routes The most recent public Chinese data from the end of 2024 showed 19 lines transmitting power at 800 kilovolts Another 22 lines operated at 1 thousand kilovolts One of them the behemoth terminating in Guquan transmits enough electricity at 1100 kilovolts to power more than seven million American households or 40 million to 50 million Chinese

households To put the scale of the power grid build out in China in perspective consider that the United States has a handful of 765 kilovolt lines and a few running at 500 kilovolts or less according to the Electric Power Research Institute a nonprofit research group The 765 kilovolt lines together total about 2 thousand miles the length of a single line across China The Soviet Union built a power line in Central Asia that was designed to operate at 1150 kilovolts But the Soviet Union built Central Asia Power Line used less powerful equipment and has not run at full tilt for decades The development of the China ultrahigh voltage lines was given a push in 2009 during the global financial crisis The central government approved enormous investments in their construction to create jobs and head off an economic slowdown Leaders in China staked ambitious plans for electric vehicles and high speed rail lines around the same time In March 2011 the construction of ultrahigh voltage lines gained further momentum from the partial meltdown of three nuclear reactors after an earthquake and tsunami in Fukushima Japan Beijing delayed many prospective nuclear reactors which had been planned near cities and doubled down on transmission lines from remote areas Construction of the power lines has helped China reduce its emissions of toxic air pollution and greenhouse gases A University of Chicago analysis of satellite data released in August found that air pollution in China had plunged 41 percent since 2014 That added almost two years to the China average life expectancy Beijing once notorious for smog mostly stopped burning coal for electricity in 2020 and now relies partly on wind power delivered from hundreds of miles away The ultrahigh voltage network in China has helped the country limit its dependence on imported oil and natural gas but it has also created new vulnerabilities Much of northwestern China where many of the lines are being built is mountainous As a result lines had to be closely bunched as they hug a single flood prone tributary of the Yellow River that passes between earthquake prone mountain ranges from Dunhuang to Lanzhou in Gansu Province Image of A person riding a scooter near a body of water and a sign with a caution symbol against fishing A sign warning locals against fishing in the pond and showing a photo of the burned body of an electrocuted man For decades countries around the world have talked about building power lines similar to those in China They have found it difficult to persuade people living along the routes to accept any high power lines much less ultrahigh voltage lines China can build faster because of its top down industrial planning government control of information and intolerance for public dissent Some villagers in Anhui Province living near the longest ultrahigh voltage line in China said they had reservations about the line although they did not try to stop its construction The line carries mostly solar and wind energy as well as some coal fired power from the Gurbantünggüt Desert in Xinjiang It helps supply electricity to big eastern Chinese cities like Shanghai Hangzhou and Nanjing A farm manager in Xuchong a village next to lines that pass within 30 yards of homes expressed concern When you hold an umbrella in the rain sparks will fly from it and you will feel numb he said When fishing it is hard to hold the pole under the wires as your hands feel very numb The small fish pond of the village lies directly under the power lines A no fishing sign has a cartoon of a skeleton being electrocuted and a graphic photo of a badly burned man who was apparently electrocuted But he and other residents said that did not stop many villagers from fishing because the pond was so close by The man said he accepted the power line because it was an important national project but he worried it might scare off visitors I am used to it now he said But honestly we do not want more lines built here

2 Georgia Residential Solar Panels Trump Voters Trump Cuts Solar for All Program Cuts Hit GOP and Democrat Voters Alike In Georgia the Trump Cuts to Solar Projects Hit Some of His Voters The Trump administration canceled a 7 billion dollar

program intended to help low and moderate income families install rooftop solar panels. Homeowners in Georgia were hoping to install solar panels to combat electricity bills that have skyrocketed in recent months. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization. The New York Times reported from Atlanta and Adairsville Ga. to learn about the impact of canceling the Solar for All program. October 11 2025. When a Georgia woman entered a drawing for the free installation of solar panels on her home she was desperate for help with electric bills that have soared to more than 500 dollars a month. So the woman aged 39 was disappointed when the drawing was abruptly canceled. And as a supporter of President Trump she was shocked by the reason his administration had revoked 7 billion dollars in federal grants intended to help low and moderate income families get access to solar energy. I like a lot of the Trump outlooks on things but there are some things like the solar panels that I do not like now that I know the woman said outside her home in Adairsville Georgia a town of roughly 4900 people about halfway between Atlanta and Chattanooga Tennessee. In Georgia and across the country electricity bills have skyrocketed in recent months. Yet Trump has rescinded billions of federal dollars for renewable energy like solar and wind power that could reduce the strain on working class households. And the cuts are dealing a disproportionate blow to the Republican led states that propelled him back to office. The Solar for All program is a prime example. Established by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act the program was designed to help more than 900 thousand households get access to solar energy. The idea was to reduce the use of fossil fuels the leading driver of climate change while also helping participating households to save an average of about 400 dollars annually on electric bills. While Trump has often called renewable energy spending a green new scam even veteran energy analysts were surprised when the Environmental Protection Agency terminated Solar for All. They had assumed that the initiative would be safe from repeal because Republican led states like Alabama Georgia and South Carolina had sought or received funding. On August 4 2025 Georgia Bright opened the first drawing. Within 24 hours 500 households signed up. Three days later the EPA announced that it was terminating Solar for All grants to all 60 recipients including nonprofits state agencies and Native American tribes. Lee Zeldin the EPA administrator said in a video posted to social media that the program was a boondoggle that would waste billions of green slush fund dollars. The abrupt policy shift in Washington lit up the group chats of grant recipients across the country. In Adairsville the woman saw an email from Georgia Bright saying the drawing was on hold. The single mother of three works two jobs as an assistant manager at a tire store and as a delivery driver for Walmart. After using food stamps to buy groceries she struggles to pay her other bills. Her monthly charge from Georgia Power the largest electric provider in the state was about 548 dollars in August the month that Solar for All was canceled. Solar panels are far less common than Trump signs in Adairsville and surrounding Bartow County where more than three quarters of residents voted for Trump in 2024. The woman said she still supports Trump because he has restricted access to abortion which she strongly opposes. And she is still processing the Trump role in scrapping Solar for All. I never really thought about him as being the one who did it she said. But now I have really got something to think about huh? A Growing Burden. On average residential customers of Georgia Power like the woman in this article have seen their bills rise by 518 dollars a year or 33 percent since 2023. Georgia residents now pay among the highest utility bills in the country trailing only Alaska Connecticut Hawaii and West Virginia. Georgia Power has increased its residential rates six times in the past two years largely to cover the costs of a nuclear power plant expansion that ran 17 billion dollars.

over budget. But Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, a Republican, announced in May that the utility had reached a deal with state regulators to freeze base rates for the next three years. John Kraft, a spokesman for Georgia Power, said in an email that the utility was keeping electricity affordable for our customers and that the nuclear plant expansion was a long-term investment in reliable, emission-free energy. He said the freeze would protect customers from future cost increases tied to new artificial intelligence data centers.

The founder and chief executive of Sunpath Solar, a solar installation company that has partnered with Georgia Bright, said higher electricity costs had spurred interest from more customers in rural, conservative parts of the state. Republicans and Democrats alike pay power bills, and Solar for All certainly was not just helping predominantly Democratic states, he said. In lots of historically conservative parts of Georgia, there is a huge appetite out there. People are struggling. To be sure, residents in left-leaning cities like Atlanta, Decatur, and Savannah had also entered the Georgia Bright drawing for free rooftop solar panels. Among them was a 47-year-old woman, a resident of East Atlanta, whose bill from Georgia Power was nearly 470 dollars in August. The 47-year-old woman founded her own tech company and lives in a 1,000-square-foot, three-bedroom house with her husband, 8-year-old son, and 6-year-old daughter. She said she was baffled by her astronomical power bill because the family does not have any extravagant appliances that would guzzle electricity. They are robbing me blind, she said in an interview in her kitchen, which she was trying to cool with a fan on that 76-degree afternoon since running the air conditioning would consume more power. The 47-year-old woman said she looked into installing solar panels without the Solar for All program but found that it would be prohibitively expensive, with the upfront cost ranging from 12,000 to 20,000 dollars.

Conservative politicians and scholars have argued that the government should not spend taxpayer money to make solar affordable for some families. They cheered when the Republican-controlled Congress passed the Trump domestic policy bill, which phased out federal tax credits for wind and solar energy. However, fossil fuels like oil and gas have received lucrative federal tax breaks for decades. A Republican member of the Georgia Public Service Commission, which regulates utilities in the state, wrote to the EPA in August to make the case for Solar for All. This solar program, on the chopping block while just for rooftops, makes a lot of sense to me, he wrote. It lets folks participate who frankly would never be able to even think about a rooftop investment.

A Brewing Legal Fight Ultimately, a court will have the final say over the fate of Solar for All, and the 47-year-old woman is part of the legal battle. She is a plaintiff in a lawsuit filed this week in federal court in Rhode Island that challenged the EPA's termination of the Solar for All grants. The lead plaintiff is the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, a group of labor unions that had trained workers to install solar panels following a 49-point, 3-million-dollar grant to the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources. The complaint accused the EPA of illegally revoking the grants without congressional approval. We are in court fighting because the EPA ripped away this program from families with no basis, said a senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center, which filed the suit along with three other nonprofit groups. Solar supporters say these concerns about the unreliability of solar **RAWSEP interjects** since the sun only shines in the daytime, but there are long-term battery storage solutions that can solve any problem with that. **Back to the article excerpts** Concerns about the reliability of solar are overblown, and improvements in batteries mean the electricity generated by solar panels can be stored for later use. Energy analysts were surprised at the cancellation of the Solar for All program since some red states had applied for or received funding. A 79-year-old man said that ever since he and his wife installed 14 solar panels and a battery backup system on their Savannah, Georgia, home in 2023, they have not experienced significant

power outages We wanted very reliable safe power and we got it he said After Hurricane Helene barreled across the Southeast last fall the elderly couple were able to keep the lights on while the rest of the neighborhood was plunged into darkness for a week The 79 year old man who has severe sleep apnea also was able to continue using a machine to help him breathe at night The elderly couple participated in the Georgia Bright pilot program which provided discounted solar panels and batteries through a lease of around 100 dollars per month to about 100 households Georgia Bright has still not rescheduled the drawings for free solar installations Also on hold are three additional Georgia Bright programs that would have provided inexpensive solar panels to both homes and businesses The woman director of Georgia Bright said that while the court fight plays out the group is trying to attract private funding to fill the void created by the Trump administration Yes there have been headwinds in the solar industry but it is not a bad investment she said It is not risky So if the right funders step into the gap we are going to do big things But if everyone retreats like the federal government is it is going to be a huge setback

3 Trump upends lives of millions with mass firings during a government shutdown

Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization

The Trump Shutdown Layoffs Deepen Impasse Angering Democrats The Trump move to fire federal workers and his threats to make others go without pay were aimed at pressuring Democrats to cut a deal to reopen the government The tactics have fueled Democratic resolve The Capitol South Metro station sat empty on the first day of the government shutdown earlier this month The New York Times October 11 2025 In almost any other government shutdown Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner both of Virginia would probably top the list of Democrats most likely to try to find a quick off ramp They represent the state with the second highest concentration of federal employees in the nation Both have historically been eager to join the so called bipartisan gangs of senators who try to negotiate their way through partisan gridlock Instead the two have appeared remarkably dug in even as President Trump and his top lieutenants have threatened to use the shutdown to drastically accelerate their campaign to reduce the size of the government They say they are channeling federal workers who are furious at the Trump White House ongoing assault on the bureaucracy and are urging their representatives in Congress to keep up the fight I have heard that sentiment more loudly than I thought because in Virginia we have an awful lot at stake Kaine said in a recent interview We suffer more in a shutdown scenario than anybody else But I think they feel like You are threatening to hurt us You have been hurting us since January 20 2025 In some ways it is kind of not a credible threat because you will do it anyway whatever happens The dynamic has fueled Democratic resolve not to back down as the shutdown impasse drags into its second week Democrats representing large populations of federal workers have for months heard from livid employees about the Department of Government Efficiency emails they received asking them to provide a list of accomplishments the chaos and upheaval at their agencies and the fears of retaliation Trump has stepped up the threats in recent days saying that he would deny furloughed workers back pay earned during the shutdown and promising that he would seize the opportunity to slash programs and projects Democrats care about So far that has only fueled Democratic outrage strengthening their determination to continue demanding health care concessions as a condition of any deal to fund the government But that determination will be tested in the days ahead Russell T Vought the White House budget director announced on Friday that the administration was beginning another round of federal worker layoffs fulfilling the Trump threats And many federal employees including military personnel are set to miss

their first paycheck next week Democrats on Friday gave few indications that they would be swayed This latest round of federal firings is not an unfortunate byproduct of the government shutdown but a deliberate choice Warner wrote on social media Republicans are intentionally holding federal workers hostage to force through their agenda driving up health care costs for millions Representative Don Beyer a Virginia Democrat who represents the Northern Virginia suburbs home to one of the largest concentrations of federal workers in the country said that President Trump and Russ Vought have been firing federal workers by the thousands continuously since the beginning of the DOGE disaster and as numerous Republicans have admitted they plainly hoped to use the pretext of a shutdown to fire even more American workers Beyer said In the hours before the government shut down late last month the White House had threatened to maximize the pain of a funding lapse in an attempt to pressure Democrats into caving and accepting a short term deal Federal workers at the time were largely unfazed Democratic senators including Senator Adam B Schiff of California said Schiff represents roughly 8 percent of all federal workers Senator Andy Kim of New Jersey sat down last week with federal workers in New Jersey I heard about their anxieties and fears and that some things are worth fighting for Mister Kim said And while Republicans try to pin the blame on Democrats for the furloughs and the soon to be missed paychecks for US troops it is not yet clear whether voters will agree During shutdowns the majority party in Congress is typically reluctant to pass piecemeal legislation to fund popular portions of the federal government such as the troops fearing that doing so could relieve pressure on the other party to cut a deal to reopen When Speaker Mike Johnson took live questions from C SPAN viewers on Thursday a woman who identified herself as a Republican military wife called in and chastised the Louisiana Republican for keeping the House out of session and not passing legislation that would ensure that troops get paid during the shutdown

4 A Chilean Dictator and an enabler in the United Kingdom Reading History [RAWSEP View](#) Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization From Wikipedia Philippe Sands is a British and French writer and lawyer and Professor of Laws and Director of the Centre on International Courts and Tribunals at the Faculty of Laws University College London A specialist in international law he appears as counsel and advocate before many international courts and tribunals including the International Court of Justice the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea the European Court of Justice the European Court of Human Rights and the International Criminal Court Sands was born in London on October 17 1960 to Jewish parents his mother was French He read law at Corpus Christi College Cambridge attaining a BA degree in 1982 Sands spent a year as a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School [RAWSEP View](#) This is a book about impunity AI Overview Impunity is the exemption from punishment or negative consequences for wrongdoing allowing individuals or groups to act without fear of accountability It can refer to a general sense of being above the law such as criminals operating with impunity In human rights impunity often results from a failure to prosecute perpetrators of violations itself constituting a denial of justice for victims [RAWSEP View](#) Hopefully the nascent parallels between Trump and Pinochet will not be allowed to play out to a conclusion Whether we can figure out how to stop a dictator is not clear after reading this book but the book outlines some ways that Pinochet gained power Unfortunately this is not a book about jailing a dictator since Pinochet eventually walked free back to Chile in the year 2 thousand [From Wikipedia](#) Augusto José Ramón Pinochet Ugarte was born on November 25 1915 and died on December 10 2006 at the age of 91 Pinochet was a Chilean army officer and politician who was the President of Chile from

1973 to 1990 From 1973 to 1981 he was the leader of the military junta which in 1974 declared him President of the Republic and thus the dictator of Chile in 1980 a referendum approved a new constitution confirming him in the office after which he served as de jure president from 1981 to 1990 His time in office remains the longest of any Chilean ruler On 10 December 10 2006 at 1 30 PM local time he was taken to the intensive care unit He died of congestive heart failure and pulmonary edema surrounded by family members at the Military Hospital 45 minutes later at 2 15 PM local time Massive spontaneous street demonstrations broke out throughout the country upon the news of his death In Santiago opponents celebrated his death in Alameda Avenue while supporters grieved outside the Military Hospital The Pinochet remains lay in repose on 11 December 2006 at the Military Academy in Las Condes During this ceremony the grandson of Carlos Prats (a former Commander in Chief of the Army in the Allende government who was murdered by the secret police of Pinochet spat on the coffin and was quickly surrounded by supporters of Pinochet who assaulted and brutally beat him The Pinochet funeral took place the following day at the same venue before a gathering of 60 thousand supporters

From the article headline Book Review 38 Londres Street by Philippe Sands The New York Times 38 LONDRES STREET On Impunity Pinochet in England and a Nazi in Patagonia by Philippe Sands **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** **Pinochet the dictator of Chile from 1973 to 1990** had been detained in Britain while his lawyers fought attempts to extradite him to Spain where a judge had issued an **international arrest warrant for human rights violations committed by his regime** Upon his return to Chile on March 3 2 thousand the old general appeared to be in robust health standing up once his wheelchair touched the tarmac to give a military colleague a hearty embrace Still beaming Pinochet then walked toward the cheering crowd Years later a woman whose husband was disappeared in 1974 remembered a broadcast of the moment as if it showed **someone literally getting away with murder** I felt consternation and rage and a deep sense of impunity Impunity is the central theme of 38 Londres Street an absorbing new book by the British and French lawyer and author Philippe Sands **In 1973 Pinochet and the Chilean military overthrew the democratically elected government of President Salvador Allende and proceeded to crush opposition and dissent unleashing state sanctioned sadism as a means of both retribution and deterrence** 37 Londres Street is the address of headquarters for the Socialist Party in Santiago before it became **one of the centers of the Chilean military dictatorship for torture and disappearance** Sands calls the proceedings against Pinochet the **most significant criminal case since Nuremberg** Never before had a former head of state been arrested in another country for international crimes 38 Londres Street by Philippe Sands The author Philippe Sands was incidentally connected to these events in several surprising ways When the Pinochet legal team tried to hire him the wife of Sands threatened a divorce if he took the case Philippe Sands ended up doing some work on the case for Human Rights Watch instead Decades earlier the father of his wife a publisher happened to be working on a book proposal with Orlando Letelier a former official in the Allende government when Letelier was assassinated in a posh Washington neighborhood **by a car bomb planted by the Pinochet secret police** And in the course of researching this book Sands learned that Carmelo Soria a United Nations official who was abducted on a Santiago street in 1976 and whose body was found in a canal two days later was a distant cousin of his wife But it is the connection of Sands to the other narrative thread in 38 Londres Street that gives this book its inimitable shape In 1962 more than three decades before Pinochet was arrested in London a man by the name of Walther Rauff was

arrested in Punta Arenas in Chile and faced extradition to West Germany Rauff a former Nazi SS commander oversaw the development of mobile gas vans a precursor to the death camps **Sands** learned that a cousin of his mother named Herta was most likely one of the thousands murdered in the Rauff vans Herta was 12 years old It had not occurred to me that Pinochet and Rauff might be linked but it turned out that the lives of the two men were deeply intertwined Sands writes After World War II Rauff escaped to Ecuador where he met Pinochet and for a time their families became close In addition to their virulent aversion to communism **the men shared an interest in Nazism** Rauff after his arrest lived in fear of the extradition that never came Rauff was thrilled by the coup led by Pinochet Finally Rauff thought he was safe As he bragged in a letter to a nephew I am protected like a cultural monument In 1965 the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda wrote an article attacking the Chile Supreme Court for allowing a war criminal like Rauff to live freely It protects people who efficiently organize collective murder and transport in vans 38 Londres Street is the third book in a trilogy that Sands began with the publication of East West Street (2016) and continued with The Ratline (2021) Beyond the fact that Rauff and Pinochet were socially connected the links between them are ghostly I wondered about proof Sands writes at one point I wanted evidence not speculation rumor or myth **What he does find is that the two men embraced the deployment of state power to torture and murder human beings even as each made every effort to deflect responsibility** Pinochet who issued an amnesty law in 1978 to immunize himself and his government from prosecution **blamed the people below** insisting he could not control their excesses Rauff **blamed the people above** insisting that he was only following orders There is a measure of hope in this book but Sands shows that even in the face of overwhelming evidence **justice is never a foregone conclusion** especially when it comes to **holding the powerful to account** In the epilogue a Pinochet confidant tells Sands that the Pinochet Foundation received a check for nearly 980 thousand pounds from the British government made out to Pinochet personally to reimburse his expenses while he was in London The Pinochet critics were aghast but his lawyer was unapologetic That is the system he said 38 LONDRES STREET On Impunity Pinochet in England and a Nazi in Patagonia By Philippe Sands **5** **Headlines The New York Times October 11 2025** Cable TV Allison Janney and Bradley Whitford on Their White House Return in The Diplomat The New York Times Clean Energy Trump Cuts Solar for All Program Cuts Hit G O P and Democrat Voters Alike The New York Times Government Shutdown Obamacare Enrollment by State Most Enrollees Live in Republican Areas The New York Times Government Shutdown Both Republicans and Democrats Some Americans Are Starting to Feel the Impact of the Government Shutdown The New York Times Trump Economy Billions of Dollars Vanished Low Profile Bankruptcy Rings Alarms on Wall Street The New York Times Trump Layoffs even during Shutdown The Trump Shutdown Layoffs Deepen Impasse Angering Democrats The New York Times Trump Pettiness at the Heart of his Lawsuits against Personal Enemies At the Center of the Letitia James Indictment a House in Norfolk Virginia The New York Times Trump Retribution Campaign The Trump Split Screen A Peacemaker Abroad a Retribution Campaign at Home The New York Times Trump Supreme Court Federal Judges Warning of Judicial Crisis Fault the Supreme Court Emergency Orders The New York Times Trump Surrogates Online **RAWSEP View** Influencers? **From the article headline** The Trump Aides and Officials Take Political Battles Online The New York Times Thailand Hair Length Regulated Why Many Students in Thailand Cannot Let Their Hair Down The New York Times China How China Powers Its Electric Cars and High Speed Trains The New York Times China Trump Tariffs Trump Threatens 100 Tariffs on Chinese Goods The New York Times