

## Literature Review

The most pressing issue in this dissertation that endeavours to find some objective representation regarding these historical actors is: how is this possible? Postmodern thought has convincingly taught us that universal truth is nonexistent, and that what remains is pure construction (Greer, 2003). The author of this dissertation does not take issue with this idea (as claiming to prove a universal truth – or not – is far beyond the scope of this dissertation). However, using the sources and accounts that do exist, whether political or legal documents (such as those released by the military during their time in power and after, and *Nunca Más* (1985) – Never Again – that has many of the testimonials of those that survived the process of ‘disappearance’), academic sources in the fields of politics, history and sociology, such as *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture* (1999) novels, such as *El Fin de la Historia* (1991) – The End of History – and films, such as *Cautiva* (2003) – Captured – *La Historia Oficial* (1985) – The Official Story – *The Disappeared* (2007) and *Los Escuadrones de la Muerte* (2007) – The Death Squadron – will all be used in an effort to produce an objective vision of those that were victims and those that participated – willingly or not – in this historical episode.

This can be achieved. As countless sources of the Holocaust show, objectivity does not mean that responsibility is denied, nor does it take away any condemnation of the severity and injustice of certain events. For example, the film *Downfall* (*Der Untergang*, 2004), which portrayed the last 12 days in the life of Hitler is an interesting case in point. The film shows the atrocities of the decisions Hitler made, and the dogmatic and xenophobic nature of his beliefs, and those that supported him and carried out his orders. However, as opposed to many accounts of the Holocaust, it also shows how a nation was carried in this blind fury to assassinate certain members of the German population and undertake their war on the rest of Europe and how Hitler himself was nothing more than human. These accounts show how evil acts are quite ordinary, that is, committed by human beings that have accepted ideas without really thinking them through (Hannah Arendt, 1963, shows a good account of this in *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*). Thus, this dissertation endeavours to step into this quagmire of the history wars regarding the Argentine Dirty War so as to understand how this tragic episode came about, as opposed to participating in an agenda of the history wars.

Beginning with the military documents released during the dictatorship, perhaps of most importance are those associated with the *Plan de Reorganización Nacional* (the Plan of National Reorganisation).

