Organized violence, state power and property rights in Argentina and Chile in the nineteenth century.

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Abstract: In nineteenth-century Latin America a private property regime based on full exclusive ownership became consolidated. The transformation of land into what Polanyi called a “fictitious commodity” was made possible by major changes in the deployment of organized violence and by the development of the administrative capacity of the central state. This process was shaped by the nature of the region’s integration into the world economy. The historical trajectories of Chile and Argentina during the nineteenth century provide a privileged vantage point from which to analyse the relationship between military professionalization, cadastral centralization, and the development of a capitalist land market.