

LA ARGENTINA



NAME: República Argentina
POPULATION: 43,350,000
ETHNIC GROUPS: White (97%; Spanish and Italian mostly); Mestizo (2%); Amerindian (1%)

CAPITAL:	Buenos Aires (13,500,000)
Other cities:	Córdoba (1,500,000); Rosario (1,200,000)
LANGUAGES:	Spanish (official)
RELIGION:	Roman Catholic (90%)
LIFE EXPECTANCY:	Men (68); women (75)
LITERACY:	97%
GOVERNMENT:	Democratic republic
President:	Cristina Fernández de Kirchner (since May 2007)
MILITARY:	67,300 active troops
ECONOMY:	food processing (meat), autos, chemicals, grains, crude oil
MONEY:	peso (1.0 = \$1.00 US)
GEOGRAPHY:	Atlantic coast down to tip of South America; second largest country in South America; Andean mountains on west; Aconcagua, highest peak in S. America (22,834 ft.); Pampas in center; Gran Chaco in north; Río de la Plata estuary (mostly fresh water from Paraná and Uruguay Rivers)

HISTORY:

Prehistory	Nomadic Amerindians (hunter gatherers); most died by 19th century
1516	Juan de Solís discovered Argentina and claimed it for Spain
1536	Buenos Aires founded by Pedro de Mendoza;
1580	Buenos Aires refounded by Juan de Garay
1776	Viceroyalty of Río de la Plata created (Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia).
1778-1850	José de San Martín, born in Buenos Aires, liberator of <i>cono sur</i> ; criollo (Spanish military father) raised in Spain.
1805-1851	Esteban Echeverría (writer): father of Latin American romanticism; author of <i>El matadero</i> (essay against Rosas).
1806	Great Britain's forces occupy port of Buenos Aires demanding free trade; <i>porteños</i> expel English troops; criollo <i>porteños</i> gain self-confidence.
1810	(May 25) A <i>cabildo abierto</i> of criollos assumes power for Fernando VII; <i>cabildo</i> divided between <i>unitarios</i> (liberals for centralized power) and <i>federalistas</i> (conservatives for federated republic with power in provinces).
1811-1888	Domingo Faustino Sarmiento (writer, educator, politician); author of <i>Facundo: civilización y barbarie</i> .
1812	San Martín joins patriot army.
1813	Paraguay declares independence from Spain and Buenos Aires.
1814	San Martín made general of patriot army; San Martín gets Chilean reinforcements in Chile and starts to move toward Perú.
1814-1817	San Martín organizes his forces in Cuyo without support from Buenos Aires.

- 1816 Congress in Tucumán declared independence from Spain.
- 1817 José de San Martín marches Argentinian troops over Andes to help free Chile; major military feat in harsh winter to surprise royalists in Santiago.
Criollos in Santiago, Chile, elect San Martín governor of Chile; he refuses all honors, and moves his army north.
- 1817-1871 José Mármol (novelist, writer of romantic novel *Amalia*)
- 1824 Independent from Spain
- 1826 Civil war between *unitarios* and *federalistas*
- 1829-1852 Dictatorship by Juan Manuel de Rosas (1793-1877; *federalista*)
Rosas was ally of *caudillo* Juan Facundo Quiroga
Rosas' secret police: *La Mazorca*
- 1834-1886 José Hernández (writer of *Martín Fierro*)
- 1862-1868 Mitre, president; founder of newspaper *La Nación*
- 1868-1874 Domingo Sarmiento, "schoolmaster president"
- 1876 *Martín Fierro* published by Hernández
- 1880 Large Italian immigration began
- 1899-1986 Jorge Luis Borges, vanguardist writer (short story and poetry)
- 1914-1984 Julio Cortázar, novelist Generation of the Boom (1963-1990), author of *Rayuela*
- 1943-1955 Presidential dictator Juan Domingo Perón; Perón returns to Argentina in 1973 after exile; Perón dies 1974
Perón's wife: Eva Duarte (Evita)
- 1963 Cortázar publishes *Rayuela*, initiating Generation of the Boom
- 1966 Military coup by Peronistas
- 1966-1973 Gens. Onganía, Livingston, and Lanusse, in power
- 1970 Montoneros (radicalized Peronistas) begin terrorism
- 1973 Peronista party (Frente Justicialista de Liberación) wins elections
- 1973-1974 Perón, president; dies 1974
- 1974-76 María Estela Martínez de Perón (Isabelita; Perón's second wife), president; first woman head of state in Western Hemisphere; she was ousted by military.
- 1976-1984 Military junta; period of *La Guerra Sucia* (Dirty War) against *Montoneros*;
Civil War (100,000 dead or 'disappeared').
- 1981-1982 Gen. Roberto Eduardo Viola
- 1982-1984 Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Bignone
- 1982 (April 2) Argentina seizes Islas Malvinas (Falklands) starting war against Great Britain (both countries had claimed sovereignty since 1833, but Great Britain had held and settled them; no Argentine residents at time of Argentinean invasion)
(May 2) Great Britain invades Falklands
(June 14) British victory brought down Argentinean military rule
- 1983 Demonstrations by *Madres de la Plaza de Mayo* about *Los desaparecidos*

- 1983 Oct. 30: Raúl Alfonsín elected president (Radical Civic Union Party; inaugurated Dec. 10)
- 1985 New currency adopted: called *Austral*
Former junta leaders tried and sentenced to prison
- 1987 Military coup fails;
Antonio Cafiero (Justicialista--Peronista--leader) elected governor of Buenos Aires
- 1989 Carlos Menem (Justicialista) elected president
inflation: cheese (5,934%), coffee (2,850%), bread (554%), eggs (466%), milk (441%)
income rise: 138% overall; public employees (51%)
Rioting in various cities
Menem cut government spending and restructured world's largest per capita foreign debt
- 1994 Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires bombed by terrorists (100 killed)
- 1995 Menem reelected president
- 2003-2007 Nestor Kirchner elected president
- 2007-2013 Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, president
- 2013 The Argentinian cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio (b. 1936 in Buenos Aires) is elected Pope Francis I (and Bishop of Rome and sovereign of the Vatican City State in Rome) of the Roman Catholic Church. He was elevated to the rank of cardinal-priest of the Jesuit church of San Roberto Bellarmino by Pope John Paul II in 2001. He entered the Jesuits (Society of Jesus) in 1958/1960. Earlier Fr. Bergoglio had been accused of collaborating (or not actively opposing) with the military junta during La Guerra Sucia (see 1976-1984) above, but he has been definitively cleared all such accusations. For an interesting article on how "Latino" he is (he was born and raised in Argentina, but his father was an immigrant railway worker from Italy), see: <http://news.yahoo.com/pope-revives-latino-134354010.html>.
- 2015 Mauricio Macri (b. 1959) elected president. He belongs to the Republican Proposal party. He ran to the right of his two opponents in the run-off election, for he favors fixing the economy, moving away from the Peronists' populist policies and, in foreign policy, away from the left-leaning countries in Latin America (i.e., Venezuela, Bolivia, and Cuba) and toward Europe and the United States. Before his election, he was a businessman, engineer, and head (mayor) of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. For an edited-down version of the News York Times article on his election, see: => [Macri](#).

GOVERNMENT: Constitutional Republic; representative democracy (1983-present)

PRESIDENT: Mauricio Macri (Republican Proposal Party)

PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTIES:

Partido Unión Radical Cívico

Partido Justicialista (Peronist; created by Juan Domingo Perón)
Republican Proposal

MAJOR MEMBERS OF INTELLIGENTSIA:

Writers: Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, *Facundo; civilización y barbarie*
(1842)

José Hernández, *El gaucho Martín Fierro* (1872)

Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1987), *Ficciones*

Ernesto Sábato, *El Túnel* (1957); *Sobre héroes y tumbas*

(1962)

David Viñas (*Literatura argentina y realidad política*)

Jacobo Timerman, *Prisionero sin nombre, celda sin número*

(1984); Editor of newspaper, *La opinión* (1974-80)

Manuel Puig (1931-), novelist: *El beso de la mujer araña* (1976)

Luisa Valenzuela (1938-), novelist: *Cambio de armas* (1982)

Cinematographers:

Torre Nihlson: *Mano en la trampa* (1949)

Camila (1985)

Luis Puenzo : *La historia oficial* (1985; Oscar for Best Foreign

Film, 1986)

El gringo viejo (1989; Prod. & Acted by Jane Fonda with

Gregory Peck)

Music : Carlos Gardel, singer of *boleros*

María Sosa, popular singer

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