

= Facundo =

Facundo : Civilization and Barbarism (original Spanish title : Facundo : Civilización y Barbarie) is a book written in 1845 by Domingo Faustino Sarmiento , a writer and journalist who became the seventh president of Argentina . It is a cornerstone of Latin American literature : a work of creative non-fiction that helped to define the parameters for thinking about the region 's development , modernization , power , and culture . Subtitled Civilization and Barbarism , Facundo contrasts civilization and barbarism as seen in early 19th century Argentina . Literary critic Roberto González Echevarría calls the work " the most important book written by a Latin American in any discipline or genre " .

Facundo describes the life of Juan Facundo Quiroga , a gaucho who had terrorized provincial Argentina in the 1820s and 1830s . Kathleen Ross , one of Facundo 's English translators , points out that the author also published Facundo to " denounce the tyranny of the Argentine dictator Juan Manuel de Rosas " . Juan Manuel de Rosas ruled Argentina from 1829 to 1832 and again from 1835 to 1852 ; it was because of Rosas that Sarmiento was in exile in Chile , where he wrote the book . Sarmiento sees Rosas as heir to Facundo : both are caudillos and representatives of a barbarism that derives from the nature of the Argentine countryside . As Ross explains , Sarmiento 's book is therefore engaged in describing the " Argentine national character , explaining the effects of Argentina 's geographical conditions on personality , the ' barbaric ' nature of the countryside versus the ' civilizing ' influence of the city , and the great future awaiting Argentina when it opened its doors wide to European immigration " .

Throughout the text , Sarmiento explores the dichotomy between civilization and barbarism . As Kimberly Ball observes , " civilization is identified with northern Europe , North America , cities , Unitarians , Paz , and Rivadavia " , while " barbarism is identified with Latin America , Spain , Asia , the Middle East , the countryside , Federalists , Facundo , and Rosas " . It is in the way that Facundo articulates this opposition that Sarmiento 's book has had such a profound influence . In the words of González Echevarría : " in proposing the dialectic between civilization and barbarism as the central conflict in Latin American culture Facundo gave shape to a polemic that began in the colonial period and continues to the present day " .

The first edition of Facundo was published in instalments in 1845 . Sarmiento removed the last two chapters of the second edition (1851) , but restored them in the 1874 edition , deciding that they were important to the book 's development .

The first translation into English , by Mary Mann , was published in 1868 . A modern and complete translation by Kathleen Ross appeared in 2003 from the University of California Press .

= = Background = =

While exiled in Chile , Sarmiento wrote Facundo in 1845 as an attack on Juan Manuel de Rosas , the Argentine dictator at the time . The book was a critical analysis of Argentine culture as he saw it , represented in men such as Rosas and the regional leader Juan Facundo Quiroga , a warlord from La Rioja . For Sarmiento , Rosas and Quiroga were caudillos ? strongmen who did not submit to the law . However , if Facundo 's portrait is linked to the wild nature of the countryside , Rosas is depicted as an opportunist who exploits the situation to perpetuate himself in power .

Sarmiento 's book is a critique and also a symptom of Argentina 's cultural conflicts . In 1810 , the country had gained independence from the Spanish Empire , but Sarmiento complains that Argentina had yet to cohere as a unified entity . The country 's chief political division saw the Unitarists (or Unitarians , with whom Sarmiento sided) , who favored centralization , counterposed against the Federalists , who believed that the regions should maintain a good measure of autonomy . This division was in part a split between the city and the countryside . Then as now , Buenos Aires was the country 's largest and wealthiest city as a result of its access to river trade routes and the South Atlantic . Buenos Aires was exposed not only to trade but to fresh ideas and European culture . These economic and cultural differences caused tension between Buenos Aires and the landlocked regions of the country . Despite his Unitarian sympathies , Sarmiento

himself came from the provinces , a native of the Western town of San Juan .

= = = Argentine civil war = = =

Argentina 's divisions led to a civil war that began in 1814 . A frail agreement was reached in the early 1820s , which led to the unification of the Republic just in time to wage the Cisplatine War against the Empire of Brazil , but the relations between the Provinces reached again the point of breaking @-@ off in 1826 , when Unitarist Bernardino Rivadavia was elected president and tried to enforce a newly enacted centralist Constitution . Supporters of decentralized government challenged the Unitarist Party , leading to the outbreak of violence . Federalists Juan Facundo Quiroga and Manuel Dorrego wanted more autonomy for the provinces and were inclined to reject European culture . The Unitarists defended Rivadavia 's presidency , as it created educational opportunities for rural inhabitants through a European @-@ staffed university program . However , under Rivadavia 's rule , the salaries of common laborers were subjected to government wage ceilings , and the gauchos (" cattle @-@ wrangling horsemen of the pampas ") were either imprisoned or forced to work without pay .

A series of governors were installed and replaced beginning in 1828 with the appointment of Federalist Manuel Dorrego as the governor of Buenos Aires . However , Dorrego 's government was very soon overthrown and replaced by that of Unitarist Juan Lavalle . Lavalle 's rule ended when he was defeated by a militia of gauchos led by Rosas . By the end of 1829 , the legislature had appointed Rosas as governor of Buenos Aires . Under Rosas 's rule , many intellectuals fled either to Chile , as did Sarmiento , or to Uruguay , as Sarmiento himself notes .

= = = Juan Manuel de Rosas = = =

According to Latin American historian John Lynch , Juan Manuel de Rosas was " a landowner , a rural caudillo , and the dictator of Buenos Aires from 1829 to 1852 " . He was born into a wealthy family of high social status , but Rosas 's strict upbringing had a deep psychological influence on him . Sarmiento asserts that because of Rosas 's mother , " the spectacle of authority and servitude must have left lasting impressions on him " . Shortly after reaching puberty , Rosas was sent to an estancia and stayed there for about thirty years . In time , he learned how to manage the ranch and he established an authoritarian government in the area . While in power , Rosas incarcerated residents for unspecified reasons , acts which Sarmiento argues were similar to Rosas 's treatment of cattle . Sarmiento argues that this was one method of making his citizens like the " tamest , most orderly cattle known " .

Juan Manuel de Rosas 's first term as governor lasted only three years . His rule , assisted by Juan Facundo Quiroga and Estanislao López , was respected and he was praised for his ability to maintain harmony between Buenos Aires and the rural areas . The country fell into disorder after Rosas 's resignation in 1832 , and in 1835 he was once again called to lead the country . He ruled the country not as he did during his first term as governor , but as a dictator , forcing all citizens to support his Federalist regime . According to Nicolas Shumway , Rosas " forced the citizens to wear the red Federalist insignia , and his picture appeared in all public places ... Rosas 's enemies , real and imagined , were increasingly imprisoned , tortured , murdered , or driven into exile by the mazorca , a band of spies and thugs supervised personally by Rosas . Publications were censored , and porteño newspapers became tedious apologizers for the regime " .

= = = Domingo Faustino Sarmiento = = =

In Facundo , Sarmiento is both the narrator and a main character . The book contains autobiographical elements from Sarmiento 's life , and he comments on the entire Argentine circumstance . He also expresses and analyzes his own opinion and chronicles some historic events . Within the book 's dichotomy between civilization and barbarism , Sarmiento 's character represents civilization , steeped as he is in European and North American ideas ; he stands for

education and development , as opposed to Rosas and Facundo , who symbolize barbarism .

Sarmiento was an educator , a civilized man who was a militant adherent to the Unitarist movement . During the Argentine civil war he fought against Facundo several times , and while in Spain he became a member of the Literary Society of Professors . Exiled to Chile by Rosas when he started to write Facundo , Sarmiento would later return as a politician . He was a member of the Senate after Rosas 's fall and president of Argentina for six years (1868 ? 1874) . During his presidency , Sarmiento concentrated on migration , sciences , and culture . His ideas were based on European civilization ; for him , the development of a country was rooted in education . To this end , he founded Argentina 's military and naval colleges .

= = Synopsis = =

After a lengthy introduction , Facundo 's fifteen chapters divide broadly into three sections : chapters one to four outline Argentine geography , anthropology , and history ; chapters five to fourteen recount the life of Juan Facundo Quiroga ; and the concluding chapter expounds Sarmiento 's vision of a future for Argentina under a Unitarist government . In Sarmiento 's words , the reason why he chose to provide Argentine context and use Facundo Quiroga to condemn Rosas 's dictatorship is that " in Facundo Quiroga I do not only see simply a caudillo , but rather a manifestation of Argentine life as it has been made by colonization and the peculiarities of the land " .

= = = Argentine context = = =

Facundo begins with a geographical description of Argentina , from the Andes in the west to the eastern Atlantic coast , where two main river systems converge at the boundary between Argentina and Uruguay . This river estuary , called the Rio de Plata , is the location of Buenos Aires , the capital . Through his discussion of Argentina 's geography , Sarmiento demonstrates Buenos Aires ' advantages ; the river systems were communications arteries which , by enabling trade , helped the city to achieve civilization . Buenos Aires failed to spread civilization to the rural areas and as a result , much of the rest of Argentina was doomed to barbarism . Sarmiento also argues that the pampas , Argentina 's wide and empty plains , provided " no place for people to escape and hide for defense and this prohibits civilization in most parts of Argentina " . Despite the barriers to civilization caused by Argentina 's geography , Sarmiento argues that many of the country 's problems were caused by gauchos like Juan Manuel de Rosas , who were barbaric , uneducated , ignorant , and arrogant ; their character prevented Argentine society 's progress toward civilization . Sarmiento then describes the four main types of gaucho and these characterizations aid in understanding Argentine leaders , such as Juan Manuel de Rosas . Sarmiento argues that without an understanding of these Argentine character types , " it is impossible to understand our political personages , or the primordial , American character of the bloody struggle that tears apart the Argentine Republic " .

Sarmiento then moves on to the Argentine peasants , who are " independent of all need , free of all subjection , with no idea of government " . The peasants gather at taverns , where they spend their time drinking and gambling . They display their eagerness to prove their physical strength with horsemanship and knife fights . Rarely these displays led to deaths , and Sarmiento notes that Rosas 's residence was sometimes used as a refuge on such occasions , before he became politically powerful .

According to Sarmiento , these elements are crucial to an understanding of the Argentine Revolution , in which Argentina gained independence from Spain . Although Argentina 's war of independence was prompted by the influence of European ideas , Buenos Aires was the only city that could achieve civilization . Rural people participated in the war to demonstrate their physical strengths rather than because they wanted to civilize the country . In the end , the revolution was a failure because the barbaric instincts of the rural population led to the loss and dishonor of the civilized city ? Buenos Aires .

= = = Life of Juan Facundo Quiroga = = =

The second section of Facundo explores the life of its titular character , Juan Facundo Quiroga ? the " Tiger of the Plains " . Despite being born into a wealthy family , Facundo received only a basic education in reading and writing . He loved gambling , being called el jugador (the player) ? in fact , Sarmiento describes his gambling as " an ardent passion burning in his belly " . As a youth Facundo was antisocial and rebellious , refusing to mix with other children , and these traits became more pronounced as he matured . Sarmiento describes an incident in which Facundo killed a man , writing that this type of behaviour " marked his passage through the world " . Sarmiento gives a physical description of the man he considers to personify the caudillo : " [he had a] short and well built stature ; his broad shoulders supported , on a short neck , a well @-@ formed head covered with very thick , black and curly hair " , with " eyes ... full of fire " .

Facundo 's relations with his family eventually broke down , and , taking on the life of a gaucho , he joined the caudillos in the province of Entre Ríos . His killing of two Spaniards after a jailbreak saw him acclaimed as a hero among the gauchos , and on relocating to La Rioja , Facundo was appointed to a leadership position in the Llanos Militia . He built his reputation and won his comrades ' respect through his fierce battlefield performances , but hated and tried to destroy those who differed from him by being civilized and well @-@ educated .

In 1825 , when Unitarist Bernardino Rivadavia became the governor of the Buenos Aires province , he held a meeting with representatives from all provinces in Argentina . Facundo was present as the governor of La Rioja . Rivadavia was soon overthrown , and Manuel Dorrego became the new governor . Sarmiento contends that Dorrego , a Federalist , was interested neither in social progress nor in ending barbaric behaviour in Argentina by improving the level of civilization and education of its rural inhabitants . In the turmoil that characterized Argentine politics at the time , Dorrego was assassinated by Unitarists and Facundo was defeated by Unitarist General José María Paz . Facundo escaped to Buenos Aires and joined the Federalist government of Juan Manuel de Rosas . During the ensuing civil war between the two ideologies , Facundo conquered the provinces of San Luis , Cordoba and Mendoza .

On return to his San Juan home , which Sarmiento says Facundo governed " solely with his terrifying name " , he realized that his government lacked support from Rosas . He went to Buenos Aires to confront Rosas , who sent him on another political mission . On his way back , Facundo was shot and killed at Barranca Yaco , Córdoba . According to Sarmiento , the murder was plotted by Rosas : " An impartial history still awaits facts and revelations , in order to point its finger at the instigator of the assassins " .

= = = Consequences of Facundo 's death = = =

In the book 's final chapters , Sarmiento explores the consequences of Facundo 's death for the history and politics of the Argentine Republic . He further analyzes Rosas 's government and personality , commenting on dictatorship , tyranny , the role of popular support , and the use of force to maintain order . Sarmiento criticizes Rosas by using the words of the dictator , making sarcastic remarks about Rosas 's actions , and describing the " terror " established during the dictatorship , the contradictions of the government , and the situation in the provinces that were ruled by Facundo . Sarmiento writes , " The red ribbon is a materialization of the terror that accompanies you everywhere , in the streets , in the bosom of the family ; it must be thought about when dressing , when undressing , and ideas are always engraved upon us by association " .

Finally , Sarmiento examines the legacy of Rosas 's government by attacking the dictator and widening the civilization ? barbarism dichotomy . By setting France against Argentina ? representing civilization and barbarism respectively ? Sarmiento contrasts culture and savagery :

France 's blockade had lasted for two years , and the ' American ' government , inspired by ' American ' spirit , was facing off with France , European principles , European pretensions . The social results of the French blockade , however , had been fruitful for the Argentine Republic , and

served to demonstrate in all their nakedness the current state of mind and the new elements of struggle , which were to ignite a fierce war that can end only with the fall of that monstrous government .

= = Genre and style = =

Spanish critic and philosopher Miguel de Unamuno comments of the book , " I never took Facundo by Sarmiento as a historical work , nor do I think it can be very valued in that regard . I always thought of it as a literary work , as a historical novel " . However , Facundo cannot be classified as a novel or a specific genre of literature . According to González Echevarría , the book is at once an " essay , biography , autobiography , novel , epic , memoir , confession , political pamphlet , diatribe , scientific treatise , [and] travelogue " . Sarmiento 's style and his exploration of the life of Facundo unify the three distinct parts of his work . Even the first section , describing Argentina 's geography , follows this pattern , since Sarmiento contends that Facundo is a natural product of this environment .

The book is partly fictional , as well : Sarmiento draws on his imagination in addition to historical fact in describing Rosas . In Facundo , Sarmiento outlines his argument that Rosas 's dictatorship is the main cause of Argentina 's problems . The themes of barbarism and savagery that run through the book are , to Sarmiento , consequences of Rosas 's dictatorial government . To make his case , Sarmiento often has recourse to strategies drawn from literature .

= = Themes = =

= = = Civilization and barbarism = = =

Facundo is not only a critique of Rosas 's dictatorship , but a broader investigation into Argentine history and culture , which Sarmiento charts through the rise , controversial rule , and downfall of Juan Facundo Quiroga , an archetypical Argentine caudillo . Sarmiento summarizes the book 's message in the phrase " That is the point : to be or not to be savages " . The dichotomy between civilization and barbarism is the book 's central idea ; Facundo Quiroga is portrayed as wild , untamed , and standing opposed to true progress through his rejection of European cultural ideals ? found at that time in the metropolitan society of Buenos Aires .

The conflict between civilization and barbarism mirrors Latin America 's difficulties in the post @-@ Independence era . Literary critic Sorensen Goodrich argues that although Sarmiento was not the first to articulate this dichotomy , he forged it into a powerful and prominent theme that would impact Latin American literature . He explores the issue of civilization versus the cruder aspects of a caudillo culture of brutality and absolute power . Facundo set forth an oppositional message that promoted a more beneficial alternative for society at large . Although Sarmiento advocated various changes , such as honest officials who understood enlightenment ideas of European and Classical origin , for him education was the key . Caudillos like Facundo Quiroga are seen , at the beginning of the book , as the antithesis of education , high culture , and civil stability ; barbarism was like a never ending litany of social ills . They are the agents of instability and chaos , destroying societies through their blatant disregard for humanity and social progress .

If Sarmiento viewed himself as civilized , Rosas was barbaric . Historian David Rock argues that " contemporary opponents reviled Rosas as a bloody tyrant and a symbol of barbarism " . Sarmiento attacked Rosas through his book by promoting education and " civilized " status , whereas Rosas used political power and brute force to dispose of any kind of hindrance . In linking Europe with civilization , and civilization with education , Sarmiento conveyed an admiration of European culture and civilization which at the same time gave him a sense of dissatisfaction with his own culture , motivating him to drive it towards civilization . Using the wilderness of the pampas to reinforce his social analysis , he characterizes those who were isolated and opposed to political dialogue as ignorant and anarchic ? symbolized by Argentina 's desolate physical geography . Conversely , Latin

America was connected to barbarism , which Sarmiento used mainly to illustrate the way in which Argentina was disconnected from the numerous resources surrounding it , limiting the growth of the country .

American critic Doris Sommer sees a connection between Facundo 's ideology and Sarmiento 's readings of Fenimore Cooper . She links Sarmiento 's remarks on modernization and culture to the American discourse of expansion and progress of the 19th century .

= = = Writing and power = = =

In the history of post @-@ independence Latin America , dictatorships have been relatively common ? examples range from Paraguay 's José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia in the 19th century to Chile 's Augusto Pinochet in the 20th . In this context , Latin American literature has been distinguished by the protest novel , or dictator novel ; the main story is based around the dictator figure , his behaviour , characteristics and the situation of the people under his regime . Writers such as Sarmiento used the power of the written word in order to criticize government , using literature as a tool , an instance of resistance and as a weapon against repression .

Making use of the connection between writing and power was one of Sarmiento 's strategies . For him , writing was intended to be a catalyst for action . While the gauchos fought with physical weapons , Sarmiento used his voice and language . Sorensen states that Sarmiento used " text as [a] weapon " . Sarmiento was writing not only for Argentina but for a wider audience too , especially the United States and Europe ; in his view , these regions were close to civilization ; his purpose was to seduce his readers toward his own political viewpoint . In the numerous translations of Facundo , Sarmiento 's association of writing with power and conquest is apparent .

Since his books often serve as vehicles for his political manifesto , Sarmiento 's writings commonly mock governments , with Facundo being the most prominent example . He elevates his own status at the expense of the ruling elite , almost portraying himself as invincible due to the power of writing . Toward the end of 1840 , Sarmiento was exiled for his political views . Covered with bruises received the day before from unruly soldiers , he wrote in French , " On ne tue point les idées " (misquoted from " on ne tire pas des coups de fusil aux idées " , which means " ideas cannot be killed by guns ") . The government decided to decipher the message , and on learning the translation , said , " So ! What does this mean ? " . With the failure of his oppressors to understand his meaning , Sarmiento is able to illustrate their ineptitude . His words are presented as a " code " that needs to be " deciphered " , and unlike Sarmiento those in power are barbaric and uneducated . Their bafflement not only demonstrates their general ignorance , but also , according to Sorensen , illustrates " the fundamental displacement which any cultural transplantation brings about " , since Argentine rural inhabitants and Rosas 's associates were unable to accept the civilized culture which Sarmiento believed would lead to progress in Argentina .

= = Legacy = =

For translator Kathleen Ross , Facundo is " one of the foundational works of Spanish American literary history " . It has been enormously influential in setting out a " blueprint for modernization " , with its practical message enhanced by a " tremendous beauty and passion " . However , according to literary critic González Echevarría it is not only a powerful founding text but " the first Latin American classic , and the most important book written about Latin America by a Latin American in any discipline or genre " . The book 's political influence can be seen in Sarmiento 's eventual rise to power . He became president of Argentina in 1868 and was finally able to apply his theories to ensure that his nation achieved civilization . Although Sarmiento wrote several books , he viewed Facundo as authorizing his political views .

According to Sorensen , " early readers of Facundo were deeply influenced by the struggles that preceded and followed Rosas 's dictatorship , and their views sprang from their relationship to the strife for interpretive and political hegemony " . González Echevarría notes that Facundo provided the impetus for other writers to examine dictatorship in Latin America , and contends that it is still

read today because Sarmiento created " a voice for modern Latin American authors " . The reason for this , according to González Echevarría , is that " Latin American authors struggle with its legacy , rewriting Facundo in their works even as they try to untangle themselves from its discourse " . Subsequent dictator novels , such as *El Señor Presidente* by Miguel Ángel Asturias and *The Feast of the Goat* by Mario Vargas Llosa , drew upon its ideas , and a knowledge of Facundo enhances the reader ' s understanding of these later books .

One irony of the impact of Sarmiento 's essay genre and fictional literature is that , according to González Echevarría , the gaucho has become " an object of nostalgia , a lost origin around which to build a national mythology " . While Sarmiento was trying to eliminate the gaucho , he also transformed him into a " national symbol " . González Echevarría further argues that Juan Facundo Quiroga also continues to exist , since he represents " our unresolved struggle between good and evil and our lives ' inexorable drive toward death " . According to translator Kathleen Ross , " Facundo continues to inspire controversy and debate because it contributes to national myths of modernization , anti @-@ populism , and racist ideology " .

= = Publication and translation history = =

The first edition of Facundo was published in instalments in 1845 , in the literary supplement of the Chilean newspaper *El Progreso* . The second edition , also published in Chile (in 1851) , contained significant alterations ? Sarmiento removed the last two chapters on the advice of Valentín Alsina , an exiled Argentinian lawyer and politician . However the missing sections reappeared in 1874 in a later edition , because Sarmiento saw them as crucial to the book 's development .

Facundo was first translated in 1868 , by Mary Mann , with the title *Life in the Argentine Republic in the Days of the Tyrants ; or , Civilization and Barbarism* . More recently , Kathleen Ross has undertaken a modern and complete translation , published in 2003 by the University of California Press . In Ross 's " Translator 's Introduction , " she notes that Mann 's 19th @-@ century version of the text was influenced by Mann 's friendship with Sarmiento and by the fact that he was at the time a candidate in the Argentine presidential election : " Mann wished to further her friend 's cause abroad by presenting Sarmiento as an admirer and emulator of United States political and cultural institutions " . Hence this translation cut much of what made Sarmiento 's work distinctively part of the Hispanic tradition . Ross continues : " Mann 's elimination of metaphor , the stylistic device perhaps most characteristic of Sarmiento 's prose , is especially striking " .