

## **Society and Culture of the Spanish Speaking Countries, 5<sup>th</sup> Week**

# **Argentina**



**March 29**

**Jungwon Kang**

# Organization

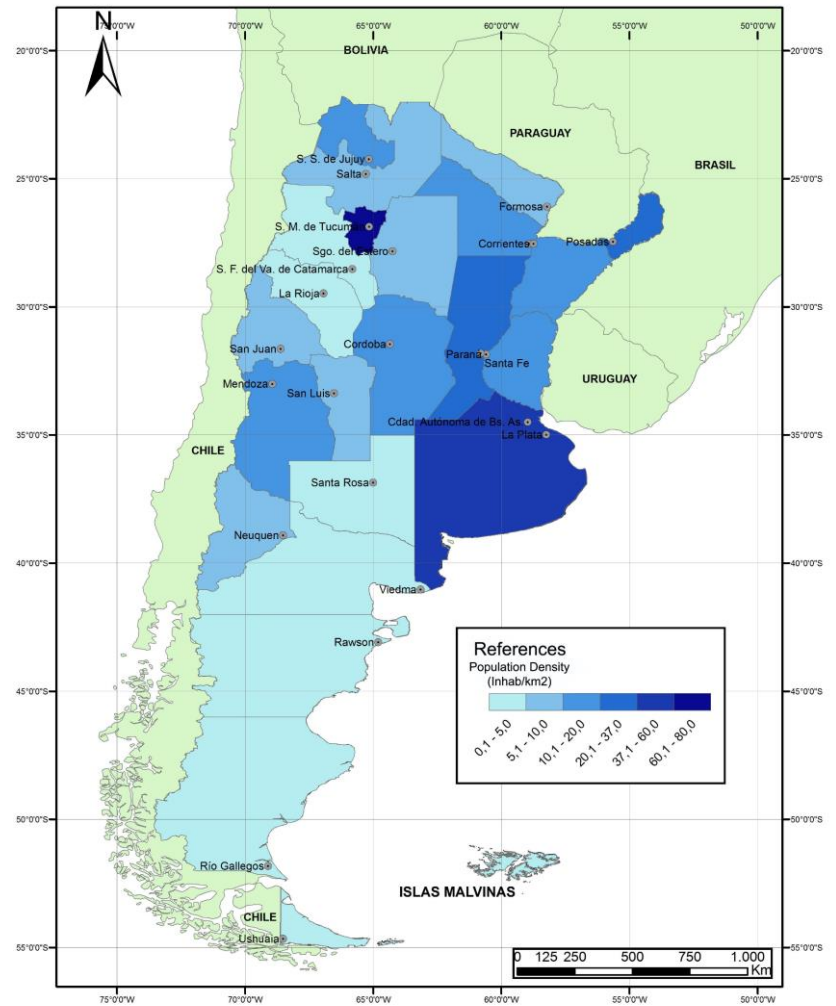
## Argentina

- Country overview
  - Geography and demographic feature
  - Socio-economic profile
- History and politics
  - Independence and the formulation of nation state in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Populist state: Peronism and Eva Peron
  - Dictatorship and the transition to democracy
  - Latest economic crisis
- Society and culture
  - Las pampas and gaucho
  - Tango: Carlos Gardel, Astor Piazzolla

# Argentina: Country Overview

- ▶ Capital: Buenos Aires
- ▶ Independence: 1816 July 9
- ▶ National language: Spanish and recognized regional languages
- ▶ Ethnic groups: 96.7% European (62.5% Italian), 2.4% Amerindian, 0.5% Asian, 0.4% African
- ▶ Religion(2022 report): 48.9% Catholic, 10.0% Other Christian, 39.8% Non-religious, 1.3% Other
- ▶ Land area: 2,780,400 Km<sup>2</sup> (8<sup>th</sup> largest in the world, the largest among Spanish-speaking countries)
- ▶ Population: 46,044,703 (2022 estimate)
- ▶ GDP (nominal) per capita: \$13,633 (2022 estimate)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQAEQH-5Py8&feature=related>



<https://www.mapsofworld.com/answers/geography/what-are-the-key-facts-of-argentina/>

[https://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/CNPP2012\\_CD/count ryprofiles/Argentina/Argentina.htm](https://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/CNPP2012_CD/count ryprofiles/Argentina/Argentina.htm)





**Iguazu Falls**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iguazu\\_Falls#/media/File:Cataratas.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iguazu_Falls#/media/File:Cataratas.jpg)





[https://pixabay.com/ko/photos/gaucha-  
%EC%95%84%EB%A5%B4%ED%97%A8%ED%8B%B0%EB%8  
2%98-%EA%B0%80%EC%B6%95-1414772/](https://pixabay.com/ko/photos/gaucha-%EC%95%84%EB%A5%B4%ED%97%A8%ED%8B%B0%EB%82%98-%EA%B0%80%EC%B6%95-1414772/)

## Pampas





## Patagonia

<https://pixabay.com/ko/photos/%EC%9A%B0%EC%88%98-%EC%95%84%EB%8B%88-%EC%95%84-%ED%8C%8C-7%ED%83%80%EA%B3%A0-%EB%8B%88-%EC%95%84-4079989/>





www.shutterstock.com · 202383583

**Buenos Aires, 9 de Julio Avenue and Obelisk**



# Political and economic history of Argentina

Independence on 9 July, 1816

Economic growth, prosperity, European immigration, political stability

- 1870s – 1930s (7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> world wealthiest nation)

Populism

- Juan Peron and Eva Peron, 1946-1955

Military coup and conservative regime

- 1966-1973

Peron's re-election and death, succeeded by his wife, Isabel

- 1974-1976

Military coup and dictatorship

- 1976-1983, dirty war

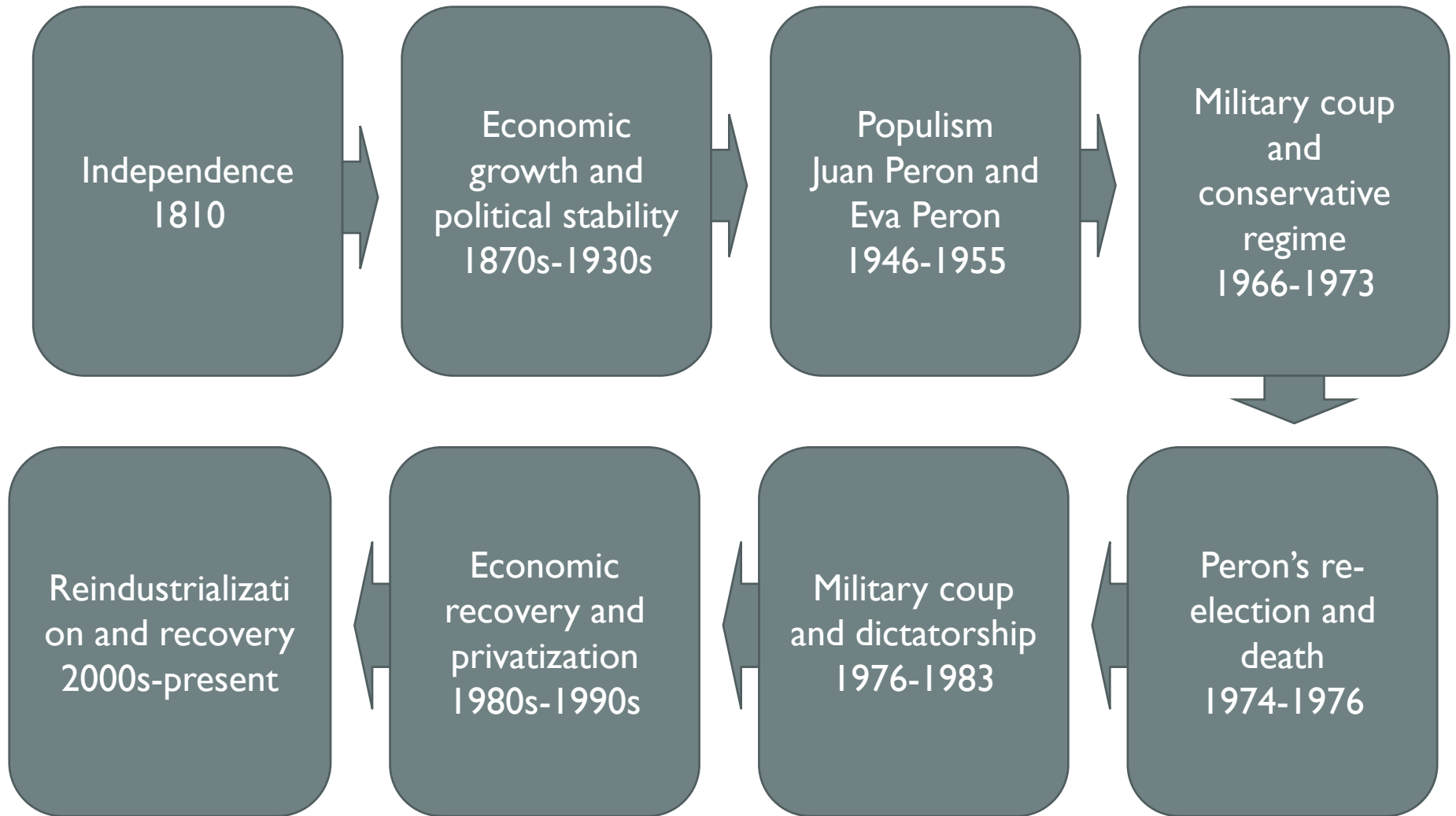
Economic recession and privatization

- 1980s-1990s

Re-industrialization and recovery

- 2000s, Nestor Kirchner (2003-2007), Christina Kirchner (2008-2015), Mauricio Macri (2015-2019), Alberto Fernandez (2019-present)

# Political and economic history of Argentina



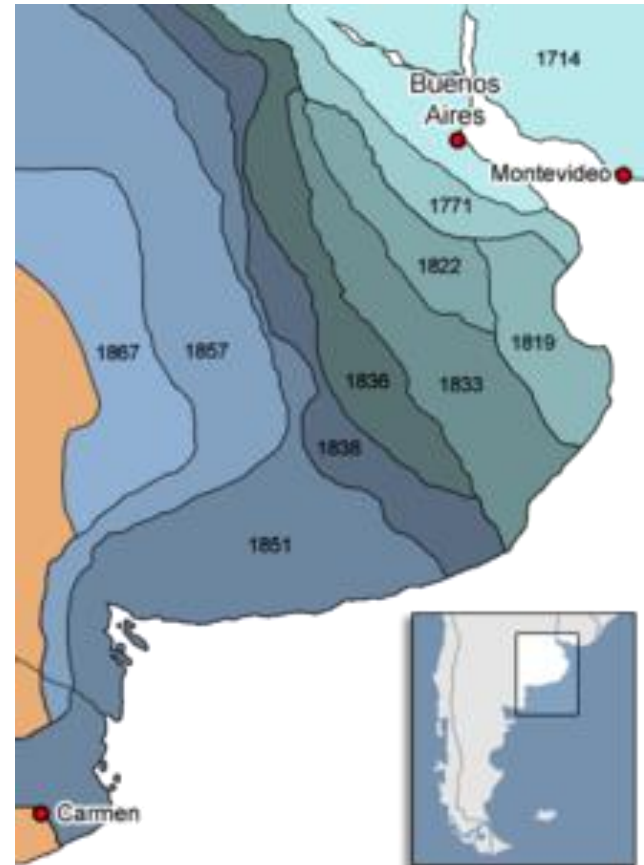


# Argentina: Conquest of the Desert

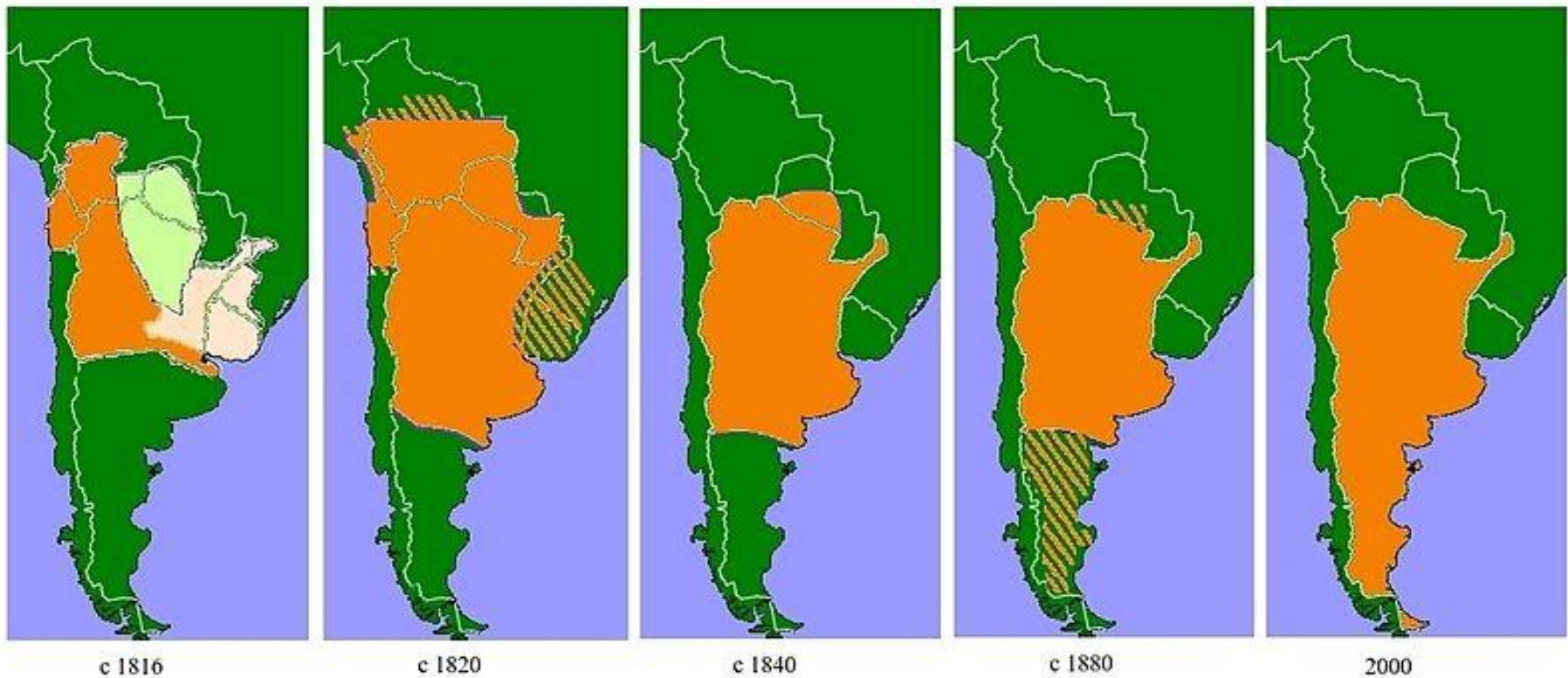
- Military campaign directed mainly by Julio Argentino Roca in the 1870s with the intention of establishing dominance over the Patagonian Desert, inhabited primarily by indigenous peoples. It extended Argentine territories into Patagonia.

“Our self-respect as a virile people obliges us to put down as soon as possible, by reason or by force, this handful of savages who destroy our wealth and prevent us from definitely occupying, in the name of law, progress, and our own security, the richest and most fertile lands of the Republic.

- Julio Argentino Roca



# Territorial Evolution of Argentina (Conquest of the Desert), 19<sup>th</sup> century





# Argentina: 1880-1943

- Economic growth
- New economic sector: middle class, emerging industrial working class
- New political and economic organizations, including parties and trade unions
- Oligarchic rule particularly between 1880-1916: caudillo
- Export-oriented economy



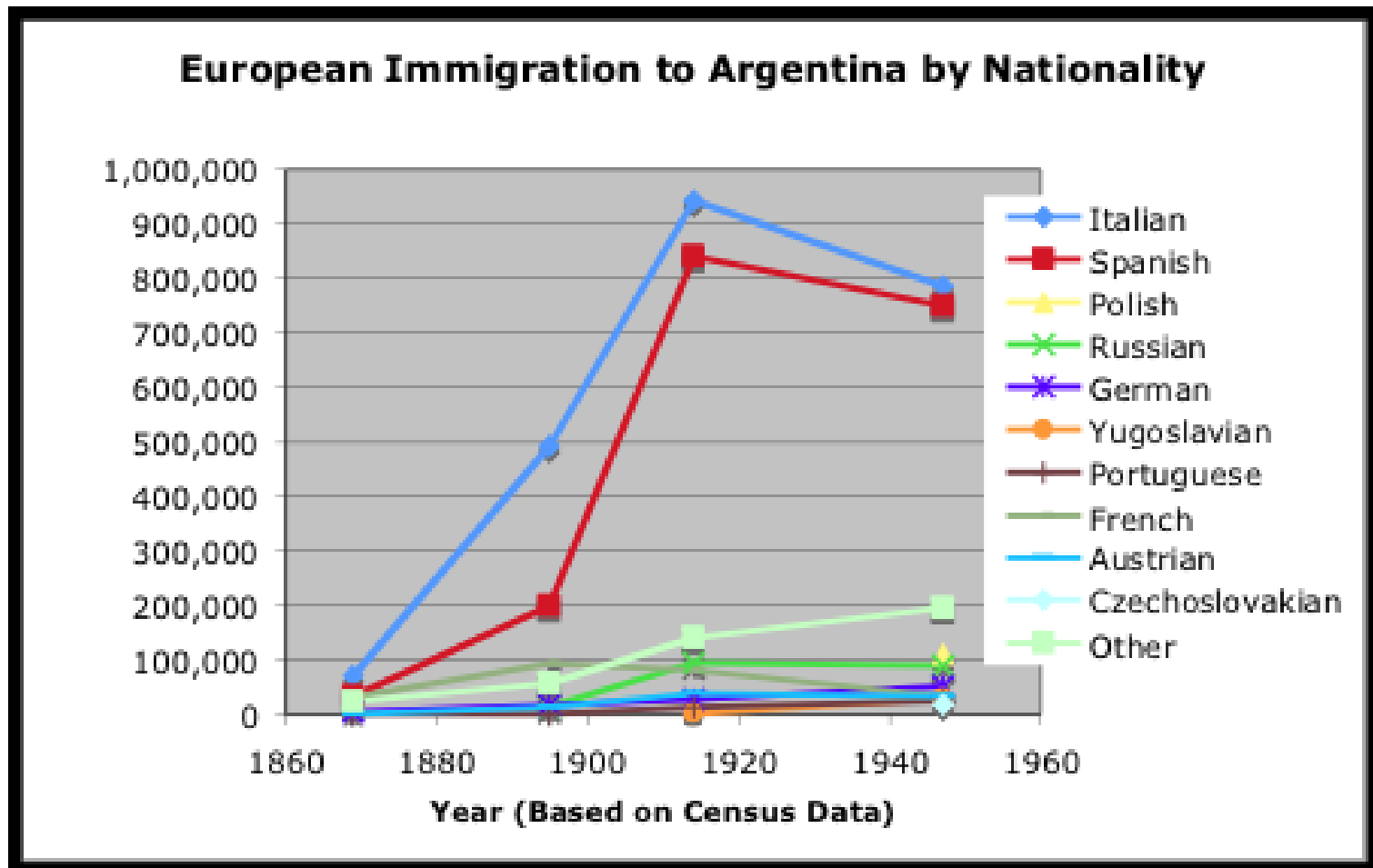
Argentina has a bigger Italian immigration than from Spain. Almost 3 million Italians came to Argentina since 1814 against 2.6 million Spaniards.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Italian\\_immigrants\\_buenos\\_aires.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Italian_immigrants_buenos_aires.jpg)



## Non-native population in Argentina (%)

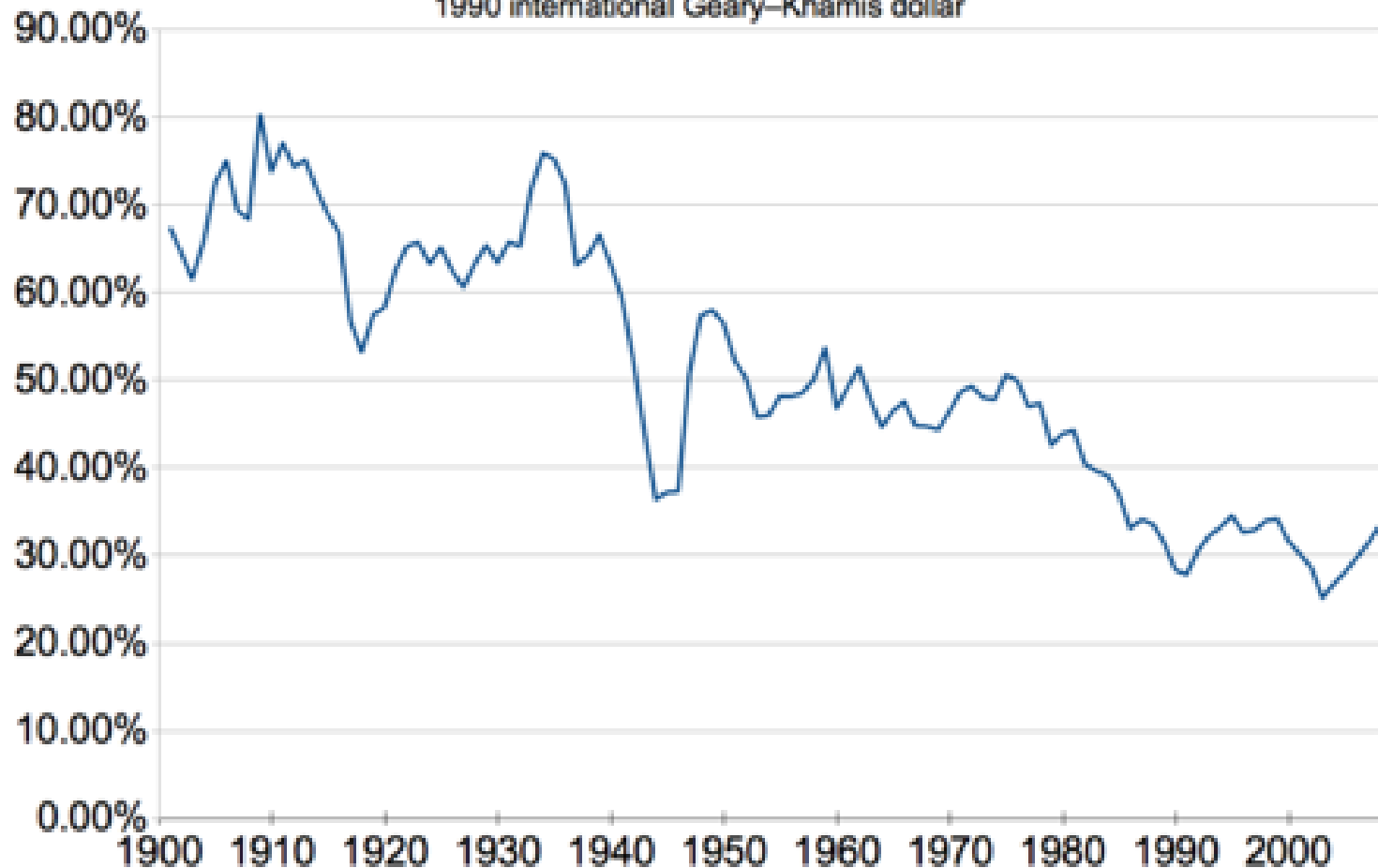




<https://library.brown.edu/create/modernlatinamerica/chapters/chapter-9-argentina/moments-in-argentine-history/jewish-immigration-to-argentina/>

# GDP per capita of Argentina, % of US

1990 International Geary-Khamis dollar

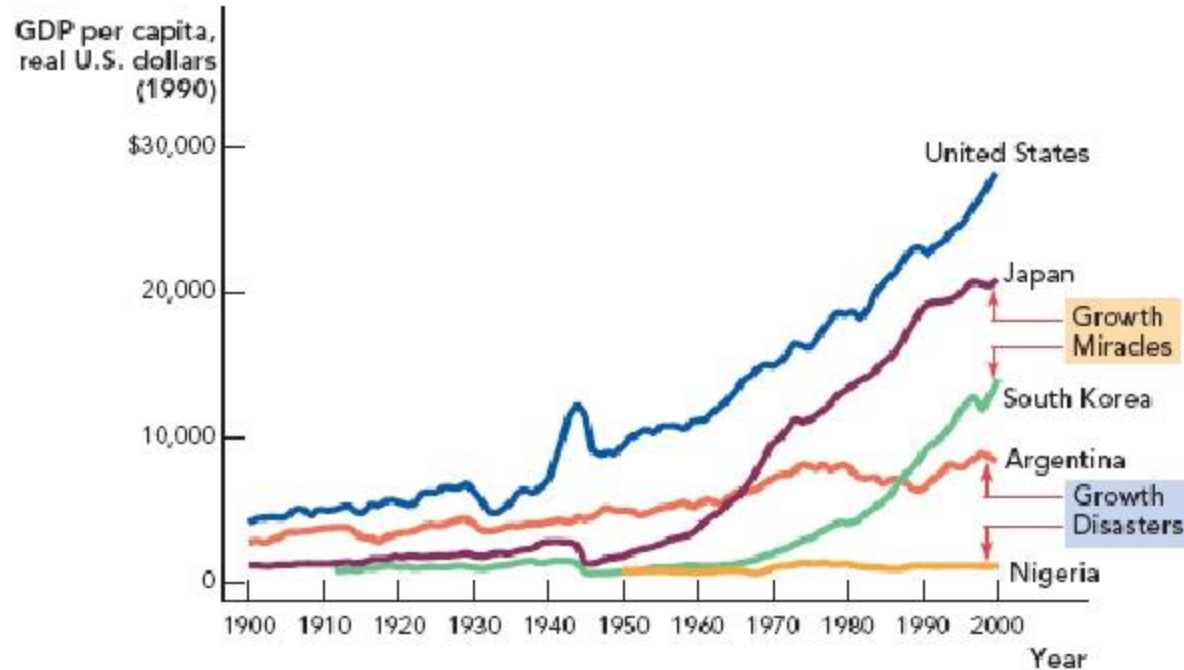


[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:GDP\\_per\\_capita\\_of\\_Argentina\\_percent\\_of\\_US\\_\(1900-2008\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:GDP_per_capita_of_Argentina_percent_of_US_(1900-2008).png)





## GDP Per Capita Growth Various Greatly



### Two Growth Miracles and Two Growth Disasters

Source: Maddison, Angus. 2007. *Contours of the World Economy: 1-2030 AD*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

# Populism: Peron's Government and thereafter (1940s-1970s)

- Characteristics of Populism
    - Centralized government: state-dominated and state-controlled union, weak trade union,
    - Freedom from foreign influences
    - Corporatist policy, neither capitalist nor socialist
    - Support obtained primarily from the urban sector at the expense of the rural sector
    - Charismatic leadership
  - Peron's populist policies
    - Eva Peron Foundation
    - Universal suffrage sanctioned in 1947
    - Establishment of Female Peronist Party
- Distribute economic and political benefits to wider sector, however, what if there is no more economic growth to distribute?

# Juan Peron (1895-1974) and Eva Peron (1919-1952)



wedding in 1945

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Juan-Peron>

<https://www.pinterest.at/pin/681943568553205947/>





[https://www.yourfriendinbsas.com.ar/evita\\_peron\\_tour\\_332.htm](https://www.yourfriendinbsas.com.ar/evita_peron_tour_332.htm)

<https://www.agefotostock.com/age/en/Stock-Images/juan-peron.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dr7ymWtnHWc>



Evita embraces Peron during the 1951 joint ticket rally, unable to accept popular calls that she run for Vice-President.



[https://stmuhistorymedia.org/the-corpse-without-peace-evita/](https://stmuhistorymedia.org/the-corpse-without-peace-<u>evita/</u>)

Evita's embalmed body

# Dark Side of Populism

- Distribution without economic growth, leading to economic crisis
- Urban sector at the expense of the rural sector
- Turning into bureaucratic dictatorship

→ Who will pay the price?



# Military Dictatorship (1955-1971) and the Re-election of Peron and Isabel (1974-1976)

On June 20, 1973, Perón returned from Spain to end his 18-year exile

<https://www.agefotos.com/age/en/Stock-Images/Rights-Managed/IAM-WHA-061-0820/1>



Isabel Martínez de Perón, presidency (1974-1976)

# Military Proceso (Dirty Wars): 1976-1983

- State-sponsored violence against Peronism.
- Victims included left-wing activists, trade unionists, students, sympathizers, etc.
- Some 10,000 disappeared. 9,000-30,000 were killed.
- Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo
- Truth Commission: Raul Alfonsín's "National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons" (1983), efforts to prosecute are continuing through Nestor Kirchner's and Christina Kirchner's regime.

# Main Objectives of the Military Coup

- Eradication of Marxist subversion
- Get rid of peronism, demobilize the population
- Restructure and stabilize the national economy
- Neo-liberal economic policies, reduce wages and public expenditure, eliminate social service, market competition, de-industrialization.
- Transform the Argentine society
- Prohibit any protest and social movements, depoliticize the entire society, restore and strengthen the power of traditional elite groups including military, church, agrarian land-owning elites, industrial bourgeois.





<https://www.ifsw.org/argentina-and-los-desaparecidos/>

<http://clasarchive.berkeley.edu/Events/fall2006/index.html>

## Muro de la Memoria

## Wall of Memory



# Resistance: Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo







<https://madresdemayo.wordpress.com/las-madres/las-madres/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5ZhfmmpYz4>



# Falklands War

- 10 weeks' war between Argentina(military government) and the UK(Margaret Thatcher) over the Falkland Islands from April 2 to June 14, 1982.
- As a result, (1) relations severed until 1989; (2) Argentine military government was replaced with democratic government in October 1983; (3) the popularity of Margaret Thatcher increased.





<https://www.ft.com/content/fccc5384-4dc8-11e2-a0fc-00144feab49a>

# Transition to Democracy



Alfonsín receives the  
CONADEP report on  
the Dirty War



Nestor Kirchner and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, 2003-2007, 2007- 2015



Mauricio Macri, 2015-2019



Alberto Fernández  
current president of Argentine



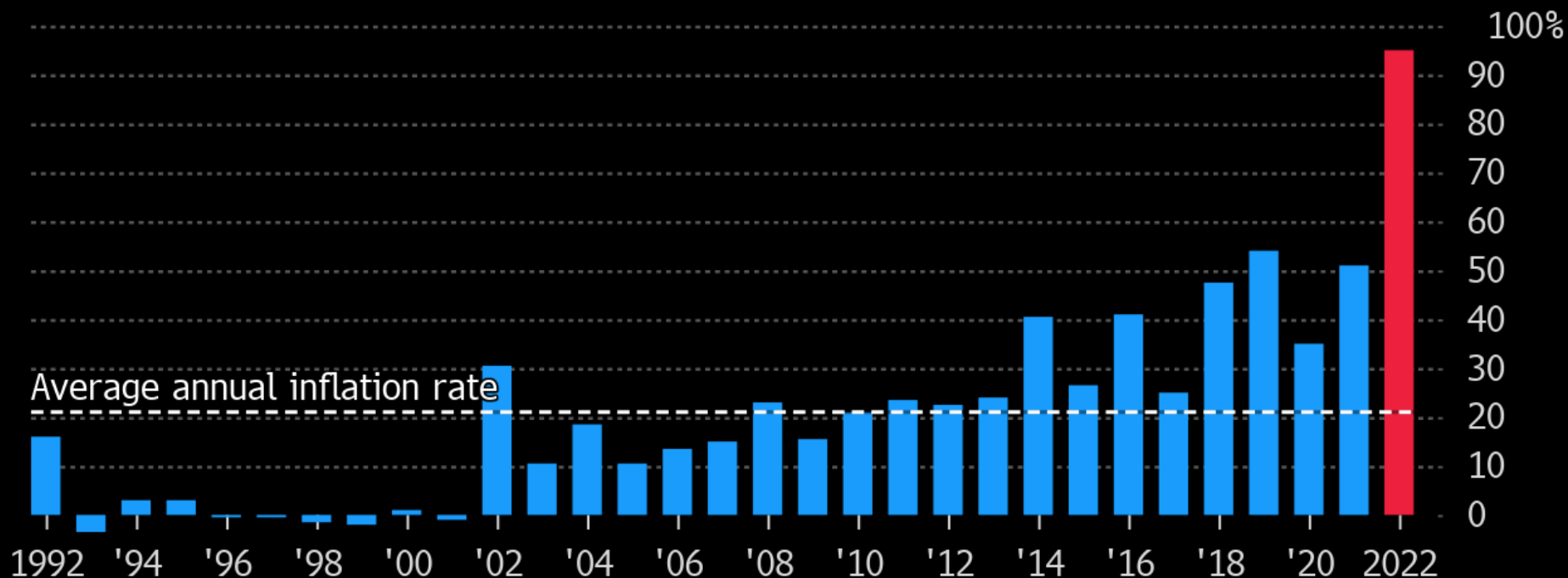
# Economic history of Argentina

- Argentine paradox refers to the condition that had achieved advanced development in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but experienced a reversal afterwards.
- Since independence, Argentina has defaulted on its debt eight times and inflation has often been in the double digits, even as high as 5000%, resulting in several large currency devaluation.
- Its comparative advantage is in agriculture with a vast amount of highly fertile land, especially the pampas.
- By 1913, Argentina was the world's 10<sup>th</sup> wealthiest state per capita.
- The failure of import substitution industrialization (1930s – 1970s) and the economic policies during the dictatorships in the 1970s resulted in the huge foreign debt in the 1980s.
- Since 1980s, Argentine economy has suffered from repetitive inflations, recessions, defaults, currency devaluations, etc.
- As of March 2023, inflation in Argentina has risen past 100 percent for the first time since 1991. The inflation crisis hit a peak in 1989 with rates reaching more than 3,000 percent at certain points.



# Argentina Inflation Hit Three-Decade High of 95% in 2022

■ Year-end annual inflation rate ■ 2022 year-end annual inflation rate



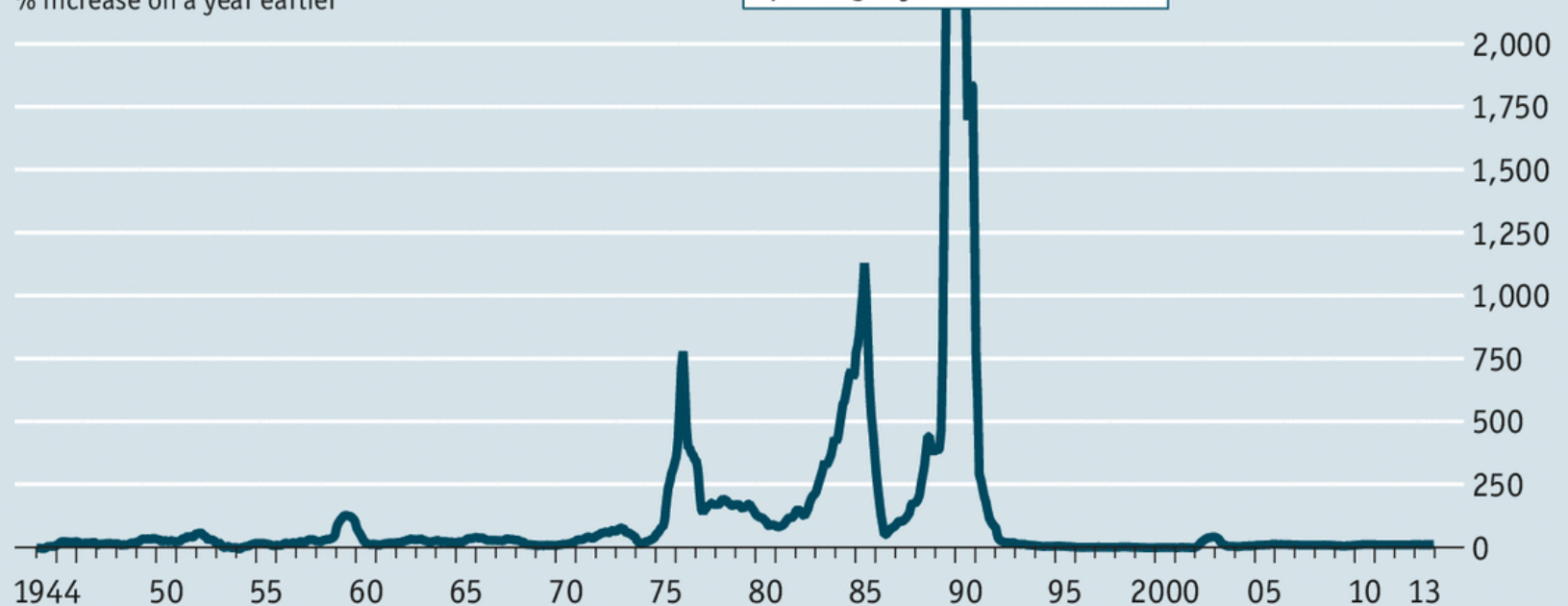
Sources: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos; World Bank; Bloomberg.

Note: World Bank data 1992-2016.

**Bloomberg**

## Hyper market

Consumer prices  
% increase on a year earlier



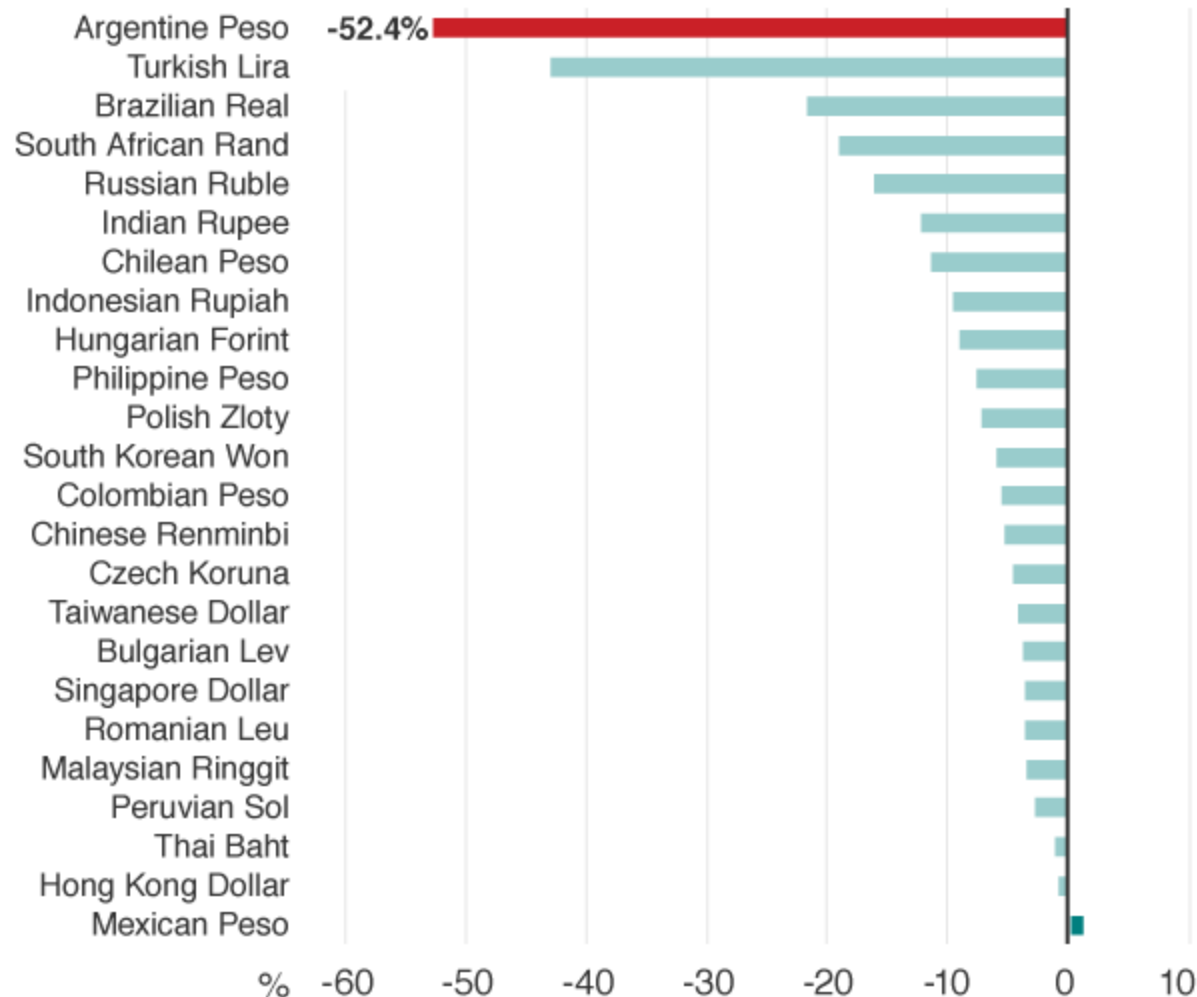
Source: INDEC

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<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2014/02/17/a-century-of-decline>

# The fall of emerging markets currencies

Argentine peso is the worst performing currency against the US dollar in 2018



Source: Bloomberg. Last update 06/09/2018

BBC

# Las Pampas and Gaucho

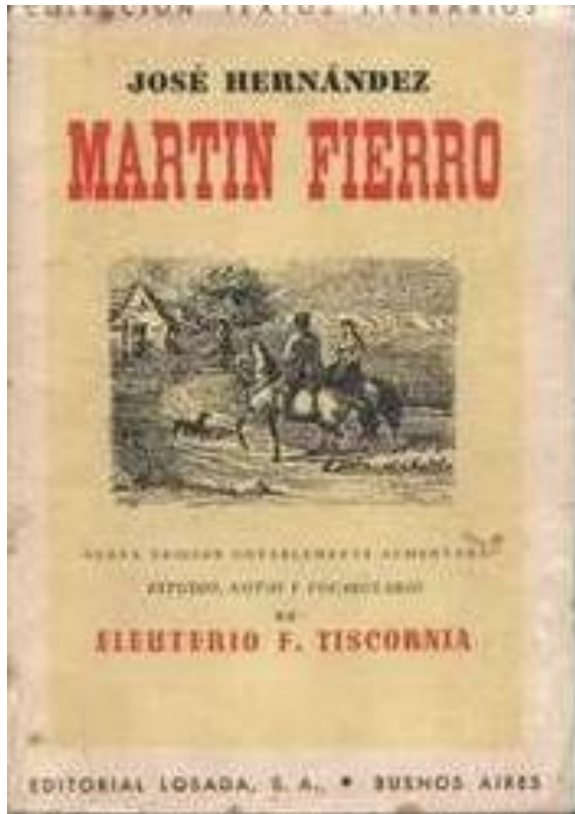


<https://gauchoday.com.ar/2020/03/16/about-our-gauchos/>



# Gaucha and Martin Fierro

- It is a 2,316 epic poem by the Argentine writer Jose Hernandez. The poem was originally published in two parts, El Gaucha Martin Fierro (1872) and La Vuelta de Martin Fierro (1879).
- The poem supplied a historical link to the gauchos' contribution to the national development of Argentina, for the gaucho had played a major role in Argentina's independence from Spain.
- The poem evokes rural Argentina and a touchstone of Argentine national identity.
- The poem's central character, Martin Fierro, is a gaucho, a free, poor, pampas-dweller, who is illegally drafted to serve at a border fort defending against Indian attacks. He eventually deserts, and becomes a gaucho, basically the Argentine equivalent of a North American western outlaw.



El Gaucho Martín Fierro (1872) and  
La Vuelta de Martín Fierro (1879)



asado con cuero

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7KovwMiHJ4&feature=player\\_embedded#at=12](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7KovwMiHJ4&feature=player_embedded#at=12)

# Tango

- Originated in lower-class district of Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Montevideo (Uruguay), 1850-1890
- Stylistic origin: Milonga, Candombé, Habanera
- Orquesta típica: Bandoneon, piano, violin, double base
- Internationalization, 1890s-1920s
- Evolved from dance, song, and music
- Tango milonga, salon tango, Carlos Gardel, Astor Piazzolla
- Working class in the urban area until the 1910s, upper and middle class cosmopolitan urban areas thereafter.
- Became popular and considered a symbol of national pride under the government of Juan Peron
- Evolved as a social dance with an emphasis on leading and following skills while English tango evolved as a competitive dance as in the case of ballroom tango

# History of Tango



Carlos Gardel  
(1890-1935)



Astor Piazzolla  
(1921-1992)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MepPfl7ebMY>





