Appendix: Argentina Timeline

1865 Creation of commercial beef extract; encourages expansion of ranching
1870 Less than 1M acres in pampas planted; mass export-oriented wheat cultivation begins
1880-1930 2.5M immigrants arrive
1882 Frozen meat trade begins
1884 Homestead Act; most of pampas already appropriated by ranchers
1889 One-half of all English foreign investment is directed to Argentina
1890 Economic crisis leads to failed middle-class revolt; Civic Union movement born and Radical Party (urban political machine) emerges
1890 One-third of workers live in tenements; one-third in small homes; three-quarters of workers are immigrants; most residents are foreign born
1902 Law of Residence allows for deportation of radical immigrants
1909 Anarchist general strike; violence
1910 Anarchists fight elites; middle classes support repression; Law of Social Defense
1912 President Roque Sáenz Peña passes electoral reform
1915 Argentina has more railroad miles per capita than U.S.; agricultural exports rival U.S.
1916 Radicals win under Hipólito Yrigoyen
Jan. 1919 Strikes, reactions, and riots lead to massive police violence; Red Scare and pogrom-style repression (la semana trágica)
1920-21 Massacres of Patagonian workers by military
1922 Radical Party, under Marcelo T. de Alvear, wins presidency again
1928 Radical Party wins presidency again under Yrigoyen
1929 Stock market crash and beginning of global depression
Sep. 6, 1930 Military coup under General Jose Felix Uriburu inaugurates “the infamous decade”
1932-38 Elite politics with military support; return to pre-1912 era
1941 World War II begins; Argentina opts for neutrality
June 1943 GOU (grupo de oficiales unidos) faction of military takes over in internal coup; Juan Perón given post of Secretary of Labor; government sympathetic to Axis
1943-45 Perón uses post to create state-corporatist unions loyal to him; attempts to implement quintessential fascist program unifying far left and far right; personalistic domination of organized labor movement
Feb. 1944 Perón appointed War Minister
July 1944 Perón appointed Vice President
Nov. 1944 Labor legislation grants broad benefits to workers; Perón: “more than 4M workers recognize me as their sole leader and benefactor”
June 1945 Economic elites launch protest against Perón and military regime
Aug. 1945 World War II ends with surrender of last Axis power (Japan)
Sep. 1945 Middle class protests for free elections mount
Oct. 9, 1945 Perón forced to resign
Oct. 12, 1945 Perón arrested
Oct. 15, 1945 Working class riots in protest of Perón’s arrest
Oct. 17, 1945 Mass demonstrations of descamisados in Buenos Aires organized by Eva Duarte (“Evita”) and Peronist labor union leaders force Perón’s release
Fall 1945 Perón retires from military and announces run for presidency; draws
support from unions and nationalists in campaign; mends fences with industrialists and Church

Feb. 2, 1946 Perón elected, 52% to 42%

1946-52 Perón carries out political and social program; taxes on agric. exports; subsidies for business; substantial wage and benefit increases; compensated nationalization of industry; rapid industrialization; large-scale spending of foreign reserves; Perón: “nothing is so elastic as the economy”

1951 Perón reelected with 60% of the vote; consolidates dictatorship, despite continued opposition from oligarchy and middle classes; control of press, especially broadcasting; mass propaganda; Eva Perón Foundation controls patronage and charity

Aug. 1951 Attempts to make Evita the Vice-Presidential candidate vetoed by army and church

Sep. 1951 Unsuccessful military revolt

July 1952 Eva Perón dies of cancer

1952 Argentina forced to import wheat for first time

1953-55 Perón’s hold on power weakens; hard currency gone; featherbedding, patronage and inefficient industries undermine productivity; attempts to court foreign capital; repression increases; diversionary tactics

1954-55 Secular divorce legalized; brothels reopened; religious holidays downgraded; national cathedral sacked; churches burned; Perón excommunicated; mass demonstrations against government

June 16, 1955Navy planes bomb near presidential palace in failed assassination attempt

Aug. 31, 1955Perón addresses mass gathering of workers

Sep. 16, 1955Navy leads rebellion; Córdoba garrison joins in; army fails to back Perón

Sep. 20, 1955Perón leaves for exile; eventually settles in Spain

1955-76 Peronism remains strong

1957 Constitutional convention

Feb. 1958 Arturo Frondizi wins on behalf of leftist radicals, with Peronist backing

1962 Peronist victories in municipal and legislative elections; military removes Frondizi and replaces him with Jose Maria Guido

1963 Arturo Illia of Radical Party wins election; Peronists remain strong

Jun. 28, 1966 Bloodless coup led by Juan Carlos Ongania ousts Illia before March 1967 congressional elections, which Peronists were expected to win; repressive military regime installed without date for return to civilian rule; orthodox economic measures; middle sectors become anti-regime

May 1969 Working class insurrections in interior cities, with middle-class support ("cordonazo"); military alienation and repression increases

June 8, 1970 Top military officers depose Ongania; collective military regime Established under General Roberto Marcelo Levingston; return to civilian rule discussed; economic policy becomes more nationalistic; economy continues to deteriorate; guerrilla groups emerge

Mar. 22, 1971 Levingston resigns; General Alejandro Lanusse assumes presidency; proposes negotiated return to civilian rule

1971-73 Economy continues to deteriorate; guerrilla groups increase activities; no-holds-barred campaign against guerrillas by armed forces; mounting violence and threat of social breakdown; negotiations over return to civilian rule

Mar. 11, 1973 Peronist coalition ticket wins presidential elections with 49.5% of vote

May 25, 1973 President Hector J. Cámpora inaugurated; guerrillas and leftists celebrate; top military officers forced into retirement; populist economic policies; rightist groups inside and outside Peronism concerned

June 20, 1973 Perón returns from exile; 2M Argentines meet him at the airport, in the hope that he can “save” the country
Sep. 23, 1973 Perón wins new elections; wife Isabel is vice-president; leftist Peronists pushed out

Oct. 12, 1973 Perón takes office; continued violence between right and left-wing forces

1973-74 Perón struggles to hold together unwieldy political coalition with sheer force of charisma; moves to the Right

July 1974 Perón dies; second wife María Estela Marínez (Isabel) takes over

Mar. 24, 1976 Military coup under General Jorge Rafael Videla deposes Isabel; goal is eradication of terrorism and new economic model

1976-1979 “Dirty War” by military against leftist terrorists and political opponents claims approximately 30,000 lives

March 1981 General Videla hands over power to successor, General Roberto Eduardo Viola; return to civilian rule contemplated; Viola soon replaced by General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri; repression continues

1982 Economy crashes; military losing control; mounting pressure for return to democracy; divisions within the military

Apr. 1, 1982 Military invades Falklands/Malvinas Islands

Apr. 29, 1982 British fleet arrives

May 21, 1982 Main British force lands on Falklands; 1,500 die in fighting

June 14, 1982 Argentine command surrenders; Galtieri resigns and is replaced by General Reynaldo Bignone

Oct. 30, 1983 Radical Party under Raúl Alfonsín wins presidential elections with 52% of vote