

# MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

## SOUTH AMERICA

### ARGENTINA

#### Snapshots of Argentina

**Country Name:** Argentina

**Country Founded:** May 25, 1810

**Population:** 39,921,833 (July 2006 est.)

**Government Type:** Republic

**Geography/Location in the World:** Southern South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Chile and Uruguay.



**Number of People Groups:** 62

**Picture of Flag:**



**Religion Snapshot**

**Major Religion and % of Population:**

Christianity 94%

**All Religions and % for Each:**

Roman Catholicism 92%

Protestant 2%

Jewish 2%

Other 4%

**Government Interaction with Religion:** This government is tolerant of all religions.

**Mission Atlas Project**

**Country Profile**

**Argentina**

**Country Name:**

Argentina

## **Demographics**

As of July 2006, the population of Argentina is 39,921,833.

The population growth rate is .96% (2006 est.). The birth rate is 16.73 births/1,000 population. The death rate is 7.55 deaths/1,000 population. The net migration rate is .4 migrant(s)/ 1,000 population (2006 est.). The infant mortality rate is 14.73 deaths/1,000 live births. The life expectancy for men is 72.38 years, and 80.05 years for women (2006 est.). The total fertility rate is 2.16 children born/woman (2006 est.). As of 2001, 130,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS (.7% of the population). As of 2006, the unemployment rate is 10.2% (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2006 est.).

Argentina has an overall population density of 15 people per square kilometer (38 per square mile). More than 1/3 of the population lives in the Buenos Aires metropolis. Approximately 90% of the population lives in urban areas.

The major cities in Argentina are: Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital and largest city (the metropolis was estimated at 13 million as of 2003); Cordoba (1,368,109 population as of 2001); San Justo (1,253,921); Rosario (1,159,004); La Plata (520,647); Mar del Plata (519,707); San Miguel de Tucuman (736,018); Salta (462,051); Mendoza (846,904).

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## **Language:**

The official language of Argentina is Spanish. Other languages that are frequently spoken are English, Italian, Korean, Yiddish, German, French, and others.

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## **Society/Culture:**

Approximately 97% of Argentina's population is of European descent. Argentina has a very low population of mestizos (people of mixed European and Native American ancestry) compared to other countries in South America.

Argentina has a small number of indigenous people groups, but the number increases daily because of the immigration from Bolivia and Paraguay. Argentina's small indigenous population and its lack of significant rural peasantry, differentiates the country from other Latin American countries.

Argentina celebrates all of the Christian festivals and holidays such as Easter and Christmas. Argentines celebrate historical times and heroes such as the May Revolution of 1810; Independence Day on July 9; Malvinas Day, on June 10, which celebrates the establishment of

the “Comandancia Politica y Militar de las Malvinas” in 1829; and Dia de San Martin, the anniversary of San Martin’s death on August 17.

Baptism, First Communion, and saint’s days are major events that are important in the life of the Argentine family. The Catholic Church has a strong influence on the Argentines that are of Spanish or Italian descent.

The basis of Argentina’s wealth was mainly from herds of cattle. Argentine cowboys called Gauchos rode wild horses, herded the cattle, and sang songs about their lives. Most gauchos lived an independent and isolated lifestyle. The Gaucho folk culture flourished between 1750 and 1850. Since, they have been a great source of inspiration for Argentine literature, music, and art. The poem Fausto (1866) by Estanislao del Campo, is a gaucho version of the Faust legend, inspired by the opera Faust by French composer Charles Gounod. The poem El gaucho Martin Fierro (1872) by Jose Hernandez first established the gaucho as a national genre in Argentine literature.

Other cultural influences on the Argentines include a large French influence, as well as a large Spanish influence. Among the Argentine elite, Paris is considered their second home. French philosophy has been very influential in Argentina since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Popular culture, especially from the United States, has had an impact on Argentina’s culture since the 1960’s.

Most people living in the city wear Western-style clothing, and may follow the fashions of Europe, especially Italy. In the rural areas, many workers wear at least part of the gaucho costume. The costume consists of a wide-brimmed hat and loose trousers that are tucked into the boots. In northwest Argentina, Indians wear ponchos, colorful skirts, and bowler hats.

The middle class families live in tall, modern apartments or in bungalows with small gardens. Many workers live in shacks in the city slum areas. People who live in the rural areas often live in houses made of adobe. These houses usually consist of earth floors and roofs of straw and mud.

The Argentine diet consists of a lot of beef. A popular dish is called the parrillada, which is a mixed grill of steak and other cuts. Argentina has a large Italian population, therefore Italian dishes such as pasta, spaghetti, lasagna, cannelloni, and ravioli, are very popular. The dishes are very spicy in the Andean northwest. Middle-eastern dishes can be found in the Mendoza north region of Argentina.

The best-known feature of Argentine popular culture is the tango, both as music and dance. It became popular in Argentina in 1880, rising up from the working-class districts. It was first played in brothels. Tango is a combination of gaucho verse with Spanish and Italian music. Carlos Gardel wrote the tango cancion, the “tango song,” and brought his music from Argentina’s brothels and poor streets, into the salons of Buenos Aires. Many Argentines could identify with the song because it summed up the fears and anxieties of life.

Another popular pastime includes the drinking of mate, a Paraguayan tea made from holly leaves. This Argentine ritual is shared and enjoyed among family, friends, and colleagues.

Much of Argentine social life is family-centered. The Argentine nuclear family often extends to grandparents, uncles and aunts, and close relatives. Families love to get together and barbecue. Family mealtimes are very important, and often last a while.

Argentina is obsessed with soccer. Argentina won the World Cup (The World's Soccer Championship) in 1978 and 1986. Argentina has more first-division soccer teams (20 teams) in Buenos Aires than anywhere else in the world. Argentina soccer teams have had several internationally known soccer players including Diego Maradona and Daniel Passarella. Argentina has also had several internationally known tennis players such as Guillermo Villas and Gabriela Sabatini.

Basketball has also become an important sport in Argentina. The 1995 Argentine national team defeated the US team for the gold medal in the Pan American Games.

Argentines also love to play polo. Some Argentine horses are bred specifically for polo. The Argentine Open is an important polo event in Argentina.

[www.encarta.msn.com](http://www.encarta.msn.com)

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*. Vol. 2. Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research, 1998.

## **Government:**

The Argentine government is a republic. In 1853, the constitution of Argentina was created as a federal republic headed by a president. In 1949, the constitution of 1853 was replaced by Juan Perón (the president at that time) and his government. This new constitution enlarged the powers of the president, it made the provincial governors into agents of the president, and it left minimal legislature and judiciary powers. It was not until 1983 that the original 1853 constitution was reinstated. In 1994, a constituent assembly introduced a number of reforms to the original 1853 charter.

*Executive Branch-* Following the 1994 constitutional reforms, the president and vice president are now elected directly by popular vote for a four-year term with the option of seeking immediate reelection for one period only. The 1994 reforms also strengthened the roles of the legislature and judiciary powers. The president appoints a cabinet of ministers to head the executive departments of the government. The president serves as the commander in chief of the Argentine armed forces. He also has the power to enact laws and draw up legislation.

*Legislative Branch-* The National Congress is made up of a lower chamber (the 257-member Chamber of Deputies) and an upper chamber (the 72-member Senate). Deputies are elected to a four-year term through a system of proportional representation. Each province is represented by three senators, and one-third of the senators are elected every two-years to six-year terms. Two of the three senators are directly elected and the third senator represents the province's largest minority party.

*Judiciary Branch-* The Supreme Court of Argentina consists of nine judges. Supreme Court judges and other federal judges hold lifetime appointments. Judges cannot be removed from

office except through impeachment by Congress. The federal courts of Argentina include appellate courts, district courts, and territorial courts. The president appoints federal judges, but the Senate must confirm the appointees.

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## **Economy**

Argentina's gross domestic product (purchasing power parity) in 2006 was \$599.1 billion. The GDP (official exchange rate) in 2006 was \$210 billion. The GDP real growth rate is 8.5% (2006 est.). The GDP per capita is \$15,000 (2006 est.).

The GDP composition by sector is:

Agriculture: 9.5%  
Industry: 35.8%  
Services: 54.7% (2005 est.)

Concerning the budget, Argentina's revenues are: \$52.1 billion. Expenditures: \$47.6 billion; including capital expenditures of \$5.4 billion (2006 est.). Public debt: 62.2% of the GDP (2006 est.). The national external debt of Argentina (as of June 30, 2006) is \$106.8 billion. The currency is the Argentine peso. The exchange rate is \$3.0543 Argentine pesos per US dollar (2006 est.).

Exports: \$46 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.).

Export commodities: edible oils, fuels and energy, cereals, feeds, and motor vehicles.

Argentina's export partners are:

Brazil: 15.8%  
United States 11.4%  
Chile: 11.2%  
China: 7.9% (2005 est.)

Imports: \$31.69 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.)

Import commodities: machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, chemicals, metal manufactures, plastics.

Argentina's import partners are:

Brazil: 35.9%  
United States: 14.1%  
China: 7.8%  
Germany: 4.5%

The labor force is estimated at \$15.35 million (2006 est). The labor force by occupation is not available. The unemployment rate is 10.2% (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2006 est). The population below the poverty line percentage is 31.4% (June 2006).

*Agriculture-* Of Argentina's 676 million acres of land, 10% is cultivated, 12% is forested, and about half of the land is used for pasturing cattle and sheep. The fertile prairies in the middle of the country are called the pampas. The pampas produces wheat, grains, fruit, vegetables, sugarcane, and wine grapes. Wheat is Argentina's most important crop. In 2005 the wheat crop totaled 16 million metric tons. Other major crops grown in Argentina are maize, soybeans, sorghum, barley, sunflower seeds, potatoes, rice, and tobacco. The land produces grapes, oranges, apples, lemons, and grapefruit.

One of the largest businesses in Argentina is raising and slaughtering livestock. In 2005 alone, Argentina produced 50.8 million head of cattle, 12.4 million sheep, 3.7 million horses, and 1.5 million pigs. The exporting business is extremely important to Argentina's economy. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the selling of meat, hides, and live animals has made approximately \$1.9 billion annually (about 7% of Argentina's total export earnings). Argentina also produces a great amount of wool. In 2005, 60,000 metric tons of wool was produced in Argentina.

*Forestry and fishing* - Most of Argentina's 81.6 million acres of forest is unused. The forestry industry does use elm and willow trees for cellulose production, white quebracho trees for fuel, red quebracho trees for tannin (used for tanning leather), and cedar trees for the manufacture of furniture.

Argentina's fishing industry has continued to increase since the early 1960's. In 2001, 924,662 metric tons of fish were caught in Argentine waters.

*Mining-* Mining is not a large industry in Argentina. The more important mineral products are petroleum and natural gas. In 2003, 17.3% of Argentina's exports consisted of fuel products. In 2004, Argentina produced 271 million barrels of crude petroleum. The country produced 41 billion cubic meters of natural gas in 2003. Other Argentine minerals include iron ore, gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, and boron.

*Manufacturing-* Approximately 20% of Argentina's labor force work for manufacturing companies. The oldest manufacturing industry is the processing and packaging of foodstuffs. By the early 1990's the production of petroleum surpassed the production of foodstuffs. Argentina also manufactures motor vehicles, refrigerators, washing machines, television sets, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, electronic equipment, and fibers.

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## **Literacy**

Approximately 97.1% of Argentine men and women, 15 years of age or older, can read and write (2003 est.).

## **Land/Geography**

Argentina is located in Southern South America, between Chile and Uruguay. The country borders the South Atlantic Ocean. The total land area of Argentina is 1,073,518 square miles. There are four major natural regions in Argentina: the Andes along the western border; the northern plains and Andes foothills; the rich plains of the pampas; and the flat to rolling plateau of Patagonia in the south.

The Andes are the highest and widest in the north, where several peaks rise above 21,000 feet. Mount Aconcagua is the highest mountains in the Western Hemisphere, standing 22,834 feet. Argentina's Lake District is located in the southern Andes. Even though the elevations are low, the southern Andes are very rugged.

The northern plains extend northward into Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil. The northern plains have two subregions: The Gran Chaco (or Chaco) and Mesopotamia. The Gran Chico is the largest subregion and it includes scrub woodland, grassy savanna, and tropical forest areas. The Mesopotamia subregion lies between the Parana and Uruguay rivers. The subregion includes rolling prairies, forests, plateaus, and waterfalls (including Iguacu Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of Argentina).

The Pampas are a large fruitful prairie, south of the Gran Chaco northern plains. The majority of Argentina's population resides in the Pampas region because most of its cultivated land and many of its industries are found in the Pampas region.

The plateaus of the Patagonia region of Argentina are found in the south. The treeless plateaus of Patagonia rise to around 5,000 feet around the base of the Andes Mountains. The Patagonia region receives little moisture, and it is mainly used for grazing sheep.

The Parana, Paraguay, and Uruguay rivers all flow southward, and form a major river system in South America. The Parana-Uruguay River system is navigable for about 2,000 miles. The famous Iguaca Falls is on the Iguaca River, a tributary of the Parana River. Other important rivers in Argentina include the Rio Colorado (forms the northern boundary of Patagonia), the Rio Salado (resides in the Gran Chaco area), and the Rio Negro in Patagonia. The majority of Argentina's rivers empty out into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Argentine Lake District resides in the region between the Andes and the Patagonia plateaus. This area is famous for its many lakes and its thick evergreen forests that lie against the snowcapped mountains and glaciers. One of the largest lakes in Argentina is the Nahuel Huapi Lake, found in northern Patagonia. The area surrounding the lake is the Nahuel Huapi National Park. The Viedma and Argentino lakes are fed by alpine glaciers.

In Buenos Aires, the climate ranges in temperatures from 67 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 46 to 60 degrees in July. In Mendoza (in the foothills of the Andes to the west), the temperatures range from 60-90 degrees in January and 36-59 degrees Fahrenheit in July. Higher

temperatures occur around the Tropic of Capricorn in the north. The climate is usually cooler in the higher Andes, Patagonia, and Tierra del Fuego areas.

## **History**

### **Pre-Colonial Period**

Before the colonial era, approximately 20 indigenous groups with some 300,000 people lived in the country that is now called Argentina. Most of these people groups lived as nomadic hunters and gatherers. The Diaguita people group was more developed than most people groups. They lived in the western and northwestern parts of Argentina and they practiced agriculture. In northeastern Argentina, the Guarani people group practiced a slash-and-burn style of agriculture. They cleared the forest by cutting down and burning the vegetation.

### **Spanish Arrivals**

In 1516, the Spaniards arrived in the Argentine estuary known as the Rio de la Plata. They were led by the Spanish navigator Juan Diaz de Solis, who was in search of a southwest route to the East Indies. He claimed the area for Spain. Italian navigator Sabastian Cabot was on board and was working for Spain. He later revisited the estuary in 1526 in search of food and supplies. Cabot and his men built a fort and floated up the Parana River to the country known today as Paraguay. He named the estuary “the Rio de la Plata” because he obtained a small amount of silver from the indigenous peoples. In 1536, Pedro de Mendoza founded Buenos Aires. He was a Spanish soldier that was given control of land south of the Rio de la Plata. The members of the expedition went through great hardships and ended up abandoning the site in 1541.

In 1553, Spanish colonists from Peru, Chile, and Paraguay established the first permanent settlement in Argentina at Santiago del Estero, in the Andean foothills. In 1580, the Spanish resettled in Buenos Aires. Argentina was overlooked much of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries because the country was lacking the mineral wealth that other countries provided.

The Rio de la Plata region became part of a vice-royalty of Peru in 1776. At this time, Buenos Aires only had a population of 25,000 people. However, the city began to grow rapidly after it was made the capital of the vice-royalty, becoming the main port and administrative center for the region. The port began exporting Peruvian silver and cattle hides from the Pampas region. Buenos Aires became a major port for importing African slaves.

The growth of Buenos Aires caught the attention of the British in the early nineteenth century, who were at war with France and Spain at the time. In 1806, a British fleet attacked Buenos Aires. The British temporarily took control of the city. The citizens of Buenos Aires quickly formed a militia and ousted the British. The next year the British tried again to regain control of the city, but lost again. This gave the citizens of Buenos Aires a lot of confidence in their fighting ability.

In 1808, the French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte overthrew King Ferdinand VII of Spain, and imprisoned him. Napoleon’s brother Joseph was placed as Ferdinand’s legitimate successor.

The people of Buenos Aires did not accept Joseph Bonaparte as the true Spanish heir. On May 25, 1810, the citizens of Buenos Aires followed the example set by Spanish cities and officially rejected Joseph Bonaparte and overthrew the viceroy. They set up a temporary governing council in the name of Ferdinand VII.

This event started the beginning of the wars of independence that lasted more than a decade. Argentina declared independence on July 9, 1816, when a congress of provincial delegates signed a declaration of independence in San Miguel de Tucuman. In 1817, Argentine General Jose de San Martin led armed forces across the Andes and liberated Chile and Peru. It was not until 1824 that the entire South American continent purged themselves of the Spanish.

Following the signing of the declaration of independence, the provincial delegates failed to establish a stable Argentine government. A struggle ensued amongst the Argentine people. Many Argentines wanted to make Buenos Aires the capital of the country. Many other Argentines who lived elsewhere did not want to be dominated by the large city. The Argentines on the side of making Buenos Aires the capital were called the Unitarians. The Argentines that desired more of a loose confederation with a provincial self-government were called Federalists. Civil war broke out amongst the two sides in 1819, but they came to a peaceful agreement in 1820.

In the 1820's a Unitarian named Bernardino Rivadavia tried to set up a centralized government in Argentina. He desired to modernize Argentina, but he was caught up in war against Brazil over the possession of the east bank of Rio de la Plata. The war ended in stalemate. Both countries guaranteed the independence of the east bank, and it eventually became the country of Uruguay. Rivadavia was ousted, and Argentina collapsed into bankruptcy and civil unrest. In 1829, a Federalist named Juan Manuel de Rosas became the dictator in Argentina. He won broad support over the Argentine provinces, especially from fellow caudillos (dictators) and gauchos (cowboys) who dominated the provinces.

Rosas became a very harsh dictator who murdered those who got in his way. He demanded strict obedience from the people of Argentina. Many who disagreed fled to outside countries. In 1852, General Justo Urquiza, a former governor of Entre Rios province, led a rebellion that ousted Rosas. A new federal constitution was adopted in 1853, and General Urquiza became the first president elected in the Argentine Confederation in 1854. However, Buenos Aires refused to acknowledge Urquiza's presidency, and they reinstated self-rule.

In 1859, the problems between the Confederation and Buenos Aires turned into civil war. The confederation won the battle and Buenos Aires joined the Confederation. Civil war broke out again in 1861. At the Battle of Pavon, the forces of Buenos Aires were led by General Bartolome Mitre, and they overpowered the Confederation forces of Urquiza. The confederation fell and General Mitre created the Republic of Argentina.

In 1862, the provinces of Argentina elected General Mitre as president of the Republic of Argentina. Mitre made Buenos Aires the nation's capital. Argentina began having major problems with Paraguay and in 1865 Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay declared war on Paraguay. This conflict was known as the War of the Triple Alliance. This war continued for 5 years and

Paraguay was mostly destroyed. The Argentine economy grew steadily during the war, but declined afterwards in the mid-1870's. In 1879, General Julio A. Roca led forces into the southern Pampas region, known as the Conquest of the Desert. They restrained and killed the indigenous peoples living there so they could open up vast areas for grazing and farming. General Roca was elected president in 1880. Roca received his power from the provinces of Argentina. His presidency brought on a revolt from his opponents in Buenos Aires. Roca's forces put down the revolt. Roca's government made Buenos Aires a federal district.

The Argentine economy grew rapidly in the 1880's. The British financed one of the largest railroad systems in the world, and European immigrants flooded into Argentina (by 1914, nearly 6 million people had entered the country). During this time, Argentina became a major exporter of wool, wheat, and beef. The Argentine economy continued to have its difficulties as the economy crashed once again in 1890. Approximately five years later, the Argentine economy regained its strength. From 1900 to 1913, Argentina's economy grew rapidly again. Argentina became the wealthiest country in Latin America, and Buenos Aires was called the "Paris of South America."

In 1916, Hipolito Irigoyen of the Radical Party came to power. At this time, Argentina was feeling the effects of World War I (1914-1918). During the war, European countries imported less Argentine products, and this created an economic decline in Argentina. Metalworkers were making less money and they began to protest. In 1919, the army fired on strikers, and the Jewish community of Buenos Aires was attacked. This event came to be known as "La Semana Tragica" (The Tragic Week). The instability continued for the next five years.

Irigoyen was ousted in 1930 by a military coup. A brief military dictatorship took control of the country. Agricultural earning declined throughout Argentina, and many farm workers were forced to leave the rural areas and move to bigger cities to find jobs. Many workers joined the growing manufacturing companies. The economy grew steadily during the reign of General Agustin P. Justo from 1932-1938, but political conflict continued. During this time, many thought this right-wing nationalist government was pro-fascist. In 1943, a nationalist military junta overthrew the president. The new president Pedro Ramirez abolished all political parties. In 1944, Allied pressure forced Ramirez to break diplomatic relations with Germany and Japan. Local opposition to this break, led to Ramirez' fall. Then another military government gained control.

### **The Perón Era**

Army Colonel Juan Domingo Perón became the primary figure in Argentine politics. Perón was one of the leaders in the 1943 military coup. Perón's primary support came from the poor urban industrial and agricultural workers, known as the descamisados (shirtless ones). Perón founded a new political party known as the Justicialist Party or the Perónist Party. Perón believed and publicized that his party could achieve social justice by improving the Argentine living conditions. Beginning in 1944, Perónism became a dominant mass movement. In October of 1945, Perón married Argentine actress Eva Duarte. In 1946, Perón was elected as president.

As first lady, Eva Perón also known as “Evita,” managed labor relations and social services for her husband's government until she died in 1952. Evita was loved by the Argentine masses because of her work with the poor. Many believe that she was responsible for the popularity of Perón's regime.

Perón set forth a five-year plan to expand the economy through industrial production. He also increased governmental control of the economy. Perón's government built steel mills, textile mills, and other factories. It nationalized the banking system and private companies such as the railroads (British owned) and the telephone company (US owned). Perón's plan worked its first couple of years until 1948, when European countries started importing less Argentine products.

The economy started to falter and Perón began resorting to force and threats to keep his position. Perón was renominated by the Perónist Party as the president candidate for 1952. Several parties in opposition grew critical of the Perónist Party and Perón. In 1951, the Perón government authorized prison term for those who showed disrespect for government leaders. Many opponents of the Perón regime were placed in jail. Perón won his reelection as president rather easily. Perón became increasingly domineering and unpredictable after the death of his wife.

In 1953, the government instituted another five-year plan to boost the economy. This time, the government emphasized agricultural output, rather than industrial. Agricultural imports increased, but the people suffered from high inflation. In 1954, Perón accused a group of Catholic priests of plotting against the government. Perón reacted by legalizing divorce and prostitution.

### **Rivals of Perón Government**

Rivals of the Perón government within the Navy and Air Force began a revolt in Buenos Aires on June 16, 1955. The revolt lasted a few days and then was stamped out by the loyal army. However during the revolt, the downtown area was bombed and many civilians lost their lives. Later in the year on September 16, opponents in all three branches of the Argentine military started another revolt. Civil war ensued, and after the result of many casualties, Perón resigned on September 20. Major General Eduardo Lonardi took control as president, promising to reinstate a democratic government. Perón moved around from country to country, in exile.

The Lonardi government only lasted 2 months. Another military coup, led by Major General Eugenio Aramburu, took over control of the government. General Aramburu reinstated the constitution of 1853. The Perónist Party was banned from the elections of 1958. Arturo Frondizi of the Radical Party was nominated as president of Argentina. Frondizi was popular for a couple years, but the economy never stabilized under him. The people grew weary and in 1961, Frondizi's popularity waned.

The election of 1962 provided the overthrow of Frondizi by the military. Frondizi let the Perónist Party participate in the election and the government did not approve. Civilian Arturo Illía, a moderate, was elected president. Illía developed a program to counter the economic problems. He succeeded in regulating foreign investment, but he failed in controlling inflation

and government debt. In 1965, Illía appointed a Peronist supporter as war minister. That angered military leaders.

Illía was ousted in 1966, as another military coup took over control of the government. The military set up government under General Juan Carlos Onganía. Onganía promised to restore the economy and the democratic government. His government put an end to all political parties and broke up the National Congress. His plans were going his way until the government collapsed in mid-1969. In Córdoba, workers and students held huge demonstrations that proved too powerful for the Onganía government. Afterwards, guerilla groups consisting of leftists and Peronistas committed many assassinations and kidnappings.

In early 1971, the military temporarily named General Alejandro Agustín Lanusse president. The Lanusse government promised that the presidency would return to civilian rule. During this time, the violence never ended. The types of violence that broke out were strikes, riots, and terrorist activities. The economy suffered tremendously thanks to the instability of the government. The Peronistas were able to participate in the election of 1973. The Argentine people elected Hector J. Cámpora, of the Peronist Party, as president. Cámpora received almost 50% of the vote.

### **Return of Perón**

The return to civilian rule did not solve the country's political problems. Leftist and Rightist groups continued to spill each other's blood. Things did not get better when the news was made public that Perón was coming back to the country in June. A fight broke out at the airport where Perón landed, and 400 people were killed. Cámpora resigned soon afterwards, and Perón was elected president again in the September elections of 1973. His third wife, Isabel de Perón, became vice president.

The presidency proved to be too much for Perón, at his age. He died on July 1, 1974. Isabel de Perón became the first female president in the Western Hemisphere. Her reign did not last though, with the rapidly deteriorating economy. In 1975, terrorist activities increased as Leftist and Rightist groups killed more than 700 people. In 1976, another military junta seized control of the government. Lieutenant General Jorge Rafael Videla came to power. He broke up the National Congress and proclaimed martial law.

### **Military Rule Under Videla**

The military junta under Videla, proved to be the most vicious regime in Argentina. Soldiers and police officers were sent out to terrorize and hunt down rivals. This was known as the "Dirty War." Approximately 30,000 Argentines disappeared. They were eventually called the "Desaparecidos" (disappeared ones) because they vanished under the government rule.

Apparently, the people were taken to secret prisons, and were executed after weeks of torture. The Argentine economy completely collapsed, as a new military government under General Roberto Viola came to power in 1981. At the end of 1981, General Leopoldo Galtieri ousted

Viola. Galtieri was unable to control the economy and he feared opposition. Popular protests and street demonstrations against the government started popping up in 1982.

Galtieri came up with a temporary solution to bring back the support of the people for his regime.

### **Falkland Islands War**

On April 1, 1982, Argentine seized the Falkland Islands (also known as Islas Malvinas) from Britain. Argentina had claimed the islands, but the British had occupied them since 1833. The Argentine military operation was temporarily successful. The initial success brought the government national support. Many efforts to solve the conflict peacefully between Britain and Argentina failed.

In early June, British troops landed on the islands. The British defeated the Argentine military in three weeks, and they took over control of the islands. Following the Argentine surrender, Galtieri resigned. Another military junta took over control of the Argentine government. The presidential elections of 1983 proved to be interesting. The Peronistas were divided and the smaller Radical Party under Raúl Alfonsín, gained absolute majority for the first time since 1928.

### **Raúl Alfonsín Rule**

When the Alfonsín government came into power, the military was discredited. Alfonsín tried to make the democracy successful, but so many barriers lied in his way. The country faced major debt and the economy was very weak. The government tried to restrict imports and create a large trade surplus to help pay off the national debt. Unfortunately, this limited the manufacturing division because they were unable to acquire the necessary manufacturing parts and supplies.

The government examined what happened to the desaparecidos (disappeared ones) of the mid 1970's. In 1985, the government supported the indictments of the military leaders from 1976-1983. The lower-ranking military officers were granted amnesty for the events that went on during the "dirty war."

In 1985, The Alfonsín government tried to fight economic problems with their Austral Plan. This plan was developed in order to stop inflation by freezing prices and wages. This plan failed to work because strikes forced the government to give in to higher wages, and inflation continued to rise.

### **Carlos Menem Period**

In 1989, Carlos Menem was elected president of Argentina. Menem was the Peronist Party presidential candidate and he won with ease. Alfonsín abandoned his office before his term expired, so Menem was sworn in as president. Menem had to seek financial help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to assist the economy. In order to get IMF support, Menem had to promise extreme economic restructuring. Menem formed a cabinet that consisted mainly

of neoliberals (supporters of a free-market economy with little government interference). The neoliberals believed that the first move to make in restructuring the economy is to cut the government's role. They believed the government was way too involved and only hindered the productivity of the economy. The public acceptance of these ideas brought about a great change of attitude in Argentina.

Domingo Cavallo became Argentina's minister of the economy in 1991. The Menem government reduced tariffs and subsidies in order to encourage foreign investment. The government also tried to stabilize federal revenues through tax reform.

In 1994, the government adjusted its constitution to allow Menem to have an opportunity at a second consecutive presidential term. Menem was reelected as president in 1995. Menem served as president longer than any of his predecessors. Menem served his full four-year term, even though the Argentine standard of living declined and people were not happy. Many Argentines accused Menem's government as a new oligarchy.

### **Fernando de la Rúa and the Radical Party**

In 1999, Fernando de la Rúa, of the Radical Party, won the Argentine presidential election. He beat out the Peronist candidate, Eduardo Duhalde. De la Rúa continued Menem's domestic policies, but the economy came up short just as it did under Menem.

De la Rúa's administration began an austerity program, where they cut government salaries and snatched pensions to pay creditors. Riots broke out in December of 2001 concerning De la Rúa's austerity program, and the country's high unemployment rate. Approximately 20 people were killed during the riots and De la Rúa resigned as president.

After a couple brief interim presidents, the National Congress chose Eduardo Duhalde of the Peronist Party as president in January of 2002. Argentina devalued its overvalued peso, making the cost of Argentina's products more competitive for the world market. Duhalde served as president until 2003, when Argentina had its official presidential election. Peronist candidate Néstor Kirchner won the presidential election of 2003. He narrowly beat out former president Carlos Menem.

Kirchner was the former governor of the Santa Cruz province of Argentina.

Kirchner promised the citizens of Argentina that he would improve the country's economy by creating more jobs, and protecting the country's industrial sector. Kirchner restructured Argentina's debt, offering new bonds to creditors on terms that were beneficial to the administration.

### **Christian History**

Christianity came to Argentina in 1539, as Franciscan missionaries arrived on its shores. The Jesuits arrived in Argentina in 1586, and worked among the indigenous peoples until their expulsion in 1767.

Catholic priests had a difficult time starting their ministry in Argentina, around 1767. Several unprepared priests left the country with only 12 priests under the age of 40, to carry on the ministry to a strong anti-clerical ruling class. However, by 1895 the population was 99% Catholic. By 1960, the percentage of Catholics was down to 93%.

The Protestant expansion in Argentina was based primarily from the European immigration in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The first Protestant missionary in Argentina was James Thompson, a Bible Society agent. Thompson was a missionary in several other countries, but while he was in Argentina, he founded 100 schools in Buenos Aires.

American Methodists arrived in Argentina in 1836, but for several decades, they only worked among European immigrants. The Methodist church of Argentina became autonomous in 1968, but it remains numerically small. The denominational presence of the Lutheran and Reformed churches began in 1843.

European Baptists entered the Argentine country in 1878, and American Southern Baptists came later in 1903. The Argentine Baptist Convention was founded in 1908. Today it is one of the largest denominations in Argentina, and most congregations are self-sufficient. Other large Protestant denominations that commenced at the end of the nineteenth century are the Plymouth Brethren and the Seventh-day Adventists.

Pentecostalism has not been as effective in Argentina as it has been in Brazil or Chile. Pentecostals first came to Argentina in 1909. In 1963, a charismatic movement moved among the Plymouth Brethren. Approximately 10 years later, the movement had expanded to over 20% of all its members.

In the 1990's, the Pentecostal/Charismatic Renewal has grown tremendously across many older churches, numbering over 8,400,000 believers.

## **Religion**

### **Non-Christian**

#### *Jewish*

Argentina has the largest Jewish community in Latin America and the fifth largest Jewish population in the world. The majority of Argentine Jews are descendants of immigrants from Russia in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Islam*

Islam has grown 10-fold in Argentina between 1970 and 1990. Islam now holds over 1.5% of the people or more than 500,000. Islam in Argentina is growing at a rate of 5.1% annually. The

religion has three institutions in Argentina: the Centre for Islamic Studies and the Islamic Centre both reside in Buenos Aires and the Arab Islamic Society in Mendoza.

### *Ethnic Religions*

Ethnic religions are still practiced among the Chiriguano, as well as the Guarani and Quechua speaking Bolivians working as laborers on the northern sugarcane plantations. Estimate number ethnic religion followers at around 60,000.

### *Baha'i*

The Baha'i has grown from six assemblies in 1964 to thirty-eight by 1973. The Baha'i number over 11,000. They continue to expand in Argentina at a rate of 5.5% annually.

## **Catholics/Orthodox Churches**

### *Catholic*

Catholic priests had a difficult time starting their ministry in Argentina, around 1767. Several unprepared priests left the country with only 12 priests under the age of 40, to carry on the ministry to a strong anti-clerical ruling class. However, by 1895 the population was 99% Catholic.

By 1960, the percentage of Catholics was down to 93%. Approximately nine Orthodox churches have recently been formed, serving Orthodox immigrants from Armenia, Greece, Lebanon, Romania, Russia, Syria, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia.

Catholic numbers in Argentina are estimated as high as 33,750,000.

### *Orthodox*

Approximately nine Orthodox churches have recently been formed, serving Orthodox immigrants from Armenia, Greece, Lebanon, Romania, Russia, Syria, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia. Anglicanism came to Argentina in 1824 through the South American Missionary Society among Patagonia Indians in the extreme south. Anglicans are currently involved in the northern Chaco, and in the urban slums.

## **Protestant/Evangelicals/Pentecostals**

Protestant and Independent Churches in Argentina claim 10.41% of the people (Protestants 6.16, Independent 4.25). Protestant number as many as 2,300,000 members in 86 denominations while independents have 1,600,000 members in 73 different groups.

*Assemblies of God (Sweden)*. The protestant group has over 1300 congregations with more than 450,000 members

*The National Union of Assemblies of God (USA).* This protestant group reports over 900 congregations with around 350,000 members.

*Waves of Love Church.* The independent group claims over 300 congregations and more than 280,000 members

*New Apostolic Church.* This independent group has almost 300 congregations with some 80,000 members

*The Baptist Convention.* The Baptist Convention, a protestant group, has almost 500 congregations with over 70,000 members.

*The Christian Brethren* is a protestant group with more than 1500 congregations and almost 70,000 members

*Vision de Futuro* is an independent group with over 300 congregations and 80,000 members

*Seventh-day Adventists* This protestant group has almost 400 congregations with over 72000 members

*International Church of Foursquare Gospel.* This protestant group has 250 congregations with more than 50,000 members

*Church of God Association.* This independent group has around 600 congregations and almost 30,000 members

*Evangelical Pentecostal Church of Chile.* This independent group reports 30 congregations but claims up to 36000 members

*Church of God (Cleveland).* This protestant group has 400 congregations and 30,000 members.

*Church of the Lord Mission.* The independent group claims over 250 congregations with some 20,000 members

*United Evangelical Church (Toba).* This independent group claims 275 congregations and 20,000 members

*Evangelical Lutheran Church.* The protestant Church has 300 congregations and 20,000 members

*Anglican.* The Anglican Church reports 75 congregations with more than 11,000 members

*Church of the Nazarene.* This protestant group has 250 congregations and over 11,000 members.

## **People Groups**

**42890**

Afro-Argentine (51,000)

The primary language of the Afro-Argentine is Spanish. The primary religion of the Afro-Argentine is Christianity (97%). Approximately 12% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 3% of the population consists of Non-Religious (1%) and Other/Small (2%) beliefs. The Afro-Argentine have access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, Bible translations, and radio broadcasts.

**17321**

Arab (110,000)

The primary language of the Arab is Spanish. The primary religion of the Arab is Islam (66%). The other 34% of the population consists of Christianity (30%), Non-Religious (3%), and Other/Small (1%) beliefs.

The Arab people have access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, Jesus films, and Bible translations.

**17322**

Arab, North Levantine Spoken or Arab, Syrian (1,018,000)

The primary language of the Syrian Arabs is Arabic, North Levantine Spoken. The primary religion of the Syrian Arab people is Islam (60%). The other 40% of the population consists of Christianity (38%) and Non-Religious (2%) beliefs. Approximately 1.2% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Syrian Arabs have access to Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts, but do not have access to Bible translations or Jesus films.

**17323**

Arab, South Levantine Spoken or Arab, Palestinian (1,000)

The primary language of the Palestinian Arabs is Arabic, South Levantine Spoken. The primary religion of the Palestinian Arabs is Islam (57%). The other 43% of the population consists of Christianity (32%), Other/Small religions (8%), and Non-Religious (3%) beliefs.

The Palestinian Arabs have access to portions of Bible translations, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts. They do not have access to Jesus films.

**17324**

Argentine (34,080,884)

The primary language of the Argentine is Spanish. The primary religion of the Argentine is Christianity (96.9%). The other 3.1% of the population consists of Other/Small religions

(1.58%), Non-Religious (1.5%), and Hinduism (.02%). Approximately 13% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Argentine's have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

### **17325**

Argentine Deaf (225,000)

The primary form of communication is Argentine Sign Language. The primary religion of the Argentine Deaf is Christianity. Deaf schools were started in 1885 in Argentina. There is a manual alphabet for Spanish spelling.

### **17326**

Armenian (131,000)

The primary language of the Armenian is Armenian. The primary religion of the Armenian is Christianity (90%). Approximately 2.5% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 10% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs.

The Armenian's have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

### **17333**

Aymara, Central (10,000)

The primary language of the Aymara, Central is Aymara, Central. The primary religion of the Aymara, Central is Christianity (92%). About 1.5% of the population is Evangelical. The other 8% of the population practices Ethnic Religions.

The Aymara, Central has access to Jesus films, radio broadcasts, Gospel recordings, and Bible translations.

Many Aymara, Central have come to Argentina from Bolivia to work at sugar mills.

### **00000**

Aymara, Carangas (30,000)

The primary language of the Aymara, Carangas is Aymara, Central. The primary religion of the Aymara, Carangas is Christianity (65%). Approximately 1% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 35% of the population practices Ethnic Religions.

The Aymara, Carangas has access to Jesus films, Bible translations, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

### **17327**

Bolivian Guarani (15,000)

The primary language of the Bolivian Guarani is Guarani, Bolivian. The primary religion of the Bolivian Guarani is Ethnic Religions.

The Bolivian Guarani has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

**17328**

Brazilian Guarani (12,000)

The primary language of the Brazilian Guarani is Guarani Mbya. The primary religion of the Brazilian Guarani is Christianity (80%). About 2.25% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic Religions.

The Brazilian Guarani has access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and Bible translations.

The Brazilian Guarani are located in the Northeast region of Argentina.

**17329**

British (34,000)

The primary language of the British is English. The primary religion of the British is Christianity (84%). The other 16% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. The British has access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Bible translations.

**17330**

Byelorussian (3,500)

The primary language of the Byelorussian is Belarusan. The primary religion of the Byelorussian is Christianity (80%). Approximately 4% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 20% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs.

The Byelorussian people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**17332**

Catalonian (174,000)

The primary language of the Catalonian people is Catalan-Valencian-Balear. The primary religion of the Catalonian people is Christianity (96%). Approximately .7% of the Christian population is Evangelical. The other 4% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs.

The Catalonian people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**17334**

Central Bolivian Quechua (1,324,000)

The primary language of the Central Bolivian Quechua is South Bolivian Quechua. The primary religion of the Central Bolivian Quechua is Christianity (98.85%). The other 1.15% of the population practices Ethnic Religions (1%) and Other/Small religions (.15%).

The Central Bolivian Quechua has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

Most of the Central Bolivian Quechua in Argentina live in the city of Buenos Aires. Many also live in the Salta Province.

### **17335**

Chane (1,400)

The primary language of the Chane is Chane. The primary religions of the Chane are Christianity (50%) and Ethnic Religions (50%).

The Chane do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, or radio broadcasts.

### **42923**

Chinese, Mandarin (67,000)

The primary language of this people group is Chinese, Mandarin. The primary religions of the Chinese, Mandarin are Buddhism (78%) and Christianity (22%).

The Chinese, Mandarin has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

### **17341**

Chinese, Min Nan (20,000)

The primary language of this people group is Chinese, Min Nan. The primary religion of the Chinese, Min Nan is Buddhism.

The Chinese, Min Nan have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcast, and Jesus films.

### **17340**

Chinese, Yu (3,000)

The primary language of this people group is Chinese, Yu. The primary religion of the Chinese, Yu is Buddhism.

The Chinese, Yu has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**17336**

Chorote, Iyojwaja (800)

The primary language of this people group is Chorote, Iyojwaja. The primary religions of the Chorote, Iyojwaja are Christianity (70%) and Ethnic Religions (30%). Approximately 9% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Chorote, Iyojwaja has access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Chorote, Iyojwaja live in the Salta Province region of Argentina. Many of them are river dwellers.

**17337**

Chulupe (200)

The primary language of the Chulupe is Nivacle. The primary religions of the Chulupe are Ethnic Religions (60%) and Christianity (40%).

The Chulupe has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts. They do not have access to Jesus films.

The Chulupe reside in the Salta Province and northeast Argentina.

**17353**

Criollo Argentine (1,538,000)

The primary language of the Criollo Argentine is Spanish. The primary religion of the Criollo Argentine is Christianity (97%). The other 3% of the population practices Non-Religions beliefs. Approximately 12% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Criollo Argentine has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**00000**

Croat (3,700)

The primary language of the Croat is Croatian. The primary religion of the Croat is Christianity (91%). The other 9% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. About .3% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Croats have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films.

**17338**

Czech (7,000)

The primary language of this people group is Czech. The primary religion of the Czech people group is Christianity (79%). The other 21% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Approximately 1.40% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Czech people group has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**43710**

Diaguita Calchaqui (8,000)

The primary language of the Diaquita Calchaqui is Spanish. The primary religion of the Diaguita Calchaqui is Ethnic Religions.

The Diaguita Calchaqui has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

**00000**

French (14,000)

The primary language of the French is French. The primary religion of the French is Christianity (76%). The other 24% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Approximately .5% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The French have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**17339**

Galician (663,000)

The primary language of this people group is Galician. The primary religion of the Galician is Christianity (96%). The other 4% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Approximately .3% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Galician people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**00000**

German (37,000)

The primary language of the German people is German. The primary religion of the German people is Christianity (78%). The other 22% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. About 7% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The German people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**00000**

Greek (36,000)

The primary language of this people group is Greek. The primary religion of the Greek people is Christianity (95%). The other 5% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Approximately .2% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Greek people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**00000**

Guarani, Paraguayan (956,000)

The primary language of this people group is Guarani, Paraguayan. The primary religion of this people group is Christianity (90%). The other 10% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. About 10% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Guarani, Paraguayan have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

**00000**

Italian (1,833,000)

The primary language of the Italian people is Italian. The primary religion of the Italian people is Christianity (83%). The other 17% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Only 1% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Italians have access to Gospel recordings, Bible translations, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

**00000**

Italian, Platine (18,000)

The primary language of the Italian, Platine people group is Italian. The primary religion of the Italian, Platine is Christianity (87%). The other 13% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Approximately 6% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Italian, Platine has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**23934**

Japanese (50,000)

The primary language of the Japanese people group is Japanese. The primary religions of the Japanese in Argentina are Buddhism (40%) and Christianity (40%). The other 20% of the population practices Other/Small beliefs.

The Japanese have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

### **17343**

Jewish (680,000)

The primary language of the Jewish people is Spanish. The primary religion of the Jewish people is Judaism (99%). The Jewish population in Argentina is the sixth largest Jewish population in the world. The other 1% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs (.79%) and Christianity (.21%).

The Jewish people have access to Gospel recordings, Bible translations, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

### **00000**

Kaingang (2,000)

The primary language of the Kaingang people group is Kaingang. The primary religion of the Kaingang people group is Christianity (60%). The other 40% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. About 15% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Kaingang have access to Gospel recordings and a translation of the New Testament. They do not have access to radio broadcasts or Jesus films.

### **17345**

Kaiwa (500)

The primary language of the Kaiwa people group is Kaiwa. The primary religion of the Kaiwa is Christianity (70%). The other 30% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. Approximately 35% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Kaiwa people have access to Gospel recordings and a translation of the New Testament.

They do not have access to radio broadcasts or Jesus films.

The Kaiwa people group is located in the Northeast region of Argentina.

### **17346**

Kalderash Gypsy (40,000)

The primary language of the Kalderash Gypsy is Romani, Vlax. The primary religion of the Kalderash Gypsy is Christianity.

The Kalderash Gypsy has access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, Jesus films, and Bible translations.

**46918**

Korean (29,000)

The primary language of the Korean people group is Korean. The primary religion of the Korean people group is Christianity (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Buddhism (15%) and Non-Religious beliefs (5%). About 30% of the Christian population is evangelical.

The Koreans have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

**17347**

Laotian (1,700)

The primary language of the Laotian people is Lao. The primary religion of the Laotian's is Buddhism (90%). The other 10% of the population practices Christianity. About .8% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Laotian people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**47024**

Lengua (1,400)

The primary language of the Lengua people group is Lengua. The primary religion of the Lengua is Christianity (90%). The other 10% of the population practices Ethnic Religions.

The Lengua people have access Bible translations and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

**17349**

Manjuy, Chorote (1,500)

The primary language of the Manjuy, Chorote is Chorote, Iyowujwa. The primary religion of the Manjuy, Chorote is Christianity (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. About 14% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Manjuy, Chorote has access to Gospel recordings and portions of translations of the Bible. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

**17350**

Mapuche (102,000)

The primary language of the Mapuche is Mapudungun. The primary religion of the Mapuche is Christianity (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic Religions (15%) and Other/Small religions (5%).

The Mapuche has access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and a translation of the New Testament. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

The Mapuche live in the Rio Negro, Chubut, Buenos Aires, La Pampa, and Neuquen Provinces of Argentina.

### **17351**

Mocovi (7,300)

The primary language of the Mocovi is Mocovi. The primary religion of the Mocovi is Ethnic Religions (60%). The other 40% of the population practices Christianity (10% are Evangelical).

The Mocovi has access to translations of the New Testament, as well as Gospel recordings.

They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Mocovi live in the South Chaco and Northeast Santa Fe regions of Argentina.

### **17352**

Nocten Mataco (100)

The primary language of the Nocten Mataco is Wichi Lhamtes Nocten. The primary religion of this people group is Christianity (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. About 10% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Nocten Mataco people group has access to translations of the New Testament, as well as Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Nocten Mataco people group live around Argentina's Northern border down to Tartagal.

### **17355**

Paraguayan Mestizo (510,050)

The primary language of the Paraguayan Mestizo is Spanish. The primary religion of the Paraguayan Mestizo is Christianity.

The Paraguayan Mestizo has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

### **17356**

Pilaga Toba (5,000)

The primary language of the Pilaga people is Pilaga. The primary religion of the Pilaga is Christianity (90%). The other 10% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. Approximately 45% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Pilaga people group has access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Pilaga people reside in the valleys of Bermejo and Pilcomayo rivers, in the central and western Formosa Province. They also live in the Chaco and Salta provinces.

### **17358**

Pilcomayo Mataco (2,100)

The primary language of the Pilcomayo Mataco is Wichi Lhamtes Guisnay. The primary religion of the Pilcomayo Mataco is Christianity (70%). The other 30% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. About 28% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Pilcomayo Mataco does not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

The name “Mataco” is actually derogatory. The self-name of the people is “Wichi.” The Pilcomayo Mataco people group live in the Northern, Pilcomayo River region.

### **17359**

Polish (174,000)

The primary language of the Polish people group is Polish. The primary religion of the Polish is Christianity (90%). The other 10% of the people practice Non-Religious beliefs. About .5% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Polish have access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, Bible translations, and radio broadcasts.

### **17360**

Portuguese (13,000)

The primary language of the Portuguese people is Portuguese. The primary religion of the Portuguese is Christianity (93%). The other 7% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs.

The Portuguese have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

### **17362**

Quechua, Northwest Jujuy (6,000)

The primary language of the Quechua, Northwest Jujuy is Quechua, South Bolivian. The primary religion of the Quechua, Northwest Jujuy is Christianity (94%). The other 6% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. About 10% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Quechua, Northwest Jujuy have access to Jesus films, radio broadcasts, Gospel recordings, and Bible translations.

#### **00000**

Romani, Vlax (52,000)

The primary language of this people group is Romani, Vlax. The primary religion of this people group is Christianity (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. About 2% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Romani, Vlax have access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and translations of the New Testament.

#### **00000**

Romanian (14,000)

The primary language of this people group is Romanian. The primary religion of the Romanian people group is Christianity (84%). The other 16% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Approximately 7% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Romanian's have access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Bible translations.

#### **17363**

Russian (27,000)

The primary language of this people group is Russian. The primary religion of the Russian people is Christianity (70%). The other 30% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Approximately .4% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Russian people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

#### **17364**

Santiago del Estero Quichua (97,000)

The primary language of this people group is Santiago del Estero Quichua. The primary religion of this people group is Christianity (94%). The other 6% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. About .4% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Santiago del Estero Quichua has access to radio broadcasts and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Bible translations or Jesus films.

The Santiago del Estero Quichua live in the North central region of Argentina. Many work as agriculturalists, and others work at industries.

**17366**

Serb (5,600)

The primary language of the Serb is Serbian. The primary religion of the Serb is Christianity (85%). The other 15% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. About .2% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Serb's have access to radio broadcasts, Gospel recordings, Bible translations, and Jesus films.

**17367**

Slovak (8,100)

The primary language of this people group is Slovak. The primary religion of the Slovak is Christianity (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. About 12% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Slovak people group has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

**17368**

Slovene (10,000)

The primary language of this people group is Slovenian. The primary religion of the Slovene is Christianity (95%). The other 5% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Only .3% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Slovene people group has access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, Jesus films, and Bible translations.

**00000**

Spaniard (517,000)

The primary language of the Spaniard is Spanish. The primary religion of the Spaniard is Christianity (95%). The other 5% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Only .2% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Spaniard's have access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, Jesus films, and Bible translations.

**00000**

Tapiete, Guarayo (100)

The primary language of the Tapiete, Guarayo is Tapiete. The primary religion of the Tapiete, Guarayo is Christianity (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. Approximately 16% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Tapiete, Guarayo has access to Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Bible translations, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

The Tapiete live in the Northeast part of Argentina, around Tartagal.

### **17370**

Tehuelche (200)

The primary language of this people group is Tehuelche. The primary religion of the Tehuelche is Christianity (90%). The other 10% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. The percentage of Evangelical believers is 0%.

The Tehuelche do not have access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, Jesus films, and Bible translations.

The Tehuelche came from Chile to Argentina. They are nomadic hunters, living primarily in the Patagonia region.

### **17371**

Toba (15,000)

The primary language of this people group is Toba. The primary religion of the Toba is Christianity (95%). The other 5% of the population practices Ethnic Religions (4%) and Other/Small religions (1%). Approximately 50% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Toba people have access to a translation of the New Testament, as well as Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Toba people reside in the Easter Formosa and Chaco provinces.

### **17373**

Ukrainian (27,000)

The primary language of this people group is Ukrainian. The primary religion of the Ukrainian is Christianity (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. Approximately 4% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Ukrainian people group has access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, Jesus films, and Bible translations.

### **00000**

Uruguyan White (698,000)

The primary language of the Uruguyan White is Spanish. The primary religion of the Uruguyan White is Christianity (71%). The other 29% of the population practices Non-Religious beliefs. About 3% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Uruguyan White has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

#### **17374**

Vejoz Mataco (25,000)

The primary language of the Vejoz Mataco is Wichi Lhamtes Vejoz. The primary religion of the Vejoz Mataco is Christianity (85%). The other 15% of the population practices Ethnic Religions (14.5%) and Other/Small religions (.5%). Approximately 8% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Vejoz Mataco people have access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Vejoz Mataco people live in the Northern region of Chaco, Formosa, Salta, and Jujuy.

#### **00000**

Vilela (30)

The primary language of this people group is Vilela. The primary religion of the Vilela is Christianity (80%). The other 20% of the population practices Ethnic Religions. About 1% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Vilela people do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

The Vilela people are located in the east central Chaco Province near the Paraguay border.

#### **17376**

Welsh (27,000)

The primary language of this people group is Welsh. The primary religion of the Welsh is Christianity (88%). The other 12% of the population is Non-Religious. Approximately 10% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Welsh has access to Gospel recordings, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Bible translations. The Welsh live in the Patagonia and Chubut Territory of Argentina.

All of the information on people groups has been gathered from three websites, unless noted. These three websites are [www.peoplegroups.org](http://www.peoplegroups.org), [www.joshuaproject.org](http://www.joshuaproject.org), and [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com).

## Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should consider the evangelistic opportunities that exist in Argentina. The followers of ethnic religions, some of whom are known as Christian, are mostly not Evangelical. The Followers of the Roman Catholic Church need the true Gospel. Evangelicals must champion the teaching that only Jesus is Savior.
2. Evangelical Christians and Churches should search for ways to reach the minority groups in Argentina. The Amerindian groups should be evangelized and led in church development in ways fitted to their cultures and their languages. The Jews in Argentina should be approached with the Message. The three groups of Chinese number a combined 90.000.
3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should develop and guide believers in Argentina to use methods of sharing the Gospel with followers of the Roman Catholic Church.
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should complete the task of providing Scripture and other Christian materials in the languages used by peoples in Argentina.
5. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek to stimulate Evangelicals in Argentina to engage in a massive effort to start multitudes of churches in the land.
6. Evangelical Christians and Churches should introduce the methodologies of small group evangelism and church starting to the believers in Argentina.

### Links:

[www.buenosairesherald.com](http://www.buenosairesherald.com) -Newspaper

[www.justargentina.org](http://www.justargentina.org) - Travel

[www.embassyofargentina-usa.org](http://www.embassyofargentina-usa.org)

[www.georgetown.edu/LatAmerPolitical/Constitutions/Argentina/argentina.html](http://www.georgetown.edu/LatAmerPolitical/Constitutions/Argentina/argentina.html) -Constitution of Argentina

[www.argentina.org.au/](http://www.argentina.org.au/) -Embassy of Argentina

[www.desaparecidos.org/arg/eng.html](http://www.desaparecidos.org/arg/eng.html) -Project Disappeared

[www.bytargentina.com](http://www.bytargentina.com) -Accommodations in Argentina

[www.welcomeargentina.com](http://www.welcomeargentina.com) -Travel

<http://argentina.worldcupblog.org> -World Cup Soccer

[www.asadoargentina.com](http://www.asadoargentina.com) -Argentine barbecue

[www.argentour.com/argentinai2.htm](http://www.argentour.com/argentinai2.htm) -Tour

[www.popular-traditional-argentina-food.com](http://www.popular-traditional-argentina-food.com) -Authentic Argentine Food

[www.gauchoclothes.com](http://www.gauchoclothes.com) -Authentic Gaucho Cowboy Clothing

[www.omnilineas.com](http://www.omnilineas.com) - Bus travel in Argentina

[www.argentineneews.com](http://www.argentineneews.com)

