

# Argentina

## *Ethnicity in Argentina*

### *Group selection*

Around 97% of the population are European descendants or mestizos <sup>(78)</sup>. A complementary census for Indigenous Peoples ECPI <sup>(79)</sup> states an amount of 600'329 indigenous persons (1.5%) belonging to more than 31 different ethnic groups. Due to different reasons (methodology, discrimination, etc.) the literature, i.e. IWGIA <sup>(80)</sup> estimates the effective number to be higher (3-5%). The INAI (Instituto Nacional para Asuntos Indígenas - National Institute for Indigenous Affairs) estimates a number of 1 million to 1.5 million indigenous persons.

<sup>78</sup> [Central Intelligence Agency, 2014]

<sup>79</sup> [Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos, 2014]

<sup>80</sup> [International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs, 2003]

### *Power relations*

About half of Argentina's indigenous people live in cities which gives the group an urban character seldom observed in Latin America. One consequence of this pattern was the existence of urban indigenous intellectuals already in the middle of the 20th century <sup>(81, 185-187)</sup>. However, the situation of the rural part of the group was precarious, characterized by dreadful conditions of exploitation – enforced by brutal military repression – and a lack of full citizenship rights <sup>(82, 12-14)</sup>. This situation changed with the rise to power of Juan Domingo Perón. Perón improved the conditions of the country's indigenous people considerably. Through patronage he politically incorporated a small circle of urban indigenous figures creating a small class of co-opted indigenous bureaucrats <sup>(83, 187)</sup>. Most important, however, were Perón's measures of improvement for the broader mass of the indigenous granting them important political and social rights. Indigenous people received ID documents for the first time and were allowed to participate in elections. The "Estatuto del Peón" improved the labor conditions in rural areas, a law from which indigenous groups also benefited <sup>(84, 14)</sup>.

<sup>81</sup> [?]

<sup>82</sup> [Gordillo Hirsch, 2003]

<sup>83</sup> [?]

<sup>84</sup> [Gordillo Hirsch, 2003]

*1946–1975:* Also the emergence of a more visible indigenous movement dates back to the era of Peronism. In 1946, Kolla people from the northwest walked all the way to Buenos Aires in demand of land titles. This "malón de la paz", raid of peace, was consciously arranged in a way to create a generic, coherent image of indigenous peoples in the country and came to be seen as the departure point of the indigenous struggle (<sup>85</sup>, 14). Political mobilization increased further in the 1960s but really gained momentum in the early 1970s when it developed more salient organizational structures (<sup>86</sup>, 17; <sup>87</sup>, 177).

<sup>85</sup> [Gordillo Hirsch, 2003]

<sup>86</sup> [Gordillo Hirsch, 2003]

<sup>87</sup> [?]

Thus, Argentina's indigenous groups seem to have been sufficiently mobilized to code them here as politically relevant from 1946 on. The more inclusionary state policies initiated by Perón make a coding of "powerless" for the period 1946- 1975 plausible.

*1976–1983:* The 1976 coup against Isabel Perón resulted in Argentina's most brutal military dictatorship. Its repression also selectively targeted the indigenous movement whose leaders were jailed and its organizations dismantled (<sup>88</sup>, 189). The junta consciously reconstituted old discourses of the "savage Indians" and commingled them with other "subversives" to "elements alien to" the national community (<sup>89</sup>, 18). Thus, during the military dictatorship the indigenous movement was literally crushed. Consequently, the indigenous peoples are coded as "discriminated" from 1976 to 1983.

<sup>88</sup> [?]

<sup>89</sup> [Gordillo Hirsch, 2003]

*1984–2014:* The return to democracy in 1983 reopened the political space for the indigenous movement. Indeed, increased mobilization and political activism brought the "indigenous issue" back on the political agenda (<sup>90</sup>, 18; <sup>91</sup>, 189) and finally resulted in what Gordillo and Hirsch (2003, 18) have termed "the breakup of non-recognition". Indigenous peoples received a special legal status and their collective rights were recognized in the constitution. The government created some mechanisms to include indigenous peoples in political decision, i.e. the INAI, which was established in 1985. The INAI's objective is to ensure indigneous peoples' exercise of their citizenship and to guarantee their rights, as stated in the constitution. Besides, indigenous territorial rights were recognized and bilingual education was officially allowed. With the Amendment to the Argentinian constitution in 1994, indigenous peoples were recognized constitutionally for the first time. Both the right to territory and the right to bilingual/intercultral education were incorporated into this Amendment (<sup>92</sup>). In 2008, the Consejo de Coordinación (Council of Coordination) and the Consejo Asesor (Council's Advisor) were created.

<sup>90</sup> [Gordillo Hirsch, 2003]

<sup>91</sup> [?]

<sup>92</sup> [Minority Rights Group International, 2014]

Indigenous representatives do not occupy any relevant position in the government. On the political level indigenous peoples need to be considered as one group, even if there are different indigenous organizations representing indigenous subgroups on the national level (i.e. : Organización de Naciones y Pueblos Indígenas en Argentina (Indigneous Nations and Peoples Organization in Argentina), Coordi-

nador de Educación Intercultural, Bilingüe y Cultural (Coordinator of Cultural, Bilingual and Intercultural Education), Confederación Mapuche Neuquina (Neuquén Mapuche Confederation), Asociación Centro Mapuche (Mapuche Central Organization), Coordinadora de Organizaciones Mapuche (Coordinator of Mapuche Organizations), Asociación Indígena de la República Argentina (Indigenous Association of the Argentine Republic), Asociación de Comunidades del Pueblo Guaraní (Association of Communities of Guaraní People), and Centro Kolla (Kolla Center). Although different mechanisms for participation in decision-making were created, indigenous peoples are not represented in the government and do not have access to executive power. They are thus coded as "powerless" from 1984 on, the year after the end of the dictatorship.

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## *Political status of ethnic groups in Argentina*

*From 1946 until 1975*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.97	MONOPOLY
Indigenous peoples	0.015	POWERLESS

*From 1976 until 1983*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.97	MONOPOLY
Indigenous peoples	0.015	DISCRIMINATED

*From 1984 until 2013*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Whites/mestizos	0.97	MONOPOLY
Indigenous peoples	0.015	POWERLESS



Figure 23: Political status of ethnic groups in Argentina during 1946-1975.



Figure 24: Political status of ethnic groups in Argentina during 1976-1983.



Figure 25: Political status of ethnic groups in Argentina during 1984-2013.

## *Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Argentina*

*From 1946 until 2013*

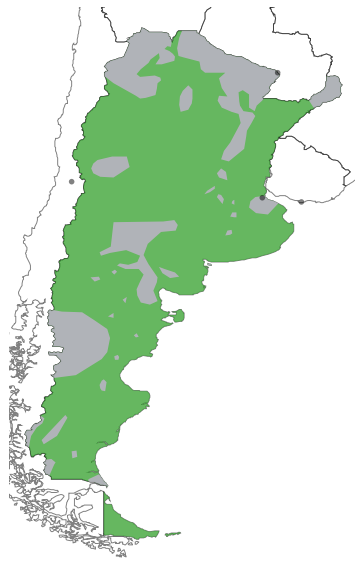


Figure 26: Map of ethnic groups in Argentina during 1984-2013.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
Whites/mestizos	2 781 219	Statewide
Indigenous peoples	677 484	Regional & urban

Table 11: List of ethnic groups in Argentina during 1946-2013.



## *Conflicts in Argentina*

*Starting on 1955-06-16*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Argentina	Military faction (forces of Samuel Toranzo Calderón)		1955-06-16			
Government of Argentina	Military faction (forces of Eduardo A. Lonardi Doucet)	Whites/mestizos	1955-09-16	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Argentina	Military faction (colorados)	Whites/mestizos	1963-04-02	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Argentina	Montoneros	Whites/mestizos	1970-06-01	No	Yes, from EGIP	Split
Government of Argentina	ERP	Whites/mestizos	1970-09-18	No	Yes, from EGIP	No

*Starting on 1982-04-02*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Argentina	Government of United Kingdom		1982-04-02			