

0. Violence in Argentina - Story Preface

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Working in secret, politicians formed terror groups and began bombing and killing to create a climate of fear and intimidation among the people of Argentina. The politicians would blame the violence on the military, and publicly claimed the military was responsible of all the terror.

When the next election was held, the government officials took back control of the country by a vote of 70% of the people. A new President took office, but the military refused to recognize the new government.

The next year, Juan Peron came back into power with his new wife Isabel. Argentina thought his presence would bring peace to the country.

But instead of peace, the violence was even worse. Members of the two factions began killing each other to gain power. Anyone who was associated with one side or the other—or even was thought to be associated—was killed or kidnapped.

No one was safe in Argentina.

When Juan Peron died in 1974, Isabel took power and became President. Under her rule there was a reign of terror like never before. Ten thousand citizens were killed and another 25,000 were kidnapped. Bodies appeared in the street everyday. If anyone dared to identify a murderer, their body would be found soon.

The terror movement was financed through blackmail, kidnapping and robbery. Businesses throughout Argentina paid huge amounts of money to keep their business from burning or their employees from being killed.

Jacobo met with other journalists and together they decided to write articles explaining the terror forces to the people, and identify the murderers. It was their attempt to end the powerful hold the government forced on the country.

Jacobo's friends begged him to leave the country, but he refused. He would fight-on to speak-out against fascism. He received many threats. His home and his office were bombed. His employees began to disappear—probably murdered.

The military began a new effort to kill all people who disagreed with them. They made a list of people they planned to kill.

They listed labor supporters, professors, lawyers, teachers, students, psychologists, journalists, artists and Jews. They called this list their "enemy list" and planned to kill all whose name was on it as well as anyone related to any name on the list.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Violence-in-Argentina-Jacobo-Timerman-The-Conscience-of-a-Nation>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Violence-in-Argentina-Jacobo-Timerman-The-Conscience-of-a-Nation>



Argentina's History and the Dirty War

Madres de Plaza de Mayo

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