



LA CASA DE LAS GALERAS


1880-1912

THE TOP HATS' HOUSE

During the last decades of the nineteenth century, Argentina underwent a series of transformations that placed it at the top of the world in terms of economic growth. The agro-export model was the driving force, fueled by the rise of the meatpacking industry, the refinement of livestock and the improvement of agricultural techniques.

However, this economic expansion did not reflect in the development of the population. Mass immigration, epidemics, tenements and child labor were the most emblematic social images of this period.

Government positions were only held by a small elite that simultaneously dominated the economic and the political spheres, under the protection of a restrictive electoral regime. In this context, the Argentine Congress became known as "The Top Hats' House" given that the aristocratic item stood out in its halls, benches and balconies as a symbol of status and social distinction of a group governed by chivalric codes, in which dueling was common.



**The House of
Deputies was the
scenery of the
debates on
relevant laws
that gave shape
to modern
Argentina:**

- Organization of the national territory and its international and interprovincial boundaries.
- Enactment of secular laws (Civil Registry, Marriage and Common Education).
- National monetary unification and organization of the banking system.
- First regulations and acknowledgement of rights in the labor field.