



UN PARLAMENTO AMPLIADO

1912-1955

AN ENLARGED PARLIAMENT

The enactment of the "Saénz Peña Act" in 1912, which established compulsory and secret male suffrage, undermined the foundations on which the previous conservative regime was built: electoral fraud.

A new chapter in the history of the Argentine Congress began, marked by the progressive access of social sectors that had not been represented, such as the middle classes, workers and women. In addition, during those decades, eight provinces were created, allowing their inhabitants (9% of the country) to elect their own deputies. As a whole, these changes increased the percentage of the population that voted in the elections: it went from 8% in the congressional elections of 1912—the first elections under the new electoral regime—to 43% in those of 1955. Thus, House bills, debates and decisions became more plural and started to represent a greater part of society. However, this enlargement was not without challenges. During this time, the democratic regime was overthrown on two occasions by coups d'état after which de facto governments were installed (1930-1932 and 1943-1946).

**The House of
Deputies
dedicated to the
treatment and
passing of laws
that sought to
have a direct
impact on the
daily life of the
social majorities
now:**

- Enshrinement of labor, social security and social rights.
- Recognition of women's civil and political rights.
- Provincialization of national territories.
- Nationalization of strategic resources such as mineral deposits, the merchant navy and railways.