



LA DÉCADA INFAME

1932-1943

THE INFAMOUS DECADE

The democratic expansion that began with universal suffrage was interrupted when, on 6 September 1930, Argentina faced its first coup d'état and the closure of the National Congress. It was the beginning of a parenthesis of almost a decade in which civil liberties were suppressed and electoral fraud and political proscription were used in order to maintain the conservative coalition in charge of the government.

The Argentine Congress was once again flooded with top hats, a symbol of the upper classes and conservative sectors. After the international financial crisis of 1929, the political alliance in power was compelled to introduce innovations in the economic model, which was in force since the end of the nineteenth century. The gloomy economic and social situation of the country was immortalized in the songs of Carlos Gardel and the written pieces of Roberto Arlt. The opposition, reduced to a few seats in Congress, did not hesitate to use the tools of control that the Constitution granted to the Legislative Power and investigated the scandalous cases of corruption of those years, although at a huge cost: the assassination of a national senator inside the debating chamber.

**The House of
Deputies passed
a set of laws that
reformulated
some aspects of
the economic
and social pact
on which
Argentina was
founded:**

- Creation of state intervention agencies in the economy (the Argentine Central Bank, the National Grain Board and the Meat Board).
- Consecration of the foreign policy of non-intervention, neutrality and anti-war (Law No. 12.260).
- Roca-Runciman Treaty (Law No. 11.693).
- Labor legislation and regulation of working hours (Law No. 11.640).