



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (005)

TEXT: *Facundo: Civilización y Barbarie* (1845)

AUTHOR: Domingo Faustino Sarmiento

EDITION: Complete Spanish Text (Stockcero)

FOREWORD: Juan Carlos Casas

PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Author's Introduction and Historical Context)

1. A HYBRID MASTERPIECE:

- **Genre-Bending:** *Facundo* defies simple classification. Is it a biography of the caudillo Facundo Quiroga? A sociological study of the Argentine pampas? A political pamphlet against Rosas? It is all of these. Written in exile in Chile (1845), it blends creative non-fiction, history, and ethnography.
- **The Political Goal:** Sarmiento wrote it to explain the roots of the chaotic Argentine civil wars to a foreign audience (and to himself). His ultimate aim was to denounce the tyranny of Juan Manuel de Rosas by analyzing the "barbaric" forces that brought him to power.

2. THE CENTRAL DICHOTOMY: CIVILIZATION VS. BARBARISM:

- **Geography as Destiny:** Sarmiento argues that the physical landscape of Argentina—the immense, flat, unpopulated Pampa—creates the conditions for barbarism. The isolation fosters a lack of government, law, and education ("The evil that afflicts the Argentine Republic is its extension").
- **The Conflict:** The history of Argentina is presented as a struggle between two antagonistic forces:
 - **Civilization:** Represented by the cities, Europe, laws, the frock coat (*el frac*), and Unitarian ideas.
 - **Barbarism:** Represented by the countryside, the gaucho, the American nature, the *chiripá*, and the Federal caudillos.
- **The Evolution of Tyranny:** Facundo Quiroga (the "Tiger of the Plains") represents the *instinctive, primitive* barbarism of the interior. Juan Manuel de Rosas represents a more dangerous evolution: the *systematized* barbarism that conquers the city and uses the machinery of the state to impose terror.

3. THE GAUCHO TYPOLOGY:

- **Social Types:** In Chapter I, Sarmiento categorizes the gauchos not just as a social class, but through specific skills that define their character and their distance from civilization:
 - **El Rastreador (The Tracker):** The detective of the plains, grave and reserved.
 - **El Baqueano (The Pathfinder):** The living map, essential for military campaigns.
 - **El Gaucho Malo (The Outlaw):** The squatter and misanthrope, respected for his bravery.
 - **El Cantor (The Bard):** The troubadour who chronicles history through verse, serving as the only record in an illiterate society.



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PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

- **Environmental Determinism:** To what extent does Sarmiento believe that the physical environment (the Pampa) dictates the political structure of the country? Is civilization possible in the desert without changing the landscape?
- **The "Other" as Threat:** Analyze Sarmiento's view on Indigenous peoples and the Gaucho. While he admires their physical skills and independence, why does he see their way of life as an absolute obstacle to nation-building?
- **The Figure of Rosas vs. Quiroga:** How does Sarmiento distinguish between Facundo (instinctive, chaotic violence) and Rosas (cold, calculated, systematic terror)? Why does he consider Rosas the more dangerous figure?
- **The Role of Education:** Throughout the text, the lack of education is cited as a root cause of barbarism. How does this connect to Sarmiento's later career as "The Schoolmaster President"?

PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **Sarmiento, Domingo F.** *Facundo: Civilización y Barbarie*. Stockcero, 2003.
- **Katra, William H.** *The Argentine Generation of 1837: Echeverría, Alberdi, Sarmiento, Mitre*. Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1996.
- **Halperín Donghi, Tulio.** *Proyecto y construcción de una nación: Argentina 1846-1880*. Biblioteca Ayacucho, 1980.

PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

1. According to Sarmiento, what is the fundamental conflict in Argentine history?

A) Spain vs. France B) Civilization vs. Barbarism C) Unitarians vs. The Church D) The Pampa vs. The Andes **Correct Answer: B**

2. Which historical figure is the main subject of the biography in the book? A)

Juan Manuel de Rosas B) Manuel Dorrego C) Facundo Quiroga D) General Paz

Correct Answer: C

3. What physical feature of Argentina does Sarmiento identify as the root of the political problem? A) The immense extension of the unpopulated plains B) The lack of navigable rivers C) The mountain ranges D) The tropical climate of the North **Correct Answer: A**

4. Which "social type" described by Sarmiento possesses an uncanny ability to follow trails? A) The Baqueano B) The Gaucho Malo C) The Cantor D) The Rastreador

Correct Answer: D

5. Although the book describes Quiroga, who is the actual political target of Sarmiento's attack? A) The Spanish Monarchy B) The Caudillo Juan Manuel de Rosas C) The Unitarian Party D) The Chilean Government **Correct Answer: B**

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