



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (098)

TEXT: *Tres años de esclavitud entre los Patagones*

AUTHOR: Auguste Guinnard

EDITOR: Jean-Paul Duviols (Université de Paris-Sorbonne)

PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on Prof. Duviols' Introduction)

1. THE INVOLUNTARY TRAVELER:

The Anti-Hero:

Unlike scientific explorers (Darwin, Humboldt), Guinnard was a naive 24-year-old Frenchman seeking fortune. His journey began with a fatal mistake: trying to walk across the Pampas unprepared.

The Genre:

Duviols classifies this as a "Captivity Narrative" and a precursor to modern ethnology. It is the testimony of a victim ("uiñecaé" or Christian slave) who observes his captors from the inside to survive.

2. A WITNESS TO EXTINCTION:

Historical Timing:

Guinnard lived among the tribes (1856-1859) just decades before General Roca's "Conquest of the Desert" (1879) wiped them out.

Value:

His account is one of the few detailed records of the daily life, warfare, and social structure of the Poyuches, Puelches, and Mamuelches before their culture was erased.

3. CIVILIZATION VS. BARBARISM:

The Conflict:

The text embodies the central conflict of 19th-century Argentina. While Guinnard suffered brutal treatment, he also recognized the intelligence, industry, and medical knowledge of the indigenous people, challenging the simplistic "savage" stereotype of the era.



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PART 2: CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

THEME A: The Stockholm Syndrome & Survival

Discussion:

Analyze Guinnard's psychological adaptation. He admits that to survive, "nothing of the European remained in me but the spirit." He learned to eat raw meat, ride bareback, and hide his emotions.

Comparison:

Compare his experience with fictional captives in Argentine literature (e.g., Echeverría's *"La Cautiva"* or Borges' *"El Sur"*). How does the reality of Guinnard differ from the Romantic fiction?

THEME B: The Indigenous Perspective

Analysis:

Duviols highlights a crucial passage where the Indians explain their war: *"This land belongs to us... the Christians are the thieves."*

Debate:

Use this text to discuss the legitimacy of the frontier wars. How does Guinnard's narrative complicate the official history of the Argentine state formation?

THEME C: The Figure of Calfucurá

Character Study:

Discuss the historical figure of Cacique Calfucurá (the "Attila of the Pampas"). Guinnard served as his secretary. How does this interaction show the political complexity of the indigenous nations (negotiating treaties, letters, borders)?



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PART 3: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

1. What was Guinnard's original plan when he arrived in Argentina?

- A) To write a book about indigenous cultures.
- B) To seek commercial fortune to support his mother.
- C) To join the Argentine army.
- D) To find gold in Patagonia.

(Correct: B)

2. How did Guinnard become a captive?

- A) His ship shipwrecked on the coast.
- B) He was kidnapped from a city.
- C) He attempted to walk across the Pampas without equipment and got lost.
- D) He was sold by another Frenchman.

(Correct: C)

3. What role did Guinnard eventually play for the powerful Cacique Calfucuráh?

- A) He was his cook.
- B) He was his secretary (writing/reading letters).
- C) He trained his horses.
- D) He was a spy for the Argentine government.

(Correct: B)

4. According to Duviols, why is this text historically significant?

- A) It proves the existence of "Patagonian Giants."
- B) It is a rare eyewitness account of indigenous tribes shortly before their extermination.
- C) It is the first novel written in Argentina.
- D) It describes the geography of the Andes.

(Correct: B)

5. What happened to the indigenous groups described by Guinnard twenty years later (1879)?

- A) They signed a permanent peace treaty and assimilated.
- B) They migrated to the Amazon.
- C) They were largely exterminated or dispersed by General Roca's "Conquest of the Desert."
- D) They formed an independent state.

(Correct: C)



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PART 4: CITATION GUIDE (Stockcero Edition)

Why cite this edition? The Stockcero edition (ISBN 978-987-1136-98-8) features the critical introduction by Jean-Paul Duviols, placing the narrative within the context of French travel literature and Argentine history.

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