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## *Imperial bias of Argentinity*

The Americas, the New World, will recognize a triple identity, atrocious, based on white European dominators or of European origin; Aboriginal, displaced and subdued; and slaves, of African origin, transplanted and turned into things or movable property.

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*The census that has just been carried out in the country, throughout Argentina, reveals, "like everything in life", often unconscious and more or less collective traits.*



Argentina has traditionally been a country of immigration. The first national censuses revealed the more than appreciable percentage of foreigners, usually immigrants, who were constituting the country.

The millions of Italians who "forged" this country were proverbial. And also the Spaniards and even the English, only that this last contribution brought with it more people with power than people of laburo (although strictly speaking, always combined, power and work in all immigration contributions).

It was also proverbial the flow, for example, immigration from neighboring countries, particularly Bolivians, Paraguayans, Orientals (the latter designated, for a long time, as Uruguayans).

At present, we know the arrival of very significant contingents of Venezuelans, Colombians, Peruvians, and even from more distant lands, such as Syrians, for example. In these last incomes, the status of immigrant is increasingly mixed with that of refugee.

And if the first is usually prior to nationalization and with it advances a process of argentinization, in the case of the latter, the process is not usually so linear, because the decision to leave a homeland has been totally involuntary, often forced. That is why many refugees return to their homelands if the political situation allows.

Any of its different gradations should lead us to speak of inhabitants of the Argentine Republic, and not of Argentines proper, even though the Argentine national constitution itself in its preamble invites all "the men of the world who want to inhabit Argentine soil" to do so.

It is therefore literally false to claim that the census yielded 47 and a half million Argentines.

What the census would reveal is the presence of 47 and a half million inhabitants in Argentina, taking as correct the information collected and published.

And it will be very instructive to know about the diverse origins of that entire population. And if you can, cross geographical origins with educational and income levels, even better.



But it is painful to listen to journalists of very different orientations; those who call themselves democrats, those who are populists, confusing the condition of inhabiting Argentine soil with that of being Argentine.

If we also repair the historical times that have elapsed; for example of the concept of argentinity, we warn that these are not to mention fleeting but short times.

Concepts of belonging and historical sense that have sometimes coexisted conflictively with other roots and belongings.

An example just: when the principle of independence of the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata is unleashed, in the first decade of the s. XIX, and largely because of "the English invasions", an emancipatory first moment of anticolonial reaffirmation, fundamentally Creole (of the so-called "Indians"), was processed under federal (or confederal) forms, and there was Asunción, founded in 1537, Córdoba, 1573, Buenos Aires, 1580 and until Montevideo, 1724.

With the crushing of Native American societies, the newcomers felt a shortage of arms to extend the new societies, and instead of maintaining existing social ties, for example in

Europe, feeling "owners" of new and unknown territories, they were tempted to squeeze them as never before; that is why the resurgence of slavery.

In this way, America, the New World, will recognize a triple identity, atrocious, based on White European dominators or of European origin; Aboriginal, displaced and subdued; and slaves, of African origin, transplanted and turned into things or movable property.

That is the American, Amerindian, Latin American origin, look for the denomination that least betrays you.

At that time, at the end of the first decade of the nineteenth century, Buenos Aires envisioned a serious competitor for its project of regional centrality through the port: Montevideo (it will not be the only one, not even the most important; another port that will be competition although internal Argentine; Rosario, will come later).

The "struggle of ports" of 1808, 1809, will mark the fate of the conflicting cities of La Plata; they will not be able to cohabit the same political space. That is why with great geopolitical wisdom, José Artigas proposed to create another capital for the former viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata; not Buenos Aires, which in his eyes took away all viability from any federalism.

The vested interests in Buenos Aires will react by denying and even putting a price on Artigas' head, and they will get away with it: Buenos Aires ended up being the capital over the rest of the Argentine provinces, in an increasingly unequal relationship, in favor of the port, the great administrator and dispenser in the entry and exit of products. Of course, that came at a cost, a balkanizer. Outside the old viceregal structure will remain, for example, Asunción, Paraguay and Montevideo, the Eastern Province.

Within the remaining provinces, there was no force to counteract the hegemonic role granted by imperialism at the time to Buenos Aires, as administrator of the peripheral riches of the South American cone.

The resulting geopolitics will lead to the establishment of two macro-states, much larger than any of their European progenitors; Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and two mini-states, stunted by the expansive interest of Rio and Buenos Aires and the *British* world interest: those of Paraguay and Uruguay.



The humorist and author of "Gente Rota", Gabriel Lucero, made the summary of the 2022 Census. Photo: (Youtube/Gabriel Lucero).

This succinct tour allows us to see – it is my hypothesis – that that centrality so characteristic of Buenos Aires above its presumed provincial sisters, is what has characterized this megalopolis and its mentality and transitively that of Argentina ...

As a hypothesis, I believe that the ease of the means of mass isolation to confuse, on the occasion of the census, concepts as basic as being originally from a place or country, and inhabiting it, is linked to that grandeur that history has provided to Buenos Aires. André Malraux is said to have remembered Buenos Aires as 'the capital of an empire that never existed'. Another divorce between reality and language.

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