

Background on Sarmiento's Life

February 15, 1811: born in the capital city of the province of San Juan

Education: received 8 years of primary schooling, from the age of 5-13, in a local schoolhouse; after the age of 13 he managed his own education, reading whatever books he could get his hands on and largely teaching himself French and English

1829: at the age of 18, joined the army, quit and ended up in jail; afterwards, he escaped to Chile briefly

1831: sought exile for second time in Chile after Quiroga gained power; returned to San Juan after Quiroga's death in 1836

1838: founded a literary society, inspired by the literary group, *Asociación de Mayo*, of Buenos Aires

1839: founded, and became director of, a high school in San Juan; began publishing a local newspaper in San Juan

early 1840's: Rosa was consolidating his power

1840: Sarmiento again clashed with local authorities, this time because of an article he wrote in the local paper; he was imprisoned and, upon release, exiled himself to Chile again

1845: published the first edition of Civilization and Barbarism: the Life of Juan Facundo Quiroga

1845-49: traveled in Europe and North America

1851: returned to Chile to fight with Urquiza's forces

1850s-early 60s: held a variety of governmental positions in Argentina; worked to push through reforms, esp. in area of education

1865-1868: served as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in the U.S.; on his return trip to Argentina was informed he had been elected president of Argentina

1868-1874: served as president of Argentina

after 1874: continued to publish books and to push through reforms in education, the economy and technology

September 11, 1888: died in Paraguay