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