

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

PERONISM PREVAILS

AN ASSIGNMENT SUBMITTED TO

DR. GANSON

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

BY

DAVID GLAUBER

DAVIE, FL

14 OCTOBER 2003

Peronism Prevails

Evita, the wife of President and General Juan Domingo Perón believed that Argentina was corrupt and that only they could change the country for the better. As they saw, there was no social justice in the country. They saw that there was a misdistribution of wealth in the country and they wanted to change that. Evita and Juan Perón represented the workers of the country, who had never before had a voice in government, and thus gained their undivided support.

Perón, before becoming President, was responsible for organizing labor unions for the people that would truly represent the workers. In regard to unions that were already in existence, he expelled Communist and Socialist leaders because he felt that they were more interested in looking after the welfare of the State and not the interests of the workers. Perón, in addition to taking an active interest in the unions, was responsible for establishing a minimum wage and social security benefits for workers after their retirement. These reforms that Perón implemented were especially helpful to a large number of immigrants who immigrated to Argentina in the 1930s. But many of the reforms were opposed by the middle and professional classes because Perón's programs and reforms prevented them profiting from the exploitation of the working class. Eventually, these classes, the Bourgeois convinced the President of Argentina to remove him from his post; Subsequently he was kept in confinement by the Navy. But loyal supporters of Perón who benefited from his social justice, started a march toward Buenos Aires, about two hundred thousand people demanding his release, and so he was. After that rally, Perón became the leader of Argentina.

After becoming President, Evita, a long time mistress of Perón and now his new wife, took over the implementation of the social programs that Perón had started. Evita was responsible for establishing a welfare system that helped people with various types of problems and illnesses. As her popularity grew, she collected more and more money, sometimes even with extortion threats against the groups who had money. With the money that she was afforded, she helped and gave to the workers goods that would fulfill their needs and services. When a peasant or worker needed something, whether it be money, land, medicine, household supplies or anything else she would see them personally and take care of their needs. She was responsible for creating new schools and hospitals for the poor, as well. She wanted the poor to have an equal opportunity to enjoy life. As such, the hospitals were staffed with numerous luxuries and competently trained doctors, equal to those in privately owned hospitals. In addition, when unions needed help to get pay raises that were duly owed and deserved, she would see to it that they got raises. Essentially, she declared a war on poverty, one that seemingly surpassed the one that was later declared by United States President Lyndon B. Johnson, although both were also short-lived. But perhaps the longest lasting accomplishment of Evita, was her push to get women involved in government by pressuring and succeeding at getting women's suffrage. Women, who now had power in government, increased the popularity of the Peronist movement

But unfortunately, once Evita died, her wishes to continue to serve the people were not followed. Mainly, this was because of opposition from the middle and professional classes, as well as the Army, which wished to stop and reverse the nationalization of agencies that had occurred because they went against the idea of social

justice. Three years after Evita's death, Perón was overthrown and went into exile and the military government purged any mentions of the names Perón or Evita. The military wished to establish democracy and capitalism, but because of the cult-like, loyal support of Peronists, were unsuccessful. After two decades had passed since the exile of Perón, the military and people realized that Peronism was the most stable government for Argentina, and so ceremoniously Perón returned to Argentina and led the country until his natural death shortly after.