

DEMANDS OF VICTIMS IN A FORMER REPRESSIVE REGIME

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Can Argentina from 1976 to 1983 be compared to the former regime. My introduction will provide a short commentary on the similarities and differences which exist between the Argentinean dictatorship and the former regime.

This will be followed by an overview of the historical evolution of Argentina during the second half of the 20th century and the relationship between its unrecognised governments and archival practice in this period. This analysis will help to determine the special relationship between power, legitimacy and the retention and destruction policies of archives: "the elimination of records leads to the disappearance of ideas".

The paper then covers the following areas:

The modus operandi of the "Dirty War" and the proliferation of "disappearances", and demands for information and justice from organisations and the families of the disappeared.

The response of the government: the judgement of the military juntas and laws aiming at forgetting the past, including Nunca Más ("Never Again" - Report of National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons), the Due Obedience Act (Obediencia Debida), and amnesty laws. All of these were elements in the reconstruction of memory.

The "archives of death": Truth or lie? This question refers to the supposed records microfilmed and deposited in Switzerland, but which have not been found.

Military information and archival rules on access. Comment on the possibilities of access to archives in the military branches.

Social demand continues for a memory which is democratic. Solutions put in place to address this demand include: the Judgement for Truth, Open Memory, and the Museums of Memory.

Answers in traditional records offices and ordinary records series, which contain the logical responses emanating from traditional office management.

- Records of the Federal Judiciary (Habeas corpus, denunciations of torture during interrogations)
- Records of the Provincial Police (registers of admissions into the police stations, registers of detentions)
- Records of cemeteries (burial of X)

Witnesses and recuperation of oral testimony (declarations and reconstructions in the judgement for the truth)

Initiatives of state archives: the General Archives of the Nation, and the General Archives of the Province of Santa Fe (series of recuperated documents, rules for access)

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Secretary of Argentina's Archive Development Commission, a non-governmental organization empowered to unite Archive Directors in Argentina, from 2001 to 2003. She founded the organization and has been president for two terms.

Full-time member of the Centre for Iber-American Studies and the provincial Historical Studies Commission. Member of the Steering Committee of the Santa Fe Hispanic Culture Institute. Vice-President of the Santa Fe Civil Servants' College. Member of the Steering Committee of the Friends of Old Santa Fe Association.

She participated in courses, meetings and national and international conferences on archives and history.

She has published various works to inform and educate the public concerning archives and history, on the history of the Santa Fe area in the 19th Century and on the Hispanic period in Santa Fe.

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