

Brief Background

1920 *circa*

- First 'democratic' government (free elections grounded on the Law of 1912: universal secret vote) established in 1916.
- Unions of workers start to operate in a more institutional way (they were at the margins of society and in some cases outlaws since 1890 *circa*). The majority of members were foreigners.
- Around 1910 the Capital of Argentina represents 60-70% of the total population of the country. And 60% of the people in the Capital were foreigners whose first language was not Castilian.
- In Patagonia almost 80% of the population were foreigners up to the 1940s.
- In 1919 a strike from workers ended up in a massacre in the Vasena Factory near Buenos Aires.
- In 1920 and 1921 the economical degradation reached a pick in Patagonia where the exportation of goods fell down dramatically and the value of the wool in the international market also fell down.
- The dominant force inside the Union of workers at the time was the 'FORA (Federación Obrera Regional Argentina)' [Regional Federation or Workers of Argentina] of anarchist tendency. The local branch of Río Gallegos was at the head of the rebellion.