

Forging Political Democracies in late Nineteenth Century Latin America

Argentina (1880-1916)

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- Nineteenth Century Political History
 - How is the field defined today?
- Old and new ways of looking at the 19th century
- Argentina
 - The Nineteenth Century
 - Modern Argentina
 - Forging Democracy

Political History: How is the field defined today?

- Pierre Rosanvallon, “The Study of Politics in History”.

Societies are organized following a body of principles, which is what shapes the political organization. Politics is part of the political, as it is about the procedures that are put in place. But the political world is not reduced to that, because it is also about how society is shaped, how ideas are contested, how the economy is impacted and impacts these procedures.

Samuel Moyn (ed.), *Democracy Past and Future*, Columbia University Press, 2006.

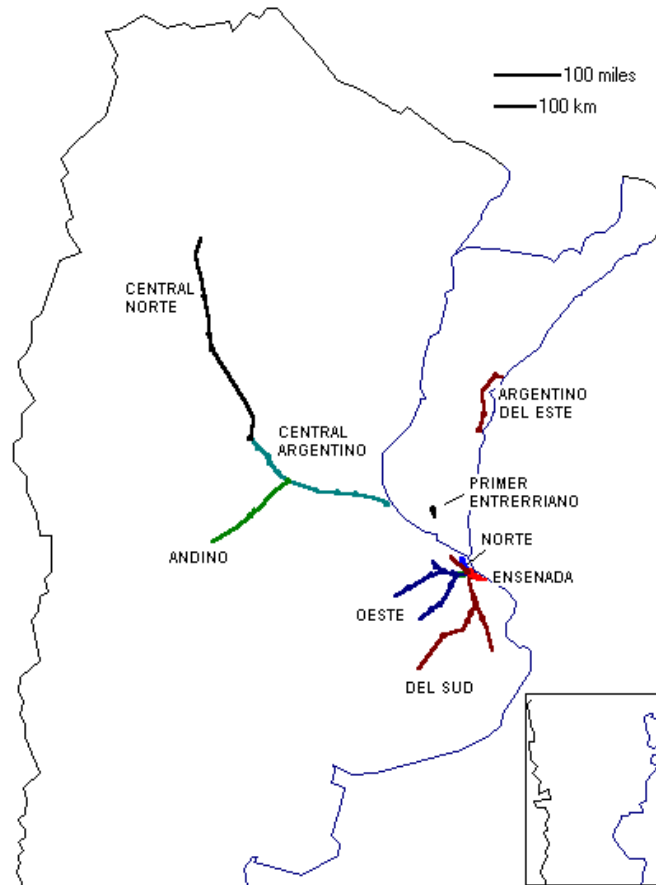
- The traditional view (John Lynch)
- Challenges:
 - ✓ Liberalism
 - ✓ Constitutionalism
 - ✓ Republicanism
- New Emphasis in River-Plate/Argentina
 - Fragile Viceroyalty
 - Autonomous provinces until 1852
 - National (Dis)Organization (1862-1880)
 - Oligarchy? 1880-1916

Modern Argentina 1880-1916

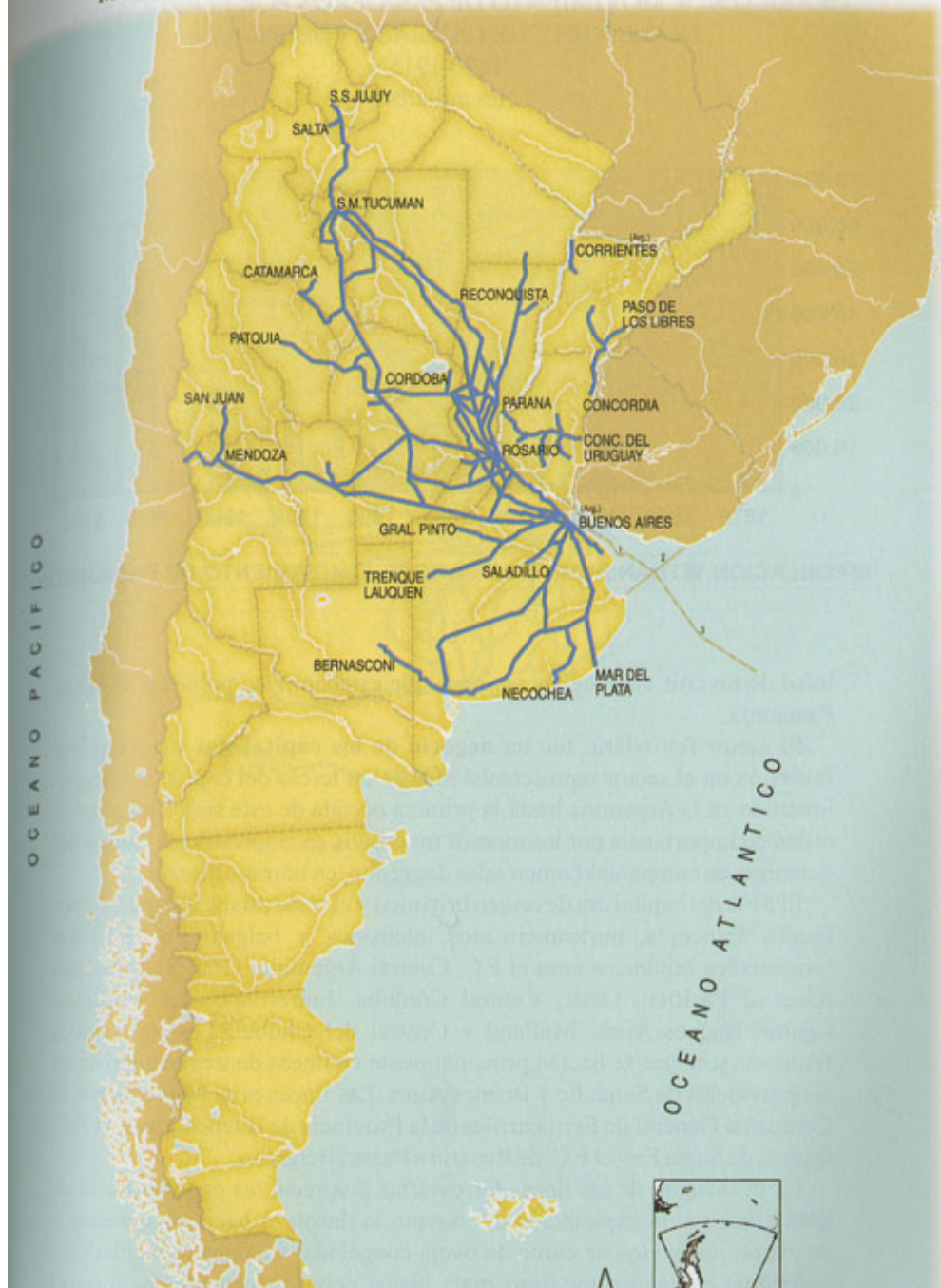
- Economic Growth
 - Average Annual Rate 5% (1880-1914)
 - 30% of all Latin American Exports (with only 10% of the population)
 - Foreign Investment

- Demographics
 - European Immigration (6 million between 1856 and 1930).
 - Education (1884 Compulsory Elementary Education)

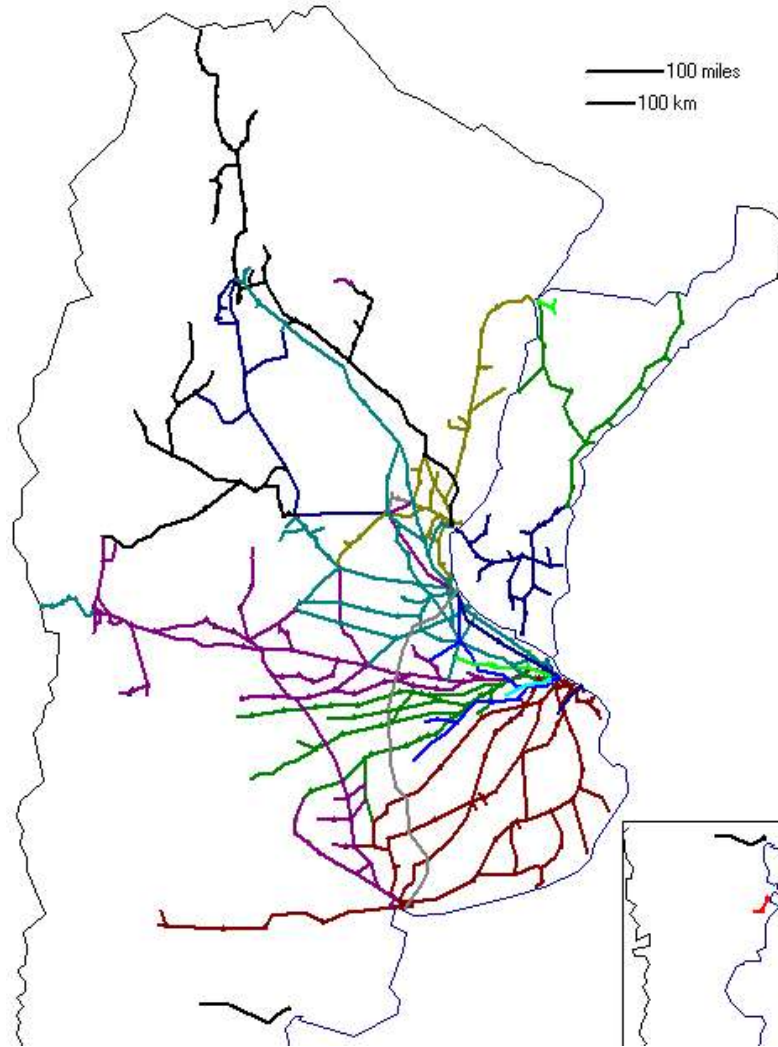
Railways in 1880

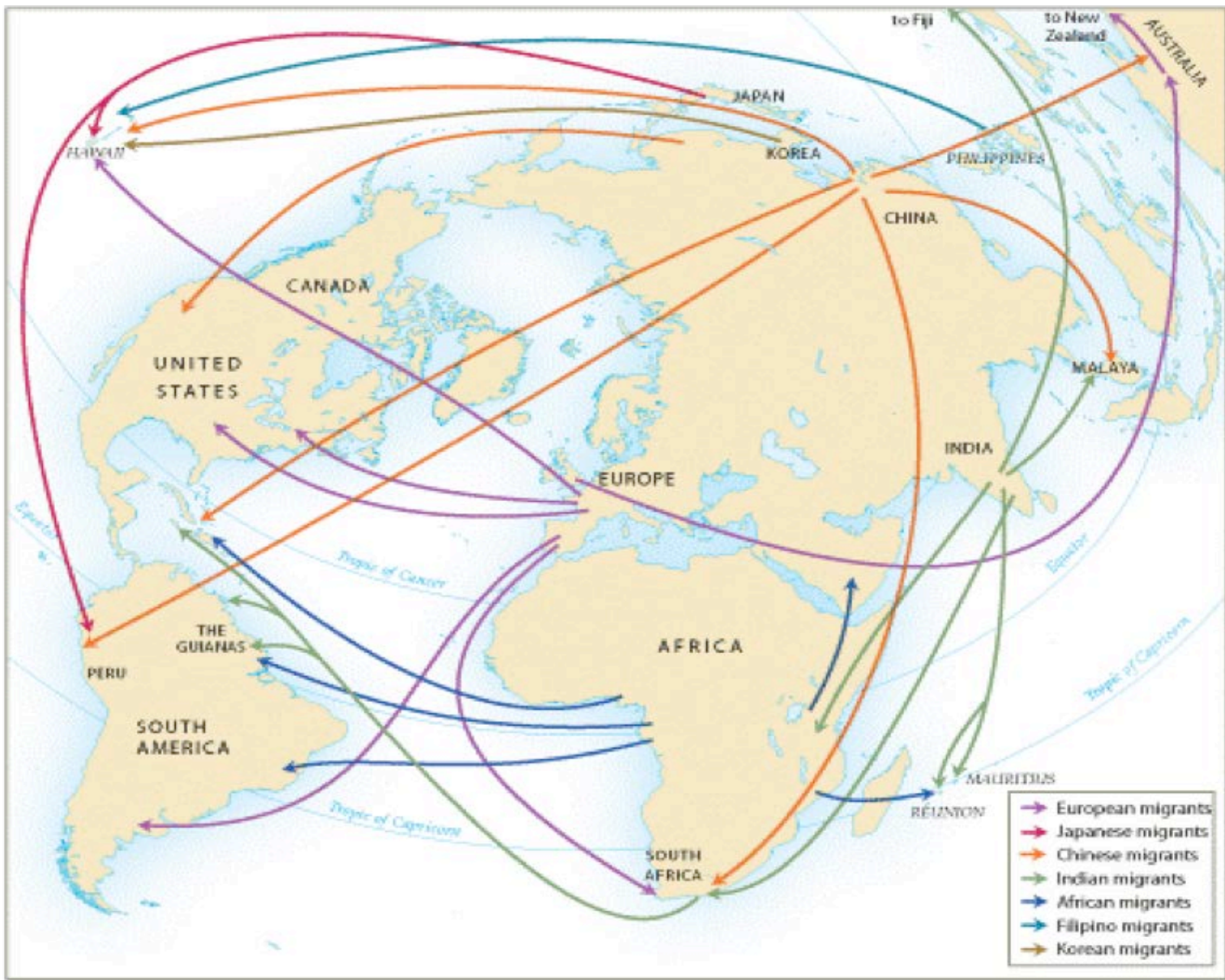


MAPA N° 42: EVOLUCIÓN DE LA RED FERROVIARIA, 1895.



RAILWAYS IN 1910





Modern Argentina 1880-1916

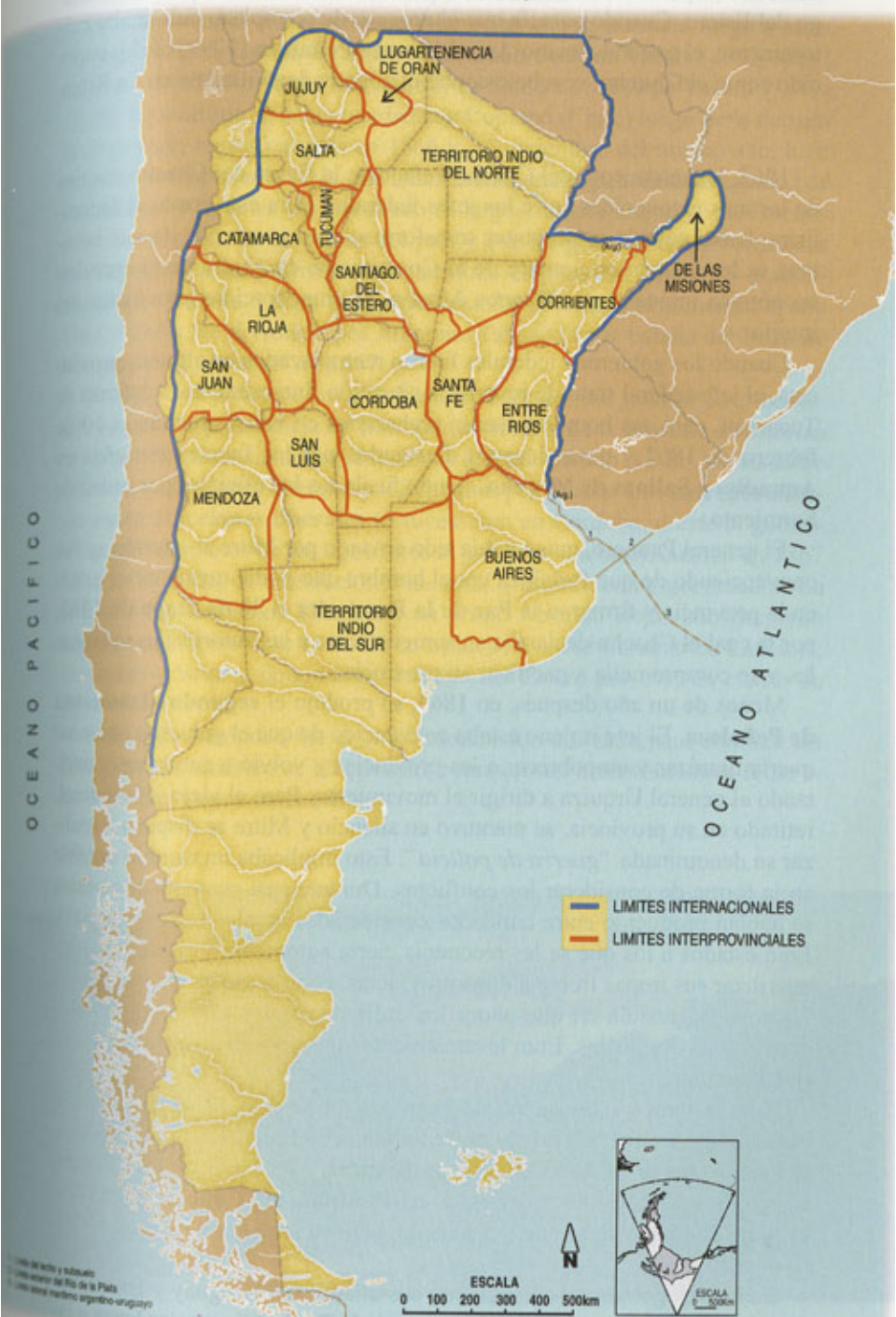
- **State-Building**

- 1880 Buenos Aires became the Federal Capital.
- Provincial militias were disbanded. National Army.
- National Currency- Peso.
- Compulsory National Elementary Education (1884).
- Spanish became the official Language (1887).

- **Political Changes**

- Partido Autonomista Nacional (PAN), 1880-1916
- Radical Civic Union (1891)
- Socialist Party (1896)

INTERPROVINCIALES, 1867.



... del norte y sudoeste
... del Rio de la Plata
... marino argentino-uruguayo



- LIMITE INTERNACIONAL
- LIMITE PROVINCIAL
- - - LIMITE NO DETERMINADO
- SALTA PROVINCIAS
- CHUBUT TERRITORIOS NACIONALES



ESCALA
0 100 200 300 400 500km

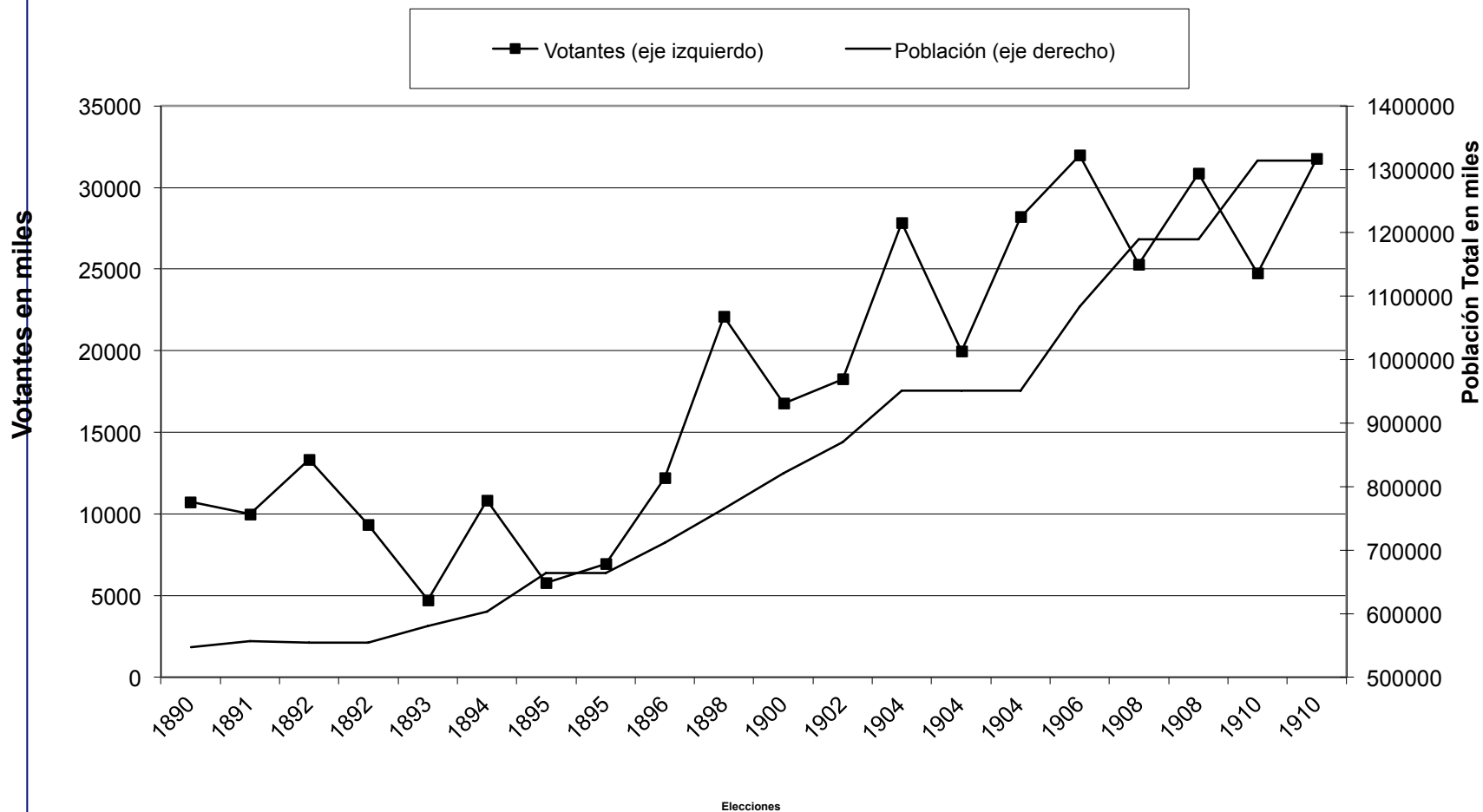


del hecho y subseco
del sector de Río de la Plata
1887-1888

Forging Democracy before 1912?

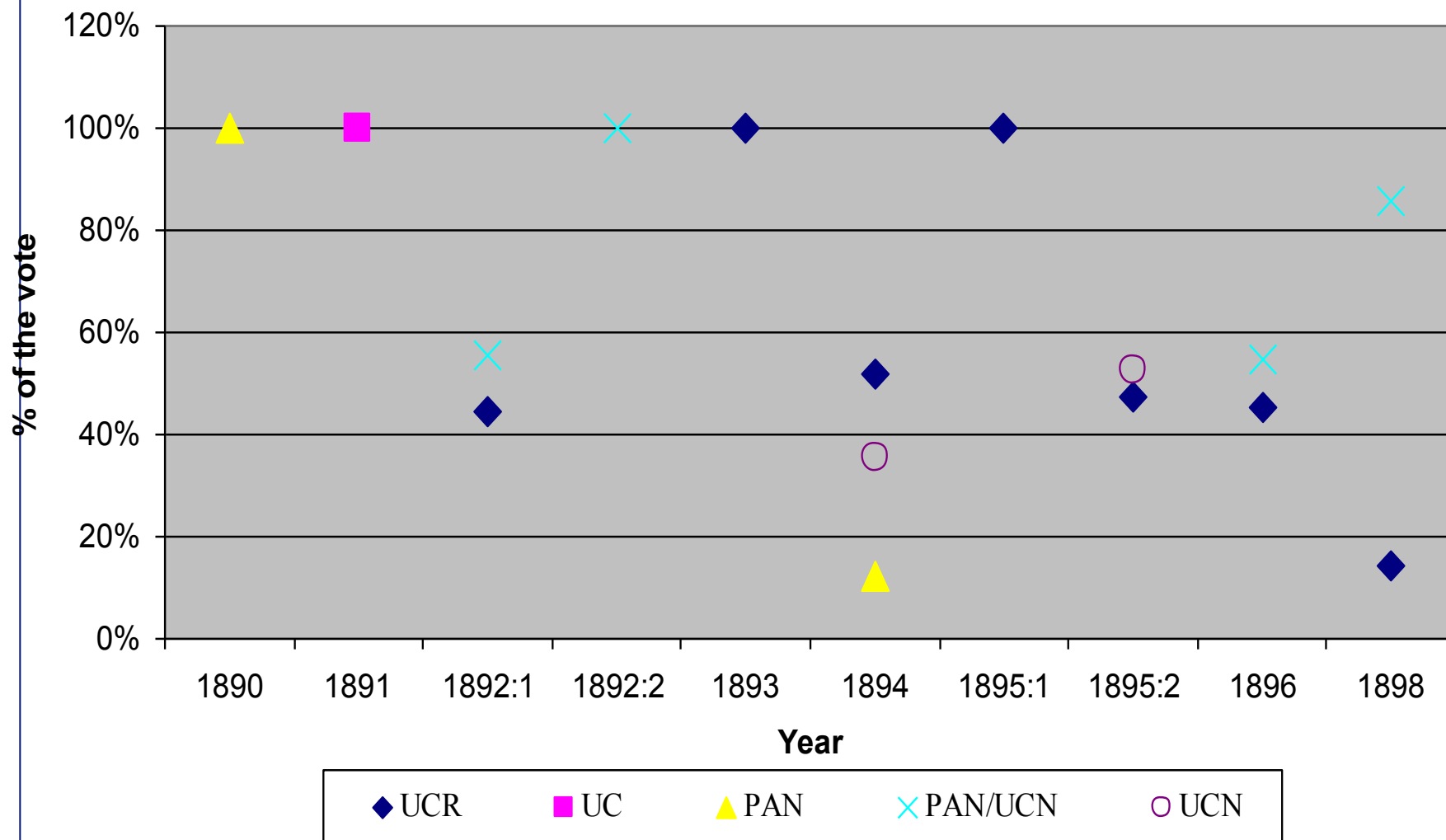
- **Political Parties**
 - Radical Civic Union
 - PAN
 - Socialist Party
- **Political Press**
 - Hybrids between pamphlets and newspapers
 - Freedom of the Press
 - Ideological Battles.
- **Electoral World**
 - Participatory
 - Competitive
- **Social and Political Elites**

Turnout in Buenos Aires, 1890-1910



Source: Paula Alonso, "Voting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, before 1912", in Eduardo Posada-Carbó, (editor), *Elections before Democracy. The History of Elections in Europe and Latin America*, Macmillan Press, Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London, 1996.

Electoral Competition, Buenos Aires, 1890-1898



Source: Paula Alonso "Politics and Elections in Buenos Aires, 1890-1898. The Performance of the Radical Party", *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 25, 3, 1993

Conclusions

- ✓ Political Parties (UCR-PAN)
- ✓ Political Mobilization Continued under the PAN
- ✓ Elections became the only means to legitimize rulers
- ✓ Voting increased at fast rates before 1912
- ✓ The electoral calendar was respected
- ✓ Revolts continued but the concept of “citizens in arms” faded
- ✓ Political Press was free and vibrant
- ✓ Political opposition was exercised through different means
- ✓ Political Elites/Social Elites

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- Paula Alonso, *Between Revolution and the Ballot Box. The Origins of the Argentine Radical Party in the 1890s*, (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2000).
- Samuel L. Baily, *Immigrants in the Lands of Promise. Italians in Buenos Aires and New York City, 1870-1914*, Cornell University Press, 1999.
- Leslie Bethell, *Argentina since Independence*, Cambridge University Press, 1993, Chaps by R. Cortés Conde and Ezequiel Gallo.
- Roy Hora, *The Landowners of the Argentine Pampas. A Social and Political History*, Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Eduardo Posada-Carbó, (editor), *Elections before Democracy. The History of Elections in Europe and Latin America*, Macmillan Press, Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London, Londres, 1996
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- Eduardo Zimmermann, “Racial Ideas and Social Reform: Argentina, 1890-1916”, *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 72, N. 1 (Feb., 1992), pp. 23-46.