

## Our History is Our Life

History is like a long road that we must walk along every day. It is not just our past but also our present and our decisions about the future. Our society has learned to face the past and to interpret our past actions, hopefully, in order not to make the same mistakes.

Our nation has grown up. It did not happen abruptly, but throughout the years, gradually. In the 90`s we were like adolescents living a candid life, travelling and buying electronic appliances. We could not see beyond our eyes. Pardons were given to those who had killed a whole generation in the 70`s and we did not complain enough. We did not consider that with that act our recent past was being buried. We were being indifferent, ignorant, as the author of `Why History?`, David Mc Cullogh states in his essay, to our own past. Our eyes were covered with a mask. We were blind till a decade later we had to face the truth.

In the same way as in a life story, we matured when we were hit. Argentine became adults with the new decade. We had to grow but this time it was not as simple as in the 80`s or 90`s because now we had run out of money, the State`s coffers were empty and trust in our political leaders had been lost.

This was the exact turning point. This was when we learned that we had to read our past for it was not enough to only step forward. We had to go back to our past experiences and interpret them so that the same mistakes would not be repeated. The clearest examples to illustrate this change are the new trials to the Junta Militar and the E.S.M.A., the clandestine centre, where hundreds of people were tortured and killed, which was opened as the "Museo de la Memoria"; a concrete symbol with a concrete name for us not to forget.

It can be heard that if we are to move forward we must forget, forgive and continue. However, history has taught us that that was not the way. We could not easily forgive the crimes committed under the dictatorship simply because it was not a matter of forgiveness but of justice.

Similarly, history has taught us about the different choices we have. If we, as citizens, have to choose between democracy and dictatorship, I am sure that the great majority of the Argentinian people will vote in favour of the former, no matter what party the official government represents.

It is true that we have given a big step but we must be conscious that we are building up our history every day. We are an adult society now which is still growing up. We cannot stop learning from our past actions and our present situation since even our most recent acts determine our life.

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