

# Public Life in Contemporary Argentina



This unique new online database presents an extensive grassroots view of Argentina and the recent social and political changes that have taken place there. This Web-based electronic resource offers fast access to a vast amount of material on Argentine society and politics from 1997 through 2003.

Easy to use and well designed, this resource includes multiple search capabilities that enable users to find information quickly. *Public Life in Contemporary Argentina* is the only database of its kind for any Latin American country.

Material from formal organizations, participants in social movements and news sources presents perspectives that challenge conventional wisdom and official interpretation released by Argentina's traditional power brokers. Users will be able to access the voices of citizens who are rarely heard. Neighborhood-level coverage — which includes major sections of the Federal Capital — provides valuable insight on contemporary Argentina and the transformation of Argentine society. The sources of information go far beyond standard press coverage and government declarations to emphasize the words of participants in movements that are changing Argentina.

This online database offers the most current information on the complex social and political movements in the country. Groups that are documented include:

- Civic associations focused on social protest, neighborhood work, confrontations with governing authorities and staged events
- Bartering networks created to enhance counter-trade of goods and services among the unemployed and underemployed

- Savers' groups organized to protest and challenge the government's elimination of the Argentine peso being on par with the U.S. dollar and the subsequent freezing of bank accounts
- Grassroots assemblies of housewives, the unemployed, intellectuals, neighborhoods, rubbish and recycling scavengers and neighborhood cultural groups
- Political parties
- Communal gardens
- Self-employed, especially from bankrupt small businesses and worker-controlled factories
- Citizens who have used e-mail and the Internet to become active in social and political affairs

The bulk of this information is from primary sources and 390 different social/political movements are included. *Public Life in Contemporary Argentina* originates from 80 different types of sources, including:

- Publications of grassroots organizations (fliers, pamphlets, bulletins and newsletters)
- General descriptive information on groups and activities, including materials designed for street or workplace distribution
- Provincial, regional and national newspaper reports
- Reports from alternative media sources focused on specific topics, such as women, counterculture and the environment
- Informative, organizational and polemical statements posted on groups' Web sites
- Interviews with leaders and members of grassroots organizations

