

# ARGENTINA

Continent: South America

[Population](#): 44.8 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 77.2

[Governance System](#): Federal Republic

Capital: Buenos Aires

[Area](#): 2,780,400 km<sup>2</sup>

Major Languages: Spanish

[GDP \(2021\)](#): 491,437 US\$ Millions

## **Select Global Rankings**

[Human Development Index](#): 47<sup>th</sup>

[Fragile States Index - Inverted](#): 42<sup>nd</sup>

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): NR

[Human Freedom Index](#): 74<sup>th</sup>

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 57<sup>th</sup>

[Good Country Index](#): 63<sup>rd</sup>

## **Elite Sport System Rankings**

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 31

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): 43

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 60<sup>th</sup>

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): NR

## **Football/World Cup Profile**

[FIFA Region](#): CONMEBOL

[FIFA Ranking](#): 16

World Cup Appearances: 17

*Best World Cup Performance(s): Champions (1974, 1986)*

Qualification: CONMEBOL 2<sup>nd</sup> place

[World Cup Group](#): C

Last World Cup Appearance: 2018

## **ARGENTINA in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Mehnaz Hossain)**

Argentina is known as one of Latin America's largest economies and remains a strong trading partner with the United States, China, and the European Union (EU). Various colonial powers at one point or another tried to cast their influences over Argentina starting with the Spanish in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Upon gaining independence from the Spanish in 1816, the country of [Argentina was formed](#) following the reintegration of the State of Buenos Aires with the Argentine Confederacy. The later half of the 1800s and early 1900s was a prosperous time for Argentina. In 1908, Argentina had the highest per capita income in the world.

The [1930s](#) onwards was a time of unrest specially after both Argentina and Chile refused to break ties with Japan and Germany after the Japanese attack on a U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbour. This was accompanied by civil unrest as nationalist army officers seized political power. In [1945](#), Argentina then declared war on Japan and Germany.

One of the most significant historical events in Argentine history was the 1946 presidential victory of [Colonel Juan Peron](#). As Argentina's economy flourished, under the glamour, opponents of the government were imprisoned, and independent media was suppressed. Power changed hands a few times over the years from Peron until

Peron died in 1974. Armed forces subsequently seized power and 1976 saw the start of the [Dirty War](#) , a time during which thousands were killed or kidnapped and disappeared on suspicion of having leftist sympathies. Political unrest continues to follow Argentina into the present day, ranking 78 out of 180 countries on [Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index](#) - tying with China and Kuwait. Juan Peron's legacy continues to live on as the Peronist Party alternated holding onto power.

The second significant moment in time for Argentina was the start of the [Falklands War](#) . Argentina had claimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands that was being occupied by the British and thus occupied the Islands. This claim continued until 2013 when Falkland Islanders voted to remain a British territory.

In the early 2000s Argentina defaulted on an \$800m to the World Bank. This was a blow to the economy especially after the International Monetary Fund stopped \$1.3bn in aid funding to Argentina. The country now has one of the [highest inflation rates](#) globally and continues to [struggle with it's borrowing and loans](#).

Argentina is part of several regional Latin American partnerships including the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States; the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture; and the Mercosur trade bloc. It had been a part of the U.S. supported Lima Group- dedicated to fostering Venezuelan democracy- but withdrew later. Internationally, Argentina belongs to the Group of Fifteen (G15), a forum for developing countries, and the Group of Twenty (G20), which comprises twenty of the world's largest economies. It is also a founding member of the United Nations, the [Organization of American States](#), and the [World Trade Organization](#). Argentina had an interesting position of being friendly with both China and the U.S. with moves such as signing onto the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative in 2022 while voting with the U.S. on political decisions in international forums.

Argentina continues fighting for political stability and improving their human rights records while holding onto a significant seat of power within Latin America and internationally.