

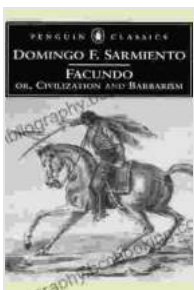
Facundo: Civilization and Barbarism in the Argentine Republic

Domingo Faustino Sarmiento

Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, a prominent Argentine statesman, writer, and educator, is renowned for his influential work, *Facundo*, or *Civilization and Barbarism in the Argentine Republic*. First published in 1845, *Facundo* remains a captivating and thought-provoking examination of Argentine society and the contrasting forces that shaped its identity.

Civilization vs. Barbarism

Sarmiento's central premise in *Facundo* is the dichotomy between 'civilization' and 'barbarism.' He posits that Argentina's development has been hindered by the persistent conflict between these opposing forces. 'Civilization,' as Sarmiento defines it, represents the values of education, progress, and European influence, while 'barbarism' embodies the traditionalist, authoritarian, and gaucho-dominated culture of the Argentine countryside.



Facundo: Or, Civilization and Barbarism (Penguin Classics) by Ilan Stavans

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 434 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 290 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Sarmiento argues that the progress of Argentine society hinges on the triumph of 'civilization' over 'barbarism.' He advocates for a strong central government, the expansion of educational opportunities, and the adoption of modern technologies. However, he also recognizes the complexities of Argentine society and the challenges of reconciling the competing forces of 'civilization' and 'barbarism.'

The Character of Facundo Quiroga

The central figure in Sarmiento's narrative is Facundo Quiroga, a legendary caudillo, or regional strongman, who embodies the untamed and violent aspects of 'barbarism.' Through a detailed portrayal of Quiroga's life and career, Sarmiento illustrates the ways in which authoritarianism and personal ambition can hinder progress and perpetuate conflict. However, Sarmiento also acknowledges the charismatic and populist appeal of figures like Quiroga, who often enjoyed widespread support among the rural poor.

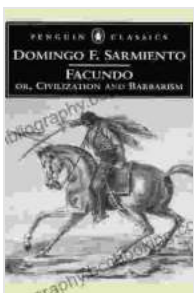
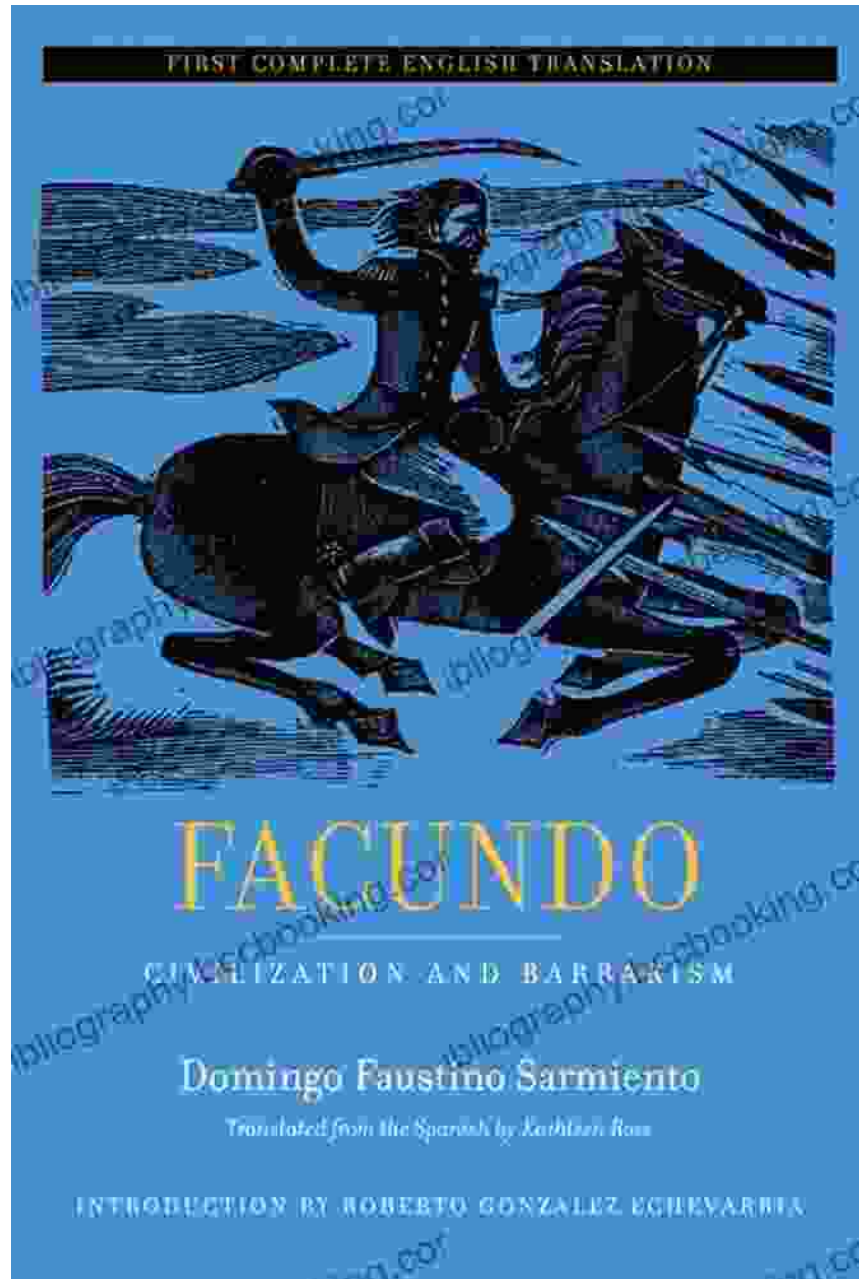
The Argentine Landscape

Facundo is notable not only for its philosophical insights but also for its vivid descriptions of the Argentine landscape. Sarmiento's portrayal of the vast pampas, the towering Andes, and the bustling cities provides a rich backdrop for his exploration of Argentine identity. He uses the physical environment as a metaphor for the complex and multifaceted nature of Argentine society.

Continued Relevance

Facundo remains a relevant and influential work in contemporary Argentina. Its exploration of the tensions between 'civilization' and 'barbarism' continues to resonate in Argentine politics and culture. The book has inspired countless discussions and debates about the nature of Argentine identity and the challenges facing the country's development. Facundo is considered an essential read for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Argentina's past, present, and future.

Domingo Faustino Sarmiento's *Facundo, or Civilization and Barbarism in the Argentine Republic*, is a seminal work that provides a profound insight into the complexities of Argentine identity. Sarmiento's vivid prose and incisive observations captivate readers, offering a rich understanding of the clash between 'civilization' and 'barbarism' that has shaped Argentine society. *Facundo* is a must-read for anyone interested in Argentine history, politics, and culture.



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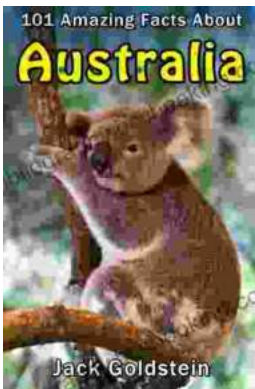
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