The Rise and Fall of Juan Manuel de Rosas
Juan Manuel de Rosas
Juan Manuel de Rosas – portrait of a caudillo

I. Definition of a caudillo
   - Masculine power figure who derived power from non-legal means
   - Usually landowners with access to men dependent upon him
   - Usually portrayed as crude, savage, strong, womanizer
   - Why did people support caudillos?
Juan Manuel de Rosas – portrait of a caudillo

II. Juan Manuel de Rosas – Who was he?
   A. Aristocratic background
   B. Poorly educated because of impact of British invasions, not from a rural background
   C. Business man and entrepreneur
Juan Manuel de Rosas – portrait of a caudillo

III. How Rosas came to power
   A. Collapse of Rivadavia presidency in 1826
   B. 1829 elected Governor and Captain General of Buenos Aires province by provincial legislature
      i. Defeated Unitarian General Lavalle
   C. Signed Federalist Pact 1831 uniting Santa Fe, Entre Ríos, Corrientes and Buenos Aires after general civil war broke out in 1830
      i. Caudillo alliance of Rosas, Quiroga and Lopez defeated General Paz and the Unitarian forces
Juan Manuel de Rosas – portrait of a caudillo

IV. Nature of Rosas’ authority

A. Use of Catholic and other symbols to create authoritarian regime - slogan “Death to the Savage Unitarians”
   i. Decorated Catholic altars in red; red badges and clothing

B. Systematic assassination of enemies and allies

C. By 1840 most enemies had gone into exile
   i. Unitarians
   ii. Generation of 1837
Juan Manuel de Rosas – portrait of a caudillo

IV. Nature of Rosas’ authority (continued…)

A. Who supported him? Why?
   i. Afro-Argentines and the Indigenous communities
      a. Helped form the Mazorca
   ii. Catholic Church
      a. Helped bring back the Jesuits
   iii. Federalists who believed in the freedom of trade
   iv. Other caudillos and their followers
   v. Modern day conservative nationalists

B. Who opposed him?
   i. Unitarians
   ii. Intellectuals
   iii. French and British governments
      a. Blockaded Buenos Aires’ port in 1838 for 949 days; also in 1845 for 1,000 days
Juan Manuel de Rosas – portrait of a caudillo

V. The end of Rosas

A. Two (2) basic groups of opponents
   i. Federalist intellectuals in exile in Montevideo
      a. Included future framers of the Constitution Juan Bautista Alberdi and Juan Maria Gutiérrez (Asociación de Mayo)
   ii. Unitarian generals in exile

B. The demise of Rosas came from WITHIN
   i. Led by General Justo José de Urquiza, 1851
   ii. Rosas finally defeated by Urquiza at the Battle of Caseros in 1852
Camila O’Gorman

- Her death seen as sign of Rosas’ barbarism
- Daughter of influential supporter of Rosas, Adolfo O’Gorman
- Granddaughter of the mistress of Santiago de Liniers, called “La Perichona” after her last name Perichon
- Camila born in 1828
Camila and Uladislao Frias

- Uladislao Frias was a priest from Tucuman who went to Buenos Aires.
- Fell in love with Camila and they fled Buenos Aires in December 1847 and went to Corrientes.
- Arrested by Rosas’ agents.
- She was supposedly pregnant.
- No one supposed to be put to death if pregnant.
- Ultimately, both were executed.