

College of Social Studies
Junior Economics Tutorial
Elements of Latin American Economic Development

Spring 2003

Alberto Isgut

Week V: Import substitution industrialization in Argentina and Brazil

Readings

Same as last week

Baer, Werner (1995), *The Brazilian Economy*, 4th edition, Westport, CT: Praeger, Ch. 2-5

Mallon, Richard D. and Juan V. Sourrouille (1975), *Economic policymaking in a conflict society: The Argentinean case*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Ch. 1-3

Skidmore, Thomas E. and Peter H. Smith (1997), *Modern Latin America*, 4th edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, chapters on Argentina and Brazil

Discussion

Argentina and Brazil were among the most enthusiastic Latin American countries to embrace import substitution industrialization policies. The readings by Mallon and Sourrouille and by Baer provide detailed overviews of how these policies were applied in these countries. You will need to read one of the two, depending on the country you choose to specialize. The reading by Skidmore and Smith can be used as background material for a better understanding of the political and historical environment where ISI policies were implemented.

Assignment

Your task this week is to write a 6-7 pages paper analyzing import substitution industrialization in either Argentina or Brazil. Consider this assignment as a case study for the material covered in the previous week. Given the vastness of the topic, you should focus on a particular aspect of ISI in your country of choice. For example you may focus on the political economy issues associated with the transfer of resources from agriculture to industry, or you may consider some of the economic policy problems your country faced during the period under study. The more technical material covered in week 3 may also come handy in informing the economic arguments you will make.