

Thanks to God, Juan, and Evita: Indigenous Leaders, Peronism, and the Argentine Nation-State

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In Argentina, many indigenous people have fond memories of President Juan Perón and his second wife Evita, even though Perón himself did little to promote indigenous rights. This paper draws on original archival research to show how indigenous leaders in the 1940s and 1950s embraced the rhetoric of Peronism and the principles of populism. These leaders' political engagement helped to integrate their followers into the Argentine nation-state. It also promoted the spread of evangelical Christianity in some communities. By examining the actions of such understudied intermediaries, we can begin to understand populism's enduring, paradoxical appeal.

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All welcome