



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (020)

TITLE: *Rozas, Ensayo Histórico-psicológico*

AUTHOR: Lucio V. Mansilla

Subject Areas: 19th-Century Argentine History, Latin American Literature, Political Psychology, Sociology of Power.

I. Academic Justification & Context

Lucio V. Mansilla's *Rozas, Ensayo Histórico-psicológico* marks a fundamental rupture in 19th-century Argentine historiography. Moving away from the passionate, often propagandistic literature that characterized the immediate post-Rosas era (such as Sarmiento's early works or Mármol's *Amalia*), Mansilla adopts a psychological and sociological approach. He approaches Juan Manuel de Rosas not as an isolated monster, but as the inevitable product of a specific societal ecosystem.

For university courses, this text is invaluable because it introduces modern sociological concepts into historical analysis. Mansilla's core axiom—"there are no tyrants without a people behind them"—forces students to shift their analytical gaze from the dictator to the society that sustains him, offering profound insights into the mechanisms of authoritarianism, populism, and the collective consciousness of a nation.

II. Core Thematic Axes for Lecture & Syllabus Integration

1. The Sociological Origin of Tyranny

Mansilla posits that a dictator is not a historical accident but the embodiment of the collective will, customs, and "hereditary instincts" of the masses. Instructors can use this text to explore how authoritarian regimes are built upon the tacit or active complicity of the governed class, and how "caudillismo" serves as a reflection of the social milieu.

2. Objectivity and the Philosophy of History

The prologue serves as a manifesto for historical objectivity. Mansilla argues that the passage of time is necessary to cool the "frenzied hatreds of yesteryear." This allows for a discussion on historiography itself: how history is written, the difference between "chronicle" (gossip, legend) and "history" (critical, serene analysis), and whether absolute objectivity ("completa y absoluta buena fe") is truly possible.

3. Language as a Reflection of the Political Soul

A highly original aspect of Mansilla's methodology is his focus on language ("modos de expresión"). He argues that following the phonetic transformations and the vocabulary of a people is the key to deciphering their psychological rhythm. Professors can utilize this to bridge literature and political science, analyzing how political reality is constructed and maintained through words, slogans ("¡viva!" and "¡muera!"), and decrees.

III. Classroom Discussion Topics

- The Myth of the Solitary Oppressor:** Mansilla claims that "a solitary oppressor in society cannot be conceived." How does this challenge the traditional liberal narrative that portrayed Rosas as an alien anomaly imposed by force upon an otherwise enlightened Argentine society?
- Evolution vs. Revolution:** Relying on Herbert Spencer's sociology, Mansilla suggests that radical reforms must occur peacefully and gradually



The Stockcero Guarantee

SpanishBookPress Editions.

Printed in the USA. Never backlisted. Always available.

Copyright © 2025 Stockcero, Inc.

3785 N.W. 82nd Avenue, Suite 302, Miami, FL 33166, USA

("paulatinamente y en paz"), warning against revolutions that lead to anarchy and, consequently, new tyrannies. Discuss this evolutionary view of nation-building in the context of 19th-century Latin America.

3. **The Psychology of the Masses:** How does Mansilla describe the "soul of the multitude"? What does he mean when he states that the dictator's soul is "the informal transcript of the multitude"?

IV. Research Prompts & Essay Assignments

- **Historiographical Comparison:** *"Compare Lucio V. Mansilla's psychological and sociological analysis of Juan Manuel de Rosas with the portrayal of caudillos in Domingo F. Sarmiento's 'Facundo'. How do their respective intellectual frameworks and the historical distance from their subjects alter their conclusions about the roots of 'barbarism'?"*
- **Political Psychology & Language:** *"Analyze Mansilla's proposition that the historical evolution of a society can be traced through its language and modes of expression. Using examples from the Rosista era, explore how political discourse and mandatory slogans shaped the 'state of consciousness' of the Argentine people."*

V. RELATED STOCKCERO RESOURCES

Southern Cone Collection: 6-Book Bundle.

(Includes *Rozas*, *Ensayo Histórico-psicológico* alongside *1804 - 1810 - Las Brevas Maduras*, *El Chacho - Ultimo caudillo de la montonera*, *Una Excursión a los indios ranqueles*, *The Emancipation of South America*, and *Indios Guaranies y Jesuitas Misiones de la Compañía de Jesus en el Paraguay*).

[Browse Collection:](#)

Interested in adopting this text for your course?

[Request an Evaluation Copy:](#)

[Browse our Full Catalog:](#)



The Stockcero Guarantee

SpanishBookPress Editions.

Printed in the USA. Never backlisted. Always available.

Copyright © 2025 Stockcero, Inc.
3785 N.W. 82nd Avenue, Suite 302, Miami, FL 33166, USA