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Unidad 8, Sucesos

Presidentes e introducción a dictadores de siglo XX

Argentina's Peronismo - 27 Oct 07

00:01

Teresa Bo: The drums of the Perónist party, calling its members to unite.

00:08

Teresa Bo: But today, not many responded. The party is divided as never before. Once a beacon for workers, now many of its followers don’t even know what it stands for.

00:20

Teresa Bo: Back in the 1940s, Perón blended a fierce nationalism with support for the workers, for both the wages and state pensions and he built up unions until they were an arm of the government itself. He and his glamourous wife Evita became a symbol for the fight for workers’ rights.

00:44

Teresa Bo: More than just politicians, they became celebrities, at least among the lower classes.

00:56

Interviewee: The Perónist party is a movement, many would say it’s a feeling. Its strength is in the labor unions and in its capacity to reach the working class.

01:08

Teresa Bo: Perón was reburied last year. More than 30 years after his death, he still has the power to inspire…and divide, and divided is how the party stands today, because of internal differences that erupted after the economic collapse of 2001. And the differences are so bad that 3 of the main contenders call themselves Perónists.

01:41

Teresa Bo: Cristina Kirchner, wife of the current President, is the front runner. Their ideologies vary from the left to the right. For Silvio Maresca, the Perónist party has become an ideological grab bag and has always adapted itself to the ideology of the time.

02:00

Silvio Maresca: Perónism has had many masks. It’s often regarded as a phenomenon of the masses, never mind the ideology behind it; in the 70s it was leftist, in the 90s liberal. The Kirchners started as Perónists, and they used the party’s apparatus, but they have very little in common with Perón’s ideology.

02:22

Teresa Bo: In the past, the Kirchners tried to distance themselves from the image of Juan Perón, but it’s days before the election and Perón’s name has suddenly appeared almost everywhere.

02:34

Cristina Kirchner knows 34 years after his death, Perón can still motivate the workers and bring in the votes. But it is still a long way from the millions that the united Perónist party could mobilize back in the 50s.

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