This book is a study of Argentina's transition to democracy, which began in 1982, from the perspective of the nation's political culture. After Argentine society's long compulsory absence from politics, citizens assumed a fundamental role in the transition, in terms of party participation, mobilization, electoral behavior, expectations, support, and demands. This work is an attempt to analyze systematically Argentines' attitudes and orientations in the development of a democratic regime.

Data was collected through the old and unsurpassed method of the social sciences: opinion polls. The special feature of this study is that it brings together a series of surveys implemented during the transition that, although they do not have precisely the same design, have a common group of questions.


The book reflects my professional work since 1980 with several private and public organizations that conduct opinion polls. My involvement in this activity would never have begun without the enthusiasm of Carmen Zayuelas, vice-president of IPSA Institute, who accepted the risky task of carrying out opinion surveys at an extremely unfavorable moment. To her I owe much appreciation.
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In democracy the demand is easy
and the answer is difficult.

—Norberto Bobbio, El Futuro de la Democracia