

PART II. UNDER PERÓN

6. How Perón Came to Power

As an actor in the tragedy has said, President Castillo encouraged the propagation of German Nazism, Italian Fascism, Spanish Falangism, and Argentina's own Rosas cult; this *mélange* produced the military dictatorship of 1943; and the dictatorship's first victim was Castillo himself.

Colonel Juan Perón was a member of the conspiratorial band of nineteen Army officers calling itself the G.O.U.,* whose revolt on June 4, 1943 overthrew Castillo, established the dictatorship, and thus ushered in the regime that bears Perón's name. During the first two years there was a bitter struggle for power within the regime, as well as between it and its many enemies at home and abroad. Though Perón emerged at the top, it is a moot question whether he was there from the start or whether, at first, he was only a minor member of the G.O.U. The present writer takes the latter view, if only because Perón was outranked by several members of this rank-conscious group of German-trained officers.

However that may be, Perón finally won this battle royal by revolutionizing the revolution of 1943 and giving it a social content that won him the passionate devotion of the Argentine

* G.O.U. stood both for *Grupo de Oficiales Unidos* (Group of United Officers) and the group's slogan, *Gobierno, Orden, Unión* (Government, Order, Union).