

## Human Rights in Latin America: Spotlight on Argentina Unit 5 Crime Wave in the Southern Cone

I Political Cartoon Study: Carlos Latuff



### **Essential Questions**

- *How can we use political cartoons to learn about the past?*
- *How do artists express their most important social and political views?*
- *How can art help us connect to the past?*
- *How does art both challenge and reflect cultural and historical perspectives?*
- *How can our history shape us in the present?*

Study the attached political cartoon by Carlos Latuff and note your ideas in the spaces below.

<p>1. What do you see in the picture at first glance? (1 min.)</p>	<p>5. What action is taking place in the cartoon?</p>
<p>2. What details do you notice? (2-3 min.) Who/what are the main figures in the drawing?</p>	<p>6. Identify the persuasive techniques used by artist Carlos Latuff in this political cartoon. Review the Cartoonists' Persuasive Technique sheet for descriptions about symbolism, exaggeration, labeling, analogy, and irony.</p>
<p>3. What other object(s) or information appear in the picture?</p>	<p>7. What is the cartoonist's message?</p>
<p>4. What words appear in the cartoon? Do they help clarify the relationship of the figures? Or, do they raise questions about the figures? Explain.</p>	<p>8. What questions do you have about the theme of this cartoon? What would you entitle the cartoon?</p>

**Cartoonists' Persuasive Techniques**  
(Adapted from the Library of Congress)

<b>Symbolism</b>	<p>Cartoonists use simple objects, or <b>symbols</b>, to stand for larger concepts or ideas.</p> <p>After you identify the symbols in a cartoon, think about what the cartoonist means each symbol to stand for.</p>
<b>Exaggeration</b>	<p>Sometimes cartoonists overdo, or <b>exaggerate</b>, the physical characteristics of people or things in order to make a point.</p> <p>When you study a cartoon, look for any characteristics that seem overdone or overblown. (Facial characteristics and clothing are some of the most commonly exaggerated characteristics.) Then, try to decide what point the cartoonist was trying to make by exaggerating them.</p>
<b>Labeling</b>	<p>Cartoonists often <b>label</b> objects or people to make it clear exactly what they stand for.</p> <p>Watch out for the different labels that appear in a cartoon, and ask yourself why the cartoonist chose to label that particular person or object. Does the label make the meaning of the object clearer?</p>
<b>Analogy</b>	<p>An <b>analogy</b> is a comparison between two unlike things. By comparing a complex issue or situation with a more familiar one, cartoonists can help their readers see it in a different light.</p> <p>After you've studied a cartoon for a while, try to decide what the cartoon's main analogy is. What two situations does the cartoon compare? Once you understand the main analogy, decide if this comparison makes the cartoonist's point more clear to you.</p>
<b>Irony</b>	<p><b>Irony</b> is the difference between the ways things are and the way things should be, or the way things are expected to be. Cartoonists often use <b>irony</b> to express their opinion on an issue.</p> <p>When you look at a cartoon, see if you can find any irony in the situation the cartoon depicts. If you can, think about what point the irony might be intended to emphasize. Does the irony help the cartoonist express his or her opinion more effectively?</p>

Once you've identified the persuasive techniques that the cartoonist used, ask yourself these questions:

- What issue is this political cartoon about?
- What do you think is the cartoonist's opinion on this issue?
- What do you think an opposing opinion on this issue would be?
- Did you find this cartoon persuasive? Why or why not?
- What other techniques could the cartoonist have used to make this cartoon more persuasive?