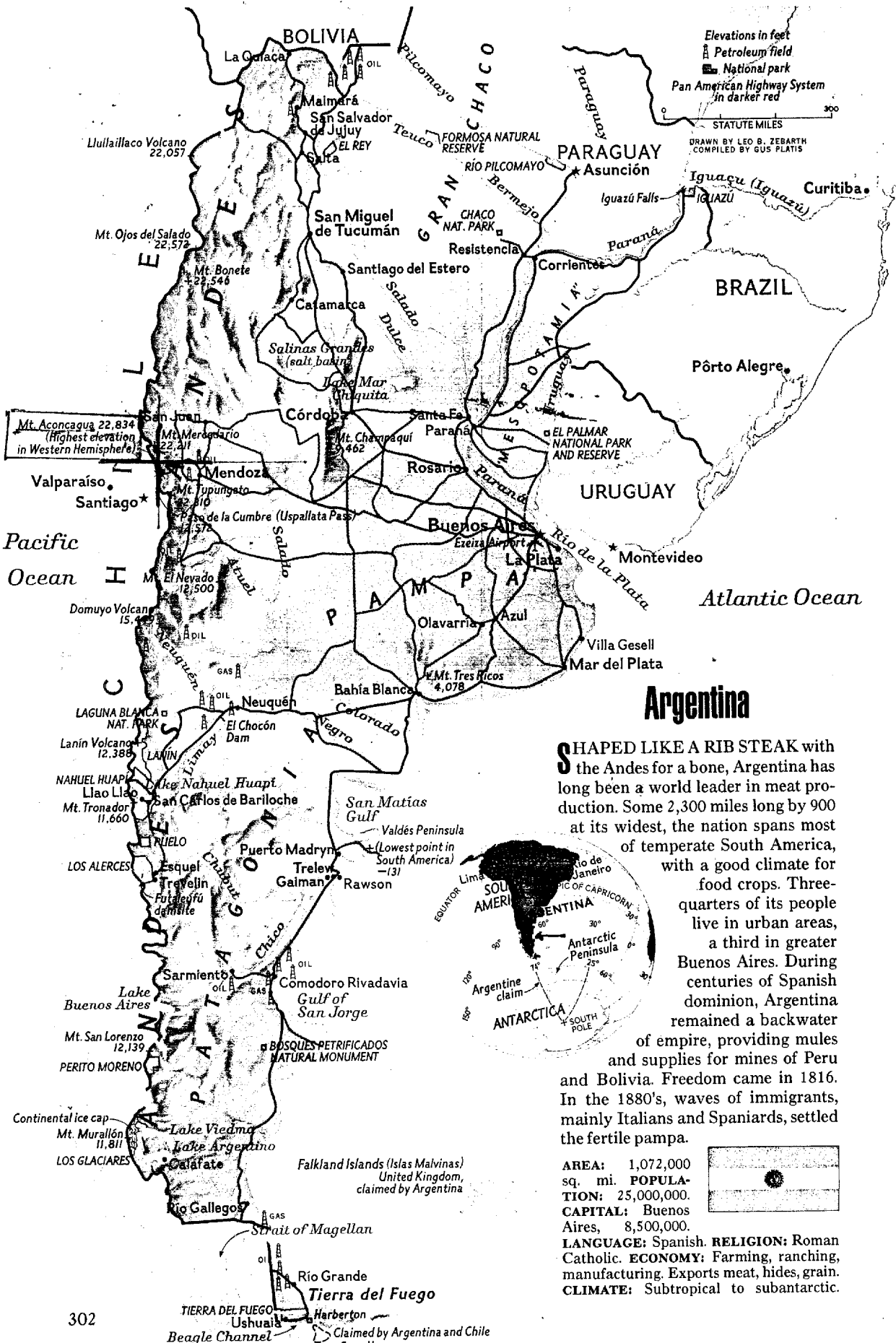


32° 40.5' 70° 2' W



Argentina's "stone sentinel," Aconcagua—tallest mountain in the Western Hemisphere—



Argentina

SHAPED LIKE A RIB STEAK with the Andes for a bone, Argentina has long been a world leader in meat production. Some 2,300 miles long by 900 at its widest, the nation spans most of temperate South America, with a good climate for food crops. Three-quarters of its people live in urban areas, a third in greater Buenos Aires. During centuries of Spanish dominion, Argentina remained a backwater of empire, providing mules and supplies for mines of Peru and Bolivia. Freedom came in 1816. In the 1880's, waves of immigrants, mainly Italians and Spaniards, settled the fertile pampa.

AREA: 1,072,000 sq. mi. **POPULATION:** 25,000,000. **CAPITAL:** Buenos Aires, 8,500,000. **LANGUAGE:** Spanish. **RELIGION:** Roman Catholic. **ECONOMY:** Farming, ranching, manufacturing. Exports meat, hides, grain. **CLIMATE:** Subtropical to subantarctic.

