

THE GOOD FIGHT: THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES (1936-1939)

Coordinator: Diane Reynolds

Alternately called "the good fight" and the "dress rehearsal for World War II", the Spanish Civil War (1936 - 1939) had a profound impact on modern Spain and on Europe in the Thirties. The first war where civilians became targets *en masse* through bombing raids, it also galvanized the intellectual imagination of writers, film makers, and visual artists. We analyze the deep tensions in Spanish society and politics that triggered the conflict, and examine the roles played by Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and the volunteer Abraham Lincoln Brigades. We also investigate the results of the war: its long term effects on the country, the repressive Franco dictatorship that followed, and how current generations interpret and represent the war. We consider how extreme political polarization can descend into civil war

Readings:

Graham, Helen, *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*; Oxford University Press, 2005, ISBN 978 0 19 280377-1, \$11.95.

Orwell, George, *Homage to Catalonia*; Harcourt Press, 1952, ISBN 0-15-642-117-8, \$14.00.

Short clips of documentaries may be shown in class if they will illuminate or enhance particular events

Diane Reynolds was an undergraduate history major whose career took her in a different direction. Studying at The IRP has rekindled her interest in historical conflicts and their current relevance.

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I. Why study the Spanish Civil War? Why was it important?

Background and Context:

Spain Before 1931

Basic Facts and Who's Who: Republicans, Nationalists, Loyalists, Communists, Anarchists

Political Factions: The Army, The Church, The Workers, The Agrarian South
Franco and the Monarchy, the Falangists

Readings:

"The Legacy of the Spanish Civil War" a 1988 essay by Paul Preston in "No Pasaran" Art, Literature and The Spanish Civil War, edited by Stephen Hart. 7 pages.

Chapter 2 of Graham The Spanish Civil War - 15 pages.

2 & 3. The immediate and long-term causes of the War:

Readings: Preface and Chapter 1 of Graham - The Spanish Civil War - 22 pages.

4 & 5. International Involvement in the War.

Readings: Chapters 4 and 5 of Graham. Total: 40 pages interspersed with photographs.

Orwell, Homage - Chapter V - 25 pages

Readings: In Coursepack, "British Parliamentary Debates on Spain" (1937)- 5 pages

Excerpt from Arms for Spain: The Untold Story of the Spanish Civil War, Gerald Howson - 15 - 20 pages.

Orwell, Homage - Chapter X. 20 pages

Chapter 2 of Graham The Spanish Civil War - 15 pages.

6. Art and Literature of the War

The Role of Propaganda

Picasso, Hemingway, Pablo Neruda, Martha Gellhorn

Poetry, Posters and Photography of the war

Readings:

Excerpts from By-Line: Ernest Hemingway - 3 short pieces on the War for North American News Association - 6 pages.

Orwell, Homage - Chapters XI - 25 pages.

7. The War and Women

Readings: Excerpts from Memories of Resistance: Women's Voices from the Spanish Civil War, Shirley Mangini - 15 pages.

In Coursepack, "La Pasionara - "From Childhood to Maturity" by Dolores Ibarruri - 4 pages.

Excerpts from Martha Gellhorn, The Face of War - 10 pages.

8. Results of the War

Readings: Graham, Chapters 5 and 6 - 50 pages with photographs.
Orwell, Chapter XII - 12 pages.

9. The Franco Regime -

- Life during the Dictatorship
- 40 years of Repression
- The politics of Spanish neutrality

Readings: Coursepack: "Franco's Peace" from *The Spanish Civil War: Reaction, Revolution, and Revenge*, Paul Preston - 16 pages.

"Impressions of Franco's Spain," a personal essay from *Modern Spain* - 3 pages.

10 & 11. Post-Franco -

- Remembrance and retribution
- The Silences
- The Amnesty
- The Transition to Democracy
- Historical Memory and the rights of victims

12. Long-term effects of the War on

- Spanish culture and politics
- Comparisons with other countries
- Relationship with the U.S.
- Could the war have been avoided? How?