

The Spanish Civil War:

Groups:

LEFT- Republicans	RIGHT- Nationalists
The Marxists <ul style="list-style-type: none">Partido Obrero de Unificacion Marxista (anti-Stalinist Marxist Party, POUM)	Spanish Falange <ul style="list-style-type: none">Small fascist party
The Socialists <ul style="list-style-type: none">Union General de Trabjadores (General Workers Union, UGT)The Spanish Socialist Worker's Party (PSOE)	The Catholic Church <ul style="list-style-type: none">Spanish Confederation of the Autonomous Right (CEDA)Accion Popular + Partido AgrarioYouth Movement: Juventudes de Accion Popular JAP
The Communists <ul style="list-style-type: none">Spanish Communist Party (PCE)	The Monarchists <ul style="list-style-type: none">Accion Espanola
Anarchists <ul style="list-style-type: none">Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (National Confederation of Workers, CNT)Federación Anarquista Ibérica (Spanish Anarchist Federation, FAI)	The Carlists <ul style="list-style-type: none">Requesta (Carlist Militia)Pelayos (Carlist Youth Movement)Margaritas (Carlist Women's movement)
The Republicans <ul style="list-style-type: none">Union Republicana (Republican Union)Izquierda Republicana (Left Republican Party)	
The Basques <ul style="list-style-type: none">Partido Nacionalista Vasco (Basque Nationalist Party, PNV)	
The Catalans <ul style="list-style-type: none">Esquerra Repubilcana de Catalunya (Left Republican Nationalist Party, ERC)Partido Socialista Unificando de Cataluna (United Catalan Socialist Party, PSUC)	

People:

Miguel Primo de Rivera (1870-1930): an autocratic, military officer who seized power in a military coup after years of political protests, strikes, revolts and economic decline. He promised to eliminate corruption and to suppress the left-wing unrest. To achieve this, he suspended the constitution, established martial law and imposed a strict system of censorship. The Great Depression affected Spain badly and, in January 1930, Rivera resigned.

Alfonso XIII (1886-1941): Alfonso became king of Spain the day he was born, as his father died a few months earlier. He supported Rivera's coup in 1923, and appointed him prime minister. When Rivera resigned in 1930, Alfonso established another military government. Although he left Spain in April 1931, after the declaration of the Second Republic, Alfonso never formally renounced the throne. He supported the nationalist in the civil war, but after Franco won he would not permit Alfonso to return as king.

Manuel Azaña (1880-1940): a wealthy lawyer. In 1926, he and José Giral founded the Partido Acción Republicana, a group largely made up of middle-class progressives. Azana became prime minister of the new Spanish republic after Zamora resigned, and continued in that post after the new constitution was approved in December 1931, thus becoming the first Prime Minister of the Second Republic. In 1934, Azana founded the Izquierda Republicana (Republic Left), and became president in May 1936, just before the civil war broke out. After Franco's victory, Azana fled to France.

José María Gil Robles (1898-1980): Gil Robles was the leader of Acción Nacional which was later renamed Acción Popular. He later formed CEDA, which won the elections in 1933. However Zamora chose Alejandro Lerroux as prime minister of the new government instead of Gil Robles, although later he served as minister of war. When the civil war began, Robles authorised the donation of CEDA funds to nationalists. He dissolved the organisation in 1937.

Alejandro Lerroux (1864-1949): The strongly anti-clerical Lerroux formed the Radical Republican Party in 1908. During the period of Rivera's dictatorship, Lerroux's party was weakened when many members left to form the Radical Socialists Republican Party in 1929. Lerroux was prime minister of Spain three times between 1933-1935- once as a part of the centre-left coalition, twice following the electoral victory of the right in November 1933.

Largo Caballero (1869-1946): From 1925, Caballero was leader of the Spanish Socialist Worker's Party (PSOE) and of the UGT. From 1931-33, he was minister of labour relations under Zamora and Azana. After the CEDA victory in November 1933, Caballero moved to the left, he headed the Marxist wings of the PSOE and UGT. He supported the workers' armed uprising of 1934 and, between September 1936 and May 1937, he was prime minister at the head of the Popular Front. Caballero was forced to resign after the May Days, in which republican factions in the civil war fought each other in the streets of Barcelona.

Francisco Franco (1892-1975): Franco was an army officer and a supporter of Rivera's dictatorship. He strongly opposed the reforms introduced at the start of the Second Republic, and after General Sanjurjo and Mola were killed in two separate plane crashes in 1936 and 1937, Franco became the leader of the army's nationalist revolt. Although he was not a member of the Falange before 1939, Franco still took the title of leader similar to the titles used by Mussolini and Hitler. After his success in the Spanish Civil War, Franco ruled Spain as an authoritarian leader until his death in 1975.

Causes:

Background to Outbreak:

Regional Divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basques, Catalans and Galicians had significant social and economic differences Minorities sought separation and autonomy from Spanish state
Economic and Social Divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North of the country held most of the industry Created a new urban proletariat and industrial elites The country was still dependant on backwards agricultural system Southern peasants lived in miserable conditions, living on the verge of starvation on estates of rich landowners
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional/social/eco divisions led to deep social tensions dividing into: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rich landlords, industrial elites, army, church and monarchists supporting the conservatives and fascists Poor, republicans, reformers, proletariat and minorities supporting the socialists and anarchists
Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of Cuba as the last part of the Spanish empire leaving a colonial army with no role Focus of army switched to maintaining law and order at home Created political tension as army begun interfering with politics
Religious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Church was wealthy, powerful and very conservative a big part of everyday life Resented by the poor peasants and the workers who saw it as oppressive

Long Term Causes: Political Instability

Weaknesses of the Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spain was a constitutional monarchy• Political parties existed but elections were rigged and Cortes had no real power• This caused social and political instability
The Role of Spanish Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Army had power because of colonial past• Army had a bad reputation with the people as brutal, ineffective and expensive• Caused social tensions as upper/middle classes defended military• Believed that it was the national protector and would intervene in politics if a crisis occurred• Intervention in 1936 led to war
The Role of the Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church was wealthy and powerful• Used its influence to support social, economic and political conservatism• Aristocracy was close to the church as they provided funding• The church defended the upper class which led to resentment by poor working class
Economic Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spain was mainly an agricultural economy• Trouble of agricultural workers was key in lead to civil war• Agriculture was main source of employment but its failings were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Work was seasonal➢ Most peasants lived in poverty➢ System was feudalistic- farms were owned by landowners• These created social tensions• There was need for industrial modernisation and reform• Workers faced low wages, long hours and poor conditions• Trade unions were formed but could not achieve anything• No legal means meant that labourers resorted to violent uprising as means to effect change• 1920s Spain faced major economic problems which led to increased militancy and political polarisation
Regional Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centralist State, Catalonia and Basque wanted independence• Robles withdrew Azana's reforms which granted greater independence, tensions intensified

Short Term Causes: Political Polarisation

Left Republic 1931-33	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Azana limits power of church- no longer in control of education• Power of the army effected- number of officers was reduced through payment package 50% left the army• Those that did stay were the nationalists and radical right• GD caused economic problems- production fell• Government took over some estates but the rights saw this as a threat• Right-wing saw each reform as a threat• Result was CEDA formed to protect interests of the right• During left republic: Spain became more politically polarised but brought some stability due to independence given to regions wanting it
Right Republic 1933-36	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Azana resigned due to growing tensions• Elections were held and the rights won with CEDA was biggest party• Right government reversed the reforms made by the left• Church regained control of education• Land reform program was halted• Independence or regions was withdrawn

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strikes of left workers became widespread and support for left grew • Right government became more authoritarian and brutal in treatment of opposition
Popular Front 1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right government disintegrated and elections were held • Left coalition of socialists, anarchists and communists won • Azana became prime minister and reversed all reforms made by rights • Anarchists encouraged peasants to seize land • Violence increased and Spain became ultra-politically polarised

Events of the War:

1936:

- Military had hoped to capture Spain in a week
- Half the army remained loyal to the government and revolts in several major cities against Republicans failed
- Works, peasants and royalists formed to defend government
- Nationalist led by Franco after the death of Mora and Sanjurjo
- By AUGUST nationalists held most of the north and north west of Spain
- Government controlled South and North Coast
- Both republicans and nationalists appealed for foreign aid but Britain and France declared a **non-intervention policy**
- However Germany and Italy provided financial and material aid to the nationalists
- Germany sent planes to transport Franco's troops from Morocco
- USSR sent limited aid to Republicans
- Nationalists failed to capture Madrid in bloody battles over the next few months
- In September nationalists government moved to Valencia and Largo Caballero became Prime Minister
- In October Franco was officially appointed leader of the Nationalist government
- Spanish gold reserves were sent to USSR in exchange for military equipment to Republicans
- International Brigade began to arrive to aid Republicans

1937:

- In February Nationalists began another offensive to capture Madrid but called off due to heavy casualties
- In March the nationalists attacked Basque and in April Basque was bombed by German Condor Legion and the capital fell to nationalists. Morale of Basque collapsed and industry was now in nationalists hands
- In April Franco merged the Carlists and the Falange as well as other small groups to form the National Movement party (unity of the nationalists)
- In May divisions of the Republicans clear by events in Barcelona- fighting between Communists and Socialists against Anarchists and Trotskyites on the streets. The former won and bloody purges on anti-communists carried out
- Negrin replaced Caballero as Prime Minister and in October the government moved to Barcelona
- From then on the Soviets began to play more of a role in Spain and assisted their organisation to keep them fighting
- However use of brutal secret police SIM and their intolerance of opposition made people wonder if life would not be better under Franco
- In December further Republican offensives were defeated

1938:

- Nationalists continued to capture key towns
- Franco had now managed to split Republican Spain into two and isolate Catalonia
- In July and Republican offensive was launched but by November they had been defeated
- Nationalist began to advance on Catalonia

1939:

- After two and a half years Republicans collapsed in first three months of 1939
- In January nationalist captured Barcelona and in March, Madrid marking the end of the war
- Franco declared official end on 1st April 1939

Foreign Aid:

- **Support for Nationalists:**
- Germany:
 - First supply of aid came in the form of airplanes to transport Franco's army from Morocco to Spain
 - Supplied 16,000 troops, 200 tanks and 600 planes
 - Most significant- Tanks and aircrafts used to practice blitzkrieg method of fighting
 - Beevor noted the German Condor Legion as *"the most efficient and influential assistance in Spain"*
- Italy:
 - Supplied 40,000-75,000 troops (3x that of Germany), 150 tanks and 660 planes
 - Beevor wrote *"the Italian contribution to the nationalists cause was enormous and more general than the German contribution"*
- Portugal:
 - Right-wing dictator of Portugal supplied some men, around 12,000
- **Support for Republicans:**
- Britain and France
 - Hoped to receive aid from France
 - France did not want fascist-style state allied with Germany
 - Initially agreed to sell aircraft and artillery
 - British however wanted to avoid a European war so refused to help, pressuring France to do the same
 - Remained neutral and pursued a non-intervention policy
 - They tried with little success to stop other countries from intervening
 - This prevented the Republic from purchasing arms opening and hampering its overall success
- USSR
 - Stalin saw what was occurring between nationalists and Germany and Italy and offered humanitarian aid and military equipment
 - Sent about 2500 troops, 1000 planes and 900 tanks
 - First lot arrived in Oct 1936 preventing Madrid falling to nationalists
 - Her communist ideology played a major role in Republican areas
- International Brigade
 - An international group of people who stood for freedom, democracy and anti-fascist
 - They mainly consisted of communist volunteers and the Brigade was under the control of the communists movement, Comintern
 - The Brigade operated outside the control of the Spanish Republican Army
 - They were not however militarily trained but were ruled under a strict military regime, undermining their effectiveness and were withdrawn in October 1938

Unity and Disunity:

- The Republicans: Civil War or Revolution?
 - Republicans were divided on fundamental levels: the purpose of war and the best way to win it
 - Middle-class liberals and the centre-right of PSOE opposed the idea of a revolution
 - They believed that the way to win was a centralised and disciplined army
 - This view was shared by PCE who followed Stalin's orders who did not want a revolution in Spain
 - Many left wing groups *did* want a revolution- anarchists and far left of PSOE
 - The Marxist party POUM also believed in an immediate workers revolution
 - At start of Mola's military coup thousands of working-class demanded that the government issue them weapons to resist nationalists
 - Government refused, an action which Historian Thomas believes: *"the reluctance of the government to equip the working class supporters with weapons put them at a disadvantage. Had this had been done immediately, the army coup may have been crushed before the outbreak of a full scale civil war"*
 - The CNT called a general strike and ceased weapons forming militia groups with the POUM run on anarchist principles
 - Militia's encouraged peasants and workers to seize land from their landowners and set up collective farms
 - Factories were also taken over by militia groups
 - Eventually in July, the government began distributing weapons
 - However the government began to try and reassert its dominance by breaking up the militia groups
 - The influence of the communists prompted army to repress revolutionary organisations
 - The police and pro-communist groups troops attacked and defeated militia in Barcelona (fighting within its own party)
- Franco and the Nationalists
 - Franco merged smaller right wing factions into one group known as the National Movement Party as early as 1937 and made himself leader
 - Franco also got backing of the church and initially claimed that the army uprising was not only in defence of the fatherland but of the church as well
 - In July 1937, bishops signed a document known as the 'Collective Letter' which described the civil war as a 'Christian Crusade' against the evil of communism
 - This helped the nationalists gain support of the Catholics nationally and internationally
 - The Church made no criticism of Franco and his repression known as the 'White Terror'
 - This also helped the nationalists win support of the papacy by which the pope officially recognised the nationalists cause

Main results of the conflict

- Human cost:
 - Around 100,000 Republicans were killed and 70,000 nationalists
 - The killing continued under Franco after the war to eliminate the opposition were a further 40,000-200,000 people were killed in the White Terror
 - Thousands of Republicans were held in concentration camps and prisons
 - Republican children were taken from their parents to be 're-educated' placed in nationalists/catholic families
 - Divisions and hatred remained in Spanish society in decades to follow
- Economic cost:
 - Spain's economy was devastated with 10-15% of its wealth destroyed
 - Income decreased by 28% and 70% of Madrid's factory was destroyed

- Madrid's communication systems needed to be rebuilt
- There was high inflation
- Republican's land reforms were reversed and the agricultural economy remained ineffective and inefficient
- Spain had huge debts to pay back to Britain and Germany which demanded loans be paid
- The economy improved after outbreak of WWII and remained neutral during the war
- However after the war Spain was in isolation and suffered from famine in 1946 and Industrial output was lower than in 1918
- LONGER TERM: The Cold War helped Spain to become less isolated and during these years the country actually developed a powerful capitalist economy
- Political effects:
 - Franco emerged as dictator and remained in power until death in 1975
 - Franco's regime aimed to save Spain from communism
 - Many were killed in the "white terror" or sent into exodus including many intellectuals
 - Law of Political Responsibility in 1939 made Republicans liable to punishments severe as death
 - Key objectives of the regime was to restore the power of the privileged and control working class
 - Wages were cut and workers were controlled by government run syndicates
 - Industrial political activism was outlawed: UGT and CNT were outlawed
 - Employments for Republicans was almost impossible and the Civil Guard maintained the inequalities of the social and working system
- Abroad:
 - USSR:
 - Communists had been defeated in Spain resulting in divisions within the left-wing Soviet
 - It also created divisions between the USSR and Germany and drove USSR to create alliances to the Western Powers- however they had no intentions of standing up against Germany and looked to policies of appeasement
 - Nazi-Soviet pact signed August 1939
 - Hitler and Mussolini
 - Hitler gained valuable military training and lessons
 - He was able to try out tactics used in WWII
 - Britain and France:
 - Support for appeasement grew as it seemed that opposing forces were able to exhaust themselves without intervention of the democratic nations
 - The apparent weakness of Britain and France in Spain led Hitler to change his opinion of Britain and become more aggressive
 - USA:
 - Remained mostly neutral and isolationism was strengthened
 - UN called for economic sanctions against Franco and all the member states broke of diplomatic relations
 - Not until 1951 during the Cold War that Spain becomes an ally of US and allowed to join UN