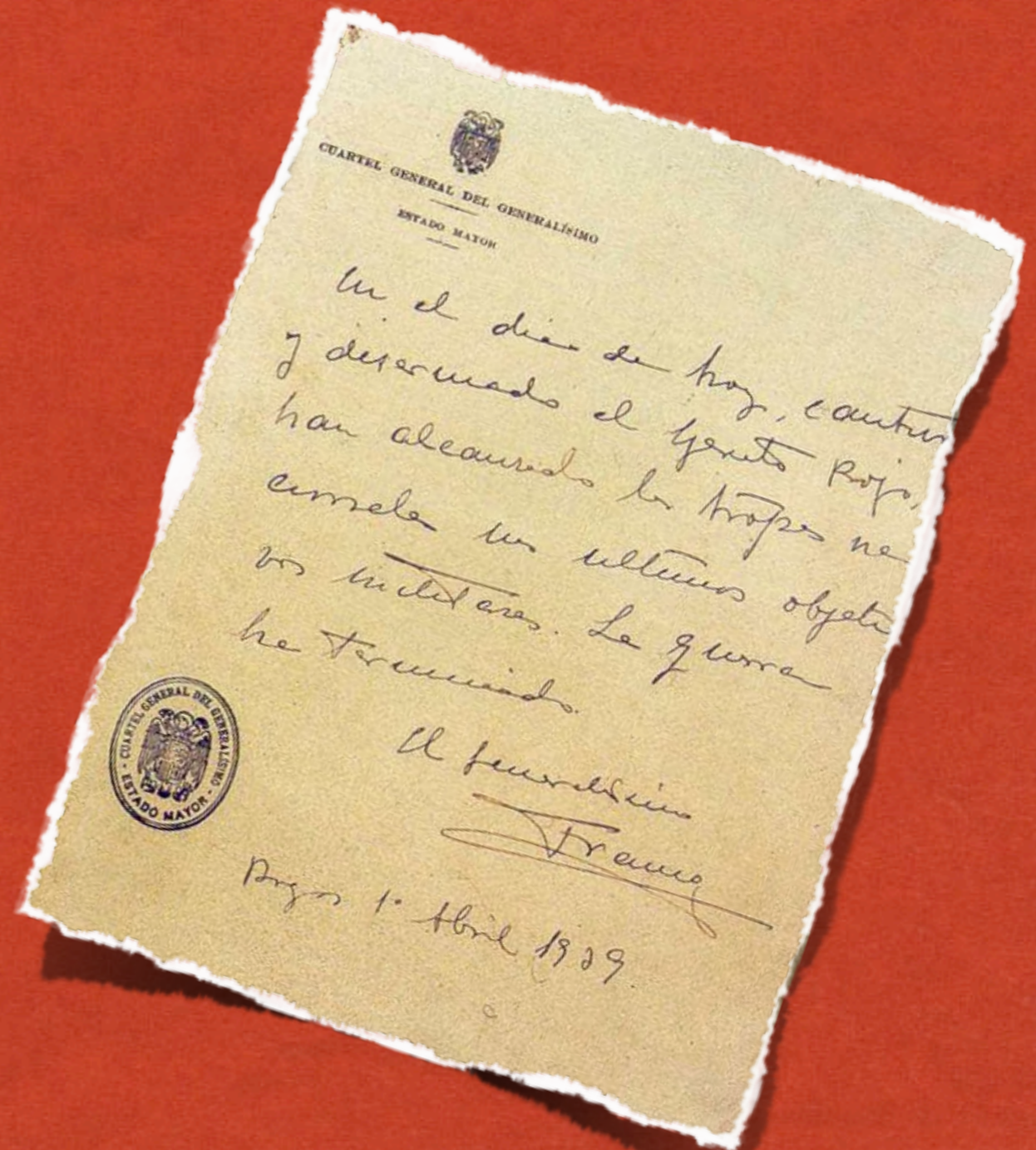


# THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

Consequences of the War  
and Reasons for the  
Nationalist Victory





# CONSEQUENCES OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR (PART II)

- 9. Hitler and Mussolini had been brought together through their military cooperation in Spain's civil war and on the non-intervention committee
- 10. Hitler & Mussolini's experiences in these regards taught them to expect appeasement and inaction from the Western democracies in the face of aggression
- 11. Italy's commitment of troops in Spain assured that Germany could easily achieve *Anschluss* with Austria in March 1938 without hurting German-Italian relations
- 12. Germans used the war to train pilots for *Blitzkrieg* (later used in WWII)
- 13. It further demonstrated the ineffectiveness of the League of Nations in handling international disputes



AN AIR RAID IN BARCELONA (1937) prompts a woman to run for cover.

# SOME POSSIBLE REASONS FOR THE NATIONALIST VICTORY

- 1. Franco was skillful in holding together under his own control the various groups opposing the gov't: Church, landowners, capitalists, monarchists, Falangists, etc.
- 2. There was less diversity among groups on the Nationalist side, but Franco was also skillful at defusing tensions within his own side.
- 3. The supportive comments of Pope Pius XI made it possible for the Nationalists to see themselves as crusaders fighting for a holy cause.
- 4. The Nationalists had a unified military leadership under Franco, and fought a single war. No single unified command was achieved by the Republic, so it fought a series of local campaigns w/ its men often unwilling to fight outside their home areas.



PORTRAIT OF THE DICTATOR:  
Gen. Francisco Franco emerged as  
the victorious ruler of Spain

# SOME POSSIBLE REASONS FOR THE NATIONALIST VICTORY

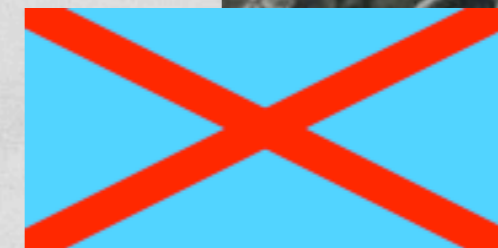
- 5. The divisions on the Republican side were fatal. (e.g., anarchists and Communists actually fought each other at times in Barcelona; infighting in Madrid in 1939 sealed defeat).
- 6. Republican generals were often inept (with certain exceptions) and worked at cross-purposes and in uncoordinated fashion much of the time.
- 7. The Republic had a volunteer army\* (except for a brief period under Caballero), whereas the Nationalists commanded a regular army that grew with conscription.
- 8. Any attempt to impose stronger or more unified leadership on the Republican side was resisted by rival political groups because it was an obstacle to their own plans.



WORKERS' MILITIAS race to the front in Sept. 1936 (top) and attack the Nationalists across a field (bottom).

# SOME POSSIBLE REASONS FOR THE NATIONALIST VICTORY

- 9. The foreign intervention was clearly more effective on the Nationalist side, particularly German and Italian intervention:
  - a) Germany and Italy provided many advisers and military units, and offered their supplies & services to Franco on credit (to be repaid later);
  - b) USSR provided important aid, but held back due to concerns about a possible Nazi attack on Russia, and insisted on payment in gold for all supplies & services.
- 10. By banning arms sales to both sides & following an agreement no one else observed, Britain & France actually deprived the Republic of weapons.



INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES from Hungary (upper left), the U.S. (upper right), Poland (soldiers pictured center), and many others, fought the lost cause for the Spanish Republic, while the Irish brigade (flag at bottom) joined the Nationalist efforts. Despite such enthusiasm, the Republicans were outnumbered during most of the war.