SPANISH CIVIL WAR

Salvador Dali’s “Soft Construction with Beans” (1936)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7aEG_LZ3g
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6ZjEOU1Cpk
SPANISH CIVIL WAR

IB IDENTIFIED TOPICS

- Background to the outbreak of the civil war: Spain’s situation in the decade-plus before 1936.
- Causes and consequences
- Foreign involvement - such as Italy, Germany, USSR and the International Brigades
- Reasons for the Nationalist victory (1939)
WINGSPAN: SPAIN
PARTIES & GROUPS FROM LEFT WING TO RIGHT WING

**Republic**
- PCE (Communist Party of Spain)
- POUM (pro-Trotsky, anti-Stalinist Communists)
- Anarchist groups (like the CNT, FIJL, FAI and Free Women)
- PS (Syndicalist Party)
- IR (Republican Left)
- PSOE (Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party) (Caballero, Negrin)
- Basque separatists (like the PNV and ANV)

**Left**
- PRR (Radical Republican Party) - led by Alejandro Lerroux, it is tough to place because it splintered off into so many other groups, and it gradually shifted from left-wing anti-clericalism to an eventual partnership in a coalition with right-wing CEDA (!) in 1934.

**Rebels / Nationalists**
- RE (Spanish Restoration) and AE (Spanish Action) both favored the return to power of Alfonso XIII
- UME (Spanish Military Union) (Franco)
- Falange (Phalanx)
- CEDA (Spanish Confederation of the Autonomous Right) (Robles)
- CT (Traditionalist Communion - a party committed to Carlist monarchism and clericalism)

**Right**
“The Spanish Civil War of 1936-39 was a class war, and a culture war. Competing visions of Spanish identity were superimposed on a bitter struggle over material resources, as the defenders of property, religion and tradition took up arms against a Republican government committed to social reform, devolution and secularization. Directly or indirectly, the conflict caused about a half a million deaths in a population of 24 million.”

- FRANCES LANNON, The Spanish Civil War: 1936-39
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

- Like the Japanese invasion of China in 1936-37, it is seen by some historians as start of hostilities that became World War II (“first battle of WWII”)

- Became an ideological struggle of right and left: Nationalists vs. Republicans

- Nations like Germany & Italy (Nationalist side) and the USSR (Republican side) sent troops and / or aid, and volunteer ‘Brigades’ were formed (and joined by citizens throughout Europe and North America)

- Artists such as Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali, and writers like George Orwell (Homage to Catalonia) and Ernest Hemingway (For Whom the Bell Tolls) immortalized the conflict with unforgettable images and stories about the war

- Mussolini and Hitler fell in WWII, but Franco continued on as fascist dictator of Spain until 1975
A. THE ‘OLD’ CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY & DICTATORSHIP

KING ALFONSO XIII LED A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

- Negotiated with representatives elected to the Cortes (the Spanish parliament)
- Faced massive criticism in the early 1920s due to Spain’s losses in the Moroccan War (1921)
- Gen. Miguel Primo de Rivera led a military coup d’état in 1923 and ruled as dictator until 1930, with King Alfonso XIII’s support & approval
- Rivera was forced out in Jan. 1930 after losing the army’s support; Alfonso XIII agreed to democratic elections to be held in 1931
B. THE SECOND SPANISH REPUBLIC, 1931-33

- Unrest led King Alfonso XIII to flee in April 1931.
- Provisional government took over, held elections & the new Cortes passed a republican constitution Dec. 9, 1931.
- Constitution provided freedom of speech & association, and separated Church and state (extremely controversial).

MANUEL AZANA DIAZ
Prime Minister from June 1931 to Sept. 1933
President from May 1936 to April 1939

NICETO ALCALA ZAMORA
First President of the new Spanish Republic in 1931

The First Spanish Republic existed briefly from 1873-74.
C. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMORA & AZAÑA (MODERATE LEFT, 1931-33)

I. THE 2ND REPUBLIC FACED MANY PROBLEMS

a) Hostility of the Catholic Church, army & landowners

b) Economic difficulties due to Great Depression
   i) Agricultural prices fell, wine & olive exports fell, peasant unemployment rose
   ii) Iron production down 1/3, steel down 1/2, city unemployment rose

c) Left-wing parties wanted a social revolution to overthrow the republic (Syndicalists encouraged riots, strikes and assassinations)
noun historical

a movement for transferring the ownership and control of the means of production and distribution to workers' unions.

Influenced by Proudhon and by the French social philosopher Georges Sorel (1847–1922), syndicalism developed in French labor unions during the late 19th century and was at its most vigorous between 1900 and 1914, particularly in France, Italy, Spain, and the U.S.

DERIVATIVES

syndicalist |ˌsɪndɪkəlɪst| noun & adjective

ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from French syndicalisme, from syndical, from syndic ‘a delegate’ (see syndic ).
II. MOVES MADE BY THE REPUBLIC THAT UPSET CERTAIN GROUPS WHO FELT ATTACKED BY THE REPUBLIC:

a) The Catholic Church:

i) Church and state were separated;

ii) The state was to stop paying priests’ salaries;

iii) Jesuits were expelled from Spain;

iv) End of religious curriculum in schools;

v) Members of religious orders (monks, nuns) banned from teaching
II. MOVES MADE BY THE REPUBLIC THAT UPSET CERTAIN GROUPS WHO FELT ATTACKED BY THE REPUBLIC:

b) The Army:

i) Many higher officers opted to take retirement at full pay (goal: reduce the number of officers relative to soldiers);

ii) Universal conscription introduced

iii) Landowners’ power was limited by the Agrarian Reform Bill (1932):

i) Tenants were protected from eviction; 8 hour work day for laborers; collective bargaining & arbitration started; ‘nationalization’ of some of the largest estates began
C. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMORA & AZAÑA (MODERATE LEFT, 1931-33)

III. ADDITIONAL REFORMS

- a) Constitution (1931) allowed regions like Basque Country & Catalonia greater autonomy (self-rule)
- b) Industrial workers were given 8-hr. day & gov’t attempted to raise their wages

IV. REFORMS LED TO OPPOSITION:

- a) Peasants fought with hated ‘civil guard’ (behaved like occupation army); Gen. Sanjurjo (leader) ordered peasants killed in revenge
- b) 3 groups joined Sanjurjo in a failed August 1932 coup: monarchists, right-wing republicans, africanistas.

José Sanjurjo
Led a failed coup d'etat in 1932
THE SPANISH-MOROCCAN CONNECTION

The rest of Morocco (in light green on the upper left map) was under French control during the same period, as a result of the Treaty of Fez. The nation of Morocco gained independence in 1956.

SPANISH MOROCCO, FRENCH MOROCCO AND SPANISH SAHARA
Spain controlled the red area labeled Western Sahara from 1884 to 1975 (when Franco died).

THE SPANISH PROTECTORATE OF MOROCCO (1912-56) UNDER THE TREATY OF FEZ

Spanishistas:
Officers of the Spanish Army who made their careers by serving in the Moroccan campaigns.

The rest of Morocco (in light green on the upper left map) was under French control during the same period, as a result of the Treaty of Fez. The nation of Morocco gained independence in 1956.
SPANISH CIVIL WAR GLOSSARY:

*africanistas* and *anarchists*

*africanistas:*

Officers of the Spanish Army who made their careers by serving in the Moroccan campaigns.

*anarchist:*

A person who tries to bring about anarchy.

*anarchy:*

Absence of government and absolute freedom of the individual, regarded as a political ideal.
C. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMORA & AZAÑA (MODERATE LEFT, 1931-33)

V. A NEW RIGHT-WING PARTY FORMED TO DEFEND THE CHURCH & LANDLORDS
   a) It was called CEDA, and was led by Gil Robles
   b) Included a youth movement called JAP
   c) Leaned toward Fascist Italy’s “corporate state” concepts, but was not Fascist itself

VI. ATTACK ON ALLEGED ANARCHISTS:
   a) Jan. 1933: Police set houses on fire in a village near Cadiz, hoping to smoke out anarchists
   b) As a result, gov’t lost much of political left’s support
C. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMORA & AZAÑA (MODERATE LEFT, 1931-33)

VII. CREATION OF THE **FALANGE** (the name derived from the Greek word *phalanx*):

- a) It was a fascist party based on the Italian model, founded by Jose Antonio Prima de Rivera (son of the former dictator) in 1933

- b) Allied with a similar group to issue a 27-point manifesto in Feb. 1934:
  - i) denied the validity of: the republican constitution, party politics, capitalism, clericalism (did not support Church involvement in politics)
  - ii) stood for: strong government; national glory; Spanish imperialist expansion; a “corporative state”; redistribution of land

FALANGE PIN: The “yoke and arrows,” as awarded in 1940 after the civil war.
D. THE GOVERNMENT OF ROBLES
(RIGHT WING, 1934-36)

I. NOV. 1933 ELECTIONS WERE WON BY RIGHT-WINGERs, WITH CEDA AS TOP PARTY (Majority had rejected liberal anti-clericalism)

II. REACTIONARY MOVES:

a) Cancelled most prior reforms (including restrictions on landlords & the Church)

b) Interfered with Catalanian self-government & denied self-rule to the Basques (who switched from supporting CEDA to the left, as a result)

c) Resistance grew: anarchists derailed a major train line; Catalonia fought to assert autonomy; a general strike was held; miners revolted in some areas
E. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POPULAR FRONT (LEFT WING, 1936-39)

I. COMINTERN (Soviet Union’s Communist International organization, under Stalin’s orders) PROMOTED A ‘POPULAR FRONT’ STRATEGY - all left-wing parties would unite against the nationalists and right, despite their many differences (1935)

II. ANARCHISTS, POUM (TROTSKYIST PARTY) & COMMUNISTS JOINED TOGETHER & WON FEB. 1936 ELECTIONS (with other left-wing republican parties)

III. AZAÑA RETURNED AS PRIME MINISTER, THEN PRESIDENT
E. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POPULAR FRONT (LEFT WING, 1936-39)

- IV. DISORDER QUICKLY GREW: Strikes; bombings of churches & monasteries

- V. HUGE GROWTH OF FALANGE (went from 5,000 to 500,000 members in just 6 months); CEDA BECAME MORE FASCIST IN STYLE & APPEARANCE

- VI. LEADER OF PSOE SOCIALIST PARTY OPENLY CALLED FOR A REVOLUTION (but had no army)

- VII. ARMY COUP CONSPIRACY DEVELOPED
  - Africanistas and Spanish-based army generals plotted with the Falange and CEDA, planning a coup to be led by Gen. Sanjurjo
THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

Causes
ROBERT CAPA: WAR PHOTOGRAPHER

- This photo, commonly known as “The Fallen Soldier,” was taken Sept. 5, 1936 and published in the July 12, 1937 issue of Life magazine, has become one of the most famous war photos of all-time.

- There was a claim published in the 1970s that the photo was a staged fake, but there is excellent reason to believe it is authentic. [http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/robert-capa/in-love-and-war/47/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/robert-capa/in-love-and-war/47/)

- Capa covered five wars as a freelance photographer; he took photos of the D-Day invasion at Normandy (and throughout WWII), plus covered the Sino-Japanese War, 1948 Arab-Israeli War and French-Indochina War.
CAUSES OF THE CIVIL WAR:
A. LACK OF DEMOCRATIC TRADITION & SUPPORT

I. THERE WAS NO TRADITION OR UNDERSTANDING OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY, which was supported only by a small minority of educated middle class people

II. A MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION FAVORRED THE REPUBLIC’S DESTRUCTION

a) Catholic Church and many Catholic citizens resented the republic’s attacks upon the privileges of the Church

b) The army feared a loss of influence and a social revolution

c) Monarchists wanted a restored monarchy; Fascists wanted a dictatorship

d) Revolutionary socialists and anarchists wanted a social revolution

e) Capitalists and landlords feared loss of privileges and profits

f) Catalans (of Catalonia) and Basques wanted autonomy or independence
CAUSES OF THE CIVIL WAR:

B. DEEP CULTURAL DIVISIONS

I. THE COUNTRY WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN:

A) Those who wished to preserve traditional Spain

B) Those who wished to replace it with something else

C) This second group (the replacers) were divided between:

i) Those who wanted a social revolution

ii) Those who wanted local self-government or independence
MONUMENT TO CALVO SOTELO, whose murder by the police in 1936 set off the spark behind the Nationalist uprising in July 1936 that turned into the Spanish Civil War.

CAUSES OF THE CIVIL WAR:
C. THE GREAT DEPRESSION & OTHER FACTORS

I. THE GREAT DEPRESSION BROUGHT EVEN GREATER ECONOMIC HARDSHIP & FRUSTRATION

II. THERE WAS NO TRADITION OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE OR POLITICAL COMPROMISE (ideological fanaticism had been most common)

III. THE REPUBLICAN POLICE’S MURDER OF RIGHT-WING MONARCHIST CALVO SOTELO (leader of the Spanish Action party) WAS THE IMMEDIATE TRIGGER FOR THE JULY 1936 UPRISING
I. ASSASSINATION OF LEADING MONARCHIST CALVO SOTELO (July 12) WAS EXCUSE FOR NATIONALIST PLOT

II. COUP SUCCEEDS IN SOME PARTS OF SPAIN AND IN SPANISH MOROCCO

III. COUP FAILS IN MAJOR CITIES AND CENTRAL & EASTERN SPAIN

IV. RESULT: Start of the all-out Spanish Civil War: Nationalists vs. Republicans

AUGUST-SEPT. 1936 SITUATION MAP:
Republicans hold major cities (Madrid, Barcelona), but Nationalists control Spanish Morocco and will transfer armies into Spain from there.