

The Spanish Civil War

1936-1939

Causes

Long-term

- Political instability**
 - 1800s: conservative / liberal to back again
 - Monarchy overthrown and re-installed
- The Coup**
 - Right wing powerful
 - Discontent with Spain
 - In education
 - Modernisation
 - Close ties to upper class
 - Resentment among poor
 - BUT: popular in rural areas
- Political opposition**
 - Many opponents → division → violent 1936
 - Radical movement
 - Little achievement
 - Supported revolution
 - Socialist party (PSOE)
 - Radical impact
 - SLGT
 - Many strikes
 - Small communist party
 - Socialist + Liberal
 - 5 years in rev.
 - Divided over reform
 - Modest: Prieto
 - Radical: Caballero
 - Anarchists
 - Major group
 - CNT: trade union
 - FAL: more extreme
- Economy**
 - Difficult situation in agriculture
 - Key factor
 - Spain: mainly agricultural
 - Seasonal
 - Not enough food
 - Countryside
 - Rising → civil guard strikes
 - No support from church → anarchism
 - Trade unions
 - SLGT (soc)
 - CNT (anar)
 - Competed
 - Universal war
 - Short period of economic boom
 - Early 1920s
 - Major economic problem → violence
- Background**
 - 1931-1936: political crisis
 - King Alfonso
 - 1st rep. est. in 1931
 - Right-wing: Primo de Rivera
 - Left-wing: Largo Caballero
 - Radical: Indalecio Prieto
 - Modest: Prieto
 - Radical: Caballero
 - 1931-1936: political crisis
 - King Alfonso
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Short-term

- Church reforms**
 - Less power in society
 - Violent attack: May 1931
- Military reform**
 - Less power
 - Inspired from control
 - Left: radical
 - Right: conservative
- Each reform**
 - Attack on a right-wing group
- Failure of Left Republic**
 - Failure of reforms
 - Right-wing wouldn't give them a chance
 - January 1933: set fire to houses to 'smoke out' anarchists → 25 people killed → loss of working class and socialist support
 - Azaña resigned, 1933
- The Popular Front**
 - Feb - July 1936
 - Restored left reforms
 - Results
 - People impatient
 - Will you really last?
 - Violence
 - FAL: peasants not land by force
 - CNT: strikes
 - Right-wing violence
 - in CEDA + Falange
- Planned coup**
 - By military officers
 - Contacted:
 - CEDA: Gil-Robles
 - Falange
 - Carlists
 - General Franco too
 - 18th July 1936
- Immediate**
 - 19th July
 - CEDA politician murdered by police
 - President had found out
 - Tried to move key military men abroad
 - "He knows!"
 - 17th July - Coup
 - Attempt
 - Didn't manage to take Madrid
 - Industrial parts
 - Army
 - 1/2 supported coup
 - 1/2 remained loyal
 - Coup failed at first

The Conduct of War

- July 1936**
 - General Mola
 - Controlled most of North-west
 - General Franco
 - Help from Nazi Germany
 - airlifted 24,000 troops Africa → Spain
 - keep rebellion going
- The Difference**
 - Republicans had important assets
 - Nationalists won important battles
- The Republicans - who?**
 - Last government from Feb 1936
 - Support from:
 - Urban workers
 - Peasants in the south
 - Liberal intellectuals
 - Socialists and anarchists
- The Nationalists - who?**
 - Conservative groups
 - Right-wing groups
 - Support from:
 - Upper class
 - Most of middle class
 - Peasants in north-center
- Weakness of Republicans**
 - Politically divided
 - Socialist: war → rev.
 - Anarchist: rev + war
 - USSR used terror tactics
 - liberals put off
 - Internal fights
 - Military problems
 - Controlled majority BUT:
 - No clear leader
 - Not one army: different militias
 - Local conflicts: not organized campaigns
 - End 1936: militias replaced by Popular Army
 - Economic issues
 - Anarchist influence on economy → decentralized + collective administration
 - less efficient, not war economy
 - Production decreased
 - Trade cut off by NIC
 - shortages
- Strengths of Nationalists**
 - Political unity
 - Franco: leader 1936
 - All groups want strong leader
 - Church propaganda
 - Military unity
 - Majority of officers were unified command - Faldes
 - Africanistas superior force
 - Good communication
 - Economic advantages
 - Sept. 1936: controlled main areas of food production
 - 1937: main industrial areas too
 - Business community supported → financial aid → supply
 - No trade restrictions Germany + Italy
- Nationalist allies**
 - Germany
 - Try equipment
 - Traded
 - Bombos Guernica, 1937
 - Italy
 - More nostrum
 - Sent troops
 - Portugal
 - German supplies could travel through Pindisguise
 - Britain
 - Aug 1936: NIC fear of general war → didn't work
 - Dec 1936: trading agreement
 - to not damage relationship with Italy and Portugal
- Effects:**
 - Lengthened war
 - Got worse
 - Continuous aid modern too
- Important battles**
 - February 1939
 - Nationalists take Barcelona
 - March 1939
 - Nationalists take Madrid
- Nature of war**
 - Bombing of civilians
 - Dehumanizing enemy
 - Half a million lives lost
- 1st April 1939**
 - Nationalists win the Spanish civil war

Effects

Domestic

- Franco dictator**
 - 1939-1975
- Casualties**
 - Deaths
 - Fighting war
 - Concentration camps
 - "White Terror"
 - 100,000 Republicans
 - 70,000 Nationalists
 - Wounded
 - Hundreds of thousands
- Divisions**
 - General hatred
 - Nationalist veterans → pension
 - Republican veterans → No pension
- Mass emigration**
 - ~200,000
 - Republican children
 - 16-18 years old
 - Support of Republicans
 - Wrote to parents
- Domestic**
 - White Terror
 - Anti-communist
 - Isolation unit
 - Cold War
 - Back to land owners
 - no new developments in agriculture
 - Privileged have no reason to improve → inefficient

International

- USSR**
 - Loss of support for communism
 - Losing side
 - Cynical withdrawal
 - Communism error
 - Isolation from west
 - Did not trust B + F after NIC
 - Realized need for negotiations with Germany
- Britain and France**
 - Military lessons
 - Through observing
 - Strengthened belief in appeasement
 - Awful warfare
 - Fascism vs. Communism
 - Let them fight each other, and don't get involved
- Germany and Italy**
 - Learned valuable military lessons
 - Blitzkrieg
 - Aircraft, tanks, new weaponry
 - International status
 - Saved the world from communism
 - Broke Soviet front
 - B + F + I → I + G instead
 - Italy busy in Spain → "Anschlus"
 - Hitler lost respect → more aggressive
- The USA**
 - Spain excluded from Marshall Aid 1948
 - Remained neutral during the civil war
 - Cold War changed perspective
 - The enemy of my enemy is my friend
 - Horrified by awful warfare

Did it cause WW2?

- Had met out their weapons → prepared
- Hitler's popularity grew in Germany and abroad