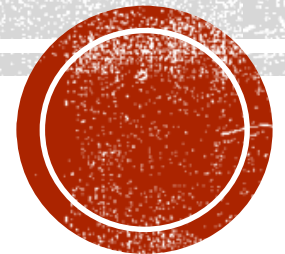


THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

1936-1939





REVIEW

When did Hitler invade Poland? Why did he invade?

What is Blitzkrieg?

THESIS STATEMENT PRACTICE

- Last class we looked at Hitler's invasion of Poland and the capture of Warsaw, ultimately sparking WWII...But let's step back for a second...
- Create a thesis statement answering the question:

What was the cause of the Spanish Civil War?



BACKGROUND

- Long history of Coups and violence in Spain
- (between 1803-1936 there were 19 military coups)
- Strong issues of catholic traditions v. Liberalism
- Many economic issues
 - Agrarian economy
 - Many poor and indebted peasants



AFTER WWI

- Military dictatorship of General Primo Rivera
 - Through a coup
 - 1923-1930
- Discontent/factions within the regions of Spain
- Lots of censorship
- Land issues
- King Alfonso XIII abdicated in 1930



1931-1933 THE LEFT REPUBLIC

- Second Republic- Held by socialists and the Republican Coalition
- President Manuel Azaña
- Improved working conditions
- Weakening of the Catholic Church
- Land Reforms
- New constitution



THE RIGHT REPUBLIC 1933-1936



- Suppression of workers rights
- Called the "Black Years" - basically undoing all of the accomplishments that had been done previously
- Many strikes, which were met with lots of violence



BEGINNINGS OF WAR (1936-1939)

- July of 1936- A group of military generals instigated a coup against the new republic
- Started in Morocco and within a few days it had spread to the peninsula.
- Two factions arose out of this conflict- the Nationalists and the Republicans



NATIONALISTS V. REPUBLICANS

Nationalists

- Ultra conservative political group- many high-ranking military officers
- Sought reinstatement of King Alfonso Xiii
- Wanted more involvement of the church
- Supported Fascist ideology and interests
- Led by military leader **Francisco Franco**
- Backed by Italy and Germany

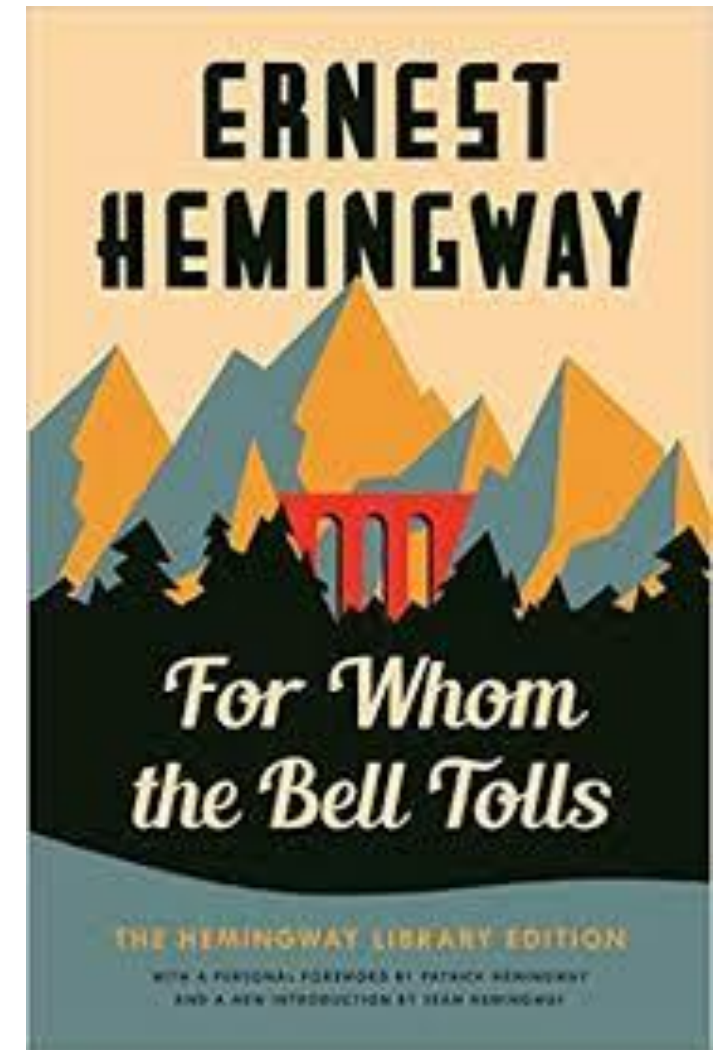
Republicans

- More liberal group
- Sought a democratically elected government
- Supported by leftists, anarchists, and Anti-Fascist Groups
- Backed by the USSR



FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT

- The British took the position of non-intervention
 - Resulted in the Republican government lacking supplies and backing
 - Many foreign western governments didn't want to get involved because they feared Communism and Bolshevism
- Republicans were supported by the USSR and Stalin
- The United States sent volunteer troops (International Brigades)
- Mexico also sent limited support



COMMENTARY ON HUMANITY

- 'For whom the bells tolls' is a quotation from a work by John Donne, in which he explores the interconnectedness of humanity.
- John Donne (1572-1631), wrote the line 'for whom the bell tolls' in *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, Meditation XVII*:
- "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: **any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.**"



FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT

- The Nationalists were backed by Italy and Germany
- Germany supplied:
 - Air legion of 5000 men
 - Tanks and Artillery units
 - Transportation and troops
- Italy supplied around 75,000 troops and over 560 million in loans
- Portugal also supported the nationalists with troops and open borders



CRITICAL THINKING:

- Why would it be beneficial for Hitler and the Nazis to support the Nationalists?
- How do you think this will play into WWII?

BOMBING OF GUERNICA



THE BOMBING OF GUERNICA (26 APRIL 1937

- an aerial bombing of the town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.
- It was carried out by Francisco Franco's rebel Nationalist faction, by its allies, the Nazi German Luftwaffe's Condor Legion and the Fascist Italian Aviation , under the code name 'Operation Rügen'.
- The operation opened the way to Franco's capture of Bilbao and his victory in northern Spain.
- The attack gained controversy because it involved the bombing of civilians by a military air force. Seen as a war crime by some historians, and argued as a legitimate attack by others, it was one of the first aerial bombings to capture global attention.
- The number of victims is still disputed; the Basque government reported 1,654 people killed at the time



PABLO PICASSO, *GUERNICA* 1937



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OiX1VbzorU>



RESULTS/ IMPACT OF THE CIVIL WAR

- The Nationalist forces were ultimately successful in the civil war- which ended after Madrid was captured in March of 1939.
- Horrific war atrocities were committed on both sides
- Between 500,000 and 1 million dead
- Even more deaths from resulting disease and starvation
- Hitler's position in Europe was strengthened with Franco as a dictator and ally.
- Spain, Italy, and Germany had a military alliance.
- Francisco Franco becomes dictator from 1939-1975



FRANCO AS DICTATOR (1939-1975)

- Left with a broken and chaotic country
- Declared neutrality in WWII, but later sided with Hitler
- Shunned by League of nations after WWII
- Extremely anti-communist
- Started to enact more liberal reforms in the 1960s

