

## Chapter 12: The Origins of the Spanish Civil War (1936 – 1939)

### 12.2 GEOGRAPHICAL CAUSES

- Spain is isolated – cut off from Europe by the Pyrenees mountains
- Not fully unified due to terrain
- Deep cultural and linguistic differences appeared between the people of different provinces
- Separatism was strongest in Basque Province<sup>1</sup> and Catalonia<sup>2</sup>

### 12.3 RELIGIOUS CAUSES

#### The Reconquista

- Spain was originally under Roman Catholicism
- Spain was ruled by Muslim Moors for hundreds of years
- Due to hatred of the Moors, people who were not Catholics were regarded as traitors

#### Ossification of the Spanish Catholic Church

- The Spanish Catholic Church was very close to the Spanish monarchy
- It had much wealth – resented by the commoners
- Resistant to the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity – result of the 1789 French Revolution
- Opposed the growth of left-wing ideologies

### 12.4 ECONOMIC CAUSES

- Northern Spain was mainly industrial
- Southern Spain was mainly agricultural
- The government was dominated by landowners
- Huge farms located in the south were dominated by the rich – latifundia
- Spanish industries were found in the North – Catalonia, Basque and Asturias
- Industries expanded in the 1920s due to governmental financing – a large working class population formed
- The workers came under the influence of the leftist union – socialism, communism etc.

### 12.5 IDEOLOGICAL CAUSES

#### Right-wing Groups

- Consisted of the monarchy, Catholic Church, the elites and the military
- Anti-democratic to preserve their own political and economic power
- Wanted the church to continue to dominate in society

#### Left-wing Groups

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<sup>1</sup> Capital was Bilbao

<sup>2</sup> Capital was Barcelona

- All left-wing groups believe in equality – the conflict was over how to achieve that
- Conservative order was challenged by new ideologies from 1889 French Revolution
- Spain saw the rise of mass politics and left-wing ideologies after World War I
- Popular in northern and central Spain
- Aided by the rise in literacy and modernity

#### The Socialists

- Led by the PSOE<sup>3</sup>
- It became popular with workers
- One of its leaders was Largo Caballero
- Formed the UGT<sup>4</sup>
- Dominated Madrid, Asturias and Basque areas
- Preferred to adopt a top-down, gradual, moderate approach
- Clashed with the Anarchists

#### The Anarchists

- Popular with workers and peasants
- Dominated Catalonia and Andalusia
- Formed the CNT<sup>5</sup> in 1911 – membership reached 500,000 by 1918
- An even more radical FAI<sup>6</sup> later appeared
- Wanted a revolution
- Believed in the use of violence and heroism to overthrow the government
- Abhorred organisation and advocated a stateless society
- Believed that people should be able to do things freely without compulsion, including governing bodies
- Opposed Christianity

#### The Communists

- Still believed in a functioning government
- Spanish Communist Party formed in 1920
- Strong in Catalonia and Madrid
- Not popular but became dominant during the civil war
- Received backing from Moscow
- Acted on orders from the Soviet Union

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<sup>3</sup> Spanish Socialist Party

<sup>4</sup> Union General de Trabajadores

<sup>5</sup> Confederacion Nacional de Trabajo

<sup>6</sup> Federacion Anarquista Iberica

- Clashed badly with the Socialists and Anarchists
- An anti-Stalinist faction called the POUM<sup>7</sup> broke away

## 12.6 MILITARY CAUSES

### Spanish Imperialism

- Spain used to have an extensive empire – it was lost in the American-Spanish War of 1898
- Became a third-rate power – humiliating to the army
- The army felt the need to preserve Holy Spain – saw it as its duty to fight against separatists
- 1878 Constitution declared that the military's main function was to fight against internal enemies
- The army was frequently used to quell social unrest

### Military interference in national politics

- The army was over-officered and unemployed – ratio was 1 officer to 8 men
- Military officers saw themselves as defenders of national honour and blamed politicians for incompetence and corruption
- Politicised army – believed it had the right to intervene in politics
- Military coups happened often
- General Primo de Rivera staged a coup in 1923 – he was backed by the army, King, elites and the Church
- He was unable to deal with the impact of the Great Depression and fled when he lost the support of the army

## 12.7 POLITICAL CAUSES

- Long term causes – before 1930
- Short term causes – 1930 to 1936

### Weak democratic traditions

- Bureaucracy plagued by nepotism and violence
- The Cortes<sup>8</sup> elections were rigged and dominated by the caciques<sup>9</sup>
- The government was corrupt and ineffectual

### Weak constitutional monarchy

- The Spanish monarchy lost its powers and became a constitutional one
- King Alfonso XIII was unpopular – forced to abdicate in 1930 as the army refused to support him
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic was declared on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1930

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<sup>7</sup> Workers' Party of Marxist Unification

<sup>8</sup> Spanish parliament

<sup>9</sup> Rich landowning elites

Conflict between the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Republic's** left-wing forces and the right-wing forces

- There was growing political radicalism and ideological extremism
- Effects of the Great Depression were still felt
- Unemployment soared
- Elections held in June 1931 – the left-wing dominated the Cortes

The left-wing policies

- Government led by Manuel Azana
- Introduced a highly controversial constitution
- Stirred up conservative fears but failed to meet the expectations of their supporters
- Lacked financial resources to carry through their reforms

Undermining of Catholicism

- Separated the Church and the State
- Stopped government payment of priests
- Church property was nationalised
- Suspended religious education
- Allowed divorce

Educational reforms

- Sought to destroy the Church's hold over the educational system

Undermining of the military

- Soldiers were made liable to civil law instead of military law
- Soldiers had to take an oath of loyalty to the Republic
- Reduced the officer corps
- Attempted to reduce the power of the military

Land reforms

- 1932 Agrarian Law called for 'unworked property of 56 acres or more' to be nationalised
- Land was redistributed to the poor
- The countryside became a scene of bitter fighting – especially in the poverty-stricken South

Autonomy for provinces

- Granted provisional autonomy for provinces
- Constitution allowed for any areas which were ready to be granted self-government
- 1932 – Catalonia was given its own flag, president and parliament
- Deeply opposed by the army – feared the dissolution of Holy Spain

### The Assault Guards

- A paramilitary militia called Assault Guards were set up to control the cities

### The challenge by right-wing political parties

#### The CEDA

- Right-wing parties came under the CEDA<sup>10</sup>
- The CEDA was pro-Church and strongly pro-left
- Became the biggest party in Spain

#### The Falange Party

- Falange Español was formed and led by Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera
- Supported Benito Mussolini
- Had strained relations with the CEDA
- Expanded in 1936 when CEDA members defected

### 1932 to 1936

- The right-wing won the 1933 elections – sought to reverse any reforms enacted by the left-wing
- 1932 to 1936 was a general period of violence – strikes and murders were common
- The right-wing and left-wing groups formed militias which carried out assassinations against each other

### The growing military conspiracy

- The offices had been planning a conspiracy since 1931
- General Sanjurjo<sup>11</sup> revolted in 1932 but was crushed
- General Emilio Mola became the leader of these conspirators

## 12.8 THE OUTBREAK OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

### The left-wing victory in the 1936 elections

- CEDA and the monarchists formed the National Front
- The Anarchists, Socialists and Communists formed the Popular Front – they won the elections
- The right-wing parties were convinced that Spain would turn communist

### The government crackdown on the right-wing

- Government began cracking down on the Falange
- The Falange headquarters were closed

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<sup>10</sup> Confederacion Española de Derechas Autónomas

<sup>11</sup> Director-General of the Civil Guard then

- The Flange leader Jose Antonio was arrested

#### The outbreak of land-grabbing

- The Anarchists encouraged peasant to seize the lands of the rich

#### Attempts to undermine the army

- Efforts were made to disperse the generals in 1936
- Franco was sent to the Canary Islands, Manuel Godea was sent to the Balearic Islands and Emilio Mola was sent to Navarre and Basque – this was a mistake and helped the rebel network to be spread around Spain
- The generals remained in contact with each other in secret

#### The murder of Calvo Sotelo

- Jose Castillo was a left-wing Assault Guard – he was assassinated in July 1936 by a right-wing hit squad
- Calvo Sotelo was a right-wing CEDA political and leader of the opposition in the Cortes
- The Assault Guards seized Calvo Sotelo and executed him on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1936

- The army revolted on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1936
- The rebels were called the Nationalists
- The pro-government forces were called the Republicans

#### Historiography of the origins of the Spanish Civil War

- Was 1936 a revolutionary situation?
- Change ≠ revolution
- The left wing groups were divided

## Chapter 13: The Nature and Effects of the Spanish Civil War

### 13.2 THE CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN: NATIONALIST AND REPUBLICAN STRATEGIES

#### The military situation until July 1936

- The Nationalists captured Morocco first where its elite Army of Africa led by General Francisco Franco was based
- Franco convinced Germany and Italy to transport his army to southern Spain
- General Mola captured northern Spain
- The Nationalists sought to move down from the north under Mola and up from the south under Franco
- The Nationalists were unable to capture Madrid
- The Republican Prime Minister Casares Quiroga was unwilling to arm the workers – feared a communist uprising
- The workers were willing to fight and die for their beliefs – they strongly believed in their ideology
- Quiroga was forced to quit and the workers were armed
- The delay allowed the Nationalists to consolidate their advance
- Poorly planned Nationalists uprisings + stiff resistance by workers + failure of Mola and Franco to link up = failed uprisings

#### Division of Spain by end of July 1936

- The Nationalists controlled the main agricultural areas – southwest, northwest, north-centre
- Had the support of middle and upper classes, the Church and the army officers
- The Republicans controlled the industrial areas – Madrid, Andalusia, Catalonia
- Had the support of workers, the young officers, the air force and the navy

#### The Nationalist failure to capture Madrid

- November 1936 – the Nationalist forces had reached the outskirts of Madrid
- The people of Madrid stopped the Nationalists
- The Nationalists could not cope with street fighting – they were used to open terrain
- The Republican government evacuated Madrid and fled to Barcelona
- Led to a division of the Republicans between Madrid and Barcelona

#### The fall of Basque

- The Basque provinces were isolated from the rest of Republican Spain
- Did not receive any support from the Republican government
- Collapsed in June 1937
- Franco took over its industries to support his own war effort

#### Republican campaigns in 1938

- The Republicans launched full-scale offensives in 1938
- Adopted attritional set piece offensives – failed due to no aerial and artillery superiority
- Suffered heavy losses

#### The final Nationalist offensive

- Hitler pressed Franco for access to Spanish iron
- Succeeded in return for supplying more war equipment
- Barcelona was under siege and fell in January 1939
- Madrid was under siege and fell in March 1939



### 13.3 DOMESTIC REASONS FOR THE REPUBLICAN DEFEAT AND THE NATIONALIST VICTORY

Theme	Republicans	Nationalists
Centralisation of power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ineffectual leadership               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1936: Socialist Prime Minister Largo Caballero was unable to unite the government effectively</li> <li>- Replaced by Juan Negrin, who was willing to compromise principles and favour the Communists in order to secure Soviet support – made many enemies</li> <li>- No real central government</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ideological divisions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Divided amongst the Socialists, Communists and Anarchists</li> <li>- Republican Spain had two centres of government: Madrid and Barcelona</li> <li>- Madrid was dominated by the Communists while Barcelona was dominated by the Anarchists</li> <li>- The Anarchists wanted a social revolution while the Communists felt it was not realistic</li> <li>- May 1937: the Anarchists revolted in Barcelona and were defeated – the Anarchist leaders were imprisoned or executed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong leadership               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- September 1936: Franco was made the Supreme Commander and Head of State</li> <li>- Benefitted from the death of his rivals – Godea was executed by the Republicans, Mola and Sanjurjo died in plane crashes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Clear ideology               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- April 1937: Franco united the Falange and all other right-wing parties under him</li> <li>- Undermined the Falange party until it had little real power</li> <li>- Promoted the theme 'One State, One Country, One Chief'</li> <li>- Opposed liberalism and all left-wing ideologies</li> <li>- Projected himself as a defender of Christianity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>Military effectiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no central command staff and hence no unified command</li> <li>• The Communists wanted to create a regular army but this was opposed by the Anarchists</li> <li>• The Republicans did not win over the pre-war military officers as they doubted the loyalty of the officers</li> <li>• Officers were promoted due to their ideology – not expertise</li> <li>• The military comprised of militias from different unions</li> <li>• The Republicans made a clear mistake to adopt offensive set piece offensives in 1938 – this played to the Nationalists' strengths</li> <li>• The army had no training and discipline was poor</li> <li>• Uniforms and weapons were scarce</li> <li>• There was much smuggling taking place in the army</li> <li>• Troops were subjected to excessive political indoctrination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Franco won much respect and prestige for his wartime career</li> <li>• Franco was a capable and cautious leader</li> <li>• Franco made sure his military subordinates were personally loyal to him – not to the armed forces</li> <li>• The Nationalists had a more professional command staff and were aided by German instructors</li> <li>• Franco controlled the elite Army of Africa</li> <li>• The Nationalists were able to attain parity in numbers by 1937</li> <li>• The strength of the Nationalists lay in open and mobile offensive operations</li> <li>• The Nationalist troops were well trained by the Germans and Italians</li> <li>• The Nationalists were better supplied</li> <li>• Franco subordinated all the different right-wing militias under the central army command</li> </ul>
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Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted attritional set piece offensives – this was a disadvantage against the professional and better trained Nationalist armies</li> <li>• The Republicans should have focused on a defensive guerrilla strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Franco was methodical – he slowed down the pace of the war through careful preparation and husbanding of his resources</li> <li>• Franco would only launch offensives when all was ready and a thorough defeat of the enemy was achieved</li> <li>• Franco was concerned about the welfare of his men – they thus demonstrated unquestioning loyalty to him</li> </ul>
Socioeconomic mobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Republican government's attempts to create radical socio-economic only created chaos</li> <li>• The anti-religious policies were the most counter-productive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nationalists were much more effective in mobilising people</li> <li>• Support from the Church played a major role in sustaining commitment and morale to the Nationalists</li> </ul>
Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failed to muster much international support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtained and maintained the support of France and Italy</li> </ul>

### 13.4 THE REASONS AND IMPACT OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION

Compare and contrast with the Chinese Civil War

Neutrality is a form of intervention

Reasons for the United Kingdom **(UK)**'s and **France's** policy of neutrality

- Lack of domestic desire for involvement
  - France had a leftist Popular Front government and was inclined to support the Republicans
  - France feared being surrounded by fascist countries (Italy and Germany)
  - If the government supported the Republicans it would split France domestically and cause a civil war
  - In UK, there was a deep desire for peace
  - UK preferred the fascists and communists fighting each other
  - The British ruling class was sympathetic to the Nationalists
  - The British economic elites favoured a right-wing victory
- The threat from Germany
  - The Western countries did not want their weapons and resources diverted to Spain
  - The Western countries had begun remilitarisation due to the growing German threat
- Lack of Western cooperation
  - UK told France that if war broke out it would not support France
  - UK forced France to close the French-Spanish border – this cut off an important supply route for the Republicans

The failure of the policy of non-intervention

- The aims of the Non-Intervention Committee
  - Non-intervention is already a form of intervention
  - The Committee was formed in 1936
  - The Committee banned all supplies of war materials and men to either side and sought to localise the conflict
  - The Committee was **opposed by the Republican government** as it put the legitimate government on the same level as the rebel Nationalists
- The non-compliance by European powers
  - Germany and Italy ignored the Committee and entered the war on the side of the Nationalists
  - A Republican warship accidentally bombed Italian and German warships; Germany and Italy used this as an excuse to enter the war
  - The Soviet Union declared that it would send weapons due to German and Italian violations of the policy of non-intervention

- The French engaged in arms smuggling
- The Non-Intervention Committee suggested blockading the Mediterranean Sea to prevent supplies being sent to either side in the conflict
- This failed as the Portuguese coast was neglected and the Nationalists were receiving supplies from a sympathetic Portuguese government

#### Reasons for the Soviet Union, Germany and **Italy's** involvement

- The Soviets originally did not want to get involved in the war – the Great Purges were taking place around this time

Reason	Soviet Union	Germany and Italy
Ideology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Felt obliged to support as they were seen as the leader of the communist movement</li> <li>• They were forced to take part to organise the International Brigades due to external pressure – Stalin felt that this was not the correct time as he was still consolidating his own power</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nazis and Italian fascists were keen to fight communism; there were many volunteers</li> </ul>
Geopolitical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feared that a Republican victory would cause the UK and France to ally with Germany instead</li> <li>• Wanted Germany and Italy to be bogged down – they then would not pose a threat to Russia</li> <li>• Wanted a long, drawn out world war where the capitalist countries would destroy each other</li> <li>• Wanted to create a stalemate, a no-win situation for both sides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hoped to surround France with fascist countries</li> <li>• Hitler wanted Italy to be in conflict with the UK and France – this would aid in destroying the Stresa Front</li> <li>• Wanted the Western powers to be distracted from German rearmament – remilitarisation of the Rhine and the annexation of the Sudetenland</li> </ul>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stalin systematically overcharged the Republicans for supplies</li> <li>• In return, he received over 70% of the Spanish gold reserves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germany wanted access to minerals in Spain such as iron</li> </ul>

Military	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germany wanted to use Spain to test their weapons and military doctrines</li> <li>• Italy wanted to strengthen its position in the Mediterranean Sea</li> <li>• Italy wanted to draw away the French troops from the French-Italian border</li> </ul>
Prestige	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Italy sought to enhance Mussolini's regime's prestige – they had already completed the Abyssinian conquest and were looking for another war</li> <li>• Italy was eyeing the French colonies in north Africa</li> </ul>

#### Extent of foreign support

Reason	Soviet Union	Germany and Italy
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only provided food and money initially</li> <li>• Did not send ordinary combat troops</li> <li>• The distribution of supplies favoured the communists – Soviet favouritism exacerbated the underlying divisions between the Republicans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germans sent military professionals including instructors and technical specialists</li> <li>• The Italians originally sent out incompetent troops but the quality improved over time – the Nationalist forces quality improved overall</li> </ul>
Air force	–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Franco's forces were flown from to Spain via German planes</li> <li>• The Germans sent the Condor Legion – a combined air, tank and artillery unit</li> <li>• Developed the combined arms tactics – later used during the Blitzkrieg</li> </ul>
Naval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lacked an aggressive strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Italian submarines attacked ships carrying Russian supplies</li> </ul>

Diplomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempted to link the civil war with a European war</li> <li>• Failed due to the West's policy of appeasement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• German and Italian government recognised the Nationalists as the legitimate government</li> </ul>
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insisted on payment for supplies</li> <li>• Stripped Spain of its gold reserves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money lent to the Nationalists was on credit – debts were only repaid after the war had ended</li> </ul>

#### Role of the International Brigades

- Ideological fighters
- Stimulated by a desire for adventure
- Recruitment carried out by communist parties worldwide
- Provided a tremendous boost to Republic morale
- The members of the Brigades were veterans of street fighting – not used to conventional warfare
- Desertion and drunkenness eventually became a problem
- Ended in 1939 when Stalin signed the Nazi-Soviet pact, betraying the Republicans

#### Role of the Vatican

- Pope Pius XI declared that the Republicans were satanic
- The Nationalists received backing from the Catholic Church
- The Nationalists won the support of the pro-Church peasants

#### Role of the United States

- Passed the US Neutrality Act of 1935 which forbade the supply of arms to both sides
- Ignored by American companies which still sold oil to the Nationalists

### 13.5 THE IMPACT OF AIR POWER ON THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

- The Republican air force was backwards, small and poorly trained
- The Republicans lost the advantage of air superiority through foreign intervention
- Republican air forces were deployed in a piecemeal manner and were easily destroyed

#### Aerial superiority

- Foreign intervention became decisive in this area
- The Nationalists had superior aircraft and pilots, usually obtained from Germany and Italy
- German Bf109 fighters ensured air superiority

#### Close air support

- Both sides used foreign aircraft – the Republicans used Soviet aircraft while the Nationalists used German and Italian aircrafts
- The Germans perfected their close support tactics in Spain – would later be used in World War II as the blitzkrieg tactic
- Upon arriving at a target, the aircraft and artillery would track first, allowing the infantry to advance while facing less resistance

#### Strategic bombing

- Did not directly cause the Republicans to surrender
- Both sides lacked heavy bombers and the extent of damage was limited
- Infamous Nationalist attack on Guernica – 1,600 killed after German bombers used incendiaries, high explosives and shrapnel bombs



### 13.6 THE IMPACT OF NAVAL POWER ON THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

#### Command of the sea

- The Navy remained loyal to the Republicans
- The Republicans however killed off many of the professional officers – left the navy leaderless
- The Soviet advisors elected to adopt a defensive and passive strategy – proved to be a mistake

#### Commerce raiding

- The Republican failure to engage the Nationalists directly using their navy caused the naval blockade to tighten around them
- The Republicans did not attack German and Italian ships for fear of causing further international complications
- The German and Italian aircraft sank or detained convoys and supply ships from the Soviet Union – affected the Republicans' ability to wage war leading to demoralisation

### 13.7 THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC MOBILISATION

Aspect	Republicans	Nationalists
Resource control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Famine occurred in Republican Spain</li><li>• This caused morale to plummet</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Controlled the food producing areas</li></ul>
Resource mobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economy was hindered by the Anarchists' attempts to carry out radical economic reforms</li><li>• Tried to establish collectives</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seized control of the financial and industrial areas</li><li>• Maximised exports, especially minerals</li><li>• Cracked down hard on unions</li></ul>
Financial situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Nationalists flooded the international market with millions of captured Republican currency</li><li>• Caused inflation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Received financial aid from Germany and Italy</li><li>• Reduced unnecessary spending</li><li>• Imposed new taxes</li></ul>

### 13.8 IMPACT ON SOCIETY

#### Impact of war on civilians

- The Germans wanted to test the reaction of the civilian population to being bombed
- Madrid was subjected to aerial bombing – it was the first European capital to be subject to this
- There were executions of political prisoners – at least 120,000 were killed
- Executions were more decentralised and spontaneous under the Republicans
- Executions were more deliberate and centralised under the Nationalists
- The Republicans desecrated churches and executed priests

#### Impact of war on women

- The Anarchists fought for the full liberation of women
- Due to the male labour shortage, many women entered into the work force for the Republicans
- The Nationalists prompted a prudish view of women – they had to do social services

#### Impact of wartime social reforms

- The Republican government accelerated social reforms
- The government gave women equal rights and ended the illegitimacy of children
- This created much political instability
- The social revolution was only abandoned in 1938

#### Impact of war on reporting and propaganda

- The war attracted many leftist intellectuals
- Dolores Ibarruri made many speeches to stir up the Republicans to defend the Republic
- General Queipo de Llano made speeches to encourage the Nationalist forces

## 13.9 THE POST-WAR IMPACT OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

### Political Impact

- Franco's dictatorship
  - Franco ruled until his death in 1975
  - Franco took the side of the United States in 1953 and hence his rule was supported by them
  - Assisted by his family members in the government
  - Resurrected the monarchy in 1947 to deflect criticism but remained regent for life
  - Had a tight control over the military and the Church
  - Promoted a personality cult that focused on him being chosen by God
  - Extensive use of his portrait on posters, coins etc
  - Supported by parades and rallies
- Political persecution
  - Imposed the law of political responsibility – all Republican supporters, past or present, were criminals
  - Up to 200,000 political executions took place
  - Property of the political enemies were confiscated
  - Concentration camps were set up in the 1940s
  - Republican children were taken from their parents to be reeducated
- Unity of Spain
  - Autonomous aspirations of the Basques and Catalans were undermined
  - Autonomy statutes passed by the Republicans were abolished
  - Regional languages e.g. Catalan were suppressed in favour of Castilian (Spanish)
  - Regional traditions were suppressed in favour of national ones e.g. bullfighting
- Continued guerrilla campaigns
  - Many Republicans fled to France where they supported the French resistance
  - Launched guerrilla campaigns but lacked Allied support
  - The futile resistance was ended in 1951 after Franco used the Army to suppress it
- Spanish political exiles
  - At least 500,000 Spanish intellectuals fled into exile
  - Those who fled to France were eventually forced to return to Spain
  - Those caught by the Nazis were sent to concentration camps and executed
- Spain's role in World War II
  - Joined the Anti-Comintern Pact in 1939
  - Spain declared neutrality during World War II

- Franco made stiff demands which Hitler could not accept
- Was forced to allow Spain to provide fuelling and bases for the Axis Powers
- Sent a division of Nationalists to fight in Russia on the Eastern Front – 25,000 of the 47,000 sent died
- Franco moved away from the Axis Powers in 1943 after realising they were losing
- Spain was heavily reliant on the Western governments for imports
- Desire for a Spanish Empire
  - The Germans were turned off by Franco's demands for an empire in north Africa
  - Wanted to take over Gibraltar, Portugal, French colonies and French Catalonia
  - Had plans to expand the Navy and Air Force but failed due to lack of finances

### Economic impact

- Economic devastation
  - The Spanish gold reserves were depleted, being taken by the Soviet Union
  - 15% of national wealth was destroyed
  - The UK and Germany insisted that their foreign debts be repaid
  - Repayment for Italian loans lasted until 1962
  - The debt to Germany was repaid with Spanish exports, putting a strain on the economy
  - There was a great famine from 1941 till the 1950s – the Hungry Years
- Franco's autarkic policy
  - Sought to emulate Germany but failed to realise that Spain lacked the technological and industrial base that Nazi Germany possessed
  - Focused on national self-reliance
  - Cut off international trade
  - Spain remained largely agricultural
  - The Spanish economy performed poorly due to World War II and isolation from the West
  - Free market capitalism was adopted in 1959 – led to a massive expansion of the tourist industry and leading to the Spanish Miracle
  - Spain achieved the highest economic rate in Europe during the 1960s
- Continued economic progress of the elites
  - The working class was repressed and the unions were crushed
  - Slave labour was used for reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure

### Social impact

- Human cost

- Suffered about 150,000 military deaths which was largely limited due to both sides lacking significant combat power
- About 1.4% of the entire population died
- A memorial called the Valley of the Fallen was built by Franco – it was clearly pro-Nationalist
- Social stagnation
  - No real change in societal structure
  - Political power remained in the hands of the military and the landlords
  - Efforts were made to subjugate the working class
- Revival of the Catholic Church
  - Seen as the era of the national church
  - Franco adopted an ideology called National Catholicism
  - Imposed a puritanical culture
  - Homosexuals were continually persecuted, being jailed or locked up in mental institutions
- Continued discrimination against women
  - Rights won during the Republican period were abolished
  - Women did not enjoy legal equality
  - Women were discouraged from employment
  - Franco saw the family as the source of national strength
  - Incentives were given to promote large families
- Rewriting of history
  - Franco launched a massive cultural revisionism
  - Teachers, academics and writers were purged
  - Propaganda presented the Civil War as a national liberation from the threat of Moscow
  - Downplayed the role of the Axis Powers in the Civil War
  - Sought to destroy books which were considered Marxist, liberal or anti-religious