

HCCRI XII STUDY GUIDE

JOINT CRISIS CABINET



SPANISH
CIVIL WAR
(NATIONALISTS)



I. COUNCIL INTRODUCTION

The aftermath of WWI heralded a new age of revolution, with the emergence of countless revolutionary cells in Spain, where a multitude of different political ideologies manifested themselves in the formation of polarising parties with individual agendas. Economic ruin expedited the fragmentation of Spanish society as the nation's democratic principles were challenged by separatists, anarchists and socialists.

Looking beyond the troubled Iberian peninsula, we find a Europe clouded with hostility. Fresh off the backs of Hitler's remilitarisation of the Rhineland and Mussolini's successful conquest of Abyssinia, the struggle in Spain has mutated into a contest over the next battleground of Europe. Foreign manipulation and political intrigue has further separated the Spanish people, as the nation now becomes more divided than ever before.

I. COUNCIL INTRODUCTION

Spain now exists in polarity with the existence of two spheres of influence and two disparate factions: the Republicans and Nationalists, both fighting valiantly for a better future in Spain with drastically different visions for the future of the Spanish Empire. Republicans and Nationalists must navigate the precarious climate of war in their attempts to secure rightful Spanish territory, win the favour of the public and attain absolute victory.

The future of Spain lies in your hands.

El Que No Arriesga, No Gana.¹

¹ He who does not risk does not gain anything.

II. CRISIS OVERVIEW

The date is 19 July 1936. Council convenes in the immediate aftermath of the military uprising's defeat in Madrid and Barcelona. At this point, Morocco, Galicia, Navarre, Old Castile and Seville have come under the control of the Nationalist rebels, two days after the start of the Spanish Civil War.

We begin as a right-wing Nationalist military coup on 17 July 1936, having failed to seize control of the left-governed Second Republic, is in the process of solidifying their own position. Prior to the Spanish Civil War, Spain was fraught with economic crises in the early 20th century; Spain was suffering from high unemployment, poverty and inflation, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among the working class and the rural poor.

Furthermore there was growing fragmentation due to polarising political affiliations between groups in Spain, contributing to the context in which the Spanish Civil War ensued. Left-wing parties, such as the Socialists and Communists were in direct opposition to right-wing parties including the Nationalists and the Fascists. This divide was exacerbated by the rise of authoritarian and fascist regimes in Europe, such as Italy and Germany, further encouraging the increased political tensions in Spain.

II. CRISIS OVERVIEW

Before the outbreak of the war, the existing Spanish government, the Spanish Conservatives, was plagued by corruption and inefficiency. The country was also facing regional and cultural divisions, as well as political instability. In 1936, the Spanish general elections were won by the left-wing Popular Front coalition, which was made up of several parties, including the Socialists and the Communists. However, the new government was unable to address the country's economic and social issues and it faced strong opposition from the right-wing parties.

In July 1936, a group of Nationalist military officers, namely Francisco Franco, Emilio Mola, Jose Sanjurjo and Manuel Goded Llopis staged a rebellion against the government. The rebellion quickly spread to other parts of the country, and the Civil War began.

Under the backdrop of the Spanish social, political and economic conditions, delegates must skilfully navigate this passionate battle for the future of Spain, while closely collaborating in their respective factions.

III. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENTS

A first attempt at Spanish democracy was undertaken by liberals in the form of the Spanish Constitution of 1812, or the Constitution of Cádiz. Inspired by the 1791 constitution of Revolutionary France, the then-Central Junta of Spain sought the limitation of the monarch's powers, setting up a centralised administrative system and a single-chamber parliament.² However, in light of negative conservative reactions, King Ferdinand VII (who had in 1808 been forced to abdicate by Napoleon) tore up the Constitution of Cádiz and dismantled prior liberal efforts, returning to the throne as an absolute monarch in 1814.

² *The French invasion and the War of Independence, 1808-14.* (n.d.) Britannica. Retrieved February 2, 2023, from <https://www.britannica.com/place/Spain/The-French-invasion-and-the-War-of-Independence-1808-14#ref587725>

III. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The democratic experiment did not end there. Army unrest led to a period of three years, known as the *Trienio Liberal* (Liberal Triennium), during which military mutinies forced Ferdinand VII to accept the Constitution of Cádiz, and a liberal government took de facto control over Spain. Going further, radical liberals called for the removal of the monarch as an entity altogether, which destabilised Spain further upon election into government in 1823. The army's support was beginning to fade, and under sanction from European monarchs, a French army invaded Spain and reinstated Ferdinand VII's absolute power. The roughly four decades that followed were relatively peaceful, save the Carlist Wars, where the right-wing Carlists unsuccessfully rebelled to place another branch of the House of Bourbon on the throne. The Carlists continued to play an important role in Spanish politics well into the 20th century, even as Spain eventually turned fully democratic.

In 1868, the unpopular Queen Isabella II was deposed during *la Gloriosa* (Glorious Revolution), which began the *Sexenio Democrático* (Six Democratic Years). During this period of political instability, Spain experienced different forms of democracy, including a constitutional monarchy under King Amadeo I, and the short-lived First Spanish Republic. The Constitution of 1869 was also produced during this time, which is noted for its universal male suffrage as well as other universal rights declarations.³ The *Restauración* (Restoration), which restored Alfonso XII to the Spanish throne, put an end to the *Sexenio Democrático*.

³ *The Revolution of 1868 and the Republic of 1873*. (n.d.). Britannica. Retrieved February 2, 2023, from <https://www.britannica.com/place/Spain/The-Revolution-of-1868-and-the-Republic-of-1873#ref587758>

III. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

These early democratic experiments were fraught with challenges, fragmentation and political instability, which would later supplement the conditions for the nationalists to step in and present themselves as an alternative government.

III. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

ANTI-MONARCHIST IDEALS

Perhaps the most important event in shaping anti-monarchist sentiment was the Spanish-American War in 1898, in which the United States of America intervened in the Cuban War of Independence after the USS *Maine* exploded in Havana. The utter defeat of the royal regime, crowned by the loss of all remaining Spanish colonies, spawned widespread resentment and resistance against the monarchy, and what little political stability the *Restauración* and Alfonso XII had brought to Spain began to weaken even further. While Spanish neutrality in World War I improved domestic fortunes, the incumbent king, Alfonso XIII, and the monarchy as a whole was losing political capital owing to multiple past failures of absolutist royal rule.

Further compounding matters was the rise of Miguel Primo de Rivera, who in 1923 staged a successful coup d'état, ousting the incumbent parliamentary government. With the support of Alfonso XIII, Primo de Rivera was appointed Prime Minister, though he effectively ruled as a dictator. While he invested heavily in Spain's infrastructure, fuelling a brief period of economic growth, the Great Depression cost the dictatorship popular confidence. Coupled with a lack of political legitimacy for his rule, Primo de Rivera lost royal support, and was forced to resign in 1930. His son, José Antonio, would later find great importance in Spanish politics during the Second Republic, heading the extreme nationalist *Falange Española de las JONS* with influence from his father.

III. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

THE SECOND SPANISH REPUBLIC

General support for Alfonso XIII and the monarchy had hit an all-time low, which was reflected in the 1931 local elections. Effectively a plebiscite on the monarchy, Republican parties scored a major victory, the answer to the question of the monarchy clear for all to see. Alfonso XIII went into exile, and the Second Spanish Republic was proclaimed on 14 April 1931. A new constitution was drafted and introduced in December. By right, the provisional government should have been adjourned at this point, and new elections called. However, the Radical and Socialist majority postponed the elections, fearing increasing popular opposition.

Those fears were realised in the general elections of 1933, where the *Confederación Española de Derechas Autónomas* (CEDA), a right-wing, Nationalist party, won a majority vote. President Niceto Alcalá-Zamora, a staunch Republican, refused to allow the CEDA leader, José María Gil-Robles, to form a government, further denying CEDA presence in the government for close to a year. When CEDA was finally allowed into government, the Socialists and Communists launched an insurrection, marked by strikes across Spain. In particular, Asturia and Catalonia were key focal points where the uprisings turned violent. While generally unsuccessful, it sent the message that the Socialists did not believe in the leadership of CEDA, and drove another wedge between the two rapidly polarising sides.

III. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Alcalá-Zamora, alarmed by Gil-Robles' swift expansion of CEDA into government, dissolved the *Cortes Generales* (Parliament) on 7 January 1936, also fearing that Gil-Robles would soon push to become Prime Minister. Elections took place on 16 February, with the left-wing *Frente Popular* (Popular Front) narrowly gaining a majority in government. Left-wing extremists ran riot on the streets of Spain, causing chaos. The *Frente Popular*, however, faced difficulties in forming a government as some socialist groups within the left were unwilling to collaborate with republicans to form the government. On the other hand, the right had given up on attempting to take control through parliamentary means, and began planning for a use of force instead. In preparation for a coup d'état, individuals loyal to the right were stationed within each military district.

Relative government inaction against the growing threat of insurgency was soon punished. On 12 July, a member of the Falange shot Lieutenant José Castillo, a member of an important anti-Fascist group. In response, leftist militiamen, having received approval to illegally arrest some Members of Parliament, arrested right-wing opposition leader José Calvo Sotelo and assassinated him. This series of events convinced the Nationalists that it was time to launch their coup. Under the leadership of Francisco Franco, Emilio Mola, Manuel Llopis and José Sanjurjo, the gears began to turn. On 18 July, the uprising in Spanish Morocco and the Canary Islands was carried out to great success. Mainland Spain saw less favourable outcomes; the Nationalists could only capture Galicia, Navarre, Old Castile, León, and Seville.

IV. TIMELINE

Date	Event
16 February 1936	Elections held for the <i>Cortes Generales</i> . They are won by the 'Popular Front' (a coalition of left-wing political parties).
8 March 1936	Meeting of army officers in Madrid (including General Mola and General Franco) to discuss a military coup against the Popular Front government.
15 March 1936	<p>The government bans the Falange, a Spanish fascist organisation. Its leader, José Antonio Primo de Rivera, is arrested for illegal possession of weapons.</p> <p>The Falange was banned after members tried to assassinate Luis Jiménez Asúa, a Socialist member of the Cortes, on 10 March, and the trade union leader Francisco Largo Caballero on 14 March</p>
17-18 July 1936	Start of military rebellion against the Spanish government in North Africa, then mainland Spain.

V. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

FALANGE ESPAÑOLA DE LAS JONS (FE DE LAS JONS)

The origins of the FE de las JONS can be traced back to the founding of Falangism as an ideology. Falangism can be considered to be a sub-branch of Fascism; a key difference between the two, however, is that the Falange emphasises Spanish national traditions, combining it with the signature far-right nationalist character of the Fascists.⁴ Particularly of note is the Twenty-Six Point Programme of the Falange, highlighting the need for the incorporation of Catholic meaning into national education and policy of the state, as well as rejecting both capitalist and Marxist systems of the ideal society.⁵

As a party, FE de las JONS was founded by José Antonio Primo de Rivera in 1934, and became the main Fascist group during the Second Spanish Republic. Contrary to the support its Fascist counterparts enjoyed around Europe, FE de las JONS never garnered a large popular following during the years of the Republic, and its membership remained low. This could be due to several reasons. Firstly, FE de las

⁴ *The Falange*. (n.d.). History Learning Site. Retrieved February 23, 2023, from

<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/the-spanish-civil-war/the-falange>

⁵ Primo de Rivera, J. A. (September 1934). *The Twenty-Six Point Program of the Falange*. Retrieved February 23, 2023, from <https://identityhunters.files.wordpress.com/2017/07/jose-antonio-primo-de-rivera-the-twenty-six-point-program-of-the-falange.pdf>

V. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

JONS never garnered a large popular following during the years of the Republic, and its membership remained low. This could be due to several reasons. Firstly, FE de las JONS was formed relatively late in the political landscape of the Second Spanish Republic. By the time it was formed, several other political parties had already gained significant popular support. Its extreme fascist ideology and rhetoric also did not resonate with the majority of the Spanish people, who were mostly centrist or left leaning. Given that the Spanish Republic was marked by political instability and frequent changes in the government, this created a difficult environment for new political parties to gain a foothold. The Spanish government also actively suppressed the activities of FE de la JONS which made it difficult for the party to gain momentum and build a popular following.

Like the German NSDAP and Italian PNF, however, the party did run a militia and an intelligence service, providing military training to most of its members. Harsh persecution by the left-wing government pushed FE de las JONS to initiate the revolution.

V. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

CONFEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE DERECHAS AUTÓNOMAS (CEDA)

CEDA was founded in March 1933 by José María Gil-Robles, with the purpose of contesting the elections of that year. The largest right-wing party in Spain during the Second Republic, its leader and members were strongly opposed to the policies of incumbent president Manuel Azaña and his Republican government. Holding especially strong hatred for Marxism, CEDA considered Spain a “Christian Civilisation” which should be free of far-left ideals.⁶

The elections of 1933 played a great role in shaping CEDA as a political entity. Greatly emphasising election propaganda, CEDA flooded electoral divisions with messages equating the Republic with anarchy, disorder, immorality and religious persecution. Gil-Robles himself visited Nazi Germany, attending the Nuremberg rally among other events to bring key learning points back to Spain for his election campaign.⁷ The results showed the fruits of his labour; CEDA won a resounding victory, though they were barred from forming a government by President Alcalá-Zamora.

⁶ *Nationalist Faction*. (n.d.). Totally History. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <https://totallyhistory.com/nationalist-faction/>

⁷ Preston, P. (1975). Spain's October Revolution and the Rightist Grasp for Power. *Journal of Contemporary History*, 10(4), 555-578. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/260101>

V. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The 1936 election was a less successful campaign for CEDA, which then saw a drain in support in favour of the Falange and Alfonsists, as right-wing voters, noting the inefficiency of gaining power through legitimate means, turned to the radical methods of these parties. CEDA also came to a similar conclusion. They decided that revolution was a better choice compared to democracy, which pushed the party further to the extreme right. The revolutionary plans of the Falange were much welcomed by most party members.

THE CARLISTS

Carlism, Spanish Carlismo, is a Spanish political movement of traditionalist character. It originated in the 1820s and was mobilised in 1827 in the form of paramilitary Royalist Volunteers. The main ideology of the Carlists was a belief in traditionalist rule, which would better respect the ancient region specific institutions and laws established under historical rights.

V. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Carlists played a key role in the Spanish Civil War. Although they historically rejected a strong centralised government in favour of greater regional power, the Carlists allied with the Nationalists during the Spanish Civil War. Since 1931, the Carlists had been cooperating with right-wing Catholic movements in Spain to resist the spread of Republican legislation. Manuel Fal Conde became head of the movement in 1934 and, thus, began a period when the Carlists became more organised and took on a paramilitary character. They even developed their own plots to overthrow the Republican government. With such ideas, many Carlists made contact with other disaffected conservative groups and monarchists.

THE ALFONSISTS

The term Alfonsism refers to the movement in Spanish monarchism that supported the restoration of Alfonso XIII of Spain as King of Spain after the foundation of the Second Spanish Republic in 1931. The Alfonsists competed with the rival monarchists, the Carlists, for the throne of Spain. The Alfonsists sought to win the support of the Spanish people by emphasising the benefits of a constitutional monarchy and by portraying themselves as the legitimate heirs to the Spanish throne. On the other hand, the Carlists criticised the Alfonsists as being too liberal and secular.

V. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The ideology of the Alfonsists is an adaptation of authoritarian elements from Italian Fascism, *Action Française*, and Portuguese Integralism. Portuguese Integralism was traditionalist but not conservative. It was against parliamentarism and favoured decentralisation, Catholicism and monarchy.

The Alfonsists who supported the Nationalists did so because they believed in the restoration of the monarchy. They also believed that the Nationalists were fighting to preserve traditional Spanish values and the Catholic Church, which they saw as under threat from the Republican government.

VI. CURRENT SITUATION

THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN SUPPORT AND INTERNATIONAL ALLIES

By the mid-1930s, fascism and authoritarianism were on the rise in Europe, pointing to a highly unstable international climate.

During the Spanish Civil War, European powers harboured fears of an impending Second World War, and pursued an official policy of non-intervention in August 1936. However, in view of the polarised political climate in Europe at that time, the Soviet Union was keen to advance its communist interests. Thus, it sought Spain as an ally against Nazi Germany, to direct the communists to support the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War. However, foreign aid undeniably comes with political repercussions.

For instance, in the Russo-Japanese War, American involvement, in the form of President Theodore Roosevelt acting as the mediator in peace talks between the Russians and the Japanese to conclude the Russo-Japanese War led to Roosevelt being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for international peacekeeping efforts. The political repercussion was the increase in US power in the world. Among other factors, the US leveraged upon this to slowly rise as a global superpower in political status.

VI. CURRENT SITUATION

Back to the context of the Spanish Civil War, as the Nationalists court external help, there will inevitably be a trade-off as the Spanish make a deal with other countries. As resources deplete, and foreign aid is no longer lucrative in the eyes of external countries, overdependence on foreign support may lead the Nationalists to deep trouble, as the war progresses. Hence, it is crucial to consider the implications of garnering foreign support and international allies before committing oneself into a dependence relationship with foreign countries. The foreign powers also had underlying agendas where supporting the Civil War would be in their favour. Hitler had intended to test Germany's latest aircraft on Spanish battlefields for his own expansionist and militaristic ambitions. Hence, the contention of undermining Spanish autonomy over the Civil War effort could be a potential concern that threatens to potentially upend Spanish and international world order.

VI. CURRENT SITUATION

THE QUESTION OF DOMESTIC SOCIAL UNREST AND POPULAR UPRISINGS

As a side-effect of the war, there are other social issues that arise, including inflation and lowered standards of living, among others. Hence, in bids to express civilian dissatisfaction, there will be the culmination of domestic social unrest and uprisings against the civil war. These uprisings could range from peaceful civilian protests to armed guerilla and militant attacks. These could potentially work against the Nationalists' favour.

During WW1, there was extensive social unrest domestically in response to the international climate of war. Driven by increasingly dire economic conditions and angered by wartime conscription, the American anti-war movement of 1917-1918 evolved into a large-scale, revolution-like uprising.⁸

⁸ Ceballos, R. (n.d.). *World War I antiwar movement*. Retrieved May 12, 2023, from https://depts.washington.edu/antiwar/WW1_reds.shtml

VI. CURRENT SITUATION

Back to the context of the Spanish Civil War, as the war proceeds, tactics used by both Nationalists and Republicans in sustaining the war have greatly disrupted the livelihoods of civilians. Crucially, after the coup, as the Nationalists possess strongholds within Spain, their forces are most concentrated within regions around Toledo, which contains weapons manufacturing factories, that have provided many job openings to the civilians during the war. However, should war atrocities be continually committed by the Nationalists, despite the jobs that are open to the civilian population, there will be sustained dissatisfaction across the civilians, which could potentially hinder the advancement of the war effort.

THE QUESTION OF INTRA-FACTION DISAGREEMENTS

To understand the potential sources of intra-faction disagreements, it is important to know the key differences between the constituent parties of the Nationalist Faction, particularly their differences in political alignment and ideology. More details on each party are covered under the Key Stakeholders section.

¹ United Nations (n.d.). United Nations Security Council |. United Nations. Retrieved February 12, 2023, from <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

² United Nations (n.d.). Security Council. United Nations. Retrieved February 12, 2023, from <https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/security-council>

VI. CURRENT SITUATION

In general, all constituent parties seek to depose the government of the Second Republic, reason being increasing Communist influence within the government. Additionally, the Republican regime was very anti-clerical, even going so far as to burn down religious buildings; the largely Catholic Falange, monarchists and to an extent CEDA saw this as a further reason to join forces.

This temporary alliance, however, could prove to be very fragile, given stark differences in their *raison d'être*. CEDA, a more conservative, was originally founded for the purpose of enabling right-wing control over the Republican government and contesting elections, whereas the FE de las JONS was somewhat of the Spanish answer to the Nazi Party in ideology and *modus operandi* alike. The Alfonsists and Carlists both wished to restore the Spanish throne, albeit supporting different claimants to it.

Furthermore, the Nationalists are currently united under three chief planners who orchestrated the coup: Francisco Franco, Emilio Mola and José Sanjurjo, the latter of whom is expected to become the commander-in-chief of the Nationalist forces on his return from Portugal. Should any of these individuals be incapacitated, the unity of the Nationalist Front would be expected to waver or even crumble altogether, as different powerful individuals vie for leadership of the Nationalist war effort.

VI. CURRENT SITUATION

As such, it is easy to see that internal strife may be anticipated; the constituent members of the alliance might be at odds with each other at some point in the near future. The Alfonsist-Carlist dispute should come as no surprise, bearing in mind that both parties want to see a different individual wearing the Spanish crown.

Other possible disputes may be less heated and obvious, but still have the potential to cause deadly rifts. For instance, CEDA is seen by the other parties as rather “moderate” in their beliefs, which has been less than appreciated by the extremist Falange. Additionally, given their past history of conceding to the government in order to win seats in the Cortes, extremely radical right-wingers see CEDA as pro-government and could be hostile towards them.

Heeding possible fault lines would be a wise decision for delegates to make, considering that an intra-faction split would do more harm than good, as well as opening up a gap for exploitation by the Republicans. “United we stand, divided we fall”: it is important to understand, despite any misgivings that one may have against the other groups, who the real enemy is in this situation.

VI. CURRENT SITUATION

THE QUESTION OF CATALONIA

The region of Catalonia encompasses the northeast corner of Spain. Originally its own independent principality, it was united with the crown of Aragon under personal union, eventually becoming part of contemporary Spain during the unification of Castile and Aragon. Despite almost a thousand years of being part of Spain, Catalonia remains distinct and unique, with its own language, culture and even government.

Catalan independence has been on the cards since the mid-19th century, where amidst the spread of Romantic ideals across Europe, Catalan nationalism began to be more widely accepted. The Second Republic introduced the Generalitat of Catalonia, forming an autonomous government. The status quo, however, may be that Catalan citizens still desire independence, something that neither the Republicans nor the Nationalists are willing to promise, let alone provide.

The fate of Catalonia remains crucial for either side. Home to Spain's second largest city and an important administrative centre, Barcelona, as well as housing a large industrial and farming sector. As such, capturing Catalonia from the hands of the Republicans, denying them important means of production in the process, would be one of the top priorities of the Nationalist army, secondary only to Madrid itself.

VI. CURRENT SITUATION

Nonetheless, haste makes waste. In the immediate aftermath of the coup, the Republicans will no doubt have realised the importance of securing Catalonia, and taken steps to fortify their defences around the key province. Perhaps a better move to seize Catalonia would be to compromise and sabotage the Generalitat from within. Taking advantage of any disputes between the central Republican government and the Generalitat could also prove fruitful.

VII. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

PORTUGUESE AID

In considering foreign aid, delegates will no doubt have constructed plans, or at least conceived of the idea, of turning to Germany and Italy for aid. Such would be a natural move, given these two countries' leaders also base their rule off far-right ideals and, more importantly, common hatred for Communism. A desire to remove the Communist-leaning Republican regime from Iberia could push Hitler and Mussolini in favour of the Nationalist cause. However, delegates may overlook another source of support in favour of the two powerhouses, and this country even lies on the peninsula itself.

Bordering the provinces of Pontevedra, Orense, Zamora, Salamanca, Caceres, Badajoz and Huelva, Portugal is currently ruled by Antonio de Olivera Salazar, who runs a country not unlike the existing Nationalist Spain. Staunch conservatism and anti-Communism, as well as strong emphasis on Portuguese Catholicism, has characterised Salazar's regime to date, key tenets of ideology very similar to the Nationalists. The outcome of the war may have an effect on Portugal as well, since it only borders Spanish territory on land, and having a friendly nation next door is certainly ideal.

VII. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Being a small nation, Portugal may not have as much to offer as Germany or Italy in terms of military technology and equipment, or simply sheer numbers. However, being also a traditionally seafaring nation, Portugal has no shortage of naval infrastructure, such as shipyards and ports.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENT

The military forces post-coup were split rather evenly, with the Republicans maintaining a slight numerical advantage, as well as control over more equipment than the Nationalists. The difference is most notable in two sections of the armed forces: the navy and the air force. Both of these sections are important for different reasons.

At present, numerous forces remain outside of the mainland, including General Francisco Franco's battle-hardened Army of Africa. Getting these forces across the sea back to Iberia would definitely better position the Nationalist army for conflict, though this cannot be done without much losses, if at all, in the event of naval inferiority.

VII. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

As for the air force, individuals such as Stanley Baldwin of the United Kingdom have identified the potential of aircraft to shape future wars. Delegates may also consider lessons learnt from the Banana Wars, fought by the United States and small Central American states, as to how to better utilise existing and future aircraft.

Should foreign support fail to bridge the existing military gap, the Nationalists will be at a permanent disadvantage. Ensuring that the Nationalist military can be self-sustaining and independent will also be of utmost priority, especially in the unlikely event of sabotage to supply chains from abroad.

There remains, however, one vital advantage. Post-coup, most experienced army officers across different ranks and divisions defected to join the Nationalists. These army officers would also be well-respected by most troops, in addition to offering tactical insight into the battlefield.

ESPIONAGE AND INTERNAL SECURITY

Looking to more internal forms of securing the new state, delegates could consider in general employing espionage networks and propaganda.

VII. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

In addition to a frontal assault on Republican lines, another alternative way of winning the war can be found through taking the Republic down from inside. This can be done through planting spies within key Republican areas or army groups. What these spies are to do, or how they are to conduct their operations, is left to delegates to determine. As a hint, however, delegates can look at the more-or-less successful operations of British MI6, or the Soviet GRU, for inspiration.

Delegates should also expect Republican espionage behind Nationalist lines. To prevent the enemy from gathering key information, counter-intelligence may be considered; British MI5 serves as a good guideline here, given its past history of successful operations in ensuring internal security.

Should the war draw on, citizens may become disconcerted with the war effort, which may lead to a plunge in civilian and morale alike, leading to internal social strife that could be capitalised on by the Republicans. Similar scenarios were observed in past wars, such as but not limited to World War I and, closer to home, the former Kingdom of Spain's Rif War. To prevent the citizens from compromising the war effort, as well as to keep them loyal to the Nationalist cause, propaganda may be considered as a method to pacify the population; methods employed in the Soviet Union or Germany could serve as a good starting point.

VII. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

AFFIRMING LEGITIMACY

One of the main arguments that would be held against the new state is the fact that Nationalist Spain was formed after the Nationalist faction rebelled against the Second Spanish Republic. This poses a problem; as rebels, the Nationalists lack international recognition, which in turn limits the amount of foreign support provided to the Nationalist cause. Additionally, the Republicans are able to claim that they are the legitimate government of Spain, increasing their international standing.

Gaining political legitimacy would also be important in upholding internal security. If the Nationalist government is seen to be illegitimate, the general population may be less willing to support the cause, and even start a rebellion of their own. An example of this was demonstrated in Imperial China, where emperors were frequently dethroned due to the perception that they had lost the “Mandate of Heaven”.

To counter negative effects of a lack of political legitimacy, it would be crucial in foreign affairs dealings not just to garner material support for the Nationalist cause, but also political support. As a hint, it is worth remembering one of the key tenets of Nationalist ideology: support for Christianity, which the Republicans have been demonstrated to lack.

CONCLUSION

Spain is in dire need of political stability in light of the Spanish Civil War. To attain stability, the Nationalists and the Republicans, who both believe strongly in their political affiliation, must strategise meticulously militarily and politically to achieve a decisive result in the Spanish Civil War. Care should be taken to direct focus towards military planning in the arc of the Spanish Civil War, as well as the social conditions afflicting civilians amid the violent war climate. While domestic issues are the key focus, it is also important to consider international political shifts in the broader picture, as Nazi Germany gains the upper hand in Europe, in the years leading up to WW2. Delegates can look forward to a fruitful and complex debate on the aforementioned issues, as they tackle a multitude of issues surrounding the Spanish Civil War. See you at the battlegrounds of Spain!

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