

CRISIS 2

Crisis



TOPIC: Spanish Civil War

CHAIRS: Karyn Fu, Slater Smith

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

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LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII
secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to LAIMUN XXVIII!! My name is Kiran Shah, and I am the USG of Crisis this year. I'll be working closely with my Crisis Directors, Ethan Harrison, and Gabe Leon. We are all excited to put on our twenty-eighth conference for you guys!! We're all seniors at Mira Costa in our fourth year of MUN. We thought really hard about our topics for this year and are thrilled to see how you guys roll with them!

We hope that this experience is really rewarding for you all. While we hope to make sure the conference is professional and diplomatic, hopefully, that won't hold you back from really getting into debate. Our chairs will be looking out for the highest standards of research, solutions, speaking, diplomacy, and creativity from all delegates. In terms of directives, LAIMUN has a strict no pre-writtens policy, so all work must be created following the start of the first committee session.

Our roster of characters was carefully chosen, and your character's significance depends almost entirely on how you make yourself stand out in debate. Each character has a unique angle, and as long as you bring creativity to the table, we will do our best to guarantee you a memorable experience.

If you have any questions, procedural or otherwise, you may direct them to crisis@mchsmun.org. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any inquiries or concerns. We understand the unique nature of a crisis debate and love expanding on the specialties of crisis procedure or giving more context on a character's role within the storylines of our committees.

I wish you luck and can't wait to see you in December!

Best,
Kiran Shah
USG of Crisis

Introduction to the Dias

Hello Delegates!

My name is Karyn Fu and I will be one of your co-chairs for Crisis 2 at LAIMUN XXVIII! I am currently a senior here at Mira Costa High School and this will be my fourth year in our Model United Nations program, and this year I am a TA for our freshmen Intro to Model United Nations class. Through MUN, I have had the opportunity to participate in conferences ranging from BMUN at UC Berkeley to NHSMUN at New York. As a freshman I was able to debate at LAIMUN in FAO and this is now my third year chairing at LAIMUN. For some of you, as LAIMUN may be one of your first outside debates, I hope to make it as enriching and enjoyable as it was for me!

Outside of MUN, I play the violin in Mira Costa's Grammy-award winning Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. I also volunteer with the American Red Cross as Long Beach South Bay Territory's President. In my freetime I love hanging out with friends, watching bad reality TV, and listening to music! You can also often find me knitting, crocheting, bullet journaling, and just crafting in general. I am extremely excited to chair this debate and all of your agendas creatively play out! In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to reach out to Slater and me at crisis2.laimun.xxviii@gmail.com!

Best of Luck and See you Soon!

Karyn Fu

Hello Delegates!

My name is Slater Smith and I'll be co-chairing your crisis committee alongside Karyn! I'm currently a junior at Mira Costa and this will be my third year in the MUN program and my first time co-chairing at LAIMUN. Through MUN, I've learned a lot on how to present myself and have gotten a newfound sense of confidence from the program. Outside of MUN, I try to hit the gym whenever possible and enjoy hanging out with my friends as well. At Costa, I play offensive line for our school's varsity football team and am involved in a few clubs around campus. I also enjoy collecting magnets so if you have any sitting around your house not being used, feel free to bring them to me.

In our crisis committee, I hope to hear a lot of unique agendas trying to be pushed throughout as well as more funny and lighthearted moments as we hope to keep this debate enjoyable and fun for everyone. If you have any questions, be sure to reach out to Karyn and me, and good luck to you all!

With love,
Slater Smith

Committee Description

This crisis committee is simulating a congress for the left-coalition during the Spanish Civil War. The start date is July 18, 1936. There are representatives from liberals, anarchists, socialists, and communists from different areas of the country, as well as internationally. Many of the groups are solely united by their common enemy of the nationalists. This congress will have the power to set the agenda for the majority of international aid, formally coordinate military actions, and negotiate with the nationalists. Your co-chairs will act as Manuel Azana and Francisco Largo Caballero, president and prime minister of the Spanish Republic respectively. When debating, consider how your actions will affect the defense of Spain, the success of your faction, and your character's own personal motivations and goals.

Topic: Spanish Civil War

I. Background

For several centuries, Spain has dominated the world stage as the European superpower. The beginnings of this era can be traced back to Spain's discovery of the New World in 1492 when the country took control of many North American territories, allowing it to create then maintain a tight hold on the global economy. However, as their territories began to develop more and started fighting for independence from Spain, their power slowly dwindled. Most notably, Cuba, a soon to be country, kickstarted a series of conflicts for Spain that would last half a century, first starting with the Spanish American War.

The Spanish-American War was a disastrous war between the soon-to-be world power of the United States and the already declining Spanish empire. In early 1895, Cuba, a Spanish colony at the time, began their fight for independence. In the end, hundreds of thousands of soldiers and innocent citizens died in their three-year struggle for sovereignty.¹ Since the United States had citizens and investments in Cuba, America quickly sent military personnel there after the outbreak of this conflict to protect American interests.²

In January 1898, riots in Cuba's capital, Havana, broke out, forcing the United States to dispatch the U.S.S. Maine there to once again protect American interests and investments, where it was soon blown up. While no specific country was officially blamed, public opinion quickly

¹Clodfelter, Micheal. Warfare and Armed Conflicts a Statistical Encyclopedia of Casualty and Other Figures, 1492-2015. McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2017.

²“Spanish-American War for Cuba's Independence.” Usf.edu, 2022, fcit.usf.edu/florida/lessons/s-a_war/s-a_war1.htm#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20had%20millions,as%20the%20Spanish%2DAmerican%20War.

turned on the Spanish government. As a result, the United States and Spain held diplomatic talks shortly thereafter which were unsuccessful and thus the United States ended up declaring war on Spain on April 25, 1898.³ Although Spain had nearly 50,000 more troops than the United States and Cuba combined, they were still no match for the power of America. At the time, Spain's forces had been weakened from the Cuban War of Independence, with diseases such as enteric fever, smallpox, and yellow fever projected to have killed around 50,000 Spanish troops.⁴ Thus, the Spanish American War only lasted four months, with only a few thousand casualties; a ceasefire was signed on August 12, 1898.⁵ Shortly after on December 10, 1898, America and Spain signed a peace treaty officially marking the end of the Spanish American War.⁶

Despite the Spanish American War being short-lived, it had monumental repercussions on the Spanish empire and their future objectives. While the United States went on to become a superpower, Spain's loss of territories, lack of military capabilities, and overall poor development on the world stage caused it to lose its status as a world power.⁷ As a result, Spain began to turn its attention towards itself, causing the country to experience a "cultural renaissance" as well as significant developments in industrial, agricultural, and other sectors of

³ "Today in History - February 15." The Library of Congress, 2015, www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/february-15/#:~:text=Remember%20the%20Maine!,-On%20February%2015&text=The%20sinking%20of%20the%20Maine,and%20a%20declaration%20of%20war.&text=Ostensibly%20on%20a%20friendly%20visit,out%20in%20Havana%20in%20January.

⁴ Dyal, Donald H., and Brian B. Carpenter. *Historical Dictionary of the Spanish American War*. Greenwood Press, 1996.

⁵ "The Spanish-American War: Primary Resources at WKU | Western Kentucky University Research | TopSCHOLAR®." Wku.edu, 2022, digitalcommons.wku.edu/wtw_that_little_war/#:~:text=The%20defeat%20led%20to%20the,whom%20died%20from%20yellow%20fever.

⁶ "Spanish-American War." HISTORY, HISTORY, 14 May 2010, www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/spanish-american-war.

⁷ "Milestones: 1866–1898 - Office of the Historian." State.gov, 2022, history.state.gov/milestones/1866-1898/spanish-american-war.

national development.⁸ Spain's diminishing world influence allowed it to finally take a step back and focus on much needed internal improvements, a trend that would continue for the next two decades.⁶

Despite Spain's strides in socioeconomic development, the nation was still unable to become economically independent. During the "pre-war" era—the time before the Spanish American War—Spain developed an economic reliance on countries such as Great Britain and France, especially since France and Spain shared a border on the Iberian Peninsula.⁹ Although post-war Spain was appearing to become a developed country equal to that of the other European powers of the twentieth century, as World War I approached, other issues that plagued Spain began to reveal themselves. For starters, the Spanish army was simply old and inefficient, as evidenced by their poor performance in the Second Melillan Campaign in which the Spanish army received heavy casualties against the local Moroccan "Riffian" tribe despite having a much larger amount of military personnel. Furthermore, the Spanish army was heavily involved in the nation's politics prior to WWI, only compounding Spain's existing political issues. The nation's military shortcomings extended to their naval forces as well. By WWI, Spain's navy was largely rendered useless due to the Spanish American War. As a whole, these issues in Spain, as well as their lack of motive to fight in WWI, caused Spain to remain neutral and leave their protection in the hands of the entente.¹⁰

⁸ "Spanish-American War | Causes & Effects | Britannica." Encyclopædia Britannica, 2022, www.britannica.com/summary/Causes-and-Effects-of-the-Spanish-American-War.

⁹ "Wartime and Post-War Economies (Spain) | International Encyclopedia of the First World War (WW1)." 1914-1918-Online.net, 2017, encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/wartime_and_post-war_economies_spain.

¹⁰ "Spain | International Encyclopedia of the First World War (WW1)." 1914-1918-Online.net, 2015, encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/spain.

For most countries, WWI caused small increases in economic growth, and Spain was no exception. Due to their neutrality, Spain was able to take back their markets from foreign countries while also beginning to take over new markets.¹¹ However, this economic growth did not benefit all parts of Spain equally. Agricultural regions of Spain were unable to keep up with the new shifts, causing a major economic crisis that would come to be known as the “Subsistence Crisis.” This subsistence crisis eventually caused the conservatives to fall out of power, and allowed the liberal cabinet of the Romanos to take control of the country.¹⁰ Despite this change in government, the economic crisis in Spain worsened, causing citizens to become desperate and increasingly radical. The end of WWI only exacerbated this issue. Once the war and the period of economic growth ended, Spain’s exports dropped 40% from 1919 to 1922 and imports dropped back down to pre-1914 levels.⁹ It’s for these reasons, along with an increase in anti-liberal sentiment, that General Miguel Primo de Rivera, with the support of the monarchy, launched a coup d’etat in 1923, wiping out the liberal government.¹² However, De Rivera’s new conservative monarchy did nothing to alleviate the problems taking place in Spain, and the Great Depression only worsened matters.

The Great Depression began in 1929, plaguing most of Europe, and causing Spain to fall into even greater economic hardship. The public continued to be more and more discontent with their situations, and they attributed all of their issues to the Spanish government.¹³ Thus, the

¹¹ Cunningham, Charles H. “Spain and the War.” *American Political Science Review*, vol. 11, no. 3, 1917, pp. 421–447., doi:10.2307/1944246

¹²“Wartime and Post-War Societies (Spain) | International Encyclopedia of the First World War (WW1).” 1914-1918-Online.net, 2017, encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/wartime_and_post-war_societies_spain.

¹³“Revolution in 1930s Spain.” *SocialistWorker.org*, 2022, socialistworker.org/2011/07/21/revolution-in-1930s-spain.

trend of unpopular Spanish governments once again continued, forcing De Rivera to resign in 1930 and hold new elections.¹⁴

In 1931, a new constitution was drafted in Spain which granted new rights to all citizens.¹⁵ Under this constitution, new elections were held in 1933. Right wing parties such as the CEDA or the “Radicals” were then democratically elected into their governmental positions.¹⁶ On the other side of the political spectrum, the liberals and communists, despite losing the general elections, continued to push for more philanthropic benefits for the poor. This caused the right-wing government to be constantly undermined, and in some cases, liberal and communist protests against the government would turn violent.¹⁷ These anti-government sentiments eventually caused the government to collapse in 1936, meaning new elections were going to once again be held.

The general election of 1936 finally saw the victory of the Popular Front, a coalition of socialists, communists, liberals, and anarchists tied together only by their mutual hatred of the right-wing Nationalists.¹⁸ Despite their previous popularity, a series of liberal reforms caused Spaniards to be wary of a future communist revolution, causing extremist right wing members to violently campaign against the liberal government.¹⁹ These conservative extremists continued to push for the government to be ousted, and even called upon the Spanish army to stage a coup

¹⁴Carr, Raymond. *Spain: 1808-1939*. Clarendon Press, 1975.

¹⁵“Spanish Constitution of 1931.” DBpedia, 2022, dbpedia.org/page/Spanish_Constitution_of_1931.

¹⁶“1933 Spanish General Election.” DBpedia, 2022, dbpedia.org/page/1933_Spanish_general_election.

¹⁷Vincent, Mary. *Spain 1833-2002: People and State*. Oxford University Press, 2007.

¹⁸“Votos Por Candidatura 1936.” Historiaelectoral.com, 2022, www.historiaelectoral.com/e1936v.html.

¹⁹Dailyhistory.org, 2012, dailyhistory.org/What_were_the_Root_Causes_of_the_Spanish_Civil_War.

d'état despite being stationed in Morocco. In the end, the liberal government was not extremely worried that a revolution would break out.¹⁹

What the government did not account for was the power of the military's leader, Francisco Franco. Franco was never known to be affiliated with specific political parties. However, as Spain's political system continued to fail, he eventually committed himself to joining the rebels' fight against the Spanish government.²⁰ Franco would then call upon the Spanish army to join the fight against the government, causing the army to fly back to Spain, kickstarting the Spanish Civil War on July 17, 1936.²¹

I. Current Situation

Start Date: July 18, 1936

The start date is July 18, 1936. Five days earlier, José Castillo, the left-leaning Lieutenant of the assault guard, was murdered. While no one has been officially charged for his death, Republicans believe it was the actions of the Falange, a far-right fascist party. In response, Republicans kidnapped and murdered José Calvo Sotelo, a prominent far-right parliamentary leader, the next day.²² At the same time, Nationalists feared that a Republican-controlled government would lead to a Spanish Revolution, creating a socialist Spain. To prevent this, Nationalists devised a plan for a military uprising to occur today, July 18.²³ Led by Generals

²⁰“Francisco Franco | Biography, Nickname, Beliefs, & Facts | Britannica.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 2022, www.britannica.com/biography/Francisco-Franco.

²¹“Spanish Civil War | Definition, Causes, Summary, & Facts | Britannica.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 2022, www.britannica.com/event/Spanish-Civil-War.

²² History of Spain. “THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR (1936-1939).” YouTube, 2 Dec. 2020, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQYDbtY8aNU.

²³ History.com Editors. “Spanish Civil War Breaks Out.” HISTORY, HISTORY, 9 Feb. 2010, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/spanish-civil-war-breaks-out.

Mola and Sanjurjo, the plan would begin in Spanish Morocco before expanding to mainland Spain.^{22, 24} However, on the afternoon of July 17, this plan was discovered in the Spanish Moroccan town of Melilla, forcing Nationalists to prematurely begin the execution of their operation. Nationalists quickly took control of Melilla, Ceuta, and Tetuan in Morocco, and as of now, Nationalists control several provincial capitals with their sights set on Madrid. Just this afternoon, General Francisco Franco, based in the Spanish Canary Islands, broadcasted his manifesto declaring the “rebellion” has begun, marking the start of the Spanish Civil War.²⁴

At the moment, Nationalists believe that Republicans will not fight back; so they can easily overthrow Prime Minister José Giral in a matter of weeks. Their fighting on July 17, 1936 has thus far proven them right.²⁵ This is largely due to the fact that in many cities, the Republican government has denied workers and peasants weapons, despite these populations supporting Republicans and wanting to fight against invading Nationalist forces. Should Republicans fail to mobilize and respond to this Nationalist uprising, the war will quickly come to an unfavorable conclusion for Republicans.²⁶

The war is being fought between the left-leaning Republicans and the right-leaning Nationalists. However, smaller, more distinct factions make up these large, umbrella political parties. As of July 18, 1936, the main faction in the Republicans is the Popular Front, which in itself is made up of even smaller sub-factions such as the radical socialist Spanish Socialist

²⁴ “Timeline of the Spanish Civil War | Britannica.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 2022, www.britannica.com/list/timeline-of-the-spanish-civil-war.

²⁵ Matters, History. “Ten Minute History - the Spanish Civil War and Francisco Franco (Short Documentary).” YouTube, 28 July 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yw-OxbtF1iY.

²⁶ History.com Editors. “Spanish Civil War Breaks Out.” HISTORY, HISTORY, 9 Feb. 2010, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/spanish-civil-war-breaks-out.

Workers' Party (PSOE), Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Spain (PCE) led by Santiago Carillo, Marxist-Socialist Union Workers' General Union (UGT) led by Largo Caballero, and anarcho-syndicalist Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT). These four sub-factions often collaborated on shared goals such as workers' rights; however, they would just as erratically split and turn against each other. While they are all far-left extremist sub-factions, the slight nuances in their beliefs and vision for Spain was a constant point of contention. Other notable Republican branches are the Republican Union, Galaician and Catalan nationalists who want autonomy for Galicia and Catalonia, respectively, and Militant Anarchists who are the violent counterpart of the CNT. As a whole, Republicans are more progressive and believe in democracy and regional autonomy. They are primarily urban workers, agricultural laborers, and the educated middle class.²⁷ Coming into the war, they have naval and industrial advantages, as well as international legitimacy. However, their most glaring issue is internal conflict since communists, socialists, liberals, and anarchists are all being forced to work together under one political party despite differing beliefs and goals.²⁸ Distrust is rampant, with Republican leaders even refusing to arm the CNT and UGT to defend Madrid over fear that those weapons would later be used to bring about the Spanish Revolution.²⁹ Furthermore, while their armed forces outnumbered that of

²⁷ "Spanish Civil War | Definition, Causes, Summary, & Facts | Britannica." Encyclopædia Britannica, 2022, www.britannica.com/event/Spanish-Civil-War.

²⁸ Matters, History. "Ten Minute History - the Spanish Civil War and Francisco Franco (Short Documentary)." YouTube, 28 July 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yw-OxbtF1iY.

²⁹ Wikipedia Contributors. "Siege of Madrid." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 13 June 2022, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Madrid#Uprising:_Madrid_held_for_the_Republic_\(July_1936\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Madrid#Uprising:_Madrid_held_for_the_Republic_(July_1936)).

Nationalists ten to one, many of their soldiers are poorly-trained and ill-prepared to fight in war.

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On the other side are the right-leaning Nationalists. Made up of the Falangists, Monarchists, Conservatives, and Traditionalists, the Nationalists are pro-religion—specifically Roman Catholicism—and pro-strong authority government. Many landowners and businessmen belong to this party as well as the vast majority of the Spanish army and security forces.²⁵ Unlike the Republicans, Nationalists had much greater unity and the advantage of a powerful army and military forces.²⁶

For the purposes of productivity and diplomacy in our crisis debate, we will be focusing on the Spanish Civil War through the lens of the Republican party. Therefore, all characters will either be liberal-leaning or neutral with the common goal of defeating the Nationalists in the war.

II. Topics to Consider

Subtopic 1: Foreign Involvement

In the context of WWI and the Great Depression, many countries, especially democratic ones, are desperate to maintain international peace and equilibrium.²⁷ Thus, many are hesitant to intervene in the brewing civil war. Already, there are talks of a Non-intervention Pact being signed by the majority of European nations, including Britain, France, the Soviet Union, Germany, and Italy. Similar sentiment is present amongst American congressmen. Republicans

³⁰Clifford, Alex. “Why Did the Republicans Lose the Spanish Civil War?” History Hit, History Hit, 2020, www.historyhit.com/why-did-the-republicans-lose-the-spanish-civil-war/#:~:text=The%20majority%20of%20the%20Spanish,to%20stop%20the%20Rebel%20advance.

have the advantage over Nationalists at the start of the war, so this pact could prove useful to their strategy. However, fascist countries like Germany and Italy are unpredictable, and there are no guarantees as to whether they will abide by the pact. If their past actions are any indication of their future actions in this war, Republicans should be wary of any multilateral non-intervention pacts, as fascist countries are likely to aid Spanish Nationalists.³¹

Nevertheless, Republicans and Nationalists alike should not underestimate the influence of empowered individuals. During the Great Depression, many around the world began to subscribe to Marxist teachings. Furthermore, as totalitarianism spreads in Japan and to several European countries, ideals of democracy and freedom are strengthened in other countries.³² With proper organization, these emboldened, far-left citizens could prove a formidable ally for Republicans throughout the course of the civil war.³³

Subtopic 2: Military Technology

Following WWI, countries have consistently made progress to improve their military technology. While wooden biplanes dominated the scene during WWI, the metal monoplanes now being developed will surely come to define air combat. Aircrafts are now being built with retractable landing gear as well as stronger and more accurate bombs. There are rumors that

³¹ “International Involvement in the Spanish Civil War.” Tutor2u, 2018, www.tutor2u.net/history/reference/international-involvement-in-the-spanish-civil-war.

³² “Great Depression - Marxism and the Great Depression | Britannica.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 2022, www.britannica.com/event/Great-Depression/Political-movements-and-social-change. History.com Editors. “Spanish Civil War Breaks Out.” HISTORY, HISTORY, 9 Feb. 2010, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/spanish-civil-war-breaks-out.

³³ “International Brigades | Military Force | Britannica.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 2022, www.britannica.com/topic/International-Brigades.

Germany and Italy already hold these sorts of technology. All the while, there is also talk of the Soviet Union developing their tank technology. Should these countries choose not to remain neutral, they will surely use Spain as a testing ground for their new forms of aerial and armored warfare. As these deadly weapons are incorporated into offensive plans, such as strategic airstrikes and bombings, the war will only become even more deadly and chaotic, with innocent civilians being the most affected.^{34,35} Currently, both Republicans and Nationalists lack modern arms such as machine guns and mortars and have weak artillery. However, Nationalists have a substantial advantage in aerial technology, and Republicans' anti-aircraft defenses are simply inadequate to prevent air bombardments.³⁶

Subtopic 3: Colonial Holdings

During the Spanish-American War and subsequent German-Spanish Treaty, Spain lost much of its colonial holdings to the United States and Germany. Nevertheless, Spain has held onto their territories in Africa, namely, Morocco and the Canary and Balearic Islands. Morocco is the closest holding to mainland Spain but it is also the most difficult to control. Morocco most recently revolted in 1919, and Spain took five years along with the combined Franco-Spanish forces to subdue the Rif tribes.³⁷ It is important to note that France is the dominant imperial power in Africa during this time, with many of Spain's holdings being surrounded by those

³⁴“Air Power:Aerial Warfare and the Spanish Civil War.” Centennialofflight.net, 2022, www.centennialofflight.net/essay/Air_Power/Spansh_CW/AP18.htm.

³⁵Roblin, Sebastien. “How Russia Fought Its First World War II-Style Tank Battles—in Spain.” *The National Interest*, 4 Apr. 2020,

³⁶ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03071843909419871?journalCode=rusi19>

³⁷ “Army of Africa (Spain).” *Academic Dictionaries and Encyclopedias*, 2022, en-academic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/11766539.

controlled by France.³⁸ However, if they were to join the war and choose sides, they would likely side with the Republicans since their government is strongly based in democracy.³⁴

On July 17, the Spanish Civil War began in Spanish Morocco using the Army of Africa, a large military force made up of African troops, most predominantly the Moors of North Africa. This army fought under the direction of Franco despite being majority Muslim (as opposed to the adamantly Roman Catholic Nationalists). However, Franco was able to gain control of the army by exploiting the Moors' dream of a Spanish-Moroccan brotherhood.³⁹ At the moment, the Army of Africa is still stationed in Morocco. If the Nationalists are able to find a way to move them to mainland Spain, they may gain the military advantage both in physical size and fighting ability. It would then be extremely difficult for the Republicans to maintain the upper hand in the war as a whole.⁴⁰

Furthermore, Franco is currently in the Spanish controlled Canary Islands, specifically on Gran Canaria. Even prior to the start of the war, Nationalists largely controlled both the Canary and Balearic Islands.⁴¹ Franco has and is still using Gran Canaria as a safe haven from where he can direct the war and his troops.⁴² Already, Franco has cut off telephonic communications from

³⁸ The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. Spanish Exploration and Settlement. United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, Apr. 1959, npshistory.com/publications/nhl/theme-studies/spanish.pdf.

³⁹“Muslim Soldiers in a Spanish Crusade: The Ideological Context of Moroccan Participation in the Spanish Civil War | Department of History.” Ceu.edu, 2021, history.ceu.edu/events/2016-06-01/muslim-soldiers-spanish-crusade-ideological-context-moroccan-participation-spanish.

⁴⁰Suciu, Peter. “How the “Army of Africa” Helped the Nationalist Cause in the Spanish Civil War.” The National Interest, 25 June 2020, nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-army-africa-helped-nationalist-cause-spanish-civil-war-163458.

⁴¹ Everything Everywhere, 16 Nov. 2018, everything-everywhere.com/8-facts-about-the-canary-islands/.

⁴²Curry, Ian. “The Englishman Who Started the Spanish Civil War – Almost History.” Vaguelyinteresting.co.uk, 2017, www.vaguelyinteresting.co.uk/the-englishman-who-started-the-spanish-civil-war/.

the rest of the world to this island. His future intentions for these Nationalist strongholds are unknown; however, in the age of increasingly advanced aviation technology, they could prove to be powerful, strategic military bases.⁴³

Subtopic 4: Madrid's Defenses

At the start date, the Republicans control Madrid, Spain's capital, and the Nationalists' ultimate goal is to capture the capital since that would mean victory in the Spanish Civil War. Madrid is home to many of the Republicans major sects, namely the UGT, CNT, and PSOE. As such, the in-fighting between these platforms is regularly present in Madrid. Just last month, fighting between the UGT and CNT over salary increases spilled out onto the streets of Madrid, forcing Republican leaders to divert the Guardia Civil defense from protecting Spain's borders to instead maintaining peace. Considering the Guardia Civil is the only major Republican defensive body protecting Madrid, whenever it is forced to divert its attention away from border defense to internal disarray, Madrid is left vulnerable to attack. Furthermore, while Republicans have attempted to establish peace within their party, all attempts have proved futile due to fundamental ideological differences between sects.⁴⁴

III. Character Profiles

1. José Giral

Jose Giral was the 75th Prime Minister of Spain (July 1936- September 1936), the Minister of State, and the Minister of Navy, meaning that he had political allies within the Spanish

⁴³Nelsson, Richard. "The Spanish Civil War Begins – Archive, 1936." The Guardian, The Guardian, 14 July 2021, www.theguardian.com/world/from-the-archive-blog/2021/jul/14/panish-civil-war-begins-july-1936.

⁴⁴ Spartacus-Educational.com, 2020, spartacus-educational.com/SPmadrid.htm.

government specifically during 1936. He has degrees in Chemistry and Pharmacy from the University of Madrid and taught chemistry at the University of Salamanca. After the leadership of Diego Martinez Barrio descended, Giral was given the task of constructing a government led by the Left Republican party in Spain.

2. Francisco Largo Caballero

Francisco Largo Caballero was the Minister of War, the Minister of Labor and Social Security, and the president of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party. He also served as the subsequent Prime Minister of Spain from September 1936 to 1937 after Jose Giral, meaning he possessed great power and great allies within the Spanish government. He valued workers rights significantly, helping facilitate construction worker strikes and then assisting the Socialist Workers' Party's agenda while in office. Additionally while in office, Caballero backed the Communist Party of Spain and the National Confederation of Work.

3. George Orwell

George Orwell was a famous author who critiqued society for corrupt governments and totalitarianism. His most famous novel criticizing the Russian government during the industrial revolution, *Animal Farm*, demonstrates Orwell's push for democratic socialism. He worked as a journalist for the BBC, demonstrating his connections with the media. He also acquired great acclaim for *Animal Farm*, as it was widely distributed and read in schools.

4. Pablo Picasso

Originally uninterested in politics, Pablo Picasso became enraged at the violence occurring in Spain during the Spanish Civil War and the rise of fascism in Europe. As a major cultural figure at the time and beyond, Pablo Picasso utilized his art to support the Republican cause. One of his most famous works, *Guernica*, depicts the bombing of the city of Guernica by German forces in 1937. The artwork was first unveiled at the Paris International Exhibition in the Spanish Pavillion and drew masses around its anti-war message. This centerpiece was not the only work Picasso contributed to the effort. As a strong anti-Francoist, Picasso provided statements to the media and received many requests from political prisoners and exile support organizations for funds. Furthermore, Picasso became personally involved in the creation of the Spanish Republican Support Committee in Paris which also helped coordinate funding and donations from the Americas.

5. Miguel Buiza Fernández-Palacios

Miguel Buiza Fernandez-Palacios was a Spanish Navy lieutenant commander in the Spanish Republic Navy from 1915 to 1932. He served this title through the Spanish Civil War and fought on the side of the country against a Spanish coup that tried to overthrow the Spanish Second Republic. His loyalty towards Spain and his high ranking in the navy made him very closely connected to others who supported Spain. His hatred for others going against Spain makes him a unique asset to this time period, as he was a strong and strategic Navy leader.

6. Manuel Azaña Díaz

Manuel Azana Diaz was a Spanish politician who served as President of the Second Spanish Republic. He was a part of a wealthy family and pursued a life in politics. Diaz focused on bringing equality to all Spaniards and was a firm defender of Republicanism. He first served as Prime Minister from 1931-1935 and enacted various military reforms, including slimming the numbers of the officer corps and military in general. Some of his other reforms concerned distributing land to the poor rural people and weakening the power of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1936, he organized the Popular Front, the coalition of left-wing parties in Spain during the civil war. In the last days of the war he was exiled to France, and eventually died in Vichy France in 1940.

7. José María Gil-Robles y Quiñones

Jose Maria Gil-Robles y Quinones was a Spanish politician who was head of the right wing Catholic party CEDA. He was Minister of War in the months leading up to the Spanish Civil War. His party lost most of its power at the start of the war after disagreements with Fransisco Franco.

8. José Antonio Aguirre

José Antonio Aguirre was a politician adhering to the Basque Nationalist Party, and his political career primarily began after the end of Miguel Primo de Rivera's dictatorship, around 1930. Upon the creation of the provisional government of the Basque Country, he became the first

president and the executive defense advisor. This role extended throughout the Spanish Civil War, allowing him to have control over military plans and power over many people under his command.

9. Lluís Companys

Lluís Companys was an influential politician in the Catalan government, and one of the most prominent members of the Republican Left of Catalonia, or ERC. He was instrumental in the creation and proclamation of the Second Spanish Republic in 1931, and he was pronounced mayor directly after. Companys became the first Speaker of the Parliament of Catalonia in 1932 and later the president of Catalonia throughout the Spanish Civil War.

10. Federica Montseny

Federica Montseny was a Catalan intellectual and the first female to hold a ministerial position in the cabinet. She was a devout anarchist and served as the Minister of Health and Social Assistance, supporting the republican faction against the nationalists throughout the Spanish Civil War. Montseny joined the government primarily to assist the Spanish Revolution and prevent the power of the Communist Party in government, which she viewed as a threat. As the Minister of Health and Social Assistance, Montseny oversaw medical facilities, focusing primarily on helping refugees and orphanages that had been damaged or received little funding. An avid supporter of women's rights, she collaborated with Mujeres Libres, an anarchist

women's organization, to introduce reforms that provided women with more opportunities and support.

11. Juan García Oliver

Juan García Oliver was the Minister of Justice for the Second Spanish Republic during the Spanish Civil War, and was a leading supporter of anarchism within the cabinet. During his early years, he was associated with plots to kill multiple influential figures, including Alfonso XIII and Benito Mussolini. When the Second Spanish Republic was formed, he returned to Spain, where he became Minister of Justice under the new prime minister, Francisco Largo Caballero, and he continued to promote anarchism under this title. As the Minister of Justice during the Spanish Civil War, García Oliver has control over judicial jurisdiction and governmental policy regarding crime.

12. Enrique Jurado Barrio

Enrique Jurado Barrio was a Spanish colonel during the Spanish Civil War, fighting for the Second Spanish Republic, and was decorated for his merit in combat. He participated in the battles of Guadalajara and Brunete, leading two Republic military corps into battle. His family had a long history of military tradition and he was assigned as head of the Eastern Region Army Group in the twilight of the Spanish Civil War. After the defeat of the Republicans, he fled to France and lived out the rest of his days in Uruguay.

13. Indalecio Prieto

Indalecio Prieto was a Spanish politician who was named Finance Minister and then Minister of Public Works at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, but served as the Minister of Defense of Spain on the Republican side towards the end. He was also one of the leading figures of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) in the years before and during the Second Spanish Republic. During the Spanish Civil War, he was forced to flee from Spain after Francisco Franco took control of the country in 1939, and lost his military and political influence. After the defeat of the Spanish Republican Armed Forces, Prieto left government and exiled himself to Mexico, where he hoped to reach an accord with the monarchist opposition to Franco, but this failure led to his definite retirement from active politics.

14. Ignacio Hidalgo de Cisneros

Ignacio Hidalgo de Cisneros was a Spanish military aviator that became the commander of the Republican air force during the Spanish Civil War. He's noted as one of the few aristocrats that joined the Spanish Communist Party. As a communist military figure, he asked for support by other communist leaders like Stalin to help supply him ammunition for his air attacks. He became accidentally involved in the Republican conspiracy and was triggered to join the scheme, although his skepticism and unease led to his flee to Portugal, but was later invited back into action and was appointed the air attaché in both Rome and Berlin. Cisneros's military success and alignments allowed him good favor with the Russians, Polish, and Romainians, which he retained great political and social status throughout his life after the Spanish Civil War.

15. Léon Blum

Léon Blum was a French socialist politician, statesman, served in the chamber of deputies, and was a three-time Prime Minister, in which he was the first socialist and Jew to hold that position. The Spanish Civil War broke out and deeply divided France, so Blum declared neutrality in the war, and avoided spilling the conflict into French territory. Because of his neutral policy, France's relations were strained with Communists and the Spanish Republic, as the threat of an ideological civil war within France was imminent if Blum took sides in the war. He had to resign from office because of the struggle, and was reinstated at a time when France's government nearly collapsed, as German actions were stirring up war among the major European powers.

16. Norman Bethune

Norman Bethune was a Canadian thoracic surgeon, advocate of socialized medicine, as well as part of the Canadian communist party. Norman held the belief that militarism and capitalism were closely linked. On the battlefield, he was the first to introduce the mobile blood bank, which allowed him to save lives by performing blood transfusions in the midst of heavy fire. In the Spanish Civil War, he sided with the Republican government because of the opportunity he was given to fight for the communist cause and against any fascist Spanish ideas.

17. Alexander Orlov

Originally known as Leiba Feldbin, Alexander Orlov was a Russian Jew born in 1895 in present-day Belarus. Orlov found inspiration from the rising Bolshevik party and became part of the secret police soon after the Russian Revolution. Orlov was chosen by Stalin to support the Republican “loyalists” in the Spanish Civil War as a foreign advisor, where his tasks were to gather intelligence, assist generals, and neutralize “trotskyist” threats. Orlov was extremely loyal to Stalin, but in the end, always did what was best for himself and his family. As Stalin continued the cannibalization of his officials, Orlov fled to France and later lived in the USA where he published works against the Stalinist regime and the missions he embarked on during his time as secret police.

18. Simone Weil

Simone Weil was a French woman from the middle-class, and was a philosopher, mystic, and published author. In 1936, she publicly announced that she was to join an anarchist militant group in Northeastern Spain. Following her endeavors in Spain, Simone supported anarchism in France, affirming Spain’s anarchist movement through her many books, and had a series of mystic experiences that motivated her to coin the term decreation: “the act of removing the self from the world”. Although Simone Weil’s selfless escapades were not very respected, she gained a significant following. During WWII Simone Weil and her unrelenting personality assisted Charles de Gaulle in liberating France from Nazi rule.

19. Manfred Stern

Originally from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Manfred Stern was freed from his imprisonment by the Russian Empire during WWI after the Communist Revolution. After being educated in Moscow, Manfred embarked on several espionage missions around the world until he found himself assigned to Spain in 1936 as a furrier, taking on the name Jean-Baptiste Kléber (one of Napoleon's generals). Stern served in the XI International Brigade as a military advisor but eventually led their 3,000 strong army through the capital boosting morale at a time when all seemed lost. Stern was well-liked amongst many of the Spanish Republican leaders and was described as having a very charismatic and inspiring character by officials and soldiers alike. Manfred also enjoyed a high rank in their military hierarchy and continued liaisons with Spanish communists even after he was removed from his position.

20. José María Galán

Jose Maria Galan was an officer in the Spanish military and remained loyal to the Second Spanish Republic during the Spanish Civil War. Previously, he had served as a lieutenant in the Carabineros, a group focused on patrolling the borders and coast of Spain. His brother was leader of the Jaca Rebellion, which sought to overthrow the monarchy of Spain in 1930. He participated in the first battle of the war and sought refuge in the USSR once the Spanish Republic was defeated.

Note: some of these characters are fictional. They represent real institutions and movements, however the individual themselves is made up. If this is the case, feel free to infer traits about your character from their roles or reach out to your chairs/USG for more information and guidance.

IV. Guiding Questions

1. What are your character's goals? Which goals are you willing to put aside for the sake of Republican party unity?
2. Should Republicans and Nationalists lobby other countries to support them in the war? If a neutrality treaty is indeed signed, what role, if any, should Republicans and Nationalists have in ensuring no country violates the treaty?
3. How can Republicans bolster their military forces and fighting prowess? How can they ensure the Army of Africa does not reach mainland Spain?
4. While Republicans are still in power in the government, how can the root causes of the Spanish Civil War be addressed? How would this impact the course of the war?
5. Should socialist Francisco Largo Caballero lead the Republican Party? If so, how can he appeal to the communists, liberals, and anarchists within his party? If not, how can he be unseated without dooming the Republican Party to defeat in the war?

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