

# The Baroque in the Construction of a National Culture in Francoist Spain: An Introduction

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Pages 657-671 | Published online: 07 May 2014

“ Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/14753820.2014.908564>



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## Abstract

After the Spanish Civil War, the Baroque served an ideological purpose as a legitimizing construct for the reshaping of Spain's national culture. An emphasis was placed within the Baroque on the cultural production of the Spanish Golden Age, the Habsburg Empire and its particular Christian character. It was further enriched by the notion of *hispanidad* expressing the global character of the former Spanish empire and the imperial ambitions of Franco. Both the regime and oppositional forces regarded the Baroque as an intellectually convincing concept, and the re-interpretation of Spain's past was continuous throughout the dictatorship. Consequently, Baroque imagery touched the whole of society and would help to shape cultural, intellectual, political and social life during Francoism. This article will study some of the major components of Francoist Baroque culture, exemplifying them through the most publicly visible adoption of the Baroque aesthetic: architecture. In addition, it will contextualize the different articles of the present Special Issue.