



**NATIONALIST PARTY
SPANISH CIVIL WAR**

Chairs: Jenna Goosen and Aryssa Ham

**** A Note From Your Chairs: A few of you have been assigned people that do not become players in this conflict until after this Crisis date. The Nationalists just didn't have enough people at this time, so if you could direct your policy and research from where you first enter the scene (it should be early 1937 for those that this applies to), that would be wonderful. Thanks! ****

I. Lead Up to the Civil War

July 23rd, 1936

Francisco Franco, general of the Spanish military, had taken control over the Army of Africa and proceeded to airlift men from the Army of Africa into Spain. The official Spanish Civil War had begun. With their official leader, José Sanjurjo exiled, the beginnings of the nationalist army was led by Emilio Mola.

However, before the war, there was chaos.

Alfonso XIII, constitutional monarch of Spain, ran an inefficient and corrupt government. During the Moroccan Rebellion in 1921, the Spanish army, sent to put down the uprising, was humiliatingly defeated by rebellion forces. A bloodless coup in 1923, led by General Primo de Rivera, was designed to bring a more structured and disciplined government to Spain.

However, this new dictator, Rivera, began to support programs that were not common amongst the previous leaders of Spain. Projects such as infrastructure and agriculture were pursued, and industrial production soared. A strong military leadership, backed by the previous ruler, was finally bestowed upon the nation of Spain.

These few years of growth and tranquility came to a staggering halt in the 1930s, as the Great Depression wracked the nation of Spain. Unable to support his people financially, unemployment soared. Rivera lost all support, especially from his key benefactor, the army.

Full of discontent, the nation of Spain held elections in 1931, with the Republican Party winning in all cities across Spain, putting Manuel Anzaña in power. Alfonso pulled himself out of the Spanish politics, and a republic was established with the abolition of the monarchy in Spain.

While the Republicans had the support of the majority of the people, they had some very important enemies. The first one being the Catholic Church, which a majority of the country followed and worshiped. Historical privileges were attacked and revoked. Priests stopped getting paid by the state. The state separated itself from the church entirely. Religious education was halted in public schools. And the Jesuits, devout Roman Catholic, were expelled from Spain.

The regions of Catalonia and Basque were also not too happy with the Republican government. These two regions sought for independence, and filed requests to secede from the nation of Spain. Believing that the secession of Catalonia and Basque would cause the nation of Spain to fracture and fragment, the Republican government denied their request, insisting that these two regions remain a part of the union. Catalonia was given a slight degree of self-governance, but this small gesture was not enough to win over the hearts of the people in these regions.

Not only were these influential groups discontent with the new Republican government, the Spanish army was also feeling slighted. Their power and influence had been cut drastically by the new regime, who decided that the army had too much say in a republican government. Many army officers were forced to retire early.

The economy failed to improve over the years under the Republican government. Industry fell by 50%, and the working class was beginning to lose hope in their newly-elected regime. The Republicans had promised them reform to the class system that had forced the majority of the workers in agriculture, which made up 70% of Spain's workforce, to work for a small handful of landowners. The Republican party had promised the common man that they would reform the system that has been cheating them, but also wanted to keep the landowners happy, for they had all the power. Reform stalled, promises went unfulfilled, and people became angry. The landowners, the church, the army, and now the laborers failed to support the government in Madrid.

In 1932, a failed seizure of power by the Prime Minister Manuel Anzaña brought the rise of a new political party. CEDA, which was a party dedicated to reestablishing the power of the church and the landlords, gained momentum within the political right.

The government, led by Anzaña at the time as Prime Minister, started to crumble. Support from both the right and the left was a heavy blow. People believed that the government was too much in the middle of the road. Extremists on both sides advocated for change. After the massacre of 25 people by the government in 1933 led to Anzaña stepping down from Prime Minister and elections were held in November of 1933.

Around the same time, a small group on the opposite end of the spectrum emerged, dubbed the Falange. The Falange formed under the leadership of José Antonio Primo de Rivera, son of the late prime minister Primo de Rivera. The party was heavily influenced by contemporaries Hitler and Mussolini, and was intended to spread fascist sentiment while maintaining monarchist ideals and uniting the common workers. The Falange were the seeds of the Nationalist party.

Nonetheless, the new right wing group led by Gil Robles, CEDA, won the election, and they began to undo what the previous government had established. They revoked the privileges and rights given to the Catalonians and the Basques, which in turn withdrew the support of the party from both nations. This led CEDA to start attacking the Political Left. With the increased attacks on the Political Left, all the leftists parties banded together to form one, massive Left Party, known as the Popular Front.

The Popular Front began to induce chaos. They held strikes, started riots, and even engaged in violent activity against the government led by CEDA. In 1934, the tension between the Popular Front and CEDA escalated as general strikes occurred as well as strike in the coal mines of countries as far away as Austria, which were put down by the government. Spain was beginning to collapse.

To avoid serious damage, a general election was called for in February of 1936. The Popular Front won the majority, and Anzaña was back in power. The Falange and CEDA rose in power as disorder and political violence swept through Spain. The army was scheming to overthrow the government.

July 13th, 1936. The final slap in the face that reverberated throughout the Nationalist party was the assassination of right wing Opposition leader, Calvo Sotelo. This gave the army just the reason to begin the uprising. An uprising in Morocco four days later.

In this alternative universe, the Fascist Nazi regime has already sent in an ambassador to support this force, as we are potential allies for the nation. Italy followed suit after Nazi Germany, sending in an ambassador to facilitate communication between us and their government, but have not pledged their support for our rebellion. Portugal has sent a representative to help facilitate and provide aid for this rebellion. And lastly, a representative from the Catholic Church is among us to determine whether the Catholic Church will want to support this revolution or not.

NATIONALISTS	REPUBLICANS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Right-wing ★ Falange ★ CEDA ★ Monarchists ★ Against new government ★ Fascists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Left-wing ● Socialists ● Communists ● Anarchists ● Popular Front ● Supports new government

II. Questions to Consider:

1. How will you contribute to the effort to cut off support to the republicans and create the schisms within their power?
2. What new tactics will you, the Nationalist Front, win the war efficiently and still be able to support our allies in Europe?
3. How can we continue the effort to gain international support for this revolution?
4. How can we predict and outthink the Republican Front?
5. How can you exercise your specific attributes and individual powers to contribute to the cause?
6. How will your character gain as much power as they can in the cabinet while still maintaining the unity needed to win the war?

III. Key Players within this Committee:

Manuel Hedilla - Leader of the Falange Española de las Juntas de Ofensiva Nacional-Sindicalista

Manuel Fal Conde - Carlist Leader

Infante Juan - Heir to the Spanish throne

José María Gil-Robles y Quiñones - Leader of Confederation of Autonomous Right-wing Groups (CEDA)

General Juan Yagüe - Leader of One Column of the Army of Africa

Colonel José Enrique Varela - Leader of One Column of the Army of Africa

Mohamed Meziane or Mohamed ben Mizzian - Leader of Regulares Indígenas (Spanish Moroccan troops)

General Mario Roatta - Commands the Italian expeditionary forces

Wilhelm Faulpel - Nazi Germany's ambassador to Franco's regime

Ambassador to Portugal

José María Valiente Soriano - formal leader of the JAP and Franco's informal substitute Carlist Leader (potentially)

Raimundo Fernández- Cuesta y Merelo - Secretary General of the unified falangist-carlist movement

Spokesperson for the Catholic Church

Francisco Franco - Spanish Caudillo and general during the Spanish civil war

Emilio Mola - Spanish Nationalist commander and informally in charge of the rebellion while José Sanjurjo is in exile

José Antonio Primo de Rivera - President of the Falange

Sources:

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