

Model United Nations of San Antonio

Dstr: Historical Crisis

May 2nd, 2013

Original: English

Agenda Topic I: Discussing and resolving potential catastrophes during the Spanish Civil War

Report of the Chair

What is the Historical Crisis Committee?

- The historical crisis committee is a specialized committee at MUNSA XVIII that has its own different set of procedures and objectives specific for delegates participating in the room.
- At the beginning of the first session, the chairs will introduce the delegates to a past situation or conflict involving one or more parties. The conflict will be relevant to the countries and entities the delegates represent.
- The objective of delegates in this committee is to accurately represent their assigned figures by advocating for their real life interests. Delegates should try to show how the situation had occurred, and accurately portray the attitude/ideals of the people they represent.
- Delegates will be assessed on their effectiveness and authenticity in advocating for their figures interests and ideals.

Statement of the problem and historical analysis:

- The Spanish Civil war was fought between the years of 1936 to 1939 between the loyalist forces of the Second Spanish Republic and the Nationalist Rebels. The Loyalist forces consisted of numerous left-wing parties, spearheaded by the coalition party *Frente Popular* (Popular Front). On the other hand, the Nationalist Rebels consisted of many right-wing parties, uniting under the *Falange Espanola de las Juntas de Ofensiva Nacional Sindicalista* (Falange).
- The base cause of the civil war was the general economic and political instability that was commonplace in early 20th century Spain.
- After the first world war, Spain was subjugated under the military dictator Miguel Primo de Rivera. Rivera did little to aid the ailing Spanish population, and was forced to resign in the year 1930. This gave birth to the second Spanish Republic.
- The first prime minister, Niceto Alcala-Zamora, dissolved the Spanish parliament in 1933.

This allowed for the right-wing Confederacion Espanola de Derechas Autónomas (CEDA) to be the party with the most votes nationally, but not enough to govern without coalition. Niceto Zamora refused to appoint CEDA leader Jose Maria Gil-Robles and instead appointed Alejandro Lerroux, and politician with CEDA-esque political stances. Lerroux would eventually attempt to gain the office of prime minister, which prompted Zamora to once again dissolve the parliament in early 1936.

- During this political upheaval, the citizens of Spain became more and more radicalized, with Monarchists joining Fascistic parties and Communists and Syndicalists joining the Popular Front. Civil discourse collapsed, and violence was commonplace in the streets of major cities.
- During the general election of 1936, the Popular Front won by a very slim margin, 47.03% of the vote as compared to CEDA's 46.48% of the vote. This resulted in the appointment of Manuel Anzana Diaz as the new president of Spain.
- The results of the election prompted the Spanish military and right-wing sympathizers to organize a military coup in 1936. Many generals in the Spanish Army, such as Francisco Franco, Emilio Mola, and Manuel Goded Llopis, conspired against the government.
- On July 17th, 1936, the uprising began. The Nationalist rebels quickly took Spanish Morocco and the mainland city of Seville in southern Spain. The outbreak of war prompted numerous left-wing paramilitary units to call for a general strike and organize their militias.
- As the war raged on, international powers began to observe and even assist in influencing the outcome of the war. Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, and Portugal all sent logistical, supply, and even military aid to the Nationalist rebels. On the other hand; the Soviet Union, Mexico, and countless Marxist, Anarchist, and Socialist organizations sent volunteers and other forms of aid to the Republican forces.
- Both armies committed countless atrocities in the war, frequently referred to as "Red"(for leftist) and "White"(For anti-leftist) terrors. While the exact numbers are being debated to this very day, estimated casualties (regarding civilians and prisoners) are estimated to be over 250,000.

Starting date and strategic situation

- The room's starting date will be July 18th, 1936, the day after the nationalist revolt and the day that the CNT-FAI and UGT call for a general strike, arming the associated workers.
- Spanish Morocco and islands owned by Spain are under nationalist control, and the cities of Cadiz, Sevilla, and Cordoba are hubs of nationalist activity. All regions bordering Portugal are also under nationalist control, as well as a large swath of land between the cities of Zaragoza and Vigo. The Republicans have tight control of Catalonia, the northern reaches around the city of Bilbao, the capital of Madrid, and almost the entire coastline of eastern Spain.
- The cities of Seville and Cordoba are currently surrounded by Republican territory, but have the potential to be command centers for the soon-to-arrive Spanish nationalists in Morocco.
- Since it is the start of the war, volunteer groups have yet to arrive. **However, (Come back to this when question is answered**

Factors to consider

- The influx of military volunteers and aid from international powers greatly affected the progression and outcome of the war.
- Both forces in the civil war committed atrocities (terrors), resulting in high civilian casualties.
- A rallying cry of the Nationalist forces was to respond to the anti-clericism of the Republican Forces. This also prompted numerous people to vote for CEDA and Falange during the election of 1936.
- Infighting was frequent in the Republican army. Soviet-backed Communists frequently killed those who did not support their ideas, even other Communists. Minority nationalists fighting for the republic frequently clashed with other branches of the army, hurting the organizational value of the unified force.

Important facts delegates should know

- Parliamentary Procedure in this room has been modified for the purpose of debate. As such, it will be different from that of other committee rooms. Delegates in this room should be experienced. Attendance of other MUN conferences is recommended.
- Delegates will not be required to write a traditional background paper; as the room will have no formal speakers list.
- Instead, delegates should do very extensive research on past actions and tendencies of their figures. A delegate's depth of knowledge will play a large role in whether not delegates will receive awards.

USSR: Maxim Litvinov
POUM: Joaquin Maurin
PCE: Dolores Ibarruri
International Brigades: Karol Świerczewski
CNT/FAI: Buenaventura Durruti
UGT: Fransisco Largo Caballero
Republican Left: Manuel Azana
ERC:Lluís Companys i Jover
George Orwell
EG: José Antonio Aguirre y Lecube
Republican Union: Diego Martínez Barrio
Partido Galeguista: Alfonso Daniel Rodríguez Castelao
Syndicalist Party: Ángel Pestaña
PSOE: Juan Negrín