Primary Source Packet

1. Poster, Farm Woman

Propaganda posters are some of the most poignant documents that remain from the Spanish Civil War. As the remarks of numerous eyewitnesses demonstrate, the posters provided an essential part of the visual landscape in which individuals living the tragedy of the war went about their daily business of survival. The British writer Christopher Caudwell wrote home from Barcelona in December of 1936: “On almost every building there are party posters: posters against Fascism, posters about the defense of Madrid, posters appealing for recruits to the militia...and even posters for the emancipation of women and against venereal disease.” This poster, commissioned by the Spanish Communist Party, reminds rural women of their importance in the War—specifically that the food they are growing in the fields is supporting their men in the war. Notice the image opposite the woman of the shadow of a man holding a gun. Each side, both the Republicans and Nationalists, claimed to have the best food in the war and used this as a propaganda message.


Translation: “Farm woman! Your work in the fields strengthens the spirits of those who are fighting.”

2. Poster, Factory Woman
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Translation: “The women want to win the war, too. We should help them.”

3. Photograph, Women Fighting
In addition to being an important political event of the 20th century, the Spanish Civil War was the catalyst for some of the most dramatic imagery of the last century. Among the most striking images are photographs of the war and its effects. Robert Capa’s “Death of a Loyalist Militiaman” (1937) is perhaps the most iconic photograph from the Spanish Civil War and remains one of the most acclaimed war photographs of the 20th century. Several of the major news photo agencies of the 1930s deployed photographers who were just as close to the front lines and just as vital as in the dissemination of images of the Spanish Civil War to the rest of the world. These photographers were present throughout the duration of the Spanish Civil War, from the initial uprisings in the summer of 1936 to the ultimate collapse of the Spanish Republican government in April of 1939. Consequently, the visual coverage of the conflict was unprecedented. Much of the new close-up-action style of war coverage can be attributed to advances in photographic technology. The Spanish Civil War is famous for the fact that women on the Republican side wore jeans and fought with the men at the beginning of the war. Look at the excitement on the women’s faces—Republican women were very proud to be charged with carrying weapons and fighting in the war like the men. Most of the women combatants were phased out after the first year of the war.


4. Photograph, Civilian Refugees
In addition to being an important political event of the 20th century, the Spanish Civil War was the catalyst for some of the most dramatic imagery of the last century. Among the most striking images are photographs of the war and its effects. Several of the major news photo agencies of the 1930s deployed photographers who were present throughout the duration of the Spanish Civil War, from the initial uprisings in the summer of 1936 to the ultimate collapse of the Spanish Republican government in April of 1939. Consequently, the visual coverage of the conflict was unprecedented. Much of the new close-up-action style of war coverage can be attributed to advances in photographic technology. Many modern weapons, especially German and Italian bombs, were tested during the Spanish Civil War. This meant that a high number of civil causalities and destruction spread through the country as the war slowly progressed. This image, taken in April 1938 in Luchon, France, shows civilian refugees attempting to remove themselves from the battle. These refugees were leaving the country as Franco advanced into Catalonia in his drive to the Mediterranean. When you look at this image think of the thousands of civilians that fled Spain to get away from the fighting. Thousands of refugees crossed the border to France and smaller numbers of people went to Britain, the United States and other parts of the world. The International Red Cross assisted many of the refugees, especially with basic food rations.

Source: Photograph of civilian refugees from the Spanish Civil War. Shots of War: Photojournalism during the Spanish Civil War. Mandeville Special Collections Library. University of California at San Diego.
http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/speccoll/swphotojournalism/CivilianRefugees.html

5. Drawing, Bakery
Historians are just beginning to study how war has affected children. Since the Spanish Civil War was one of the first world conflicts with modern weapons, such as bombs, children throughout the country were affected. The website They Still Draw Pictures reproduces a book of the same title that was first published by the Spanish Child Welfare Association of America for the American Friends Service Committee in 1938. The archive of original children’s drawings forms a portion of the Southworth Spanish Civil War Collection and comprises 609 pictures, drawn chiefly on inexpensive paper using pencil, crayon, ink, and sometimes watercolor. Drawings by school children were collected throughout Spain and from refugee colonies in southern France through a concerted effort by the Spanish Board of Education and the Carnegie Institute of Spain. Most drawings were gathered as bundles of loose pieces, but some schools submitted their collected drawings as bound booklets. This picture was drawn by Mercedes Arèvalo (13), a refugee in France. When looking at this drawing, think about how young children growing up during the Spanish Civil War viewed the conflict. Often times family members would be displaced during the war—sometimes they would have to fight against each other.


6. Song, Women's Anthem
Conditions for the vast majority of people in Spain in the 1920s and 1930s were appalling. For women they were especially bad because of extreme gender divisions. Most women were economically dependent on men. Household chores and childcare were exclusively women’s domain. In both countryside and city women’s wages were lower than men’s. For example the average daily wage of a male agricultural laborer was three pesetas while a women received just half this, for working from dawn to dusk.

Men and women led completely separate lives. Women’s live centered on relationships with other women—family, neighbors, or workers in gender-specific places. Men lived primarily in a male-centered, public world of factories, bars, and organizations. Women’s personal freedom was severely restricted. Single women could not go outside without a chaperone and they could often be “given away” in arranged marriages. Due to the traditional role of women in Spain and the small number of them working outside the home, only a minority of women were involved in unions or other political organizations. In response to the pressing need to address women’s situation and in preparation for the revolution, a network of women activists began to meet. They soon formed the *Mujeres Libres* (Free Women) organization and created the following anthem.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Puño en alto mujeres de Iberia hacia horizontes preñados de luz por rutas ardientes, los pies en la tierra la frente en lo azul.</th>
<th>Fists upraised, women of Iberia towards horizons pregnant with light on paths afire feet on the ground face to the blue sky.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afirmando promesas de vida desafiemos la tradición modelemos la arcilla caliente de un mundo que nace del dolor.</td>
<td>Affirming the promise of life we defy tradition we mold the warm clay of a new world born of pain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¡Que el pasado se hunda en la nada! ¡Que nos importa del ayer! Queremos escribir de nuevo la palabra MUJER.</td>
<td>Let the past vanish into nothingness! What do we care for yesterday! We want to write anew the word WOMAN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puño en alto mujeres del mundo hacia horizontes preñados de luz por rutas ardientes adelante, adelante de cara a la luz.</td>
<td>Fists upraised, women of the world towards horizons pregnant with light on paths afire onward, onward toward the light.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Letter, American Volunteer
Appalled at the prospect of another European country falling to fascism, supporters of the Spanish Republican government flocked to its aid from around the world. To these anti-fascists, Spain was the latest battleground in the European war against fascism, and Spain offered a chance, at last, to check its advance. At the same time, the USSR, fully aware of the extent of German and Italian assistance to the Rebels, chose to provide help to the Republicans. In addition to the military help sent from the USSR, the Comintern (the Communist International) took on the role of organizing volunteers for the Spanish Republic, many of whom had already arrived in Spain. Over the coming months, these International Brigades of foreign volunteers would fight and die alongside the Spanish Republicans in their determination not to let the fascists pass. Madrid, its defenders declared, “would be the tomb of fascism.” Americans mostly joined the “Abraham Lincoln Brigade,” which had more than 2,800 men and women volunteers. The letter below is from a woman volunteer who had recently arrived in Barcelona. Read this letter and think of the thousands of Americans and people from throughout the world (English and German especially) that volunteered to fight in the Spanish Civil War. Think about what motivated their actions.


Friday, November 25, 1938

Dearest Leo [Hurwitz] and Janey [Dudley]:

The enclosed note was written after the first two bombings on Wednesday—and I thought when I started that I could overcome the reaction of the morning, but I had to stop. Now, though still a little limp and sickish, I can write of the last two days with more or less ease.

The first raid, at about 10:30 A.M., came while two American soldados [soldiers] and I were in a shop buying cigarette holders. The boys had come to Barcelona to buy some trinkets for their girls and I went along with them to help them choose. The shop we were in is three or four blocks from the hotel and some six or seven blocks from where the first bombs fell. The siren sounded just as we were paying our bill. We saw the people hurrying along the Paseo de Gracia (our street) into sheltering doorways, or hugging the walls. We stepped into a doorway, going out to look up when the anti-aircraft started and I spotted three planes—enemy planes flying high, they looked minute. The guns were hot on their trail and the boys pulled me back into the doorway because very often the shrapnel casings of the aircraft shells fall and get you. As we got back to the doorway we heard the bombs falling—and the boys made me crouch down, close to them with my head buried in my arms. The sound of those bombs, and they sounded close (as we found later they were) is hard to describe—crashing through the air as if to break the very air itself, screeching and whining and then the contact as they hit their
target—as if a thousand wrecking crews were tearing down buildings at the same time. I wasn’t frightened then, my mind was blank—I was concerned only with crouching down in the doorway. We got up then and started walking to the hotel, the people in the streets came to life, continuing to walk to wherever they had been going when the alarm sounded; we reached the next corner to see a crowd of people pointing up at the sky and then a shout arose, and cheering as our guns got one plane—it came down hurtling through the air head over heels. We were excited, forgetting completely the bombs falling a minute before and we hurried to the hotel to find Ed. We found him there, worried but relieved to see us. Everyone talked about the downed plane—but soon life went on as usual.

Hemingway was here for a few days—but once you meet him you’re not likely to forget him. The day he came I had been slightly sickish, but Ed came up and got me up out of bed to meet him. When I came into the room where he was he was seated at a table and I wasn’t prepared for the towering giant he is. I almost got on my toes to reach his outstretched hand—I didn’t need to, but that was my first reaction. He’s terrific—not only tall but big—in head, body, hands. “Hello,” he said—looked at me and then at Ed and said “You’re sure you two aren’t brother and sister?” which meant—”what a pair of light-haired, pale, skinny kids!”

And now—I’ll say goodbye—I promise not to let so long a time go by the next time I write.

Mary [Rolfe]

8. Speech, Republican Spain Farewell

Dolores Ibárruri, the eighth of eleven children, was born in Gallarta, Spain, on December 9, 1895. Born into a family of miners, Ibárruri experienced poverty as a child. Although an intelligent student, her family could not afford to pay for her to be trained as a teacher, so she became a seamstress. In 1916, she married a miner and had six children but only two survived to adulthood. She later wrote that they had died because of her inability to provide adequate medical care and nourishment for them. The family’s financial situation deteriorated when her husband, an active trade unionist, was imprisoned for leading a strike. After reading the works of Karl Marx, Ibárruri joined the Communist Party (PCE). Ibárruri wrote articles for the miners’ newspaper, El Minero Vizcaíno, using the pseudonym Pasionaria (passion flower). She soon became an important local political figure and in 1930 was elected to the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party. During the next few years, she used her position to campaign for an improvement in women’s conditions in Spain. Concerned by the emergence of fascism in Italy and Germany, Ibárruri helped organize the World Committee of Women Against War and Fascism and was a delegate at its first conference in France in August 1934.

In 1936, Ibárruri, now known by everybody as La Pasionaria, was elected to the Cortes,
the Spanish legislature. During the first few months as a deputy she campaigned for legislation to improve working, housing, and health conditions. During the Spanish Civil War, Ibárruri was the chief propagandist for the Republicans. On July 18, 1936, she ended a radio speech with the words: “The fascists shall not pass! No Pasaran.” This phrase eventually became the battle cry for the Republican Army. The speech below was the last address she gave in Spain before leaving for the Soviet Union. As you read the transcript of La Pasionaria’s last speech in Spain, look for the great disappointment in her words about the fate of Republican Spain.


It is very difficult to say a few words in farewell to the heroes of the International Brigades, because of what they are and what they represent. A feeling of sorrow, an infinite grief catches our throat—sorrow for those who are going away, for the soldiers of the highest ideal of human redemption, exiles from their countries, persecuted by the tyrants of all peoples—grief for those who will stay here forever mingled with the Spanish soil, in the very depth of our heart, hallowed by our feeling of eternal gratitude.

From all peoples, from all races, you came to us like brothers, like sons of immortal Spain; and in the hardest days of the war, when the capital of the Spanish Republic was threatened, it was you, gallant comrades of the International Brigades, who helped save the city with your fighting enthusiasm, your heroism and your spirit of sacrifice. And Jarama and Guadalajara, Brunete and Belchite, Levante and the Ebro, in immortal verses sing of the courage, the sacrifice, the daring, the discipline of the men of the International Brigades.

For the first time in the history of the peoples’ struggles, there was the spectacle, breathtaking in its grandeur, of the formation of International Brigades to help save a threatened country’s freedom and independence—the freedom and independence of our Spanish land. Communists, Socialists, Anarchists, Republicans—men of different colors, differing ideology, antagonistic religions—yet all profoundly loving liberty and justice, they came and offered themselves to us unconditionally.

They gave us everything—their youth or their maturity; their science or their experience; their blood and their lives; their hopes and aspirations—and they asked us for nothing. But yes, it must be said, they did want a post in battle, they aspired to the honor of dying for us. . . . We shall not forget you; and, when the olive tree of peace is in flower, entwined with the victory laurels of the Republic of Spain—return!

Return to our side for here you will find a homeland—those who have no country or friends, who must live deprived of friendship—all, all will have the affection and gratitude of the Spanish people who today and tomorrow will shout with enthusiasm—

Long live the heroes of the International Brigades!

9. Motto, Republican
Dolores Ibárruri, a seamstress and mother, joined the Communist Party (PCE) after reading the works of Karl Marx. Ibárruri wrote articles for the miners’ newspaper, *El Minero Vizcaino*, using the pseudonym *Pasionaria* (passion flower). Ibárruri soon became an important local political figure, and during the Spanish Civil War, she was the chief propagandist for the Republicans. On July 18, 1936, she ended a radio speech with the words: “The fascists shall not pass! *No Pasaran.*” “No Pasaran” became the motto for the Republican side of the Spanish Civil War. This was especially popular in Madrid, the site of the last major battle of the war before the Nationalist victory that put Franco in power. This writing was used on posters, leaflets and sung throughout the city of Madrid. Madrid, the capital of Spain, even today shows signs of this final great battle of the Spanish Civil War.


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¡NO PASARÁN!

Ahí van marchando los milicianos
Van para el frente con gran valor.
A dar sus vidas se van cantando
Antes que triunfe Franco el traidor.
En el espacio van los fascistas
Bombas aéreas destrozarán
La bella urbe capitalina
Pero a Madrid . . . ¡No PASARÁN!

Matan mujeres, niños, y ancianos
Que por las calles suelen andar.
Esta es la hazaña de los fascistas
Que allá en la historia se ha de grabar
Si sangre de héroes regó los campos
Bellas simientes resurgirán
El cañón ruje, tiembla la tierra
Pero a Madrid . . . ¡NO PASARÁN!

THEY SHALL NOT PASS!

There march the militiamen
With great valor to the front.
They go singing to give their lives
Lest Franco, the traitor, triumph.
The fascists are in the skies
Their aerial bombs may destroy
Our beautiful capital city
But to Madrid . . . They Shall Not Pass!

They kill women, children, and the elderly
Who are out and about on the streets
This is the deed of the fascists
Which will be inscribed in history.
Where heroes’ blood watered the fields
Beautiful seedlings will flourish.
The cannon roars, the earth trembles
But to Madrid . . . They Shall Not Pass!

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10. Letter, American Aid
Despite the fact that the Spanish Civil War followed the Great Depression and World War I, many individual Americans chose to get involved in the cause. Although this happened throughout the United States, there was an especially large group of interested people in Florida. This letter from Isabel de Palencia to María Cruz Martínez regarding the delivery of clothing for the children of Spain shows how average Americans participated in the Spanish Civil War. Isabel de Palencia was part of the three-member delegation sent by the Spanish government, under the auspices of the American Friends of Spanish Democracy, to raise support for the Republic in the United States and Canada. She came to Tampa in November 1936 hoping to address the delegates attending the American Federation of Labor Convention, but her request was not granted.


Translation:
Maria Cruz Martinez:
My good friend,
I very much appreciate your kind letter offering clothing for our children from Spain. It will be better that you coordinate with José Martínez-Labor Temple, Florida. He will organize the delivery. I am grateful for your interest.
Sincerely your friend,
Isabel de Palencia

11. Photograph, American Aid
Despite the fact that the Spanish Civil War followed the Great Depression and World War I, many individual Americans chose to get involved in the cause. Although this happened throughout the United States, there was an especially large group of interested people in Florida. Children dressed up as milicianos (soldiers) at one of the picnics organized by the Democratic Popular Committee to Aid Spain in La Columna Park in West Tampa, Florida, in 1937, shows how some Americans reacted to the Spanish Civil War. Young women wear bands with the colors of the Spanish Republican flag. The banner on the right honors Francisca Solana, one of the first women milicianas killed in the Spanish Civil War.

Despite the fact that the Spanish Civil War followed the Great Depression and World War I, many individual Americans chose to get involved in the cause. Although this happened throughout the United States, there was an especially large group of interested people in Florida. This flier announces a performance organized by the Ladies’ Section of the Centro Asturiano on April 25, 1937, to purchase milk for the children of Spain. Children under 12 could attend for free if they donated a can of milk. This flier demonstrates one way in which Americans responded to the Spanish Civil War.


Translation:
“Teatro del Centro Asturiano”

Asturias Center Theater
Sunday, April 25, 1974

Great theatrical function organized by the Ladies section of the Asturias Center to benefit the buying of milk for the Spanish children.

A Couple of words:

The purpose to which this function is dedicated makes it unnecessary to remind our generous public with gimmicks and encourage your donations for Spain's cause. It reached the total amount of $50,000.00. We only wish to thank all the people who help us in one way or another, without forgetting the popular Orchestra La Tropical that has given us its invaluable cooperation.

On behalf of Spain’s children, Thank You!
The Ladies Section of the Asturias Center

PROGRAM

Orchestra *La Tropical*
A delightful three-act comedy by Ceferino Palencia

“The Surprises of Divorce”
Casting:

Diana…………………………………………………..Miss Vicenta Longo
Mrs. Bonivard…………………………………………Miss Dalia J. Escobio
Gabriela………………………………………………..Miss Evangelina La Fuente
Victoria………………………………………………...Miss Rosa Alonso
Marietta………………………………………………..Miss Enriqueta Farfante
Enrique Duval………………………………………..Mr. Roberto Alvarez
Federico Champeaus…………………………………Mr. José Hevia
Courbuléon………………………………………..Mr. Braulio Alonso
Bourganef…..................................Mr. Arturo Morán
Aldeano 1………………………………………..Mr. Aurelio Prado
Aldeano 2…………………..Mr. Enrique Solares

Director: Mr. Arturo Morán

Grand finale by the Ladies Section that will perform a dance.