

HASMUN'19 STUDY GUIDE

Historical Cabinet

**Spanish Civil War
(1936)**

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Letter From the Secretary-General

Dear Delegates and Advisors,

It is a great pleasure and honor to officially invite all of you to HASMUN 2019 which will be held between **26th and 28th of April 2019** at Kadir Has University Haliç Campus in Istanbul which is located in the Golden Horn area.

I am personally thrilled to take part in the making of this conference and I am sure that the academic and organisation teams share my passion about this installment of HASMUN in which we have chosen to focus on topics that bring humanity together. And we have also included committees which will simulate historical events that can be considered existential threats which brought the international committee or some nations together. The general idea that we would like to introduce is that humanity can achieve great things in little time if we are united, or can eliminate threats that threaten our very existence.

I strongly believe that the first half of this century would be remembered in human history where we enter into a new era through technological advance. Unfortunately we haven't quite grasped the importance of this generation, as we progress we leave a print on this world and for the first time modern world is facing an existential threat, for the first time every human being on the planet is facing the threat of a considerable change in their and their ancestors living or worse, our very existence is on the line. I believe it will be events like these marked down in history which bring humanity together if we unite with no ambition of national gains and handle these crises. Our highlighted special committee of World War Z will be based on the book with the same name written by Max Brook which tells the story of how world is affected by a Zombie outbreak and the Humanitarian Advancement and Security community or HASCOM will take place in the year of 2050 where the delegates will rebuild the world from it's ashes and have the chance of changing how it works.

The other committees will be focusing on current problems that are born out of neglect for an extensive amount of time either due to lack of public interest or because of economical reasons and solving these issues will have long lasting positive effects or if they are left unsolved they may have bigger consequences in the near future.

With that I welcome and look forward to seeing all of our participants and guests on the 26th of April, at HASMUN 2019, hoping that you will have an exquisite time, debates and most importantly have fun while changing the world, only you can do it.

Best Regards

Ata Mavi
Secretary-General of HASMUN'19

Letter From the Under-Secretary-General

Highly esteemed participants,

As the Under-Secretary-General of the committee, it is my utmost privilege to welcome you all to the Kadir Has Model United Nations Conference 2019. I'm Gökhan Şeheri, currently a sophomore economist at Boğaziçi University. I have been in the MUN world since my first conference, October 2013. With my more than 35 conference experience, I always looked for greatness and academic sufficiency. With my friends and colleagues, we worked really hard to achieve our purpose. Our main purpose in MUN is to teach you delegates for acquiring a diplomatic perspective in your future careers while experiencing an entertaining conference.

This year, our committee offers you an alternative viewpoint to historic issues with challenging events and instant crises. Our subject ranges from an emblematic conflict between Nationalists and Republicans in Spain, in the 1930s. As a consequence of the agenda items being such importance and relevance, our team expects all of the delegates to prepare thoroughly in advance, understand their given positions and viewpoints.

Furthermore, I would like to thank my dearest friend and Assistant Under-Secretary-General Ahmet Oğuz Aydoğdu, for his hardworking study, efforts, guidance, and helps through this process.

In the end, I would like to thank our Secretary-General Mr Ata Mavi, Director General Mr Ahmet Ömer Özgen, rest of the Academic and Operation teams and HASMUN family for their cooperation and their relentless support in making this conference unforgettable for delegates, chairs and observers alike.

With respects and regards,

Gökhan Şeheri

Under Secretary General of Spanish Civil War - Popular Front Cabinet

D) Introduction to the Cabinet

Spanish Civil War, was a military revolt against the Republican government of Spain, starting as an unrest by right-wing Spanish military officials in Morocco, in 1936, and spreading to the Spanish mainland.

After the proclamation of the Second Spanish Republic, Alfonso XIII, King of Spain was forced to leave Spain. Although the victors requested abdication of the king, he did not officially, he retreated, however. Niceto Alcalá-Zamora was in charge, as the first Prime Minister also the President of the Republic.¹

The left side, as known the Republicans, was established by the government with unions, labourers, farmers and anarchic groups against the Nationalists, which includes relatively higher classes as landlords and bourgeoisie. Starting as an unrest, the event turned into a civil war. Not only Spanish opposition groups were attacking each other but also various foreign countries contributed to the conflict, as the Soviet Union helped the Republican side whereas Nationalists were supported by Germany and Italy.

Popular Front was a left-wing political coalition of liberals, socialists, and communists, formed by Manuel Azaña in order to manage certain objectives such as the restoration of Catalan autonomy, amnesty for political prisoners, agricultural reform, payment of damages of property owners and so on.

The Popular Front managed to defeat Nationalists in 1936 elections. Manuel Azaña, who has been democratically elected Republican in 1936, became the President of Spain. Manuel Azaña was serving as the President when the unrest emerged and a group of either conservative and monarchist military officials of the Spanish army started a coup d'état led by General Francisco Franco.²

President Manuel Azaña fought against the opponent group, nationalist and conservative members of the Spanish army and former government. During the Spanish Civil War, President

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Alfonso-XIII>

² <https://www.donquijote.org/spanish-culture/history/spanish-civil-war/>

Manuel Azaña conducted future actions of the Popular Front with his cabinet, consisted of people with various political backgrounds, landowners, former socialists and so forth. The Cabinet had been called upon immediately after the coup d'etat started by General Franco, in 1936.



II) Definitions

Popular Front: A left-wing political coalition of left-wing republican parties, liberals, socialists, and communists. Manuel Azaña helped to create such an association in order to manage certain objectives. The founding manifesto of the Popular Front condemned the actions of the government.³

Basque Nationalism: Basque nationalism is a type of nationalism proclaiming that as an ethnic group Basques are a nation and supporting the unity of the Basques.⁴

Catalan Nationalism: The ideology that argues Catalans are a nation. As being a movement across Spain, Catalan Nationalism has been active in political field since its origin. Having the roots in the 12th century, 'Catalans' and 'Catalonia' emerged near Barcelona.⁵

Republicans: "The Republican Faction", representing left-leaning people in the Second Spanish Republic, known as the Loyalist faction. Republicans supported the Second Spanish Republic against Nationalists or also known as a rebel faction of the military.

³ <https://spartacus-educational.com/SPpopular.htm>

⁴ <https://www.fairobserver.com/region/europe/basque-and-catalan-nationalism-evolution/>

⁵ <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/spain/2017-10-18/brief-history-catalan-nationalism>

Nationalism: An ideology based on the proposition that individual's loyalty, devotion and dedication to their nation surpass other single or group interests. Nationalism implies the identification of the nation with the people according to ethnographic principles.⁶

Conservatism: Conservatism is a political principle that emphasizes the importance of traditional institutions and practices. Mainly a preference for the historically inherited instead of ideal and abstract. Conservatives are thereby in favour of institutions and practices that have progressed slowly and they support manifestations of continuity and stability.⁷

Left-wing & Right Wing: The essential distinction between left-wing and right-wing is position of ideologies. Left-wing beliefs are liberal, they believe society is best served with an expanded role for the government, therefore stands around the rights of individuals. Whereas right-wing believes best results for society can only be achieved when individual rights and civil liberties are important, and the power of the government is minimized.⁸

Socialism: An economic system where everyone in the society equally owns the factors of production through the democratically elected government. Also, it can be a cooperative or public corporation where everyone owns shares. The motto of socialism is, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." by Karl Marx, 1875.⁹

Monarchy: A monarchy is a type of government that invests total sovereignty in one person, head of state who holds the position until death or resignation. Monarchs generally hold their positions through hereditary succession.¹⁰

National Front: Major faction in the Spanish Civil War, consisted of various political groups that supported the coup against the Second Spanish Republic. National Front, included conservative upper class, liberal professionals, religious organizations and landowners; led by General Franco and his followers.

⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/nationalism>

⁷ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/conservatism>

⁸ https://www.differ.com/difference/Left_Wing_vs_Right_Wing

⁹ <https://www.thebalance.com/socialism-types-pros-cons-examples-3305592>

¹⁰ <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-a-monarchy-1221597>

Radicalism: The word 'Radical' means in the early 19th century, people who were in favour of democratic reforms. After the French Revolution, the term 'Radical' became a designator of a progressive liberal ideology. Originally, it has emerged in an early period of the Revolution as inspiring similar movements in other countries. Unlike social conservatism, radicalism thought supports radical reforms. Radicalism was also linked with republicanism or civic nationalism.

III) Historical Background

a) Spain's Role in the WWI

The Spanish government took a neutral position in WWI. Both Liberal and Conservative cabinets decided it was the only position consistent with their country's traditionally friendly relations with Great Britain and France.¹¹ For most of the historians despite the internal economic difficulties Spain was "one of the most important neutral countries in Europe by 1915".¹² Conservative Spanish Prime Minister Dato declared a Royal Decree which stated country's neutrality in August 1914.¹³

Although most of the economic relationship of Spain was with the British Empire and France, there was a division in public opinion. Aristocracy and bourgeoisie were supporting ally Central Powers led by Germany along with the Catholic Church and the Spanish Army. In the political parties, Carlists and Mauristas were representing Germanophile ideas and Socialists, Catalan nationalists & Republicans were in a Francophile idea and were supporting to be a side with allies. But still, the Spanish government kept its neutral position due to internal economic and social reasons. Although Spain did not take a side in the war, some Spaniards had been a part of French Army as a foreign legion and Alphonso XIII had opened European War Office in order to help victims of the war regardless to their nation.

All in all, neutrality was the best option for Spain. In spite of the Spanish politicians' ineffectuality, the country stayed out of savage butchery. Furthermore, as the Italian case showed, entering the war with the winning side was not always a guarantee of achieving old national aspirations.¹⁴

¹¹ https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/spanish_neutrality

¹² McEvoy, William P. (2003). "Spain During the First World War". FirstWorldWar.com. Retrieved 2009-07-16.

¹³ <https://www.elmundo.es/especiales/primera-guerra-mundial/vivencias/neutralidad-espana.html>

¹⁴ Carolina García Sanz, Escuela Española de Historia y Arqueología en Roma

b)Internal and External Policies of Spain After WWI

After the loss of most of the oversea territories such as Cuba and Puerto Rico in 1898 Spanish King Alphonso XIII and the Constitutional government had lost positive public opinion upon them. This first caused a coup d'état attempt and several civil revolts including one major revolt of communists, anarchists and working class known as Semana Tragica in Barcelona which caused almost a hundred deaths and one execution.¹⁵

The military discontent, the fear of anarchism or a socialist revolution, and the rise of nationalist movements ultimately caused great agitation amongst the civilians and the military. In September 1923 Primo de Rivera orchestrated a coup d'état, after issuing a manifesto blaming the problems of Spain on the parliamentary system. The King supported and titled him as Prime Minister, Di Riviera suspended the constitution and abolished all the political parties except Unión Patriótica Española and become a total dictator after being Prime Minister. After the bankruptcy of the government, he was resigned and General Dámaso Berenguer was assigned in order to replace him with the order of Alphonso XIII.¹⁶

This government failed utterly, as the King was considered a supporter of the dictatorship, and more and more political forces called for the establishment of a republic. After an election Republicans and Socialists won some significant victories in the country and army stated that they would not defend the King and in April 1931 he fled Spain. The Second Spanish Republic was immediately established under a provisional government led by Zamora.

Between 1931 and 1936 government of Manuel Azaña would start a great number of reforms to "modernize" the country. After the 1933 election Radical party formed a government with the support of the CEDA (Spanish Confederation of Autonomous Right-wing Groups) and it caused a revolt of anarchist and socialist groups. The revolt was suppressed by the Republic with the help of the Army.

In 1936 Popular Front won the election and a coup d'état fractured the Army Forces which caused to the civil war.¹⁷

c)Europe's Socio-Economic Status During Interwar

¹⁵ [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tragic_Week_\(Catalonia\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tragic_Week_(Catalonia))

¹⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Miguel-Primo-de-Rivera>

¹⁷ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Spanish_Republic

After WWI some of the biggest imperial powers in Europe such as the German Empire, Ottoman Empire, the Russian Empire had dismantled. Thus a lot of new countries established in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, that situation caused a lot of instability in the European environment and reasoned further turmoils in the Interwar period. The United States started to become a new international power in the world with their armed forces, industrial capacity and economic dominance. Great Britain was losing its power upon its colonies as well as the naval superiority in the world. The United States and the Japanese Empire become more efficient in naval technologies and overcome British superiority. New established Weimar Republic (Germany) was in a huge debt of war reputations and people of the country were having rough times due to the economic and industrial shrink which caused by the Treaty of Versailles. Germany took from the United States a debt in order to pay their war reputations.

After WWI to maintain the peaceful environment League Of Nations had established. Disarmament was a very popular public policy. However, the League of Nations played little role in this effort, with the United States and Britain taking the lead.

The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic depression that took place after 1929. The timing varied across nations; in most countries, it started in 1929 and lasted until the late 1930s. It was the longest, deepest, and most widespread depression of the 20th century. The depression originated in the United States and became worldwide news with the stock market crash of October 29, 1929 (known as Black Tuesday). Between 1929 and 1932, worldwide GDP fell by an estimated 15%.¹⁸ After The Great Depression, Germany has been asked to pay their debt to the United States and the German economy had collapsed and public opinion became more aggressive.

Democracy and prosperity largely went together in the 1920s. The economic disaster led to a distrust in the effectiveness of democracy and its collapse in much of Europe, including the Baltic and Balkan countries, Poland, Spain, and Portugal. Powerful expansionary dictatorships emerged in Italy, Japan, and Germany.¹⁹

While communism was tightly contained in the isolated Soviet Union, fascism took control of Italy in 1922; as the Great Depression worsened, fascism emerged victorious in Germany and played a major role in numerous countries in Europe, and several in Latin America.²⁰

Fascist parties sprang up, attuned to local right-wing traditions, but also possessing common features that typically included extreme militaristic nationalism, a desire for economic self-

¹⁸ <https://www.history.com/topics/great-depression/great-depression-history>

¹⁹ Stephen J. Lee, *European Dictatorships 1918–1945* (Routledge, 2016)

²⁰ Stanley G. Payne, *A History of Fascism, 1914–1945* (1995)

containment, threats and aggression toward neighboring countries, oppression of minorities, a ridicule of democracy while using its techniques to mobilize an angry middle-class base, and a disgust with cultural liberalism. Fascists believed in power, violence, male superiority, and a "natural" hierarchy, often led by dictators such as Benito Mussolini or Adolf Hitler. Fascism in power meant that liberalism and human rights were discarded, and individual pursuits and values were subordinated to what the party decided was best.²¹

IV) Role Playing Factors

Spain was once among the world's most powerful countries. By the 20th century, Spain got poorer and was going back where corruption was rife. Spain had lost nearly all of its overseas possessions (e.g. Cuba, the Philippines) and great extremes of wealth and poverty caused severe social tensions. The industry was confined mainly to Barcelona and the Basque country. Spaniards were divided on the type of government that they wanted. Monarchists were conservative and Catholics and did not want to reform Spain. Those who wanted a republic were anti-clerical and hoped to reform Spanish society. There were a number of areas where it was felt reform was needed.

- Labor Movements

Among other social classes, rural communities lagged behind in social struggles because Spain had not experienced any farmer uprising or peasant rebellion. The first movement that people who are engaged in farming showed up was the guerrilla warfare that took place during the invasion of the country by Napoleon and following Carlist Civil War between 1833-1840. Structural changes in agriculture and pressure of increasing population growth in the 19th century influenced the poor and protests occurred. In addition to that, 'desamortizacion' implementations, which took the rights of poor farmers on the collectivist land system and granted to the bourgeoisie and noblemen, made conditions harder for farmers to work the soil.²² The foundation of the first worker union in 1840, Barcelona was followed by the foundation of National Confederation of Labour (with its current name) in 1854. At that point, the Spanish labour movement had two distinctive features; first, the tendency for the peaceful association and second, tendency for direct action, interventionist association. The attitude of the Spanish government was usually interfering with military power. In

²¹ Robert Soucy, "Fascism" Encyclopaedia Britannica 2015

²² <http://www.birikimdergisi.com/guncel-yazilar/7816/ispanya-ic-savasi-na-giden-yol#.XKS-IS2B124>

1855, the intervention of commander of territorial Catalonia caused a stoppage of labour which was held by 40.000 workers.

Between 1868-1874, a period of liberal politics, Spain showed advancements with International Workingmen's Association (IWA); two comprehensive congresses had been held in 1870 and 1872 in Barcelona. The evolution of anarchic movement had followed a continuous and stable path. During the process, various federations emerged and disappeared because of the Congress of the First International.



The economic welfare of Spain in 1907, prevented possible emergence of an atmosphere that would cause another worker to walk out. By the year 1917, an instant increase in prices destroyed the welfare that the working class had. Besides inflation, the Restoration period party system started in 1875 had entered a depression resulting with an economic and political crisis, with a period continued with political tension and anarchic uprisings until the 1930s supported by worker unions and newly formed organizations.

- **Azaña Administration**

Manuel Azaña had continued his duty as Prime Minister between October 1931 - September 1933. Government, as a continuation of the secularization of the system, legislated the first law for marital separation and took the control of cemeteries from churches'. Also, the government decided to



liquidate cults according to the articles in the constitution that creates a potential threat against the government and requires a special oath of allegiance and sequestrated their properties.

Furthermore, various reforms in education had been made by the government such as building schools and creating occupation training courses for those who

has the title 'maestro' but works for other departments of public institutions. Wages of teachers had been increased, promoting the profession and resulting in raising 20 thousand teachers.

The demand coming from Catalans regarding their independence was a problem that Azaña administration could not manage to deal with. After Macia's proclamation of the Catalan Republic, it had been decided that Catalonia will be governed as a sovereign state but will be dependent on central administration in Madrid on the issues such as foreign affairs, customs, tariffs and church-state relations. The proposal that subjects Catalan as the official language and absolute control over the University of Barcelona was approved in 1931.

The fundamental tool for maintenance of the public order in Spain was armed police forces 'Civil Guards', rather than the Spanish Army which was used several times for quelling various unrests and ending or preventing the worker walkouts after its foundation, 1840. Civil Guards have a huge antipathy among the working class, whom they name Civil Guards as 'armed servants of the rich' whereas landowners supported the existence of Civil Guards and even advised the usage of those forces for unrests in rural areas.

Agriculture

Spain was essentially an agricultural country. In the south were the vast private estates or latifundia worked by landless labourers. 7000 owners owned 15 million acres of land. In the north small farmers worked farms that were in many cases not economically viable. It is estimated that half of the agricultural workers lived on the edge of starvation. The former granary of the Roman Empire had the lowest agricultural productivity in Europe.

The Church

The power and wealth of the Catholic Church were greatly resented by many. It was closely identified with the wealthy classes and was seen as an enemy of change. Although the majority of Spaniards did not go to mass it had a strong following in the countryside where religious devotion was strong. It had a virtual monopoly of education. Curbing the power of the church was seen as essential if a fairer Spain was to be created.

The Army

The army was grossly over-officered with about one general to every hundred poorly equipped soldier. It had grown progressively conservative and was prone to interfere in politics.

Regionalism

Spain is a country divided by rivers and mountain ranges with distinct languages and traditions in many areas. Both the Basques and the Catalans wanted to control their own affairs. Republicans sympathized with their demands especially that of the Catalans while conservatives opposed them on the grounds that it would weaken Spain.²³

Political Parties and Governance of Spain

A) Socialist and Communist Parties:

- 1) Popular Front
- 2) Republican Left
- 3) Spanish Communist Party
- 4) Socialist Party

²³ <http://www.historyhome.co.uk/europe/spaincw.html>

5) Unified Socialist Youth



6) General Worker's Union

7) Federal Democrat Party



B) Right Wing Parties

1) Carlists

2) Spanish Confederation of Autonomous Right-wing Parties (CEDA)



3) Spanish Phalanx

C) Anarchists

1) Confederación Nacional de Trabajadores / Federación Anarquista Ibérica

V) Starting of the War

During the first two years of the Republic, organized labour and leftist radicals forced widespread liberal reforms, and the independence-minded region of Catalonia and the Basque provinces achieved virtual autonomy. The landed aristocracy, the church, and a large military clique opposed the Republic, and in November 1933 conservative forces regained control of the government in elections. In response, socialists launched a revolution in the mining districts of Asturias, and Catalan nationalists rebelled in Barcelona. General Franco crushed the so-called October Revolution on

behalf of the conservative government, and in 1935 he was appointed army chief of staff. In February 1936, new elections brought the Popular Front, a leftist coalition, to power, and Franco, a strict monarchist, was sent to an obscure command in the Canary Islands off Africa. Fearing that the liberal government would give way to Marxist revolution, army officers conspired to seize power. After a period of hesitation, Franco agreed to join the military conspiracy, which was scheduled on July 18, 1936, and then in Spain 24 hours later. The difference in time was to allow the Army of Africa time to secure Morocco before transported to Spain's Andalusian coast by the navy.

On the afternoon of July 17, the plan for the next morning was discovered in the Moroccan town of Melilla, and the rebels were forced into premature action. Melilla, Ceuta, and Tetuan were soon in the hands of the Nationalists, who were aided by conservative Moroccan troops that also opposed the leftist government in Madrid. The Republican government learned of the revolt soon after it broke out but took few actions to prevent its spread to the mainland.²⁴

On July 18, Spanish garrisons rose up in revolt all across Spain. Workers and peasants fought the uprising, but in many cities, the Republican government denied them weapons, and the Nationalists soon gained control.

²⁴ <https://www.history.com/.amp/this-day-in-history/spanish-civil-war-breaks-out>

