Between 1936 and 1939 Spain was gripped by civil war. We trace the instability of early Twentieth Century Spain to the coup d’etat led by Franco in 1936 and discuss the internationalisation of the Spanish War. We consider why the Nationalists won and the authoritarian regime that lasted until 1975.

Between 1936 and 1939 Spain was gripped by civil war, as sections of the army, aided by the right, rebelled against the elected government helped by Mussolini and Hitler. Despite assistance from the USSR and the International Brigades, the republic succumbed and 39 years of authoritarian ruled ensued.

**Week One. The instability of Early Twentieth Century Spain.** We will discover the effects of strong regional differences, sharp economic and social divisions and an assertive military. General Primo de Rivera ruled from 1923 to 1923 under Alfonso XIII, until both submitted to a republic from 1931 to 1936. Finally in 1936 a radical republican regime was elected. Why were Spain’s problems so intractable up to 1936?

**Week Two. The most recalcitrant generals.** Franco, Mola, Sanjurja and Goded were exiled as the government grappled with rising disorder, including anticlerical attacks, and seemed to encourage separatism – particularly for Catalonia. The murder of Calvo Sotelo was the last straw, and a coup d’etat led by Franco ensued in July 1936. Franco soon emerged as the rebels’ leader, and decided to follow a cautious campaign after his failure to take Madrid in November 1936. We will ask why Franco become the rebels’ leader, and why he abandoned the 1936 siege of Madrid.

**Week Three. The internationalisation of the Spanish War.** The USSR, France and the International Brigades aided the republic, and Portugal, Italy and Germany backed the insurgents. Britain remained uninvolved. Under these circumstances Franco was bound to win, especially given the aircraft of the Condor Legion which, for example, destroyed the Basque city of Guernica in April 1937. We consider why the Nationalists won the war.

Atrocities were committed on both sides, but the Nationalists wrought a more savage revenge, as Franco established an authoritarian regime that lasted until 1975.

**Suggested reading**

Beevor, Antony, *The Spanish Civil War* (Cassell, 1982)
Ellwood, Sheelagh, *Franco* (Longman, 1994)
Additional information

This course is suitable for all: some prior knowledge would be useful but is not essential. The course allows you to spend time exploring a subject for interest, among like-minded people, without formal assessment. There will be discussion opportunities during the course.

Intended learning outcomes

(a) An understanding of the two sides involved in the conflict.
(b) An ability to grasp why the rebel side won.
(c) An insight into how far the war sprang from purely Spanish issues, and how far from wider European and global ones.

About the tutor

Edward Towne graduated in European Studies from the University of East Anglia, and later achieved a PGCE from Cambridge, an MA in Early Modern English History from the University of London, and MSt in Twentieth Century British History from the University of Oxford. His professional career was spent teaching History in state and independent Secondary Schools, finally as Head of the History Department. Currently, Edward lectures independently to adults in a variety of organisations, and acts as a reviewer and tour leader on historical topics.
Short Course Programme

General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place
These courses are usually very popular so you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- Online Booking is preferred. Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- By post to us at the address below, using the application form in the programme booklet. Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course. A paper application affirms acceptance of our terms & conditions.

Course cancellation
As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full. We advise that you do not buy books or other course materials until that particular course is confirmed as taking place: please contact us if you are unsure.

If you find it necessary to cancel your place on a course, please let us know as soon as possible. Refund requests, including the reason, should be made by email or in writing to us at the address below. We reserve the right to retain all or part of the course fee if you request a refund after 14 days of your online booking being made or paper application being received. Discretionary, partial refunds may be made, after the deduction of an administrative handling fee as follows:

- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

The University reserves the right to:
- exclude any student if the student’s presence is making it difficult for the class to function properly
- cancel or amend the length of any course if the circumstances so warrant.

Neither the University of Kent, nor its staff, can be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury, however sustained, suffered by participants attending courses. Insurance is the student’s responsibility.

University Centre Tonbridge
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- Parking. There is plenty of public pay and display car parking locally, but please note that only selected car parks permit parking in excess of four hours; detailed information is available from www.tmbc.gov.uk. No parking is available here on site.
- Refreshments are not provided; food and drink can be purchased from any of the nearby café outlets - we are closely situated to the High Street and town centre. A hot drink vending machine is usually available on the ground floor of this building.

Mailing List and data protection
Those attending our courses are automatically added to our database and kept informed about new courses. This information is not released to outside organisations. Please write to us if you do not wish your details to be kept on our database.

Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you here soon.

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