

MODERN SPAIN. DISCUSSION/RESEARCH TOPICS

What follows is a list of topics that you might want to develop for your oral presentation) and/or term paper. Since these are only suggestions, you are not restricted to the subject headings sketched out here. Remember that oral presentations can be presented individually or collectively -- you can form a panel -- sometime during the semester. I shall be passing out sign-up sheets for panels/presentations in the coming weeks.

Economy:

1. Industrialization in late 19th-century Spain: foreign investment; development of the railroads; textile/manufacturing industries (Catalonia); iron and steel production in the north; the banking industry.
2. Agricultural sector: Land-tenure system (latifundia/minifundia); agricultural production (wine, cereal, oranges etc.).
3. Economic isolation (autarky) under Franco and Francoism.
4. Economic development under Franco: 1960-1975
5. Spain's economic "miracle" of the 1980s.
6. Spain in the EU

Foreign Relations:

1. International diplomacy, e.g., during the Spanish-American War (1898); the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939); the Franco era.; Democratic era

2. Cuba and the colonies in the Americas: patterns of immigration; political and cultural ties.
3. International writers, artists, and intellectuals who were influenced by their experiences in Spain.

Politics:

1. The Spanish Left -- Anarchism, Communism (orthodox and dissident wings), Socialism, Republicanism.
2. The Right -- Carlists, Monarchists, Fascists (Falange), the Army, Conservatives.
3. Regionalist parties: Basques, Catalans, Gallegos, etc.
4. The Franco Regime: The Politics of Autarky, 1939-1959 (Spain in isolation); International relations in Europe, Americas, and Africa (colonial policies after 1898.)
5. Spain's transition to democracy: 1978-1982
6. Spain's role in the European/International Community, 1986

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Society:

1. The Church -- role in politics; social Catholicism; anti-clericalism as revealed by events like the "Tragic Week" (1909) and the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939); politically progressive Catholic movements during Franco period and beyond.;
2. Education -- Secularization vs. Catholic domination of curriculum.
3. Social Relations -- Marriage, gender issues, the family, etc.
4. Nationalism/Regionalism -- separatist movements; national vs. regional identity in Basque country, Catalonia, etc.

5. Cultural/Scientific Communities -- Survey of Spain's contributions to music, art, architecture, scientific research etc.

Women/Gender:

1. Role in Education
2. Role in Politics
3. Women during the Spanish Civil War -- *Mujeres Libres*, women in militias; International Brigades; activities in the Republican camp/Nationalist zone.
4. How Franco ruled women: *Sección Femenina*, etc.
5. Women's movement in post-Franco Spain

Book/Film Reports:

Writings by the following authors (books can be in Spanish and/or English): Vicente Blasco Ibáñez (The Enemies of Women); Camilo José Cela, (The Family of Pascual Duarte); José María Gironella (The Cypresses Believe in God); Ernest Hemingway, For whom the bell tolls. André Malraux, (Man's Hope), José Ortega y Gasset (Invertebrate Spain; The Revolt of the Masses); George Orwell (Homage to Catalonia); Benito Pérez Gáldos (Episodes nacionales, Fortunata y Jacinta); Merce Rodoreda, (Time of the Doves); Ramón Sender (Seven Red Sundays); Miguel de Unamuno (The Tragic Sense of Life).

Films:

"!Ay! Carmela"(vcr available at local video shops), "Belle Epoque"(vcr available at local video shops), "Federico García Lorca: A Murder in Granada"(available through Film Library/Office of Instructional Resources), "The Good Fight: Documentary on Abraham Lincoln Brigade" "(vcr available at local video shops), "Spanish Earth", "Spirit of the Beehive"(available

through Film Library/Office of Instructional Resources). For other films, see course syllabus.

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