

War in 1936

- ▶ Nationalist Northern Offensive

- ▶ The Aragon Front (General Cabanelles attempts to take Zaragoza)

- ▶ The drive to Madrid

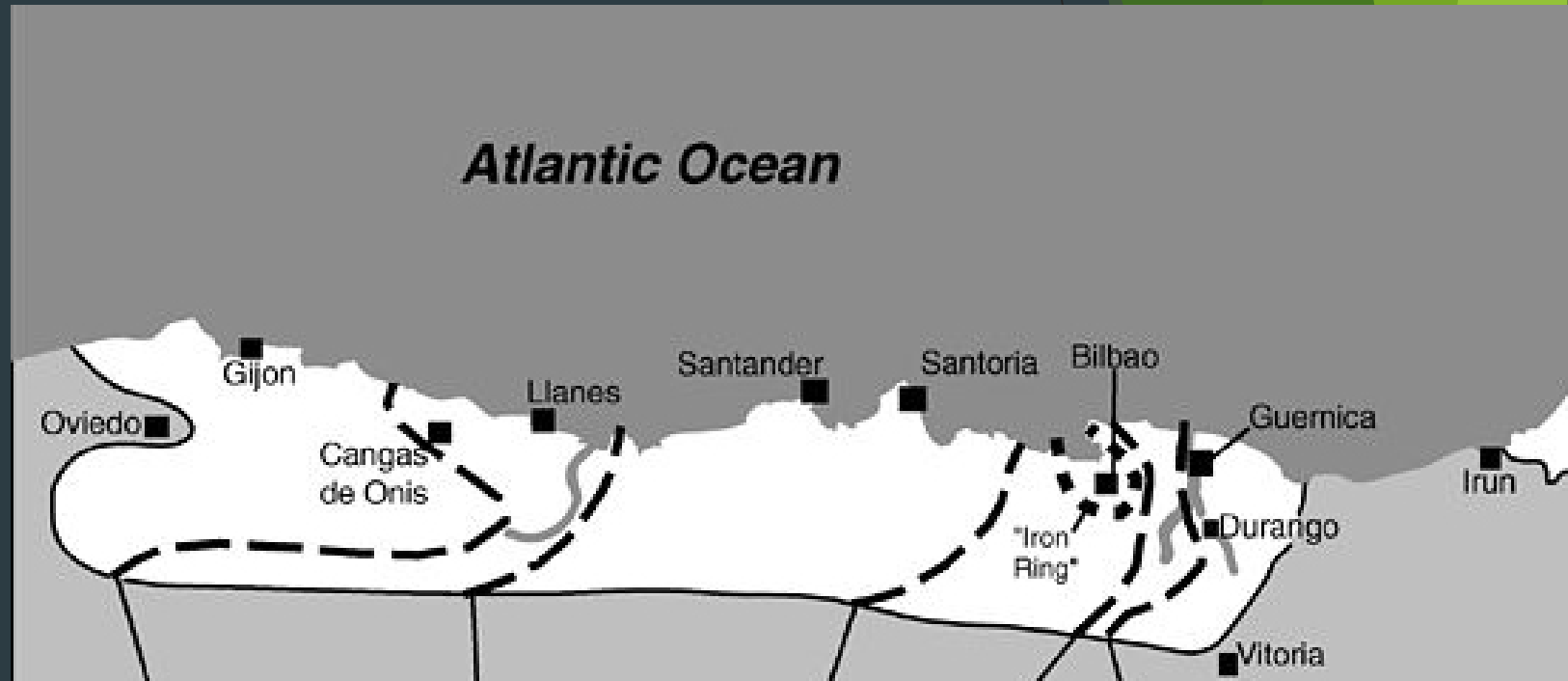
- ▶ The battle of Madrid

- ▶ The siege of Madrid



The Northern Offensive

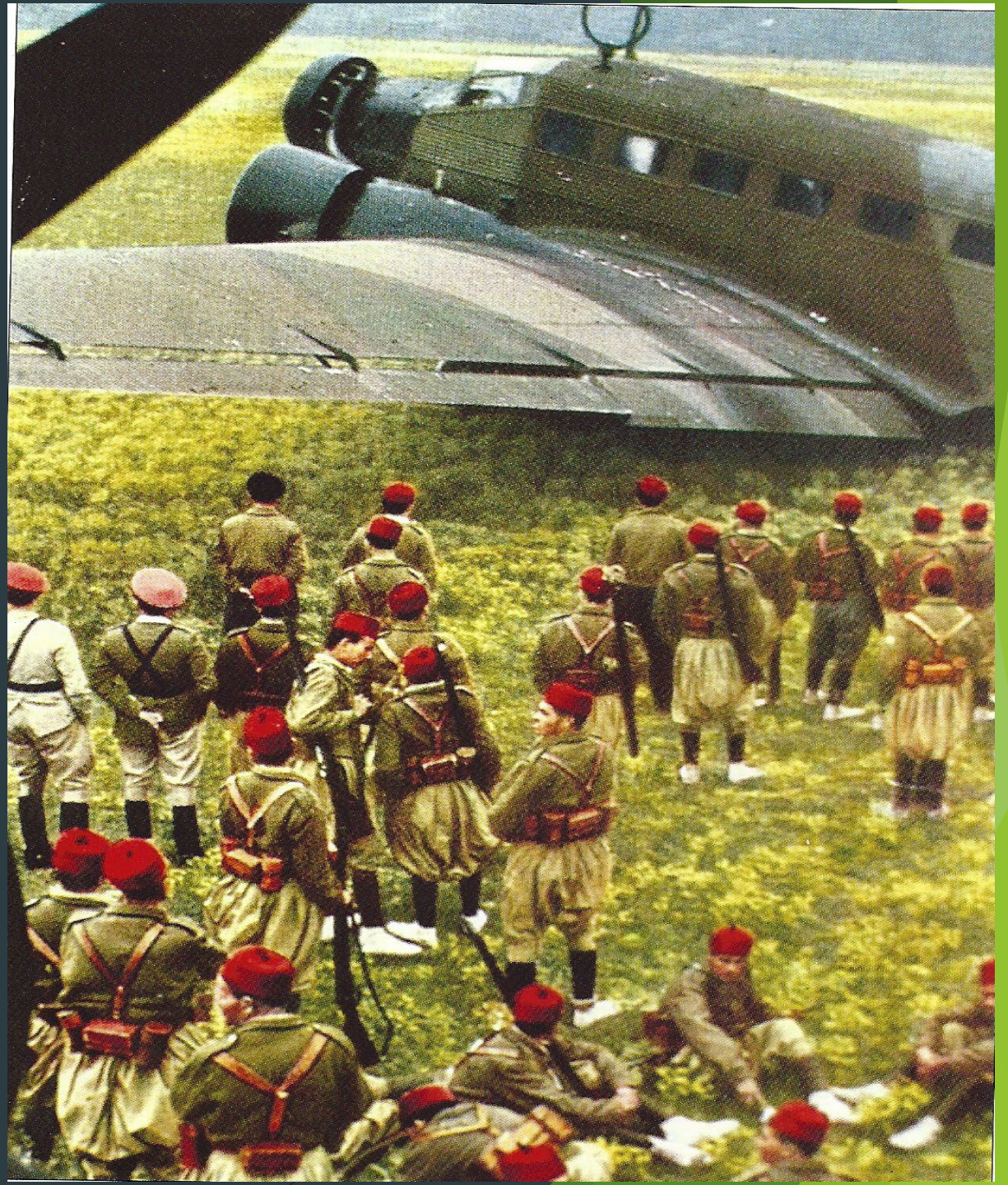
- ▶ Ferrol falls - 21 July
- ▶ Gipuzkoa Campaign
 - ▶ Irun falls on 5 September
- ▶ Advance on Bilbao halted at the end of September



Game Changer

- In the late summer of 1936, 8000 men of the Army of Africa were flown to southern Spain.
- By February 1937, the Army of Africa had increased to 60,000.
- It would spearhead Nationalist operations for the rest of the war.

The Army of Africa loads onto German JU-52's



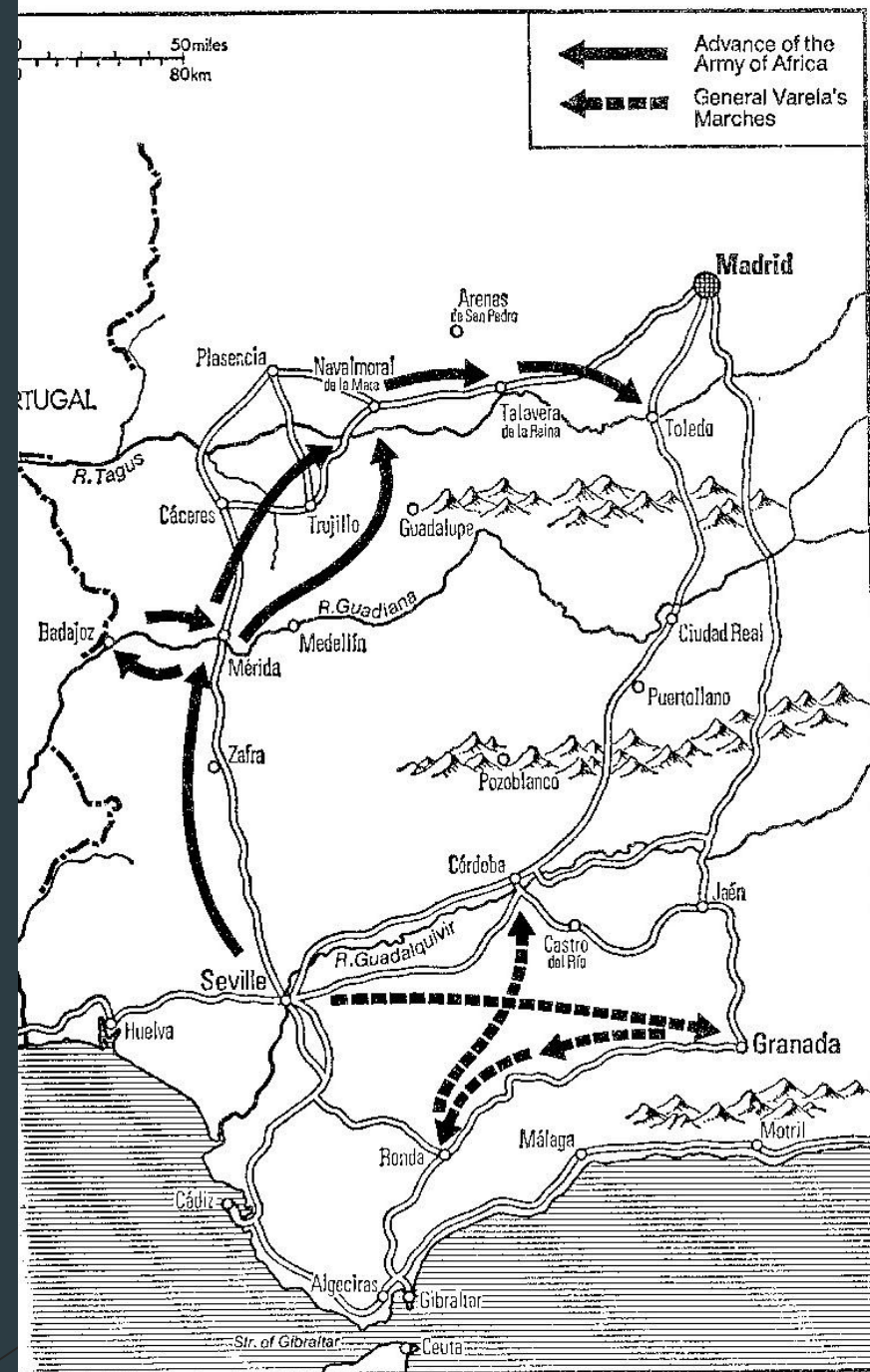
Juan Yagüe

- ▶ Served with distinction in the Army of Africa
- ▶ Commanded the drive to Madrid
- ▶ “Butcher of Badajoz”
- ▶ Only Spanish general respected by the Germans
- ▶ After the war, made Minister of Air



Drive on Madrid

- August to October 1936
- Objective - Madrid
- Army of Africa
- Remarkable Brutality
 - Badajoz (≈ 4000 civilians butchered)
- The Battle of Talavera de la Reina
 - Sept. 1936
 - 10K vs. 3500
- The “swing” to Toledo
 - Relief of Alcazar
- Franco takes control of Nationalist government
 - Sept. 21 meeting
 - Caudillo



“ONE COUNTRY, ONE STATE, ONE LEADER”

The Battle of Madrid

- ▶ November 8 - 28
- ▶ Nationalists better trained and equipped
- ▶ Republicans - 2 x 1 manpower advantage
- ▶ Republican's knew the plan
- ▶ Some of the fiercest fighting of the war
- ▶ "Vivan los rusos"
- ▶ 11/19 - 11/23; Air assault also fails
- ▶ ≈ 5000 dead on each side



The Battle of Madrid (2)



Madrid, Ciudad Universitaria, 1936



The Siege of Madrid

- ▶ Madrid was essentially besieged from Nov. 1936 until it fell in March 1939
- ▶ Never completely cut off
- ▶ Periodic shelling and bombing.
- ▶ Republican government moved to Valencia.
- ▶ Battle of Corunna Road (Dec '36 - Jan '37)
 - ▶ An attempt to isolate Madrid from the west
 - ▶ “The Battle of the Fog”
 - ▶ Failed (≈15,000 casualties on each side)



Situation: March of 1937





Enrique Lister

- ▶ Dedicated Communist
- ▶ Fled Spain in 1927
- ▶ Frunze Academy 31-34
- ▶ Key General in the Republican Army
- ▶ General in the Soviet Army
- ▶ Returned to Spain in 1977

The War in 1937

- ▶ Nationalist start to establish dominance
- ▶ Malaga (3 - 8 February)
- ▶ Jamara (6 - 27 February)
- ▶ French border closed
- ▶ Guadalajara (8 - 23 March)
- ▶ War in the north
 - ▶ Guenica (April)
 - ▶ Mola dies in a plane crash
 - ▶ Bilbao falls in June
 - ▶ Santander falls in August
 - ▶ Asturias Offensive (Gijon falls in October)
- ▶ War in the North is over



War in 1937 (2)

- ▶ Barcelona May days (A rebellion in the Republican north east)

 - ▶ Catalanian Separatists (Socialists), CNT (Anarchists), Poup (Trotskyists) vs.

 - ▶ UGT (Socialists) & PSUC (Stalinists Communists)

 - ▶ Clear victory for the Communists

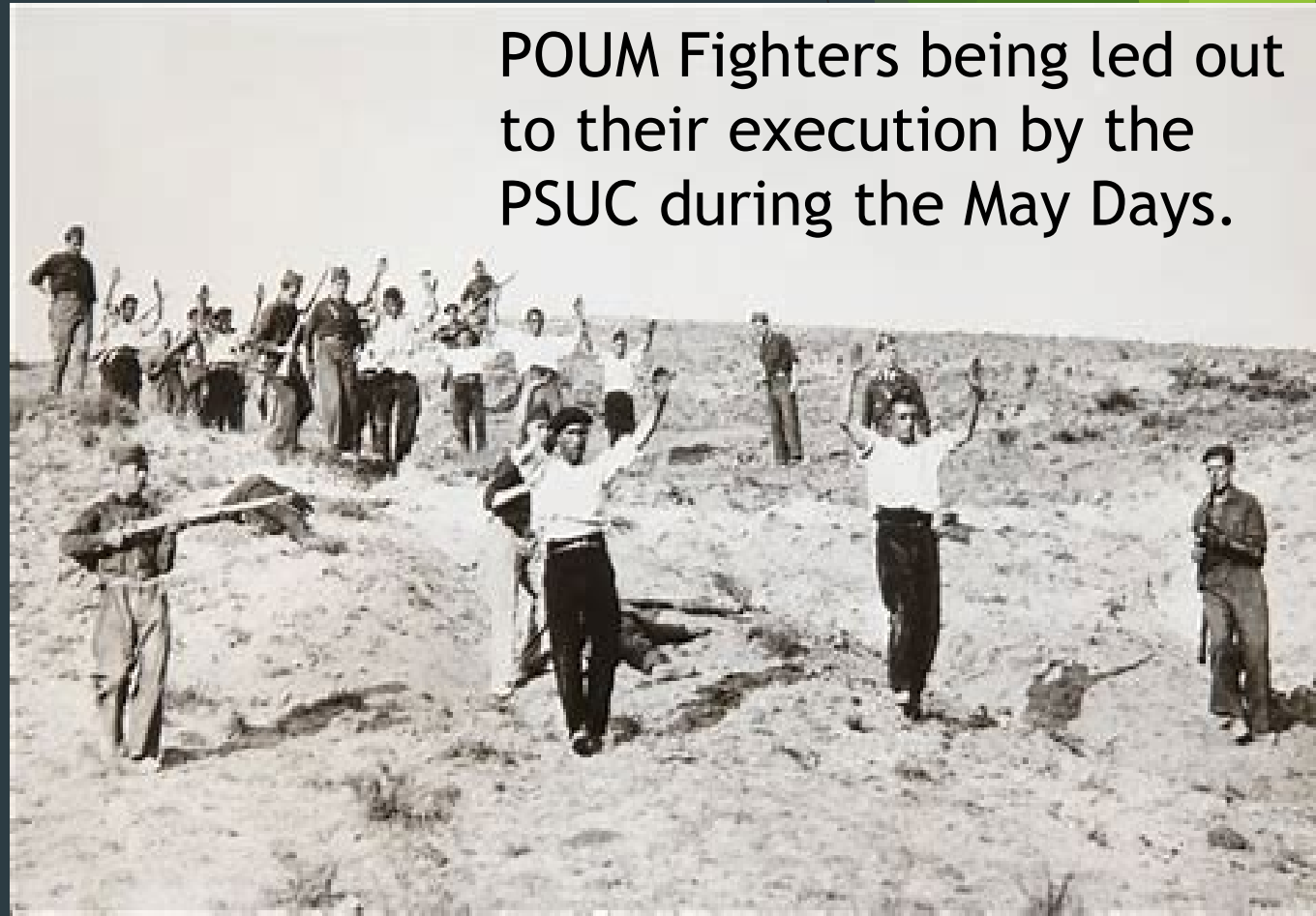
- ▶ Brunete (6 - 25 July)

- ▶ Belchite (24 August - 7 Sept.)

- ▶ Vatican recognition (August)

- ▶ Valencia threatened; Government moves to Barcelona

- ▶ Teruel (Dec '37 - Feb '38)



POUM Fighters being led out to their execution by the PSUC during the May Days.

Malaga

- Republican Naval Base
- Major Italian Victory
- Due to Republican incompetence
 - 5000 dead vs. 130
- Terrible Nationalist retribution - 3600 killed

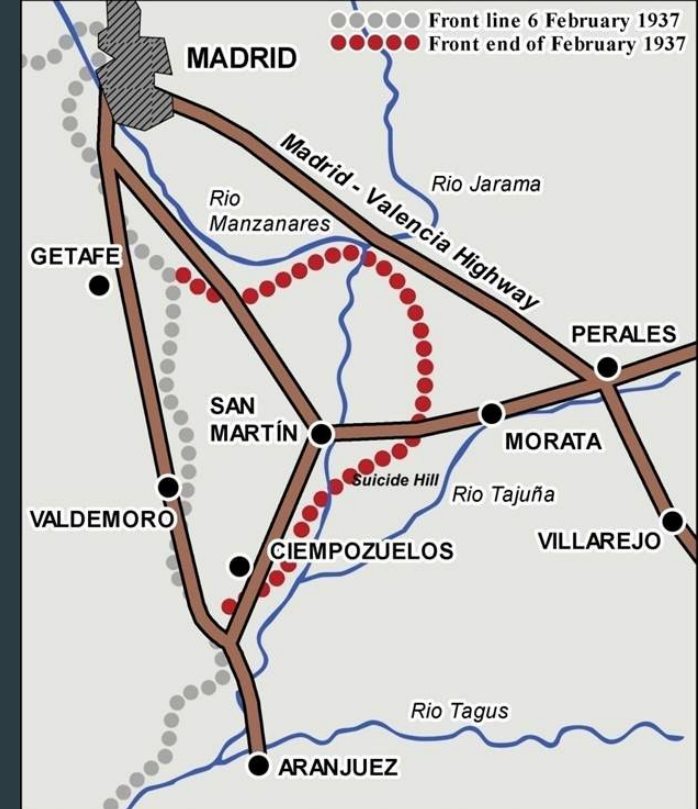


February 3-8, 1937

Jarama

February 6 - 27, 1937

- Nationalist attempt to cut off Madrid from Valencia
- A bloody draw \approx 20,000 ea.
- Republican strategic victory



1^{er} BATALLÓN AMERICANO

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BRIGADA INTERNACIONAL

Guadalajara

March 8-23, 1937

- Another Nationalist attempt to encircle Madrid.
- Primarily Italian forces
 - 40,000 (N) vs. 20,000 (R)
- Initial success
- Republican recovery
- Italian disaster
 - 8000 casualties
 - 65 cannons & 10 tanks
- Last real republican victory of the war



War in the North

March 31 - October 21, 1937

- Major Campaign
- 120,000+ Republicans
- 100,000 Nationalists
- Major Nationalist Victory

Republican Loses

- 33,000 dead
- 100,000 prisoners





Guernica - April
1937



Brunete (July 1937)

- Attempt by Republicans to take pressure off Madrid and the North.
- Another large battle
 - 85,000 Republicans
 - 65,000 Nationalists
- Loses
 - 20,000 & 100 a/c
 - 17,000 & 23 a/c
- Tactical draw
- Strategic victory for the Nationalists



July 6-25, 1937

Belchite

- Attempt by Republicans to take Aragon (Zaragoza) and delay the northern offensive. (Also reduce influence of POUM & Anarchists.)
- Numbers
 - 80,000 Republicans.
 - 100,000 Nationalists.
- Nationalist strategic victory (No delay in the North & Zaragoza was not captured)



August 24 - September 7, 1937

The Teruel Salient

-4° F and 4 ft. of snow



Guerra civil española Octubre 1937

- Zone republicaine
- Zone nationaliste

Teruel

Dec 15 - Feb 22

- Purposes were Republican prestige and stop a planned attack at Guadalajara.
- Horrible weather (-4°F & 4 ft. of snow)
- Teruel captured 8 January.
- Re-captured 22 February
- Losses:
 - Rep- 85,000
 - Nat- 57,000
- The Nationalists are now clearly the dominant power.



1937 Battle Summary

Battle	Dates	Nat. #'s	Rep. #'s	Nat. Losses	Rep. Losses
Malaga	2/3 - 2/8	25000	12000	130	8600
Jamara	2/6 - 2/27	30000	30000	20000	20000
Guadalajara	3/8 - 3/28	30000	20000	8000	6400
Brunete	7/6 - 7/25	65000	70000	17000	20000
Belchite	8/24 - 9/7	75000	80000	?	?
Northern Campaign	3/31 - 10/21	100000	120000	10000	133000
Teruel	12/15 - 2/22/26	100000	100000	57000	60000

Questions and Comments



“Let me recite what
history teaches.
History teaches.”

Gertrude Stein



The
Economist

Espresso

¡No Pasarán!

The Spanish Civil War

1936-1939

Part 3



The War in 1938

- ▶ Aragon Offensive (March - April)
- ▶ Attempted negotiations.
- ▶ Levante Offensive (March - July)
- ▶ France opens it's borders (for three months)
- ▶ The Ebro Offensive (July - November)
- ▶ The Munich Conference (September 30)
- ▶ End of International Brigades (October)



The War in 1938 (2)



The Aragon Offensive

March - April 1938

- ▶ 100000 vs. 150000
- ▶ 600 Nationalist aircraft (which decided the battle)
- ▶ Republicans losses - very heavy (# not known) vs. 3000
- ▶ Complete Nationalist victory resulting in a path to the sea and the split in the Republican east.

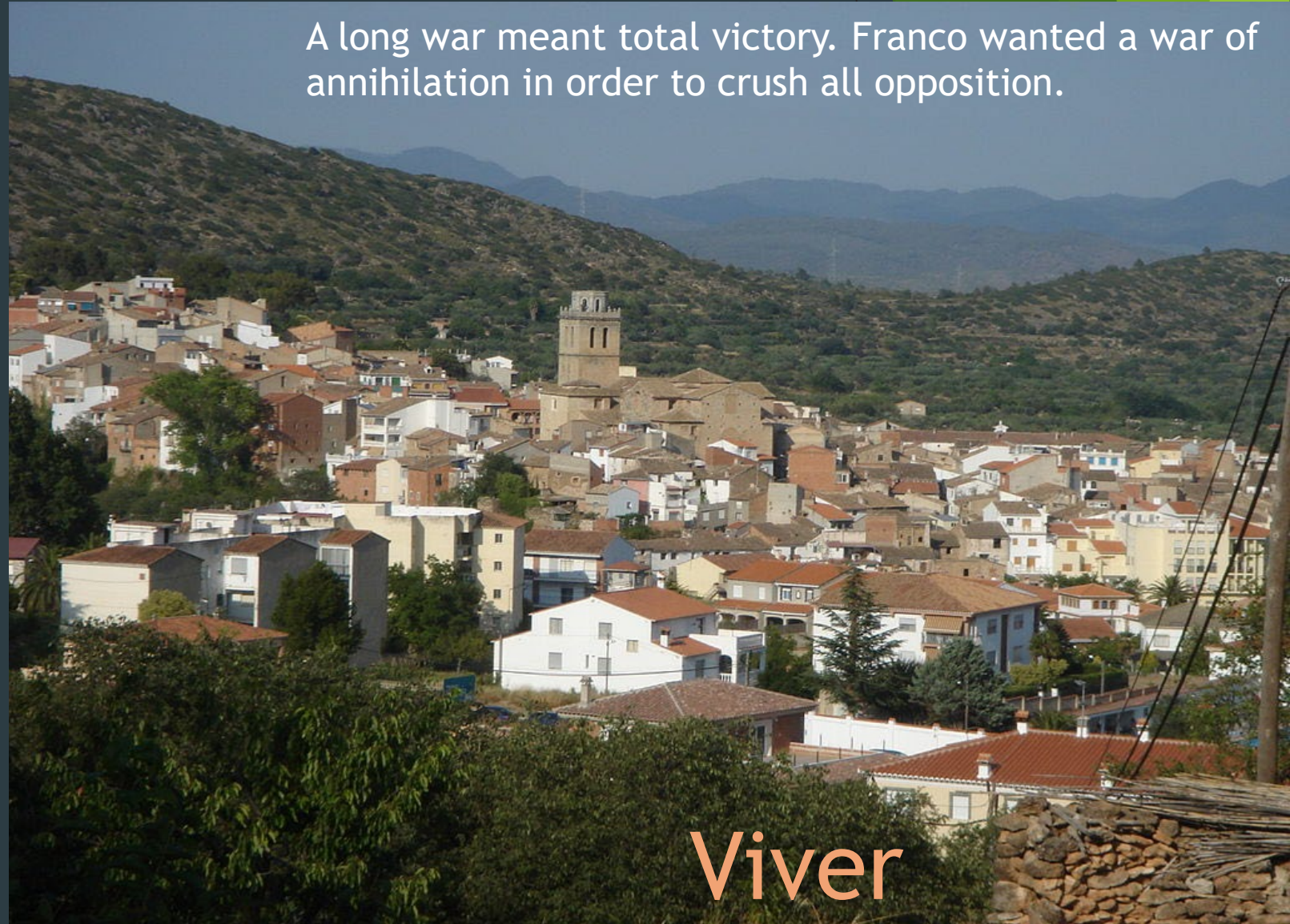


The Levante Offensive

March 25 - July 24

- ▶ Franco chooses Valencia vice Barcelona
- ▶ The “long war option”
- ▶ 125000 vs. 125000
- ▶ XYZ line (18-23 July)
(5k vs. 20K casualties)
- ▶ A Nationalists defeat

A long war meant total victory. Franco wanted a war of annihilation in order to crush all opposition.



Viver

Ebro (1)

July 25 - November 16, 1938

- Negrin's "Active War Policy"
- Purpose: Relieve pressure on Valencia and Catalonia plus show the world the world that the Republican Government was still viable.
- The difference maker was 500 Nationalist planes vs. 75 Republican planes (only 40 modern)
- The longest and largest battle of the Civil War.
- Required a "new" Republican army
 - 18000 tons of supplies from across the French border
 - 12 new divisions (POWs & extended conscription)

Ebro (2) 25 July - 16 November

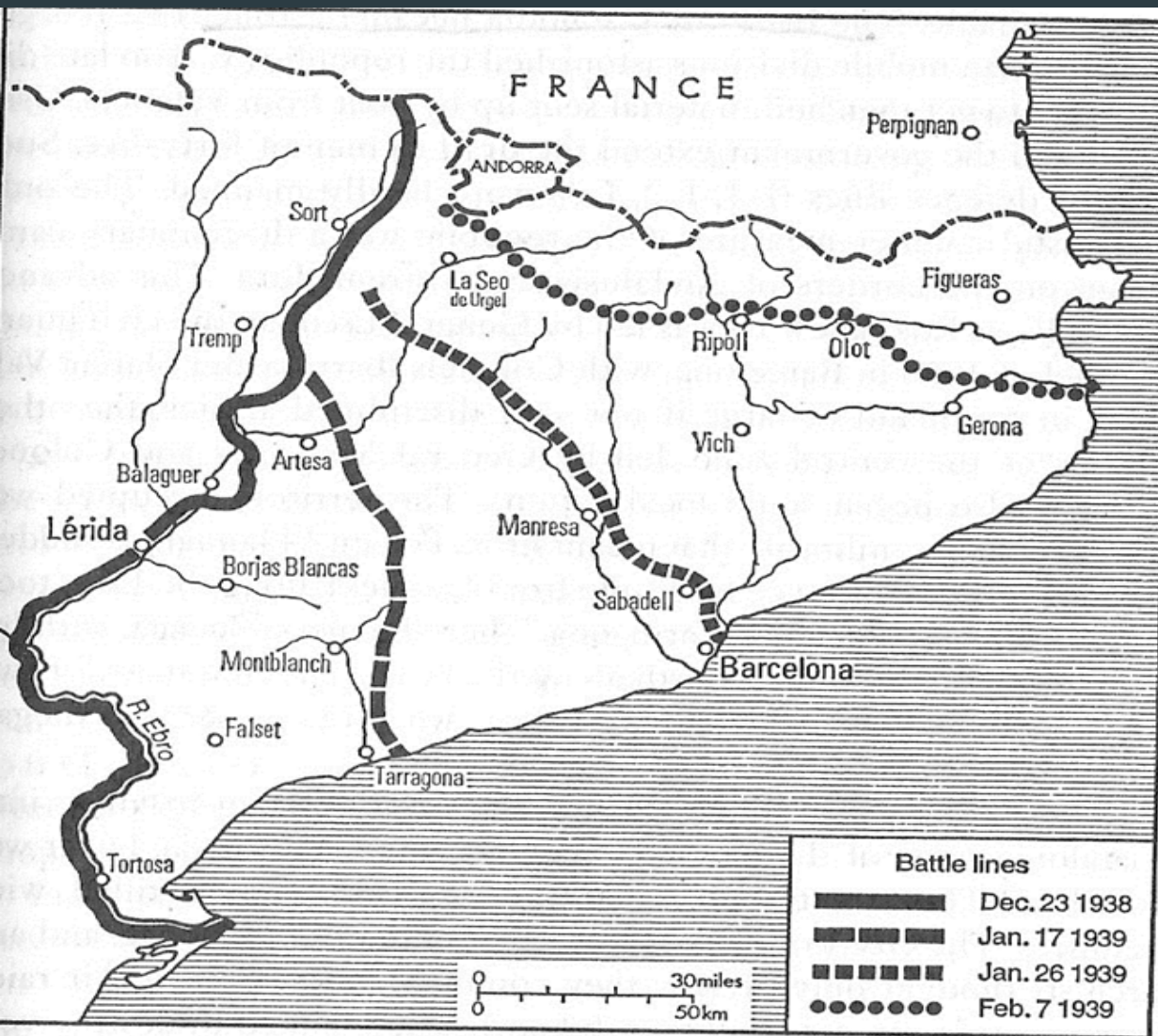
- ▶ It was after the initial Republican offensive very much like a WW1 battle of attrition. Six separate Nationalist offensives.
- ▶ Broke the back of the Republican Army
- ▶ Losses:
 - ▶ 50,000 (100,000?) Republicans (of 80K)
 - ▶ 40,000 Nationalists (of 90K)
- ▶ Permanently split Republican Spain and made Republican defeat inevitable.



The End of the War (1939)

- ▶ The Catalonia Offensive (Dec '38 - Feb '39)
 - ▶ Barcelona falls (January 16)
- ▶ Britain & France recognize Franco's government
- ▶ March 5 - Republican Navy surrenders

The End of the War (2)



34. The campaign in Catalonia, December 1938–January 1939

The End of the War (3)

- ▶ Casado's Coup (5-11 March 1939)
 - ▶ Communist opposition
 - ▶ Another civil war within a civil war
- ▶ Negotiations with Franco fail
- ▶ The Final Offensive (March 26 - April 1)
 - ▶ Complete collapse of the Republican army
 - ▶ 150,000 republican soldiers surrender.
 - ▶ Madrid falls without fighting (March 28)
- ▶ US recognizes Franco's government.
- ▶ Franco announces end of war. (1 April '39)

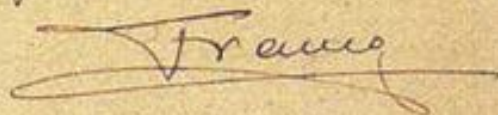


COLONEL SEGISMUNDO CASADO

Franco's End of War Message


CUARTEL GENERAL DEL GENERALÍSIMO
ESTADO MAYOR

En el día de hoy, caídas
y desarmados el frente Rojo,
han alcanzado los ejércitos
nuestros sus últimos objetivos
militares. La guerra
ha terminado.

El generalísimo


Madrid 1.º Abril 1939.



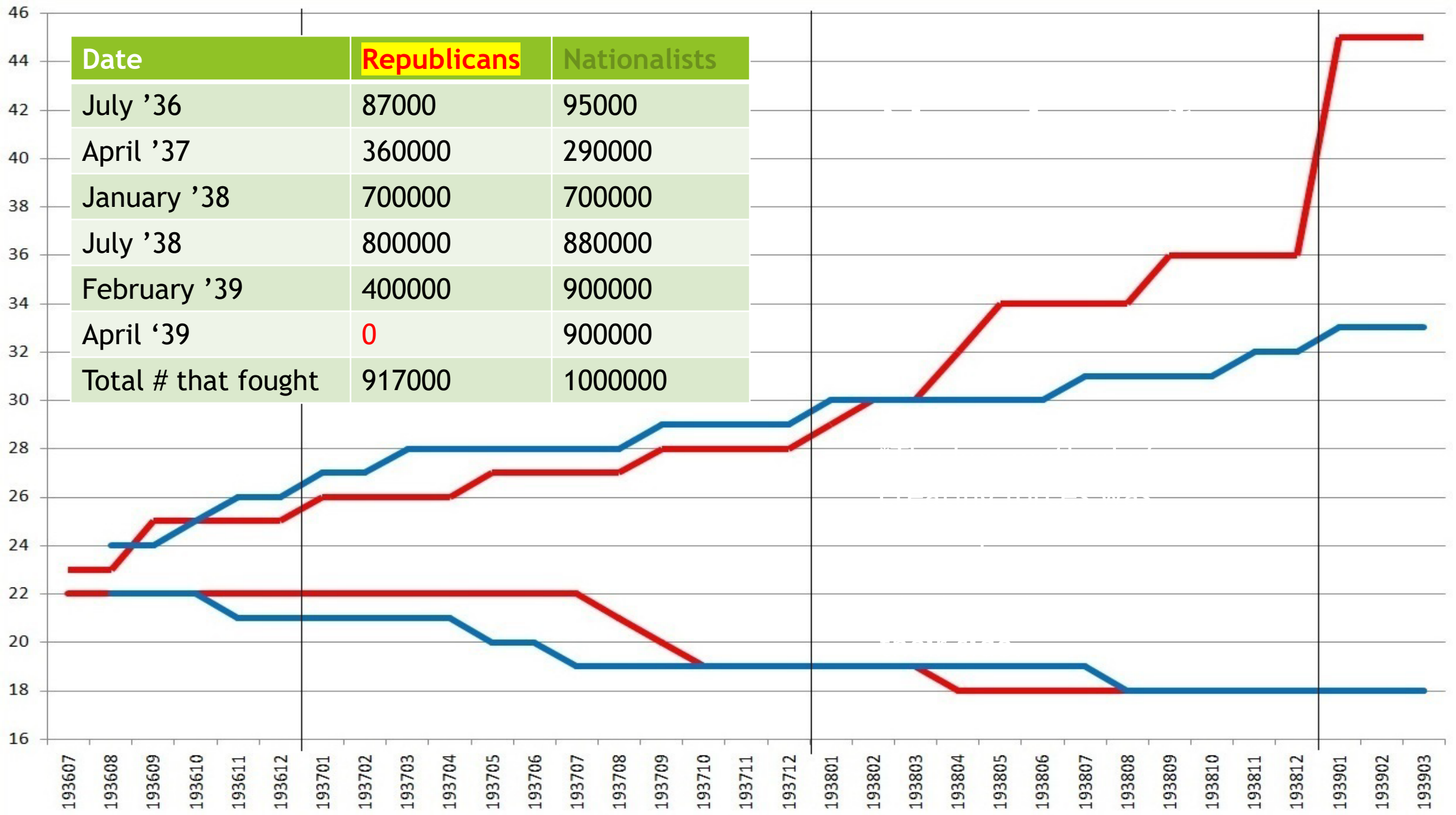
Note how he continues to lump
all the Republican forces under the
single title of "Reds"



So, why did the Republican government lose?

- ▶ Nationalists received outside help that was greater, more direct, and with less strings.
- ▶ Better Nationalists leadership and a clear strategic focus.
- ▶ Lack of Republican strategic focus. (Different groups with different objectives)
- ▶ Non-intervention caused international law to work against the government
- ▶ By 1938 the Nationalist had a bigger & better military.
- ▶ Finally, and crucially, even if it had won, it would have lost.

Date	Republicans	Nationalists
July '36	87000	95000
April '37	360000	290000
January '38	700000	700000
July '38	800000	880000
February '39	400000	900000
April '39	0	900000
Total # that fought	917000	1000000



Spain in the Second World War

- ▶ Strict neutrality to “Non-belligerent” after June 1940
- ▶ “..ready under certain conditions to enter the war on the side of Germany...”
- ▶ Hendaye conference; October 1940
 - ▶ French territory
- ▶ The “Blue Division” (≈ 45,000 men)
- ▶ Several thousand (?) Republicans fought for the Allies in Russia and France.

“I prefer to have three or four of my own teeth pulled out than to speak to that man again!”





The Blue Division

- Siege of Leningrad
- Battle of Krasny Bor
- Ordered home in October 1943
- Total killed - 5000
- Total medals - 4719
- “Blue Squadron” - 156 victories vs. 20 losses

“The Spaniards have never yielded an inch of ground. One can't imagine more fearless fellows. They scarcely take cover. They flout death.our men are always glad to have Spaniards as neighbors in their sector.”

Adolf Hitler



Spain in the Second World War (2)

- ▶ Why did Franco not join the Axis Powers?
 - ▶ Hitler's bad timing
 - ▶ Financial situation
 - ▶ Need for imports from United States
 - ▶ Hitler / Franco relationship (Franco myth)
 - ▶ Cameroon (Vichy vs. Free French)
 - ▶ Gibraltar (44 efforts)
 - ▶ British bribery

Spain in the Second World War (3)

- ▶ Franco's need to consolidate his rule
 - ▶ Backdated laws to 1934
 - ▶ The Law Against Military Rebellion (??)
 - ▶ (150,000 executions)
 - ▶ The Law of Political Responsibility
 - ▶ (500,000 cases were tried)



Spain in the Second World War (3)

► However, Franco supported the Axis in almost every way he could short of war.

- Jews
- Spying
- Gibraltar
 - 44 efforts
- Trade
 - Tungsten
 - S. America
- “German invasion of Spain”
 - General Augustin Muñoz Grandes



"The Spaniards are the only tough Latins. I would have a guerrilla war in my rear."

Results of the War

- ▶ At the end of WW2, Spain faced sanctions and possible invasion as a “Fascist” country.
- ▶ Cold War put an end to all that.
 - ▶ “Moscow Gold”
- ▶ Guerrilla war which died out in the 1950’s.
- ▶ Spanish Marquis lasted in France until the early 1960’s.
 - ▶ Operation Reconquista of Spain (Oct 1944)
- ▶ Spain was left as an autocratic one party (one man) ruled state.

Results of the War (2)

- ▶ Franco ruled as a dictator until his death in 1975.
- ▶ In 1969, Franco designated Juan Carlos as his heir believing he would continue current policies.
- ▶ After Franco's death, Juan Carlos immediately instituted reforms, held elections in 1977 and oversaw the rapid transition to a democracy.



What if.....

- ▶ The Republicans (the government) had won the war back in 1936-37?
 - ▶ Possibility #1 (very unlikely): A progressive left-wing liberal government along the lines of France.
 - ▶ Possibility #2 (Highly likely): A Stalinist dictatorial communist government mirroring the Soviet Union.

Costs

- ▶ Total expenditures \approx \$4 Trillion (\$70T in today's money)
 - ▶ Roughly \$2T each
- ▶ Nationalists got a lot more bang for the buck
 - ▶ Moscow gold (510 tons), Paris gold (193 tons)
 - ▶ Loans, credit, & aid vs. hard currency payments
 - ▶ Non-Intervention activities
 - ▶ Inflation (100% vs. 15%)

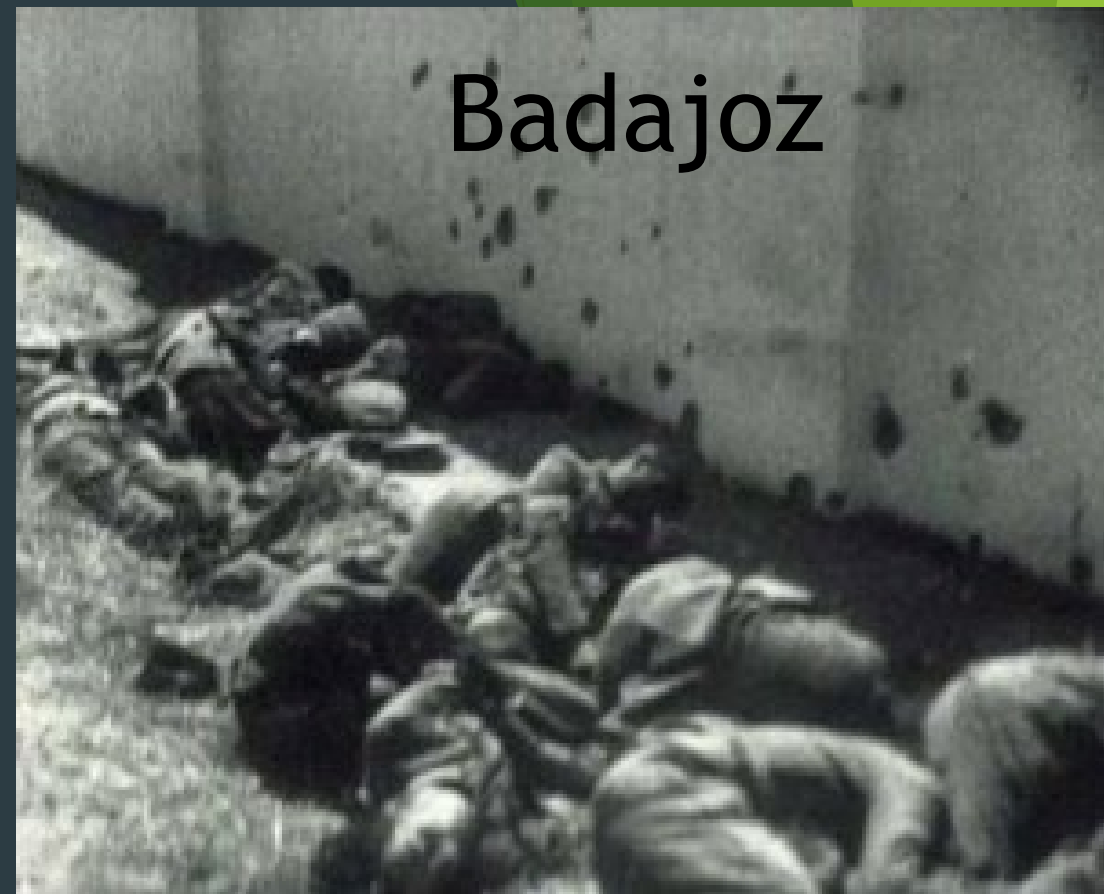
Losses

- ▶ Much difference of opinion but about 800,000 seems to be the closest to reality ($\approx 8\%$ of the total population).
 - ▶ Combat
 - ▶ Republicans - 110,000 (4900 Foreign troops)
 - ▶ Nationalist - 90,000 (5300 Italian troops)
 - ▶ Bombing of civilians - 10,000
 - ▶ Malnutrition - 25,000
 - ▶ $\approx 300,000$ fled the country never to return.
 - ▶ The rest ($\approx 280,000$) were caused by the Red & White Terrors.
- ▶ Perspective: We lost $\approx 2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the North & South population in our civil war.



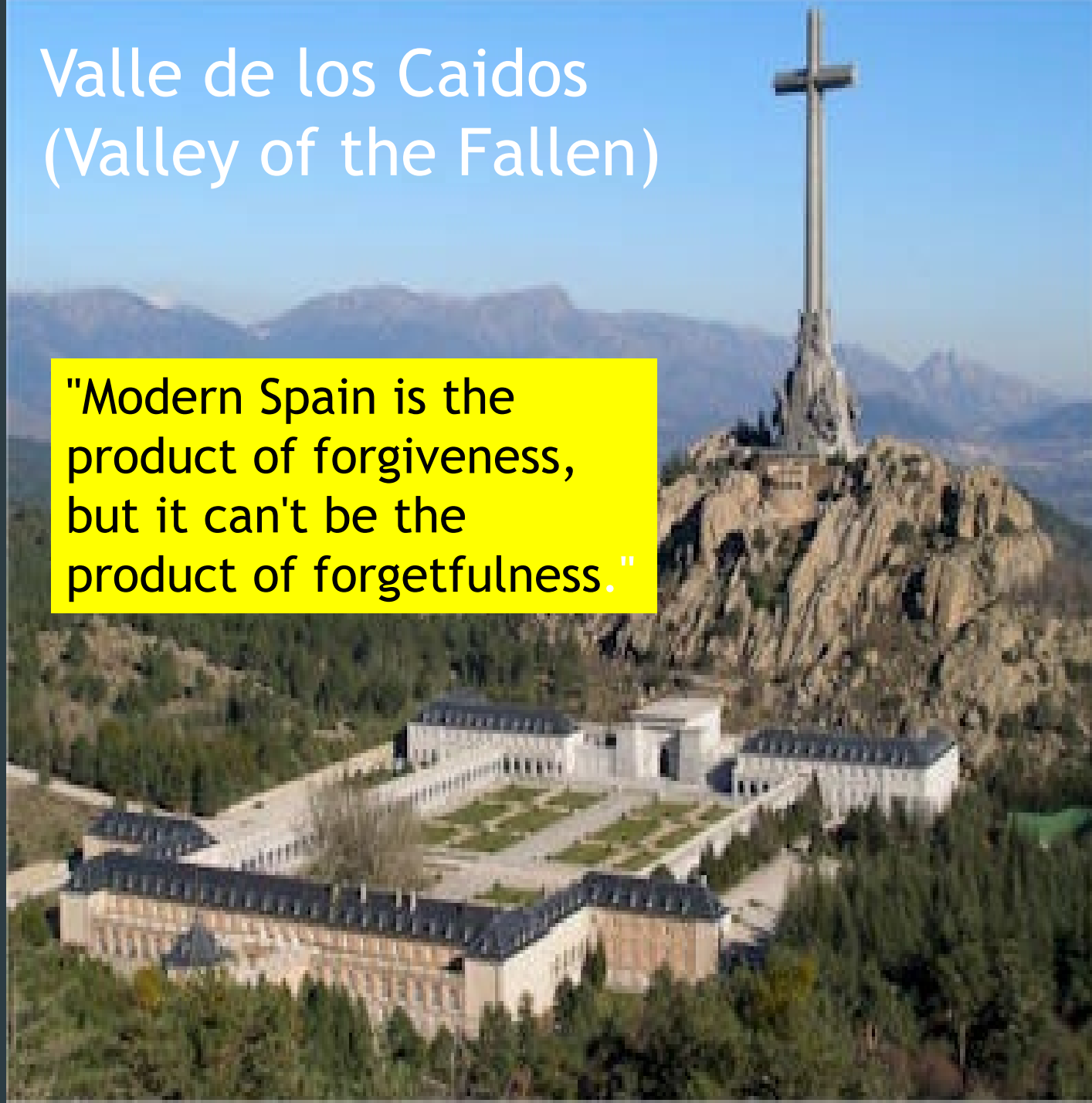
Red & White Terror

- ▶ During the war:
 - ▶ Republicans executed 55,000 (Disorganized)
 - ▶ Nationalist executed 75,000 (Organized)
- ▶ After the war, the nationalist imprisoned hundreds of thousands and executed about 150,000 of them. (Very Organized)
- ▶ **This is civil war at it's worse.**



Valle de los Caidos (Valley of the Fallen)

"Modern Spain is the product of forgiveness, but it can't be the product of forgetfulness."



Is there a lesson for us?

▶ I believe so:

When politics get so polarized that the sides actually begin to believe that the others are trying to destroy the country, there danger lurks.

Politics in Spain - 1936

Center

Left

BIG EMPTY SPACE

Right



Politics in America - 2024

Center

Left

Small # of fringe groups

Democrats

Republicans

Small # of fringe groups

Right



Reasons for hope

1. Our institutions
2. Our “middle of the road” group
3. Lack of outside interference
4. Our genius for compromise.

(All of these are clearly under some stress right now but are still in play.)

“A democratic system can maintain legitimacy despite rancorous politics if broad agreement exists on the fairness of the underlying rules. America’s politics are a mess but its institutions are to be treasured.”

The Economist

Han ¡Pasado!

Questions and Comments

