



## GUIDE TO THE EXHIBITION

### “DOCUMENTS OF A WAR: SPAIN, 1936-1939”

ITINERARIO RECOMENDADO

#### **POLÍTICAL IDEAS (1 a 4)**

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Documents reflecting the political ideas of the two opposing factions. Those shown in panel number 3 are part of the so-called anti-fascist school primer, which was used by the republicans with the double aim of teaching illiterate militiamen to read and instilling in them ideological messages.

#### **POLÍTICAL IDEAS and EVERYDAY LIFE OBJECTS (Showcase 1)**

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Everyday objects from the two factions in conflict are exhibited in this showcase revealing how the ideology is reflected in the elements furthest away, in appearance, from the war confrontation. Among others, there is a game of the goose or a fan, from the Republican side, and another board game or a book separator, from the national side.

#### **ROBERT SILVERS - GUERNICA**

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Photocomposition depicting Picasso's Guernica, made in 2001 by the American artist Robert Silvers, pioneer of this technique, with photographs of the Spanish Civil War kept in the Historical Memory Records Centre.

#### **BATTLE FRONT (1 and 2)**

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Documents reflecting the life at the battle-front. The panel number 1 includes the photo of the militiaman falling on being hit by a bullet, taken by Robert CAPA, which gave its author international fame. Together with Picasso's Guernica, it became one of the most representative icons of our civil war.

#### **RETAGUARD (1 and 2)**

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A poster aimed at the civil population to show graphically how to proceed in case of bombing. The drawings enabled the illiterate to interpret the instructions correctly. The other documents reflect various aspects of life in the rear guard.

#### **CULTURE AT WAR (Showcases 2 and 3. Posters)**

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During the war, culture continued to develop and be part of the life, both in the rear guard and the battle front. A book pierced by a bullet is outstanding. The sculptures by Pascual Población show the pain generated by the war. The posters reflect the importance given to the expansion of culture, especially on the Republican side.

#### **POSTERS**

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A composition carried out with smaller than life-size reproductions of 28 republican and national posters. The objective of the political poster was to propagate and disseminate ideas among the population; it represented one of the main means of propaganda used at that time.

## DAILY LIFE (1 and 2)

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Documents reflecting daily life during the war. The scarcity of foodstuff obliged the government to ration some as basic as bread, sugar or meat.

TOBACCO DURING THE WAR (Showcase 4). The concept of tobacco at that time has nothing to do with how it looks today. In addition to objects such as pouches, smoking paper or an ashtray, you can see a document requesting tobacco for the wounded on the front lines.

## FOREIGN INTERVENTION (1 and 2)

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The republican Government tried to attract the support of Western Europe, but the European democracies did not respond. Although a Non Intervention Committee was created, this did not prevent some countries from supporting one faction or the other one. These documents provide evidence of foreign intervention in our armed conflict.

## REPUBLICAN PROPAGANDA

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A propaganda poster of the revolution, a concept that caused disputes within the republican faction. Whereas the anarchists aimed to start a social revolution, the communists however, gave priority to winning the war.

## COLECTIVISM

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During the civil war, the anarchists and other trade union organisations attempted to carry out a social revolution by establishing agricultural and industrial collectivism. This new economic order was based on the suppression of the private ownership of land and industry in order to transfer it to the proletariat working in these sectors.

## REPRESSION (1 and 2)

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Repression against hostile elements was carried out by nationals (panel 1) and republicans (panel 2) alike. They thus aimed to achieve political and ideological control in their respective territories. One of the most affected groups was that of the teachers on the part of the national side.

## POPULATION MOVEMENTS

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Tens of thousands of people were obliged to abandon their homes and flee to other areas. One of the most affected groups was that of children; thousands left for countries as distant as the Soviet Union. This panel reflects some of the population movements that occurred during the war. Some examples of letters written by children evacuated to the Soviet Union are also reproduced.

## EXILE (1 and 2)

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The political regime imposed after Franco's victory and the fear for reprisals led thousands of Spaniards into exile after the civil war. France and Mexico were two of the main destinations. A large number of these people never returned.

