

## German Involvement and Franco's Victory in the Spanish Civil War

### Task 1. Why did Franco win the Spanish Civil War? - Reflection

Here are nine points explaining why Franco's Nationalists won the war.

1. Firstly, you need to decide how to approach & categorise the information: EITHER
  - (a) military, economic and political factors (there are three of each) OR
  - (b) Republican, Nationalist and German factors (there are three of each).
2. Complete a Diamond 9 diagram that ranks these points by significance

#### 9 Key Points

- The Nationalists controlled the main agricultural areas of the south from the outset, so Franco's troops were better fed than the Republicans.
- Franco named himself "Head of State" and abolished rival political parties (the Carlists and the Falange)
- The Republic relied heavily upon International Brigades from the West and 500 military advisors from the USSR, but these groups distrusted each other.
- The Republican parties (anarchists, communists and socialists) were so divided that they started fighting each other in the "Barcelona Uprising" of 1937.
- Hitler sent 20 transport planes to get Franco's forces from Morocco to Spain and then sent 600 bombers (the Condor Legion) to bomb Guernica.
- Franco named himself "Generalissimo" and brought the private armies of the right-wing parties (e.g. the Carlists and the Falange) under his personal control.
- The Republicans could not decide whether farms should be nationalised or privatised – so production fell, food prices trebled and rationing was introduced.
- Germany helped Franco to present himself as the defender of Spain against communism.
- Nazi Germany obtained 75% of Spain's mining shares under the 1938 Montana Project in return for urgent military assistance.

**Task 2: Vote**

<b>1</b>	Military aid was Germany's most important contribution	Economic aid was Germany's most important contribution	Political aid was Germany's most important contribution
<b>2</b>	Nationalist strengths were the main cause of Franco's success	Germany's contribution was the main cause of Franco's success	Republican weaknesses were the main cause of Franco's success

### Task 3: Aims vs. Results

	What were Hitler's Aims?	What were the actual results?
Britain and France		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appeasement:</b> The bombing of Guernica convinced Britain and France that another war with Germany would mean massive air raids on their civilians. This convinced them that appeasement of Germany was the best policy.</li> </ul>
Germany		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Anschluss:</b> Germany took advantage of Italy being bogged down in Spain to seize Austria.</li> <li>• <b>Blitzkrieg:</b> In Guernica, Germany developed the "Blitzkrieg" ("Lightning War") strategies that she used in World War Two</li> </ul>
Italy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rome-Berlin Axis:</b> In November 1936 Mussolini signed a formal alliance with Hitler. This later developed into the Anti-Comintern Pact (1938) and then the Pact of Steel (1939).</li> </ul>
USSR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Isolation:</b> The USSR's aid to the Republicans scared the West that Stalin was trying to take over Europe. This contributed to the Republicans' defeat and isolated the USSR (who wasn't even invited to the Munich Conference).</li> </ul>