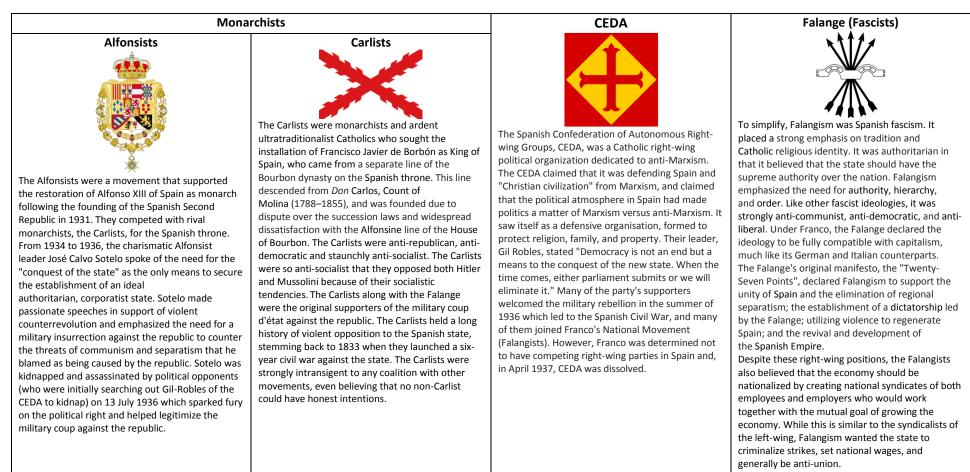
Ideologies: Nationalists



The Catholic Church

The Catholic Church took the side of the rebel government and defined the religious Spaniards who had been persecuted in Republican areas as 'martyrs of the faith'. Francoist propaganda and influential Spanish Catholics labelled the secular Republic as "the enemy of God and the Church" and denounced the Republic, holding it responsible for anti-clerical activities, such as shutting down Catholic schools, as well as the killing of priests and nuns by exalted mobs and the desecration of religious buildings. The Catholic Church was one of the first entities to officially recognize Franco's government. To this day it is criticized for how it calls priests who were killed by Republicans as martyrs yet refuses to acknowledge the murders of anti-nationalist priests and political assassinations condoned or even planned by Spanish bishops.