

CNT: Confederación Nacional del Trabajo

The CNT was the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist trade union, which had been banned during the Primo de Rivera dictatorship and legalized by the second republic.

During the military uprising, CNT militiamen played an important part in confronting the rising in Barcelona and Madrid. During 1936-1937 the CNT tried to collectivize the Spanish economy. Within Barcelona a revolutionary take-over occurred and wholesale collectivization took place in industry and commerce.

Gradually, however, the republican government made moves to bring the Anarchist Brigades under the control of the Republican Army, despite their opposition. After the Barcelona events of May 1937, the influence of the CNT in the economic and military spheres of the republic was increasingly suppressed as the republican government gradually prohibited strikes, and broke up industrial collectives.