



ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE ARCHIVES

Summer Institute for Teachers: 2009

La Retaguardia de Tampa:

The Spanish Civil War and its Impact on Florida and U.S. History

Rise of Totalitarian Dictators, Four day unit plan.

Participants Lesson Plan: Iris Orlando & Tracy Hinson

Course: American History, High School

Day One—DVD Clip & Rise of Totalitarian Dictators Chart

Activity 1: View Chapter 2 of the DVD “The Good Fight.” Have students complete the Motion Picture Analysis Sheet.). “The Good Fight: The Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War” (1984, DVD re-release, 2008). Directors: Noel Buckner, Mary Dore, Sam Sills. [Purchase at Kino Videos](#).

Discussion Questions:

What interesting things did you observe in the video clip?

How did people in the video clip react to world events in the 1930s?

From the excerpt, why would you say that people began to adopt a new world view?

Activity 2: Rise of Totalitarianism Chart

Use your American History textbook or relevant internet sites to complete the chart. Have students work on the chart individually or in pairs for the rest of the class period. Students will need to have access to their chart for the next class activity.

Day Two—Rise of Totalitarianism Chart

Activity 1: Pair students or groups. In groups, students should share what they learned about the rise of totalitarianism in the 1930s. Students should discuss and complete their charts.

Activity 2: Class Discussion

What are the similarities between the different political systems?

How are they different?

During the discussion, the educator should help students to understand why totalitarianism emerged as a popular alternative to democracy during the 1930s. This discussion will help students to answer the questions listed in row D on the Rise of Totalitarianism chart.

Day Three—Introduction to Spanish Civil War: Play

Set up the class so that there is a desk or a chair for each character in the play (9 total). The play is set at a Mutual Aid Society in Ybor City, Florida, which played an essential role in supporting the Republican cause during the Spanish Civil War. The Centro Asturiano served the needs of many Spanish immigrants living in the community.

Have students read the play as the others follow along. At the conclusion of the play, share the video clip ["Tampa Democratic Popular Committee"](#)

At the conclusion of the play, discuss the following questions:

1. Why would people in Ybor City attend a meeting that discussed a civil war in Spain?
2. What issues upset the people at this meeting?
3. What could people do to support the Republicans in Spain? Were all options legal?
4. Do you think all Ybor residents supported the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War? Why or why not?

Excerpt taken from Abraham Lincoln Brigade Volunteer [James Lardner's letter to mother, Ellis Lardner \(8/2/1938\)](#).

Day Four--Illustrated Timeline of the Spanish Civil War

Activity 1: Pass out timeline organizer to students. Have them tape the timeline together. Review the key events in the timeline, sharing primary sources (see links below) as you lecture. In the spaces provided, students should draw a picture or symbol that will help them remember the event. As you lecture, share the Power Point.

Power Point Images:

Power Point Images:

1. [Franco photo](#)

2. [Bury- non- intervention](#)
3. [Franco & Hitler](#)
4. [Franco, Mussolini, Hitler](#)
5. Poster: [Nacionales](#)
6. Poster: [The World is Spain](#)
7. [Bombing of Madrid Poster](#)
8. Poster: [International Brigades](#)
9. [International brigades, fascist capture soviet truck](#)
10. [International Brigade group](#)
11. [Soviet Tank](#)
12. [Flamethrower supplied by Hitler](#)
13. Poster: [Lift embargo](#)
14. [Guernica before and after](#)
15. [Guernica city dead](#)
16. [Guernica Picasso Mural](#)
17. [Bombing of Barcelona strip](#)
18. [Spanish refugee](#)
19. [Franco wins](#)
20. Refugees [Fleeing to France](#)

Student Handouts

Motion Picture Analysis Sheet

DVD: "The Good Fight: The Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War"

Pre-Viewing:

1. Do you think war can ever be good? Give two reasons for your opinion.

Post-Viewing:

2. What was the message of the video clip?
3. Do you think the filmmakers were effective in communicating their message? Why or why not?
4. List two things this video clip tells you about life in the United States during the 1930s?

Timeline Chart

Directions: Use your textbook or other resources to complete sections A-C of the chart.

Rise of Totalitarianism— 1930s					
Nation	Soviet Union	Italy	Spain	Germany	Japan
A Leader	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
B Political System or Movement	_____	_____			_____
	_____	_____			_____
	_____	_____			_____
	_____	_____			_____
	_____	_____			_____
	_____	_____			_____
Characteristics	1)				1)
	2)				2)
	3)				3)

C Tactics used to gain & keep political power	1)	1)	1)	1)	1)
	2)	2)	2)	2)	2)

Could the world have prevented the se leader s from taki ng tot al co ntr ol of thei r co untr ies ? Wh y/ wh y not ?

Meeting of the Comité del Frente Popular

Characters:

- Edward William
- Anna Robert
- Archie Mercy
- Sarah Miguel
- Isabel

During the summer of 1936, Francisco Franco staged a military coup and overthrew the democratically elected government. In the months that followed a civil war broke out. Soon it was more than Spaniards fighting Spaniards—some believe that World War II actually began with the 1936 war in Spain...

Edward: Thank you, comrades, for your attendance at this meeting of the Comité del Frente Popular at the Centro Asturiano here in Ybor City. Our goal is to fight increasing fascism throughout the world. Recent events in Europe are alarming.

Anna: Are you referring to the military coup in Spain? General Francisco Franco overthrew the democratically elected government in July, 1936.

Archie: Or are you talking about the nonintervention policy promoted by Britain in regards the Spanish war against fascism? Britain is worried about losing their investments in Spain and for remaining loyal to their bourgeoisie friends. They have convinced France, the United States and 35 other nations to pledge not to get involved in the conflict. They even got Germany and Italy to sign on...scheming fascists! The agreement makes it illegal to supply

Spain with weapons to fight against each other.

Edward: Actually, both of these issues have caused concern. First, let's discuss what happened in Spain in July. Franco and the Army of Africa invaded Spain to overthrow the democratically elected government.

Sarah: Why did he do that?

Anna: Like us, Spain's new government of the Republic was making changes that threatened the traditional values of Spain's landed aristocracy, Spain's army, and the Catholic Church. For example, this government was attempting to redistribute land among the peasants, give women opportunities, and remove the Catholic Church's influence in Spanish education.

Isabel: I heard that even though Hitler and Mussolini agreed to nonintervention, they have supplied the rebels with planes and military aid. They are even airlifting the Army of Africa from Morocco into Spain!

William: Wow! Have troops ever been airlifted into war before?

Isabel: No. Mussolini and Hitler have been remilitarizing and experimenting with new weapons and war strategies. This is how they are putting Italian and German citizens back to work after the Depression.

Robert: Isn't Germany violating the Treaty of Versailles then?

Archie: Yes. Shouldn't Britain, France, and the United States be worried about that?

All: Yeah, Right,

Mercy: I read in La Gaceta that France thought about helping the Republicans but backed down when Britain told them too. You would think the French would be extremely concerned about the

fate of the Republic. A nationalist, or Franco, victory would put them between two Fascist powers.

Robert: I heard that France needs to keep Britain on their side in case the fascists cause another war. They were forced to compromise.

Miguel: Well, I don't feel comfortable standing by and allowing the fascists to take over Spain.

Isabel: The government of the United States passed Neutrality Acts in January, 1937. Currently, there is an arms embargo in effect against Spain. It is illegal for the United States to sell weapons to Spain. It is also illegal for any American to travel there.

Archie: International Brigades of volunteer soldiers are already making their way to Spain from points all over the world. They are also organizing a way for American volunteers to get to Spain to help in the fight against the fascist pigs.

Sarah: We have come across a letter from James Lardner, who is serving with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. He is one of the many volunteers who are currently fighting at the front in Spain. I hope his letter convey the need for us to help in the fight against Democracy's enemy—FASCISM! Listen to an excerpt (project letter on overhead):

"The explosion and concussion were terrific, but I didn't discover I was hit right away. In fact, I walked over to where my rifle, munitions belt and canteen of water were lying, picked them up and started back. Then I began to notice that my left calf and the left side of my behind were hurting. I felt them and found my trousers were covered with blood. A little further on I found several soldiers waiting in a trench for all the planes to go. I joined them, and one, a Negro friend of mine, went for a stretcher. The stretcher-bearers dressed my wounds and took me to the ambulance."

William: What can I do to help the Republican cause?

Mercy: There are many ways to get involved. Tampa children are collecting aluminum liners from cigarette packages. The aluminum is melted down into fishing weights which are sold to raise money for the Republic. You can organize collections in your neighborhoods also to help purchase medical supplies or ambulances.

Robert: But isn't that illegal?

Edward: No, it is only illegal to send war materials. Humanitarian aid is ok.

Archie: (look around suspiciously, then whisper) If you desire, you can volunteer to fight in the Spanish Republican Army.

William: I heard that Negroes can join up too. They are treated better in Spain than they are in their own country. Unlike the U.S. military, units are integrated and there are even Negro commanders!

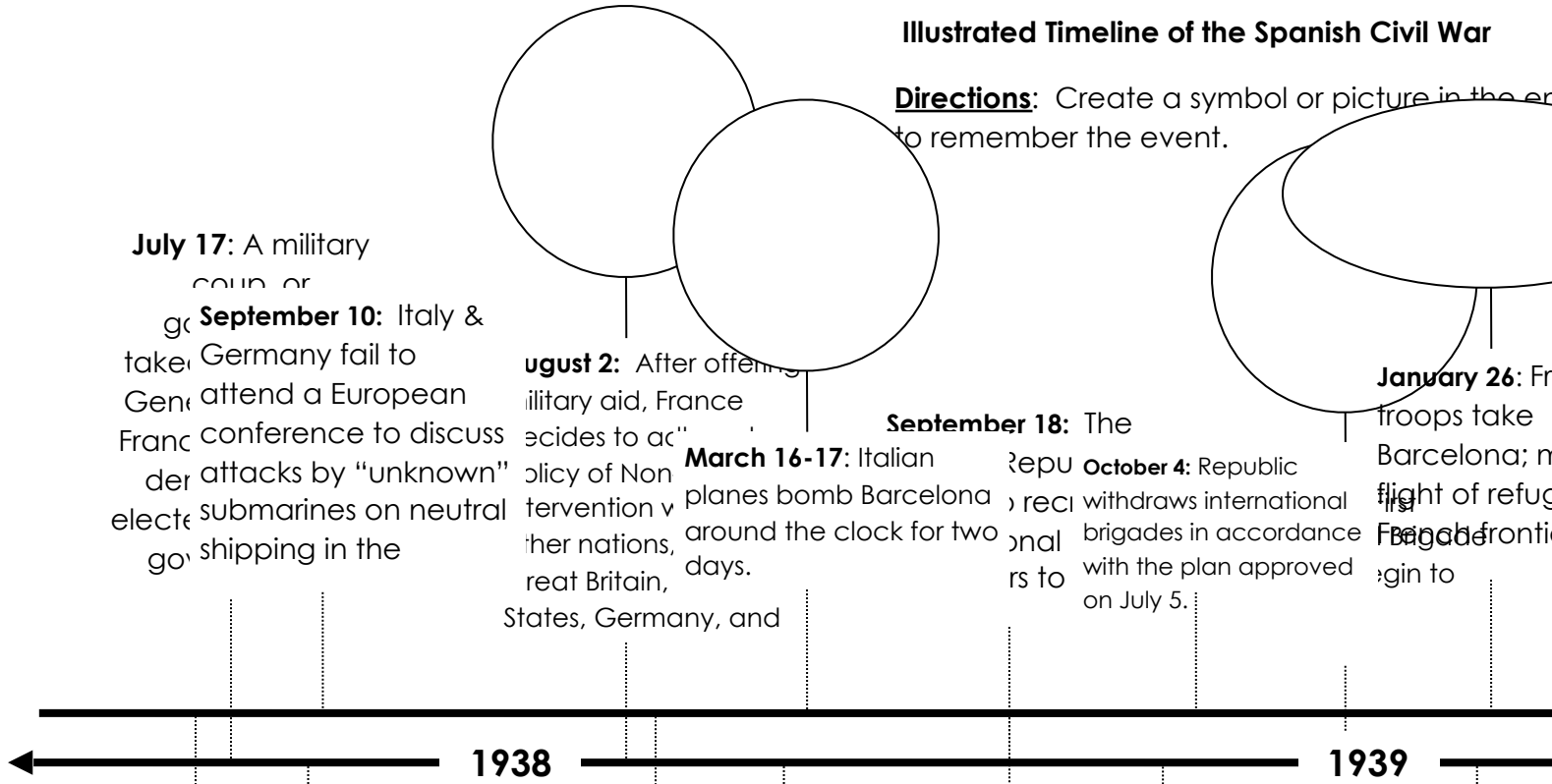
Anna: Women can get involved too. They can be nurses. I heard there is one woman who drives a supply truck!

Miguel: Volunteering is illegal and is very dangerous. Since January, all passports are stamped "Not valid for travel to Spain." Instead, American volunteers take ships to European ports. They make their way to France's Pyrenees Mountains. They cross the mountains by foot at night—it takes over five hours.

Edward: We have brought up many concerns that our community has over the war in Spain. Let's end our meeting by watching a movie from last weekend's march down Seventh Avenue in Ybor.

Illustrated Timeline of the Spanish Civil War

Directions: Create a symbol or picture in the empty circles to remember the event.



July 17: A military coup or

September 10: Italy & Germany fail to attend a European conference to discuss attacks by "unknown" submarines on neutral shipping in the

August 2: After offering military aid, France decides to adopt a policy of Non Intervention with other nations, Great Britain, the United States, Germany, and

March 16-17: Italian planes bomb Barcelona around the clock for two days.

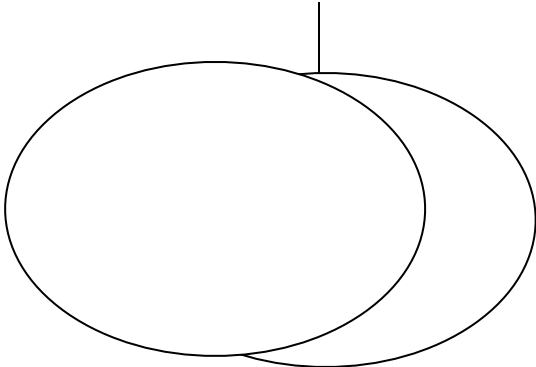
September 18: The Republic receives international aid from

October 4: Republic withdraws international brigades in accordance with the plan approved on July 5.

January 26: Franco's troops take Barcelona; mass flight of refugees from the front lines begins to

1936

April 26: Guernica is destroyed by German & Italian saturation bombing (Marking the first time in history that civilians were targeted during war).



March 12: Hitler occupies Austria.

September 29: Britain & France sign the Munich Pact, ceding Czechoslovakian



[http://www.gmtgames.com/spanishcw/SpanishCivilWar-1\(RBM\).jpg](http://www.gmtgames.com/spanishcw/SpanishCivilWar-1(RBM).jpg)

October 29: Franco agrees to the public

February: France n... Franco a... sends... of Spain... Ge... fight... help... the



imgurl=<http://www.gmtgames.com/303Spring2009/1938/40Politic>