

CHAPTER / CAPÍTULO 5

SOLIDARITY AND STRIFE SOLIDARIDAD Y DISCORDIA



They rallied to a cause that lost.

By the time of the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War (July, 1936), the presence of Spanish immigrants in the US was peaking, in terms of numbers and cohesiveness. Most, though not all, of the immigrants, supported the elected government of the Spanish Republic; and through their clubs and associations they mobilized to send aid to the Republic, and to lobby the US government to "Lift the Arms Embargo on Loyalist Spain." After July 18, 1936, virtually all the picnics, dances and sports matches of the Spanish colonies and their clubs throughout the US became fundraisers for the Republic.

Those Spaniards in the US who supported the right-wing uprising in Spain have left few photographic traces; in letters and in the press, some of them complain of how little support they were able to garner among the Spanish colonias and among American citizens in general.

It was during these difficult times of solidarity and strife, that the Spanish immigrants seemed poised to emerge into public visibility.

Apoyaron una causa perdida.

Cuando se produjo el estallido de la Guerra Civil Española (julio de 1936), las colonias de inmigrantes españoles en Estados Unidos se encontraban en pleno apogeo, por su tamaño y cohesión. La mayoría de los inmigrantes —no todos— apoyaban al gobierno elegido de la República Española. Y a través de sus clubes y asociaciones se movilizaron para enviar apoyo a la República, y para presionar ante el gobierno estadounidense por el embargo sobre la venta de armas a las fuerzas leales al gobierno. Tras el 18 de julio de 1936, casi todos los picnics, bailes y encuentros deportivos organizados por las colonias españolas a lo largo y ancho de EEUU se convertirían en ocasiones donde recaudar fondos en favor de la República.

Los españoles en EEUU que apoyaban la sublevación derechista en España han dejado pocos rastros fotográficos. Algunos se quejaron amargamente, bien en cartas o en la prensa de la época, del poco apoyo recibido de las colonias españolas y de la sociedad americana en general.

Fue así, durante esos difíciles tiempos de solidaridad y discordia, como los inmigrantes españoles empezaron a salir de la invisibilidad.

CENTRO HISPANO AMERICANO
CANTON, OHIO

JIRA CAMPESINE

26 JULIO 1936

PROGRAMA



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HOLLYWOOD GARDENS


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Cristina M. Borden

¡NO PASARAN! THEY SHALL NOT PASS!

Dedicated to the Heroic Loyalist Soldiers who in Spain
are Defending World Democracy.
Dedicado a los Valientes Milicianos que en España Defienden la
Democracia del Mundo.



Words and Music by
Leopoldo Gonzalez

English Translation by
Henry Jordan

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American Music League
156 FIFTH AVE.
New York

10c

Victor Sines



PREV. PAGE TOP. Music had always played a crucial role in the cultural and social life of Spanish immigrant communities, and song became especially important during the Spanish Civil War. [261]

PREV. PAGE LEFT. Popular Antifascist songbook, published in New York in 1937, preserved in the Vega family archive, Canton, Ohio. [262]

PREV. PAGE RIGHT. Leopoldo González, a Spanish cigarworker from Tampa, was the composer of this popular anti-fascist rallying song that was sung all over the country. [263]

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Former New York School Boy Leads Rebels; Jose Sainz, Raised in Bronx, Sees Victory

By The Associated Press.

ROBREGORDO, Northern Rebel Headquarters, Spain, July 31.—A former New York schoolboy is leading some of Spain's Fascist fighters on the northern front. José Sainz, whose father once owned a garage in the Bronx, led his blue-shirted Fascists into battle today side by side with regular army troops.

Sainz is the only Fascist chief still accounted for in the present revolt. José Primo de Rivera, blue-shirt leader and son of the former dictator, is missing "somewhere in Spain." Sainz's nine fellow-members of the Fascist party's political directorate are reported in government jails.

Thus the former New York schoolboy is for the moment supreme chief of the claimed 1,000,000 Spanish Fascist membership.

He went to New York with his parents in 1911 from Santander when he was 5 years old. He attended grade school (Public Schools 20 and 48) in the Bronx and Stuy-

vesant High School in Manhattan. In 1921 illness of his father caused the family to return to Spain.

Sainz, black-haired and stocky, joined the Primo de Rivera party three years ago at Toledo. He quickly rose to a commanding position in city affairs. He was chosen to represent Toledo, Spain, at the hundredth anniversary celebration to be held next year at Toledo, Ohio, and he says he will go no matter "how the civil war turns out."

He was in the Toledo (Spain) jail when the revolt started. He said he had spent many moments of the past three years in prison and "looking for a chance to put some other people there."

"We are certain to win," he asserted. "We have the flower of Spanish youth and intelligence on our side. We will make Spain a great power like the United States."

Jose Sainz lived at 855 Intervale Avenue in the Bronx.



TOP. Loyalist immigrants boycotted a number of Spanish businesses in New York that supported the Nationalists, like Casa Moneo, a major grocery and general store in the heart of Little Spain on West 14th St. [266]
LEFT. Alicia Suárez, dressed up as a milicana, Walkkill, New York. [266]
RIGHT. New York Times, August 1, 1936. [267]

"Around January 1937 a group of Spaniards, in order to fulfill their patriotic duty, saw the necessity of founding an association to defend the Nationalist Cause, symbolized by our glorious caudillo Generalísimo Franco. Despite a less than favorable climate, its first meeting was held in an Italian restaurant on 32 Mulberry Street in New York city [...] On March 17, 1937 the Casa de España was incorporated under New York State law. By April we had about 100 members and our own headquarters in the Park Central Hotel."

Julio López. NY, March 17, 1939.

"Hacia el mes de enero de 1937, y en cumplimiento de un deber patriótico, un grupo de españoles vio la necesidad de fundar una asociación en defensa de la Causa Nacionalista consagrada en la figura de nuestro glorioso caudillo, el Generalísimo Franco. A pesar del ambiente poco favorable, la primera reunión se celebró en un restaurante italiano situado en el nº 32 de la calle Mulberry, en la ciudad de Nueva York (...). El 17 de marzo de 1937 fue constituida la Casa de España bajo las leyes del Estado de Nueva York. En el mes de abril ya contábamos con unos cien socios y local propio en el Park Central Hotel".

Julio López. Nueva York. 17 de marzo de 1939



TOP. Rosa Marijuán, dressed as a Loyalist miliciana, on a New York rooftop, c. 1937. [260]

NEXT PAGE. The picnics organized by immigrant organizations during the Spanish Civil war years, like these two held in Brooklyn's Ulmer Park (1937, 1938), often served as fundraising events for the Spanish Republic. [269-277]



1937



1938



May 1st



1937



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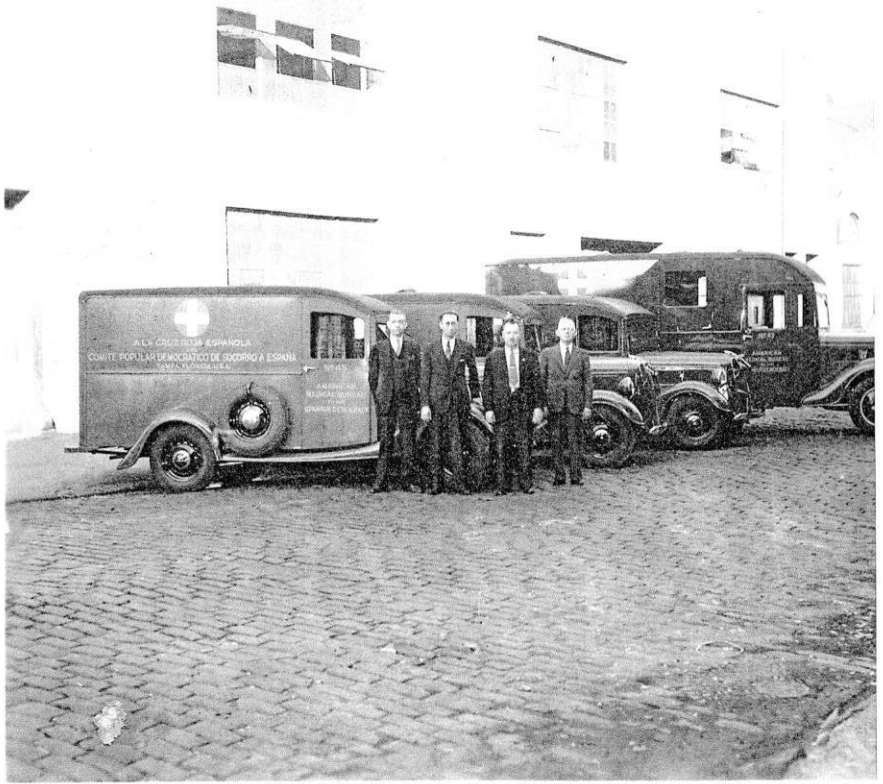




TOP. General Santiago J. Philmore and his wife, with the women of the Popular Democratic Committee for Aid to Spain, Workers' Center, Aug. 7, 1938, Tampa, Florida. [278]



BOTTOM. General Miaja (center), who had led the defense of Madrid, in the Brooklyn home of Asturian immigrants Carmen Alonso and José Fernández, April, 1940. Miaja had traveled to NY from Mexico to attend a fundraiser at Madison Square Garden for Spanish Civil War refugees. [279]



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TOP. "800 women of Spanish descent, and friends who swelled their ranks to 2,000, came by special train from New York today to ask the government to lift the embargo on arms exports to the Spanish Loyalists." NY Times, 5 April 1938 [281]

BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT. "My grandmother Consuelo always fondly remembered and talked about that trip to Washington." Andrea Alonso [282, 283]



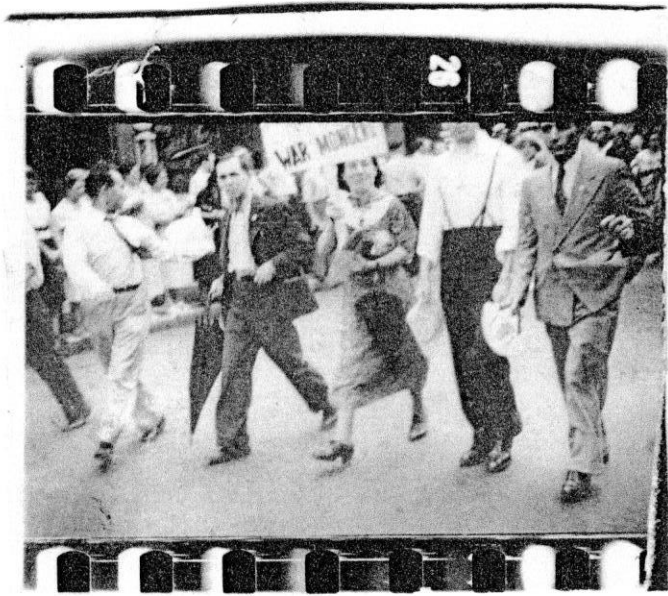
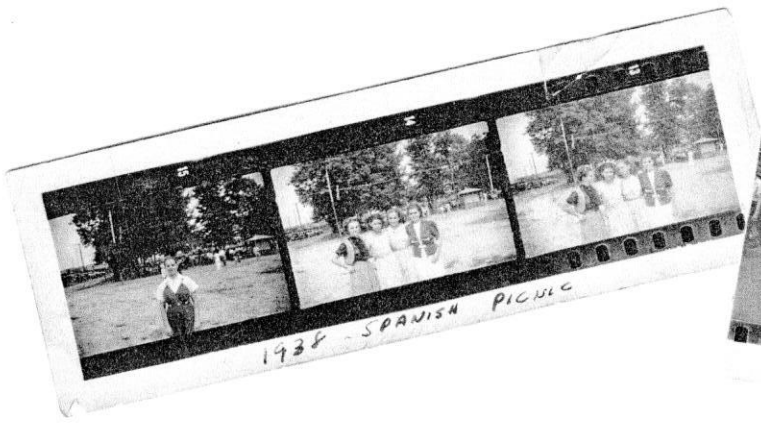


Manhattan Center - Meeting Pro Spanish Republic

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TOP. "Let us become the parents of the orphans of antifascist Spain. Local 25, Spanish Democratic Action, Vacaville." California, c. 1937. [285]
LEFT. "We kids got involved too. We got dressed up and learned a lot of songs and dances that we would put on at the fundraising picnics in Tampa." Alicia Menéndez [286]





BANQUET IN HONOR OF
THE VETERANS
LINCOLN BRIGADE
AT THE CLUB
O ESPANOL



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CENTRO HISPANO AMERICANO

CANTON - OHIO



MEYERS LAKE

Let's Go!



TO THE
GRAND
ANNUAL
PICNIC
AUGUST 4TH
• 1946 •

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SPANISH AMERICAN CENTER

523 Belden Ave. N.E. Canton Ohio.

at **TRANSYLVANIA GARDEN**