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The Spanish Civil War (SCW), 1936 -1939, cause, effects and reasons for defeat of Republican

Questions to ponder

1. Account for the cause and effects of the 1936 Spanish Civil War

(Give a brief introduction of the 1936 Spanish Civil War. Identify and explain the causes and effects of Spanish Civil War. Make a conclusion).

2. Examine the Significance of the 1936 Spanish civil war

(Give a brief introduction of the 1936 Spanish Civil War. Identify and explain the significance/impacts of Spanish Civil War.)

3. Account for the success of General Francisco Bahamonde in the Spanish civil war 1936?

(Give a brief background of the 1936 Spanish Civil War. Identify and explain the factors for the success of General Francisco Bahamonde in the Spanish civil war 1936.)

Summary of the Spanish Civil War (SCW), 1936 -1939

The **Spanish Civil War** (1936-1939) was a significant conflict in Spain that pitted the Republicans, who supported the democratic Second Republic, against the Nationalists, led by General Francisco Franco. Here are some key points about the war:

1. **Causes:** The war was triggered by a military uprising against the Republican government, which had been elected in 1936 with a leftist coalition. Economic hardship, political polarization, and social unrest also contributed to the conflict.
2. **International Involvement:** The war became a proxy conflict for larger ideological battles, with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy supporting the Nationalists, and the Soviet Union and International Brigades supporting the Republicans.

3. **Key Events:** Notable events include the bombing of Guernica by German and Italian air forces, the Battle of the Ebro, and the eventual fall of Madrid to Franco's forces in March 1939.
4. **Outcome:** The Nationalists emerged victorious, leading to the establishment of Franco's dictatorship, which lasted until his death in 19752.

Causes of the Spanish Civil War (SCW), 1936 -1939

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The **Spanish Civil War** was caused by a combination of political, social, and economic factors:

1. **Political Instability:** The Second Republic, established in 1931, faced significant political instability and polarization. The government struggled to maintain control and address the demands of various political factions.
2. **Economic Hardship:** Spain experienced severe economic problems, including high unemployment and poverty, which exacerbated social tensions.
3. **Social Divisions:** The country was deeply divided along social and ideological lines, with conflicts between the working class, rural poor, and the conservative elite.
4. **Failure of Democracy:** The inability of the democratic government to effectively address the country's issues led to a loss of faith in democratic institutions.
5. **Military Uprising:** The immediate cause of the war was a military uprising in July 1936, led by General Francisco Franco and supported by conservative elements within the country.
6. **Impact of the anti-Catholic policies of Republican government.** For instance a ban on Jesuit order, Catholic schools and institutions which angered catholic followers.
7. **Abolition of Spanish monarchy in 1931** led to widespread opposition to the Republican government.
8. **Anti-communist sentiments** encouraged the support of Britain and France for General Francisco Franco.

Factors that led to the success of the Nationalist/General Francisco Franco in Spanish Civil War

Several factors contributed to the success of the Nationalists, led by General Francisco Franco, in the Spanish Civil War:

1. **Military Leadership:** Franco's military experience and strategic acumen allowed him to effectively organize and command his forces.
2. **Foreign Support:** The Nationalists received significant military aid from Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, including troops, weapons, and supplies.
3. **Internal Unity:** The Nationalist forces were more unified compared to the Republicans, who were divided among various factions such as communists, anarchists, and socialists.

4. **Control of Key Regions:** The Nationalists quickly secured control of key regions and resources, including the economically important areas in the north and west.
5. **Propaganda and Morale:** The Nationalists effectively used propaganda to boost morale and gain support from conservative elements within Spain, including the Catholic Church.
6. **Republican Disorganization:** The Republicans suffered from internal conflicts and a lack of coordination, which hindered their ability to mount an effective resistance.
7. **Support of the Catholic Church:** In 1937, the church through The Collective(Pastoral) letter of the Spanish bishops blessed the Nationalist uprising of General Franco
8. **Abolition of Spanish monarchy in 1931** led to widespread opposition to the Republican government.
9. **Anti-communist sentiments** encouraged the support of Britain and France for General Francisco Franco.

Significance of the Spanish Civil War (SCW), 1936 -1939

While the Spanish Civil War was primarily marked by destruction and suffering, there were a few positive impacts:

1. **Social Reforms:** The Republican government implemented various social reforms, including improvements in education, healthcare, and labor rights, which benefited many people, especially in urban areas.
2. **Women's Roles:** The war led to significant changes in gender roles, as many women took on roles traditionally held by men, contributing to the war effort and gaining a greater sense of independence and responsibility.
3. **Cultural Contributions:** The conflict inspired a wealth of artistic and literary works, such as Pablo Picasso's "Guernica," which highlighted the horrors of war and became a powerful symbol of anti-fascism.
4. **International Solidarity:** The war saw the formation of the International Brigades, where volunteers from around the world came to Spain to support the Republican cause, fostering a sense of international solidarity and anti-fascist unity.
5. **General Francisco Franco provided mineral raw materials to Germany.**
6. **Spain escaped the economic depression due to massive aid from Italy and Germany**

Negative impacts of the Spanish Civil War (SCW), 1936 -1939

The **Spanish Civil War** had several negative impacts:

1. **Loss of Life:** The war resulted in the deaths of approximately **500,000 people**, including combatants and civilians.
2. **Human Suffering:** Many people experienced severe hardship, including displacement, famine, and disease.
3. **Economic Devastation:** The conflict caused significant damage to Spain's infrastructure and economy, leading to long-term economic challenges.

4. **Political Repression:** The victory of the Nationalists led to the establishment of Francisco Franco's dictatorship, which lasted until 1975 and was marked by political repression and censorship.
5. **Social Division:** The war deepened social divisions and mistrust among different segments of Spanish society, which persisted long after the conflict ended.
6. **Cultural Loss:** The war caused social and cultural disruptions.
7. **The Spanish war contributed to World War II** inspired by dictatorship

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