

WOMEN AND THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

A four-lesson unit aimed at Year 9 students in Key Stage 3

This unit complements the teaching resource on the international-brigades.org.uk website titled 'Why did so many people volunteer to fight in the Spanish Civil War?'

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Key individuals	Who they were?
General Francisco Franco	The leader of the Nationalist side during the Spanish Civil War and later dictator of Spain until his death in 1975.
Isabel Brown	Leading figure in the NJCSR. Famous for her inspirational speeches in Britain to raise support for the Spanish Republic.
Leah Manning	Former teacher, Labour MP and later trade union leader. She was also active in the NJCSR as its secretary and supportive of the Basque Children's Committee.
Duchess of Atholl	A Scottish Conservative MP who was the chairperson of the NJCSR.
Penny Phelps	A British nurse who was one of many who served in Spain.
Felicia Browne	An artist and communist who fought with the militias. She was the first British person to be killed in the Spanish Civil War. Her art work has been published.
Dolores Ibárruri, 'La Pasionaria'	A leader of the Spanish Communist Party famous for her inspirational speeches.

Salaria Kea	Black American nurse who served on the front line treating wounded soldiers and civilians.
Nan Green	Hospital administrator during the Spanish Civil War and for many years secretary of the International Brigade Association.

Key events	What happened
February 1936: Spanish elections	Popular Front government elected by the people.
July 1936: military revolt	Spanish generals organise a military takeover, but their plan is only partially successful. A civil war begins that lasts almost three years.
July 1936: the people are armed	To defend the cities of Barcelona and the capital Madrid, the government issues arms to the workers. The military garrisons defended by the fascists are overrun with much bloodshed.
July-November 1936	The workers are formed into militias as most of the army joined the uprising.
July 1936 onwards	Women volunteers begin to arrive in Spain to take up a variety of roles, including nursing and administrative support.
July-October 1936	Foreign volunteers begin to arrive in Spain. The International Brigades are formally set up in October.
December 1936	Setting-up of the NCJSR in Britain. Women involved in fund-raising and organising material support for the Spanish Republic. The Spanish Medical Aid Committee recruit doctors, nurses and drivers to go to Spain.
February 1937	Battle of Jarama. Many killed or wounded.

May 1937	Basque Children's Committee active in bringing 4,000 child refugees to Britain on the ship <i>Habana</i> .
June 1937	Battle of Brunete. Many killed or wounded.
July 1938	Ebro campaign and Republican retreat.
October 1938	International Brigades disbanded.
December-March 1939	Republic in full retreat. Thousands of refugees flee to France, where they are held in internment camps in terrible conditions.
April 1939	Franco captures Madrid. Civil war ends.