

# Spain to Become Totalitarian State When Rebels Win, Says Franco

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opinion in the United States, I am addressing the following inquiries to you personally and will be appreciative of a frank expression of your views on the following, representing some of the most frequently raised questions:

QUESTION: Are you personally a proponent of fascism? And, in the event of your victory, will Spain become a Fascist or totalitarian state?

#### Attitude on Fascism

ANSWER: I am an admirer of the way in which fascism has stemmed the advance of communism in many countries, and there can be no doubt in it evolving a corporate state, increasing the efficiency of administration and exacting from citizens the fulfillment of their duties toward the nation as a whole, fascism has contributed to modern political science theories capable of practical development and therefore of the highest value with reference to Spain.

"And when the victory in which I have absolute confidence crowns the efforts of our troops, the new Spain will progress on the lines of a totalitarian state in accordance at the same time with the traditions of her history and with modern theories adaptable to her vigorous national characteristics."

QUESTION: Though even a plebiscite would probably be practically impossible soon, what broad form of government do you believe most Spaniards want: Constitutional monarchy, totalitarian state or republic?

#### Ideas On Plebiscite

ANSWER: "As you very rightly point out, a plebiscite is not to be thought of for some time. Nor should the immediate concern of the citizens of Spain be the choice of the particular regime that is to govern them, for a decision of this kind would cause political passions to run high at a time when constructive work is essential.

"We wish to establish peace and order so that it may be possible to develop the country on progressive lines. We are going to create a Spain for all and we shall not close the doors of the state upon those who come forward unreservedly and without mischievous intentions.

"Those who were not with us from the start have nothing to fear and I say the same with regard to those who have been deceived by propaganda and took side with the Reds, even if they fought in their ranks."

#### Popular Front

QUESTION: "Would you support a constitutional monarchy with a reconvened Cortes? What limitation would you place upon suffrage?"

ANSWER: (Unanswered).

QUESTION: "If republicanism failed in Spain what do you ascribe failure? To inherent faults of republicanism, to incompatibility with Spanish character or to too rapid democratization?"

ANSWER: "The republic failed in Spain because it did not carry out its promises to the people and because it did not respect the spirit or letter of the Constitution, or the foundations of the political system on which it was based.

"The parties that governed it were sectarian and the Popular Front government formed immediately after the elections of Feb. 16, 1936, was neither able nor willing to save the country from obeying the wishes of Soviet Russia.

"The results of those elections were falsified or even reversed, in order to give a majority to the parties of the Popular Front, and anarchy, injustice and crime were let loose by those in power.

#### Injustice Charged

"Social injustice was rampant, workers were criminally exploited by their leaders, liberty had been replaced by license, equality by open support from the Government of one of two sides in a divided nation, and fraternity by murder, arson and robbery, complacently witnessed by authorities."

"Between Feb. 17 and June 15 of 1936, 186 churches were totally destroyed and 285 partially destroyed; 334 persons were murdered because of their political ideas; 1517 persons were wounded and personal attacks on another 261 were frustrated.

"There were 162 robberies under



To residents of Madrid the horrors of war have been "brought home" as death and destruction confined to the fighting line never could. Ripped open

as though made of cardboard instead of masonry and concrete, this apartment house was the target of one on the Spanish Rebel air raids on the capital.

self-seeking politicians who wished to rule over their regions and had carried out much subversive propaganda to this end. If we left Catalonia to its fate which has overtaken it the historical unity of Spain would be destroyed, for Catalonia is as much a part of Spain as Lancashire is a part of England or Pennsylvania is a state in the Union.

#### Catalonia Rule

"The world already knows something of the terrible suffering experienced by Catalonia under Red rule of the destruction of private property and the murder of thousands of peaceful, harmless citizens for no other crime than their ideas or their respectability."

"Bear in mind that none of this cruelty can find a pretext in the civil war, for Catalonia has escaped civil war up to the present and you will see that the misdeeds and atrocities of which our enemies are guilty are but part of the policy to which they intend to subject the whole of Spain in accordance with the dictates of Moscow, had we not risen to prevent them."

"I am prepared to prophesy that when our troops enter Catalonia they will be welcomed with enthusiasm by all save those who are directly or indirectly guilty of acts of cruelty and the injustices which have been committed there during the last few months."

QUESTION: "Will you state the

considerations motivating Italy and Germany coming to your support? Has Italy been promised the Balearic Islands as reported? Or other concessions? Has Germany been promised a foothold in Spanish Morocco, mining or other concessions?"

#### Germany and Italy

ANSWER: "Moral support lent to us by Germany and Italy is due to the fact that they understand the gravity of the Communist menace and appreciate the purport of our crusade in the defense of civilization. We have neither given nor promised concessions of any kind, territorial or otherwise, to anyone."

QUESTION: "What is your attitude toward the Anglo-Italian pact specifying that the integrity of present territories of Spain shall, in all circumstances, remain intact and undivided?"

ANSWER: "The clause of the Anglo-Italian pact to which you refer is in harmony with the principles which the new Spain will determine upholding."

QUESTION: "Will you estimate the number of foreign troops in your army? What drew them to you? Are there any Americans?"

ANSWER: "The only foreigners in our army are those in the ranks of the Foreign Legion, which is open to all nationalities and is

similar to organizations maintained abroad."

#### Foreign Troops

QUESTION: "How many foreign troops do you estimate are aiding the Loyalists and how are they used?"

ANSWER: "There are many thousands of foreigners fighting on the side of the Reds and most of them are Frenchmen or Russians, though other nations are well represented."

QUESTION: "When do you expect the capture of Madrid? Have any other than military reasons occasioned delay? If you take Madrid, how soon thereafter will the conquest of all Spain eventuate?"

ANSWER: (Unanswered.)

QUESTION: "It is reported that, since Loyalists forces are composed of Anarchists, Syndicalists, Communists, Socialists, Democrats and men of varied political creeds, and while the insurgents are composed of Fascists, Monarchs, Carlists, Clericals, Free Masons, Republicans and Democrats, victory of either faction will mean early dissension and probably another civil war within the ranks of the victors. To what extent is this fear justified?"

#### Explains Differences

ANSWER: "The essential differences—and you will admit it is a very considerable one—between the

groups in the Red ranks and the different tendencies represented within the National movement, is that our enemies are united only by purely destructive aims to which an extent their strife breaks out among them as soon as they cease, if only momentarily, from serving that purpose, while we are out to destroy Communism in Spain but to build on permanent and just foundations the structure of the new Spain."

"Whatever the differences may be between them in the ranks of our army, they are joined together by high ideals, by something that is greater and far more sold—by the wish and determination to save Spain and die, if necessary, for a Spain that will be both great and free, a united Spain ruled with authority, firmly led and living in order and peace."

"I have full confidence in the men behind me, and I know that they are firmly loyal to their leader. No one on the other side can say the same, except with a whip in his hand."

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