PROMOTER CAIS1515 ASSOCIAÇÃO CULTURAL

PARTNERS EUROSUD Mobilità Giovanile Internazionale · INSTITUTE for ROMA and MINORITIES INCLUSION · globers

Co-funded by the European Union

poetry of RESISTANCE

SPANISH NATIONAL REPORT

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ABOUT GLOBERS

GLOBERS is a peer-run social organization focused on institutional capacity-building for individuals and through local training programs, workshops, learning journeys as well as creation of partnerships with other institutions, providing a platform for the exchange of experiences.

Globers still is a young social start-up, but the organization is delighted to count with 3 expert members with more than a decade experience in Youth in Action, Erasmus+, Euromed and other international projects. In our office 3 employees' work daily to design local and international programs. The office staff is responsible for defining the general strategy, setting goals for executive management, including succession planning but also implementing and coordinating various projects. We count with 7 highly qualified multipliers in social development topics -as most of them are trainers or youth leaders- as regional collaborators.

FOREWORD

This national report was made in Comaruga Library with the help of 15 young people, with the ages between 18 and 30 years old, facilitators, teachers and project coordinators of the organization.

INTRODUCTION

Spain, in the early 20th century, was a country of political turmoil, economic unrest, and social upheaval. The Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, followed by the fascist dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, marked a period of great hardship and repression for the Spanish people. In response to these challenges, a group of poets emerged as freedom fighters, using their words to resist the fascist regime and to fight for a free and democratic Spain. This essay will explore the poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship and the role that poets played in the fight against fascism.

BACKGROUND

The Spanish Civil War was a complex conflict, fought between the Nationalists, led by General Francisco Franco, and the Republicans, who were supported by a coalition of left-wing groups, including socialists, anarchists, and communists. The war was fought between 1936 and 1939 and resulted in the victory of Franco's Nationalist forces, leading to the establishment of a fascist dictatorship that would last until Franco's death in 1975.

During Franco's dictatorship, the regime sought to control all aspects of Spanish life, including culture and the arts. In particular, the regime sought to suppress any form of artistic expression that did not conform to its nationalist and fascist ideology. This included literature, music, and art, which were censored and controlled by the state. Despite this, a group of poets emerged who used their words to resist the regime and to fight for a free and democratic Spain.

POETRY OF RESISTANCE - LITERARY REFERENCES

The poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship was characterized by its political and social themes, as well as its opposition to the regime's ideology. The poets who wrote during this period were not only concerned with expressing their personal experiences and emotions, but also with using their art to challenge the oppressive regime and to call for a more just and democratic society.

Federico García Lorca

One of the most significant poets of this period was Federico García Lorca, whose poetry was marked by its emotional intensity, its lyricism, and its social and political themes. Lorca's poetry was deeply influenced by the social and political upheavals of his time, and he was a committed member of the Republican cause during the Spanish Civil War. Lorca was also openly gay, and his sexuality was an important theme in his poetry, which often explored the complexities of desire and the struggle for personal freedom.

Lorca was a prolific poet, playwright, and essayist who is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. He was born in Granada in 1898 and grew up in a family of intellectuals and artists. Lorca was openly gay, and his sexuality was a source of controversy throughout his life. In 1936, at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Lorca was arrested by the Francoist forces and executed by firing squad. His death was a tragedy for Spanish literature and culture, and it served as a powerful symbol of the brutality of Franco's regime.

Lorca's poetry was deeply rooted in the traditions of Spanish literature and culture. He was particularly interested in the folklore and mythology of Andalusia, and he often incorporated these elements into his work. Lorca's poetry was also characterized by its intense emotional power, its use of vivid imagery, and its innovative use of language. His work often dealt with themes of love, death, and the natural world, and it frequently employed surreal and dreamlike imagery.

Lorca was also deeply engaged with the political and social issues of his time. He was a committed anti-fascist and a staunch defender of democracy and human rights. His poetry often dealt with themes of social injustice and inequality, and he frequently used his writing as a means of political protest. One of his most famous works, the poem "Lament for Ignacio Sánchez Mejías," is a powerful elegy for a bullfighter who was killed in the ring. The poem uses the imagery of the bullfight to comment on the larger issues of violence, death, and sacrifice in Spanish society.

ANTONIO MACHADO

Another important poet of the period was Antonio Machado, whose poetry was marked by its simplicity, its clarity, and its deep engagement with social and political issues. Machado's poetry was deeply influenced by the political and social changes that were taking place in Spain, and he was a committed socialist who believed in the power of poetry to effect social change. Machado's poetry often explored themes of social injustice, poverty, and the struggle for personal freedom, and his work was deeply influential on the Spanish literary scene.

MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ

Other poets of the period included Miguel Hernández, who was deeply influenced by Lorca and who wrote passionate and politically engaged poetry that celebrated the struggle of the Spanish people against fascism. Hernández's poetry was characterized by its emotional intensity, its lyrical beauty, and its passionate engagement with social and political issues. Another important poet of the period was Blas de Otero, whose poetry was marked by its engagement with social and political issues, as well as its experimentation with language and form.

BLAS DE OTERO

Another notable poet of the resistance during Franco's dictatorship was Blas de Otero. Otero was born in Bilbao in 1916 and grew up in a working-class family. He began writing poetry in the 1930s, and his work was heavily influenced by his experiences of poverty, social inequality, and political oppression. Otero's poetry was characterized by its directness, its clarity, and its use of everyday language. His work often dealt with themes of social injustice, political struggle, and the human condition.

Otero was a committed socialist and a fierce critic of the Francoist regime. His poetry was often explicitly political, and he used his writing as a means of social and political protest. One of his most famous works, the poem "Pido la paz y la palabra" (I Demand Peace and Words), is a powerful call for freedom and democracy in Spain. The poem was written in 1955, at a time when political repression in Spain was at its height, and it became an anthem of the anti-fascist resistance.

The poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship was not limited to established poets like Lorca and Otero. Many young poets who were just beginning their careers during this period also played a significant role in the fight against fascism. These poets, many of

whom were affiliated with the literary group known as the Generation of 1950, were often characterized by their experimentation with form and language, as well as their engagement with social and political issues.

JOSÉ AGUSTÍN GOYTISOLO

One of the most important poets of this generation was José Agustín Goytisolo. Goytisolo was born in Barcelona in 1928 and began writing poetry in the 1950s. His work was characterized by its use of free verse, its engagement with social and political issues, and its innovative use of language. Goytisolo's poetry often dealt with themes of social injustice, political oppression, and the struggle for freedom and democracy. Goytisolo was also a committed anti-fascist, and his poetry frequently served as a means of political protest. One of his most famous works, the poem "Palabras para Julia" (Words for Julia), was written in 1969 and became an anthem of the anti-fascist resistance. The poem is a powerful call for freedom, democracy, and social justice, and it was widely circulated among activists and political dissidents.

CLAUDIO RODRÍGUEZ

Another notable poet of the Generation of 1950 was Claudio Rodríguez. Rodríguez was born in Zamora in 1934 and began writing poetry in the 1950s. His work was characterized by its use of traditional forms, its engagement with nature and the natural world, and its meditative quality. Rodríguez's poetry often dealt with themes of beauty, spirituality, and the search for meaning in a world of political and social turmoil.

Despite the different styles and themes of the poets of the resistance, they were united by a common goal: to resist the Francoist regime and to fight for freedom, democracy, and human rights. Their poetry served as a means of political protest and social critique, and it became a powerful symbol of resistance and hope during a dark period in Spanish history.

Another notable aspect of the poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship in Spain is its intersection with feminist and LGBTQ+ movements. While the Franco regime sought to enforce strict gender roles and to suppress any expression of non-heteronormative identities, many poets of the resistance challenged these norms through their writing.

CARMEN CONDE

One example is the work of the feminist poet Carmen Conde. Conde's poetry celebrated the experiences and perspectives of women and critiqued the gendered violence

and oppression that was prevalent in Spanish society under Franco. Her work helped to pave the way for the feminist movement in Spain, which gained momentum in the years following Franco's death.

Similarly, the work of the gay poet Jaime Gil de Biedma challenged the rigid gender and sexual norms enforced by the Franco regime. Gil de Biedma's poetry was characterized by its exploration of homoerotic desire and its critique of heteronormative social norms. His work served as an important source of inspiration for LGBTQ+ activists in Spain and around the world.

The intersection of the poetry of resistance with feminist and LGBTQ+ movements highlight the power of art to challenge dominant social norms and to give voice to marginalized communities. The poets of the resistance were committed to using their writing as a means of social critique and political protest, and their work helped to pave the way for the emergence of feminist and LGBTQ+ movements in Spain and around the world.

In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the intersection of the poetry of resistance with feminist and LGBTQ+ movements. Many contemporary writers and artists have been inspired by the work of these poets and have continued to use their art as a means of political protest and social critique.

Overall, the poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship in Spain was a vital means of political protest and social critique. The poets of the resistance were united in their commitment to fighting fascism and to promoting freedom, democracy, and human rights. Their work continues to inspire us today and serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of art in shaping the cultural and political landscape of our societies.

LITERARY REFERENCE IN CATALONIA

Similarly, the work of the Catalan poet Joan Brossa celebrated the culture and language of Catalonia, which was also targeted by the Franco regime. Brossa's poetry was characterized by its use of experimental forms and its engagement with the culture and language of Catalonia.

The poetry of resistance also played an important role in the transition to democracy in Spain in the 1970s. After Franco's death in 1975, Spain underwent a period of political transition, and the poetry of the resistance played an important role in shaping the cultural and political landscape of the country. Many of the poets of the resistance, including Blas de Otero and Claudio Rodríguez, continued to write and to speak out against injustice and oppression during this period, and their work helped to pave the way for the establishment of a democratic government in Spain.

In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the poetry of resistance and its role in shaping the cultural and political landscape of Spain. Many contemporary writers and artists have been inspired by the work of the poets of the resistance, and their work continues to resonate with audiences around the world.

INSTEAD OF A CONCLUSION... THEN WHAT IS THE ROLE OF POETS IN THE RESISTANCE?

The role of poets in the resistance against Franco's dictatorship was a significant one, as they were able to use their words to challenge the regime and to call for a more just and democratic society. Poets were able to express their opposition to the regime in a way that was both powerful and subversive, using their art to create a space for dissent and resistance.

In particular, the poetry of the resistance was important in creating a sense of solidarity among those who opposed the regime. The poetry of the resistance provided a voice for those who were silenced by the regime, and it helped to create a sense of community among those who were fighting for a better future.

One of the ways in which poets were able to resist the regime was through the use of language. The regime sought to control the language used in literature and other forms of artistic expression, but poets were able to subvert this by using language in new and innovative ways. They were able to create new words and phrases that expressed their opposition to the regime, and they were able to use metaphor and other literary devices to convey their ideas in ways that were not immediately obvious.

Poets were also able to resist the regime through their use of symbolism. Symbolism was an important tool for poets during this period, as it allowed them to convey their ideas and emotions in a way that was not immediately obvious. Poets used symbolism to express their opposition to the regime, and to create a sense of solidarity among those who were fighting against it. For example, the olive tree became a powerful symbol of resistance, representing the strength and resilience of the Spanish people in the face of oppression.

Finally, poets were able to resist the regime by creating a sense of cultural continuity. The regime sought to destroy the cultural heritage of Spain, but poets were able to create new works that were rooted in the traditions of Spanish literature and culture. By doing so, they were able to create a sense of cultural continuity that helped to preserve the cultural identity of the Spanish people.

WHY THEY ARE SO SIGNIFICANT?

The poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship was an important form of artistic expression that played a significant role in the fight against fascism. Poets were able to use their words to challenge the regime and to create a space for dissent and resistance. Through their use of language, symbolism, and cultural continuity, they were able to create a sense of solidarity among those who opposed the regime, and to provide a voice for those who were silenced by it. The poetry of the resistance remains an important part of Spanish literary and cultural history, and it continues to inspire those who fight for a more just and democratic society.

The poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship in Spain played a significant role in the fight against fascism and in the struggle for freedom, democracy, and human rights. The poets of the resistance were committed to using their writing as a means of political protest and social critique, and their work served as a powerful symbol of resistance and hope during a dark period in Spanish history.

The poetry of the resistance was characterized by its engagement with social and political issues, its use of vivid imagery, and its innovative use of language. The poets of the resistance were also united by a common goal: to resist the Francoist regime and to fight for freedom, democracy, and human rights.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite the risks and dangers involved, the poets of the resistance refused to be silenced, and they continued to write and to speak out against injustice and oppression. Their courage and their commitment to social and political change continue to inspire us today, and their work remains an important part of the cultural heritage of Spain and of the struggle for freedom and human rights around the world.It is worth noting that the poetry of resistance was not just a means of political protest, but also a source of solace and hope for those who were living under the oppressive regime. The poems provided a sense of community and solidarity among the oppressed, and they served as a reminder that they were not alone in their struggle.

Furthermore, the poetry of resistance was not limited to the works of established poets. Many ordinary people, including workers, peasants, and students, also wrote poetry as a means of expressing their discontent with the Francoist regime. This grassroots poetry was often circulated among small groups of friends and acquaintances, and it played an important role in mobilizing people and creating a sense of community and solidarity among the oppressed.

In addition to poetry, other forms of artistic expression were also used as a means of resistance during the Francoist regime. Visual artists, musicians, and writers also used their work as a means of political protest and social critique. One notable example is the work of the surrealist painter Joan Miró, who used his art to critique fascism and to call for social and political change.

Despite the risks and dangers involved in speaking out against the Francoist regime, many artists and writers refused to be silenced, and they continued to create works of art and literature that spoke truth to power. Their work played an important role in the struggle against fascism and in the fight for freedom, democracy, and human rights.

Today, the legacy of the poets of the resistance lives on in the works of contemporary writers and artists who continue to use their work as a means of political protest and social critique. Their work serves as a reminder of the power of art to inspire change and to give voice to the voiceless.

In conclusion, the poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship in Spain was a powerful means of political protest and social critique. The poets of the resistance were united by a common goal: to resist the Francoist regime and to fight for freedom, democracy, and human rights. Their work served as a powerful symbol of resistance and hope during a dark period in Spanish history, and it continues to inspire us today.

One important aspect of the poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship in Spain is its role in preserving the cultural identity of the oppressed. The Franco regime sought to suppress and erase the cultures and languages of the regions of Spain that did not conform to

its nationalist and fascist ideology. The poetry of resistance, however, celebrated the diversity of Spain and gave voice to the marginalized cultures and languages of the country.

For example, the poetry of the Basque writer Gabriel Aresti celebrated the culture and language of the Basque people, who were particularly targeted by the Franco regime. Aresti's work helped to preserve the Basque language and culture and to resist the attempts of the Franco regime to eradicate them.

Overall, the poetry of resistance during Franco's dictatorship in Spain played a vital role in the fight against fascism and in the struggle for freedom, democracy, and human rights. The poets of the resistance were committed to using their writing as a means of political protest and social critique, and their work served as a powerful symbol of resistance and hope during a dark period in Spanish history. Their legacy continues to inspire us today and serves as a reminder of the power of art to inspire change and to give voice to the voiceless.