Women in the Spanish Civil War saw the conflict start on 17 July 1936. The war would impact women's everyday lives. Feminist solutions to problems of women in this period often took an individualistic approach. For women of the Second Republic, by close of the Civil War their efforts for liberation would fail. While various parties were working to encourage women to vote, it was often about reinforcing their own membership numbers and women would be locked out of opportunities for advancement Spanish Civil War (1936–39), military revolt by Nationalist rebels, supported by conservative elements within the country, against the Republican government of Spain. When an initial military coup failed to win control of the entire country, a bloody civil war ensued, fought with great ferocity on both sides. Nationalist troops in Irún, Spain, during the Spanish Civil War. © Reinhard Schultz/age fotostock. Top authorities plan to present image of US volunteer killed in civil war battle to Barack Obama. World History World War Spanish War Revolution Barcelona Military Coup Civil War Photos Tony Soprano Robert Capa. Members of the Durruti Column in Aragón (August, 1936) Spain #war. Military Women Military History Robert Capa Barcelona Contemporary History


Following Donna Haraway’s (1988) doctrine of embodied objectivity, I analyze the construction of the notion of woman in the visual culture produced during the Spanish Civil War, by considering different women’s roles as militiawomen, political leaders, nurses, and workers in the munitions factories. A selection of photographs of the Republican women during the Spanish Civil War reveals how the modern wars of the first half of the 20th century should not be considered exclusively a male domain because women became publicly visible and a political power in their fight against fascism. As it occurred with other North American and European women during World War I and World War II, Spanish women joined the labor forces with the outbreak of the Civil War, becoming aware of their subjugated position for the first time in history. Therefore, the images depicting Republican women mirrored not only the legal and social rights conquered by women since the proclamation of the Second Spanish Republic in 1931, but they also embodied their emancipation and, furthermore, the roots of Spanish Feminism, a movement which has been repressed for a long-time by Francisco Franco’s dictatorship (1939-1975).

Keywords: Visual Culture — Gender Studies — Spanish Civil War — Women’s war experience — Spanish Feminism — Second Spanish Republic

Becoming visible and real: Images of Republican Women during the Spanish Civil War

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as if the bourgeois way of life had suddenly become ours as well. "They say I have a striking way of looking at the camera."