

SPAIN... FASCIST? STATE

Is Spain a Fascist State?

Could you imagine in Germany a monument that celebrates Nazism, where people go to worship Adolf Hitler?

1. In Spain there is the "Valley of the Fallen" (El Valle de los Caídos)¹. The Valley of the Fallen is a Spanish monument compound built between 1940 and 1958 by 20,000 Republican prisoners captured during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). The Spanish civil war is commemorated here, Francoism and the figure of the dictator "General Francisco Franco" is worshiped. This place is maintained with public money² and is the largest common grave in Spain with 33,833 buried dead³(with the vast majority being the Republic prisoners who built it as slaves).

Could you imagine an Adolf Hitler Foundation dedicated to praising his greatness?

2. In Spain there is the Francisco Franco Foundation⁴. This is a private institution whose objective is to keep alive the memory of Francisco Franco, and spread his work. The foundation has, for decades, been the recipient of public subsidies from many of the democratic Spanish governments⁵. The foundation also manages the "Pazo de Meiras"⁶, Franco's summer estate while he was alive. The "Pazo" is used by the foundation mostly to praise the "greatness" of the dictator⁷.

Can you imagine a Foundation in Germany aimed at praising fascism?

3. One such "Jose Antonio Foundation" exists in Spain. José Antonio Primo de Rivera founded the Spanish Falange (FE) in 1933, a Spanish political party of fascist ideology. This foundation considers his figure as "entirely valid, not as reference to the past, but as a model for the twenty-first century".

Could you imagine an annual mass in Germany to celebrate and honor Hitler?

4. Every year, a Mass is celebrated in the Saint Francis of Borja parish⁸ to honor Franco and other Francoists.

¹<http://www.valledeloscaidos.es/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valle_de_los_Caídos

²http://cadenaser.com/ser/2017/05/07/tribunales/1494169723_401182.html

³https://elpais.com/diario/2010/03/27/espana/1269644412_850215.html

⁴<http://www.fnff.es/>

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fundaci%C3%B3n_Nacional_Francisco_Franco

⁵<https://www.elperiodico.com/es/politica/20170524/gobierno-aznar-fundacion-franco-subsvenciones-euros-6059558>

⁶https://www.eldiario.es/galicia/politica/Fundacion-Francisco-Franco-Pazo-Meiras_0_669483871.html

⁷https://www.eldiario.es/galicia/politica/Fundacion-Franco-utilizara-Pazo-Meiras_0_670883487.html

⁸<http://www.publico.es/politica/20-n-fundacion-francisco-franco-celebra-misa-madrid-20-n-honor-dictador.html>

Could you imagine trials against Hitler's enemies in Nazi Germany being still valid today?

5. As of today, Spain has not yet nullified the Francoist trials⁹. On November 2017, a request submitted by the Catalan parties to modify the "Ley de la Memoria Historica" law was accepted on 11/2017. The amendment called for all the trials to be nullified. You should remember that the dictator died in 1975.

Could you imagine members of the German government paying tribute to the Nazi SS?

6. The Spanish government pays tribute to the Francoist combatants of the Blue Division who fought for Hitler on the Russian front¹⁰. The government also brings home the corpses of fallen soldiers of the Blue Division¹¹, but it leaves "in the ditches" the corpses of Republican soldiers¹².
7. Spain has shown a high tolerance for fascist aggressions perpetrated against Catalan civilians. For example, in 2013, members of the national socialist party, La Falange, were sentenced to prison for a violent assault on people attending a Catalan Government institutional event in Madrid¹³. As of today, the men found guilty of those charges have not yet been imprisoned after multiples delays by the court¹⁴. The Falange gang leader, Manuel Andrino, has significant links to senior members of the Government and the Popular Party.
Manuel Andrino's resume includes a stint as a volunteer fighting in Mosul, along with Christian, Iraqi, Kurdish and other right-wing Spanish militias¹⁵.
8. In Spain, the Nazi salute "Sieg Heil!" is not a crime. This salute is tolerated by the police, and high-ranking officers practice the salute in private acts¹⁶.
9. Currently in Spain, there are multiple ultra-right wing and fascist groups, organizations, and political parties like La Falange (Franco's national socialist party), Hogar Social, VOX, SCC, Democracia Nacional, Somatemp, etc. which act with total impunity.
Following this link¹⁷, you will find multiple videos.
It's worth stressing that the focus of a majority of these organizations is against the Catalan independence movement.
10. A remix version of "Cara al Sol", Franco's La Falange national socialist party anthem, appears fourth in the rankings of the 50 most viral songs on Spotify Spain¹⁸.

⁹ <https://www.elperiodico.com/es/politica/20171114/reforma-juicios-franquismo-6424128>

¹⁰ https://www.infolibre.es/noticias/politica/2013/05/16/el_gobierno_homenajea_los_excombatientes_franquistas_que_ayudaron_hitler_3752_1012.html

¹¹ <http://www.publico.es/politica/division-azul-defensa-gastado-23000-euros-2003-repatriar-29-miembros-division-azul.html>

¹² <https://www.elplural.com/politica/2018/03/02/gobierno-division-azul-guerra-civil-memoria-historica>

¹³ https://www.elnacional.cat/es/politica/blanquerna-diada-prision_194514_102.html

¹⁴ <https://www.elperiodico.com/es/politica/20171101/cuatro-ultras-falange-blanquerna-prision-6394835>

¹⁵ <http://www.publico.es/politica/blanquerna-carcel-pasando-mosul.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.elperiodico.com/es/politica/20170701/saludos-fascistas-tolerados-espana-delito-alemania-italia-6061594>

¹⁷ <https://spanishradicals.github.io/>

¹⁸ https://verne.elpais.com/verne/2018/01/18/articulo/1516294733_464363.html

11. The anthem of Franco's national socialist party, "Cara al Sol" is freely and joyfully sung by people marching in demonstrations "for the unity of Spain"¹⁹.
12. The ultra-right wing political party VOX²⁰ acts as private prosecutor in the Supreme Court criminal case against the Catalan members of the independence movement²¹. It should be noted that the Supreme Court Judge presiding over the case, Judge P. Llarena, has favored the demands of VOX, overruling the General State Prosecutor recommendations. For example, an appeal was submitted by Joaquim Forn's counselor requesting permission for Mr. Forn to receive medical treatment for TB. Mr. Forn²² contracted TB in jail while awaiting trial. The General State Prosecutor agreed, VOX denied, the Judge sided with VOX. The Spanish State protects²³ and perpetuates the Francoism²⁴ and does not criminalize apology of Nazism. It is considered "ideological freedom and freedom of expression"²⁵.

Can you imagine a Baroness of Hitler?

13. Felipe VI, currently king of Spain, is the successor of Juan Carlos I²⁶, his father, who was the successor of General Francisco Franco. The line of succession was established by a law enacted by Francisco Franco himself²⁷.
14. During the period called "Transition into Democracy", a handful of high ranking Francoist members in power joined efforts to form the political party "Alianza Popular"²⁸ or "AP". As members of AP, they were official candidates participating in the first democratic election organized in Spain after the death of the dictator. Later on, AP mutated into the "Partido Popular" (Popular Party, or PP), which has ruled the Spanish Government over the past 12 years. Because of its history and links to the Franco regime, PP has been very reluctant to condemn 1936 Franco's coup d'état, and following forty years of dictatorship.

¹⁹http://www.lasexta.com/noticias/nacional/manifestantes-cantan-cara-sol-hacen-saludo-fascista-concentracion-unidad-espana-madrid_2017093059cfb3610cf2136979905be2.html

²⁰https://www.eldiario.es/politica/Vox-derecha-extrema-prospera-juzgados_0_718828397.html

²¹<http://www.europapress.es/nacional/noticia-vox-pide-llarena-prision-incondicional-todos-comparecientes-20180323110548.html>

²²<http://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20180320/441727712726/fiscalia-supremo-libertad-fianza-100000-euros-joaquim-forn.html>

²³https://www.eldiario.es/politica/Justicia-Argentina-extradicion-exministros-franquistas_0_366063923.html

<https://www.elperiodico.com/es/politica/20150313/gobierno-deniega-extradicion-ocho-exministros-argentina-crimenes-franquismo-4015483>

https://politica.elpais.com/politica/2014/11/12/actualidad/1415800325_473881.html

https://politica.elpais.com/politica/2014/04/30/actualidad/1398857175_118986.html

²⁴<http://www.publico.es/politica/francisco-franco-carmen-martinez-bordiu-reclama-titulo-duque-franco-grande-espana-ostentaba-madre.html>

²⁵<http://www.elnortedecastilla.es/valladolid/absueltos-seis-jovenes-20180325122842-nt.html>

²⁶ https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Carlos_I_de_España

²⁷ https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ley_de_Sucesi%C3%B3n_en_la_Jefatura_del_Estado

²⁸ https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alianza_Popular

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partido_Popular

<https://www.losreplicantes.com/articulos/pp-negado-condenar-franquismo>

15. After World War II, Spain welcomed as refugees Germany exiled Nazi officers and party members. Some of them still continue to live freely in Spanish soil²⁹.

Can you imagine that the German government condecorating and protecting Nazi criminals?

16. On June, 2017, king Felipe VI awarded a medal to Rodolfo Martín Villa³⁰, former Francoist Minister of Interior between 1976 and 1979, to commemorate the 1977 first Spanish Congress elected in democracy after Franco's passing. Acting as Minister of Interior, M. Villa was responsible for the 1976 massacre that took place in Vitoria, Basque Country, when the Francoist security forces opened fire on a group of workers in strike causing the death of five people and injuring over a hundred. Due to these events and as a piece of a general process against the Franco dictatorship, the Judge Mari Servini of Argentina, has issued an international arrest warrant against him, charging him with crimes against humanity during his time as Minister of Interior.

While he was Minister of the Interior, Martín Villa also awarded the Police Medal of Merit to Antonio González Pacheco, known as "Billy the Kid"³¹, the infamous police officer accused of torture during the Franco dictatorship.

²⁹ <http://www.diariovasco.com/v/20110123/al-dia-sociedad/espana-nido-nazis-20110123.html>

<http://www.publico.es/espana/espana-paraiso-nazis.html>

³⁰ https://www.elnacional.cat/es/politica/indignacion-condecoracion-martin-villa-congreso_170001_102.html

³¹ https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_González_Pacheco

<https://www.elplural.com/2013/09/19/orden-internacional-de-captura-contrabilly-el-nino-y-otros-tres-torturadores-franquistas>

<http://www.publico.es/politica/billy-nino-torturaba-lidia-falcon-ya-no-pariras-mas-puta.html>