War, Politics and Morality.

The Spanish Catholic Church and World War II.

by

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Thesis presented as requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, University of Adelaide.

November 2008.
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Abstract.

This thesis starts from the proposition that moral and ideological issues now drive the continuing intense interest in World War II. There has been an increasing challenge to the probity of the response of both opponents and bystanders to the threat raised by Nazism. The thesis views these issues from the viewpoint of the Spanish Catholic Church, an institution involved in yet detached from the war, having morality as its core concern yet itself struggling to reconcile moral principles with political imperatives. Such tensions might illuminate, in particular, the similar struggles of the Western Allies.

This study has been set against a background of historiographical development. It has considered the evolution of Catholic teaching on the morality of war and threats posed to the Church in the early twentieth Century political world of conflicting ideologies. In Spain, the Church, quintessentially Spanish yet inspiring extremes of devotion and hatred in Spain’s total, ideological Civil War, had been devastated by that struggle. In defending its urgent spiritual priorities during a new European war, it faced many challenges that necessitated reactions involving complex interplay of morality and politics. Not only was its relationship with the victorious Franco regime uncertain but it feared the infiltration into Spain of any of the European war’s contending ideologies- Fascism and Nazism, Communism and liberal democracy. The thesis describes the Church’s response.

This work also takes the view that the intensity of the ideological struggle made World War II a war of unprecedented totality. This study examines the attitudes of the Spanish Church to aspects of total war. It concludes that, although the responses of the Spanish Church reveal interplay of the moral and the political, these reactions shed some light upon questions of war and morality still asked today.
Declaration.

This thesis contains no material that has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any other University or tertiary institution and to the best of my knowledge and belief it contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

Should this thesis fulfil the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, I consent to it being made available for loan and copying.

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University of Adelaide.
November 2008.
Acknowledgements.

I wish first of all to acknowledge an immense debt of gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Fredric Zuckerman, Associate Professor, School of History and Politics, University of Adelaide. Dr. Zuckerman was a constant source of help and encouragement throughout my undergraduate studies and as an honours student. As supervisor of this thesis, Dr. Zuckerman gave unstintingly of his time and professional expertise, even when twice recovering from illness. Whilst always subjecting my work at every stage to frank and rigorous professional criticism, Dr. Zuckerman also provided unfailing encouragement throughout the years of my candidature.

My thanks are also due to Dr. Vesna Drapac, Postgraduate Co-Coordinator, School of History and Politics, University of Adelaide, and Dr. Robert Dare, Head of School until July 2006, for their invaluable contributions to the postgraduate induction programmes of our Department and to the life of our postgraduate community. I wish to acknowledge the help and support of that community, the staff, both professional and administrative, and postgraduate students during the past three years. My friend and fellow postgraduate student, Daniel McCarthy has been a particular source of support.

Every staff member and history student owes a great debt of gratitude to Ms. Margaret Hosking, Subject Librarian (History), University of Adelaide. Ms. Hosking has been an unfailing source of help during my entire time as an Adelaide University student.

I also acknowledge the help of the staff of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Adelaide, particularly Señor Javier Díaz, for allowing me to attend lectures in the first year of my thesis in order to refresh and improve my Spanish language proficiency.

In Spain, I am particularly grateful to Rev. Dr. Francisco Gil Delgado, Canon of the Cathedral of Seville and noted historian and author of books on the history of the Spanish Church in the early Franco era. Rev. Dr. Delgado showed a keen interest in my study gave careful, considered answers to my questions and treated me with truly Spanish hospitality on my visit to Seville in 2006. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the staff of the Institución Colombina and the Hemeroteca Municipal in Seville. In Valladolid, I received valuable assistance from Señor Javier Burrieza, Librarian of St. Alban’s College. In Madrid, the archivists and librarians of many institutions deserve my gratitude. Particularly helpful and friendly were the members of the Fundación Nacional Francisco Franco who assist all visitors regardless of attitude towards Spain’s former leader. In London, I received great assistance from the staff of the National Archives and the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Those mentioned above have contributed to any merit that this thesis possesses. To myself alone should be ascribed its deficiencies and the opinions expressed.

Gerald Varley.

November 2008.
Glossary of Terms.

Acción Católica  Catholic Action.
Annales originally French historical school aiming at „encompassing” rather than „compartmentalized” history.
Caudillo Leader.
Carta Colectiva Collective Episcopal pastoral letter.
Desmorizaciones State sequestration of Church property.
División Azul. Blue Division.
Forastero Strange and/or foreign.
Guerra Civil Civil War.
Hispanidad Linguistic and cultural affinity between Spanish speaking communities.
Maquisards French resistsants.
Movimiento Political movement.
País vasco Basque country.
Reconquista Reconquest.
Regalism State power in religious matters
Sefardíes Jews of Spanish origin.

Abbreviations for Sources.

ADSS Actes et Documents du San Siege.
AGA Archivo General de Administración.
AMAE Archivo, Ministerio del Asuntos Exteriores.
BHS Bulletin of Hispanic Studies.
BNE Biblioteca Nacional de España.
CDI Colegio de Ingleses- Valladolid.
DIHGFR Documentos Inéditos Historia del Generalísimo Franco.
DGFP Documents in German Foreign Policy.
FNFF Fundación Nacional Francisco Franco.
FRUS Foreign Relations of the United States.
ICS Institución Columbina, Sevilla.
NAUK National Archives of the United Kingdom.
RFP Review of the Foreign Press.
RIIA Royal Institute of International Affairs.
WPIS Weekly Political Intelligence Summaries.