

**Volume 5**

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**The Fall of Barcelona - I**

**Lead:** In the last months of the Spanish Civil War the besieged City of Barcelona was a symbol of the declining republican cause.

**Intro.:** *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

**Content:** After centuries of resistance, Spain, in the early 1930s, lurched with confusion and reaction into the modern world. The Second Republic was declared in 1931, King Alfonso XIII left the country, and a center left government under

**conservative Catholic politician  
Alcala Zamora (al ca `la tha `mo ra)  
began its work. Despite its balanced  
make-up, the government failed to  
create sustained democratic  
institutions in Spain because its  
policies were too radical for the  
privileged upper classes and did not  
go far enough for socialists and  
communists who saw themselves as  
champions of the poor and destitute.  
It raised fears and hopes, but could  
not bring the nation together.**

**Elections in 1933 restored to  
power a right-wing government  
determined to destroy even the timid  
reforms of the early republican  
period. Chaos gripped Spanish**

**political life for three years. Socialists and their allies were restored to power, but their narrow victory in February 1936 convinced many that the tried and true Spanish recourse to violence was inevitable, and most people in Spain welcomed it. The Civil War would be the fourth such outbreak of military conflict since 1830, would usher in a period of horrendous reprisal and blood-letting on all sides, and would ice over economic, religious, and social progress for four decades.**

**In July 1936 convinced that the cause of God and morality was with them, high-ranking Spanish military leaders, later led by Francisco**

**Franco, attempted a coup d'etat. They were resisted and the Spain's great civil agony began. By the time nationalist forces entered the ancient and beautiful Catalan city of Barcelona, the Republic was on its last legs. Next time: the Fall of Barcelona.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

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**Resources**

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