

*With an emphasis on the Welsh language, Culture or Identity chose a theme or focus on creative practitioners relevant to your field of study and critically analyze your choices.*

I am from Catalonia, an autonomous community of Spain. Catalonia is a historical territory originally formed from the counties that formed the Marca Hispanica, in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula, in the time of Charlemagne. Today, the term "Catalonia" is used primarily to refer to the Autonomous Community of Catalonia and Northern Catalonia, which forms the Department of the Pyrenees in France. From the whole of Catalan history, I will talk about the Modern Period (1808–1939) and the Contemporary Period (1939 — present) and how graphic design has been an essential tool for maintaining Catalan identity in obscure times.

A whole series of historical constant conflicts and oppressions by the Spanish state towards all kinds of Catalan identity and culture have been invoked in a state of persistent personal, political, and social conflict between Catalonia and Spain. Today, the anti-Spanish sentiment persists in oppressed communities like the Basque Country and Catalonia.

Catalonia has had a working and anarchist identity since the late 18th and early 19th centuries, which has led to enormous revolutionary conflicts and scenes in the territory. The Modern Period (1808–1939) was the peak of the working-class movement and the industrial revolution. At the turn of the century, the Catalan wage movement consisted of three trends: syndicalism, socialism, and anarchism. With these socio-political movements, huge amounts of graphic and artistic content were generated to communicate and announce different kinds of messages.

In the Contemporary Period, we stumble across Franco's dictatorship, the restoration of the compulsory monarchy, and the independence process with also, a lot of graphic supporting materials.

All this is presented to contextualize the subject of my essay, being this a research and analysis of the Catalanist graphic content created between the Modern Period and the Contemporary Period to combat Spanish fascism, keep alive the historical memory of the Països Catalans, and defend the identity of Catalonia. And so, the question to be answered with this essay would be: Has been Catalan graphic design (especially in the anarchist organization assembly) a tool of resistance and anti-fascist struggle against Spain? And has it helped to preserve the historical memory and identity of the place?

To begin to answer this question, we must first understand the importance of the poster in Catalonia and in general in the Spanish republic. The poster was one of the key propagandistic elements and collected all the modernity of the Soviet vanguard and commercial advertising. The major communicative production centers, Barcelona, Madrid, and Valencia, put all available resources in favor of the young republican democracy.

Unions such as the CNT and the UGT, political parties such as the PSOE, the POUM, or the PSUC, and institutions such as the Generalitat de Catalunya, or the Ministry of Propaganda created agencies and sections dedicated to propaganda strategy. Messages of revolution, wartime organization, and various political slogans had a common clamor, the fight against fascism. Those screams attached to the wall that filled squares and streets were also transformed into postcards, calendars, and illustrations in newspapers and magazines.

Clara Serrano (2133782)

Research in Context (ADAD5003)

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