



MEMORIES OF THE CIVIL WAR AND THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD: AN INTERVIEW

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See video of interview here: <https://youtu.be/GUmt1HVTQsk>

TRANSCRIPT

HUNGER

“Hi, I’m Ester, and my grandfather told me that food was obtained through ration cards and medicines through smuggling.”

In the civil war, to obtain food, people needed ration cards, which were cards with coupons. With these cards, each person would be assigned a specific store to buy rationed items, an amount that used to vary by week or month. On the other hand, products like medicines were obtained through smuggling, which was an illegal activity that consisted of clandestinely trading in goods which are seized by the State.

EXILE

“We had gone to work in Cordoba.”

Spanish exile refers to a group of Spanish citizens who, during the Spanish Civil War from 1936 to 1939 and the immediate post-war period, were forced to leave their homeland and move to other countries for political and ideological reasons or for fear of retaliation by the winning side.

REPRESSION

“My mother and my aunt took food to prison, and that’s why they were arrested and imprisoned for the whole war period. They were kept in the yard when it snowed or rained, so that they would get wet.”

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The role of women during the Spanish Civil War was fundamental for the development of the country but it's rarely mentioned. Many were detained in women's prisons for collaborating with the different sides. There, they suffered a lot of violence, such as severe beatings, hunger, inhumane treatment, and rape.

SILENCE

“My father told me that he was in a concentration camp.”

A concentration camp was a fenced enclosure in which political prisoners or prisoners of war were confined, generally isolated from urban sites.

Franco's Spain had at least 300 concentration camps between the years 1936 and 1947.