



## STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (174)

TEXT: *La Barbarie Organizada* (1931)

AUTHOR: Fermín Galán

EDITOR: César de Vicente Hernando

### PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Introduction by César de Vicente Hernando and the historical context of the Moroccan War)

#### 1. THE COLONIAL CONTEXT AND AFRICANIST DISCOURSE:

##### *The Moroccan War:*

The novel is set against the backdrop of Spain's long and disastrous colonial war in Morocco (1909-1927), marked by military incompetence (Disaster of Annual, 1921), corruption, and the suffering of conscripted soldiers from the lower classes.

##### *Africanism vs. Anti-Militarism:*

The introduction traces the rise of "Africanism"—a romantic, imperialist ideology that would later fuel Francoism—and the opposing current of anti-militarist literature that criticized the war as a tool for elite enrichment and social oppression.

#### 2. FERMÍN GALÁN: SOLDIER, REVOLUTIONARY, AND AUTHOR:

##### *A "New Romantic":*

Fermín Galán (1899-1930) was a military officer who evolved from a conventional soldier to a committed revolutionary, linked to anarchism and republicanism. Executed for the 1930 Jaca uprising, he became a martyr for the Second Republic.

##### *"Generation of 1930":*

Galán belonged to a generation of intellectuals (like Díaz Fernández) who sought to merge political commitment with artistic innovation ("New Romanticism"), moving away from dehumanized art towards a "rehumanization" grounded in social reality and vital conflict.

#### 3. "LA BARBARIE ORGANIZADA" AS A NOVEL OF FORMATION (BILDUNGSROMAN):

##### *Not Just a War Novel:*

Contrary to typical legionary literature, this is a *Bildungsroman*. It traces the protagonist's journey from enlistment out of hunger to a gradual awakening to the brutal reality of "civilization."

##### *New Objectivity:*

The novel employs an austere, report-like style ("New Objectivity"), rejecting sentimentalism and rhetorical flourishes. It accumulates episodes of brutality (rape, sodomy, suicide) to construct a devastating critique of the colonial system and the values of "virility" and "heroism."

##### *Critique of Civilization:*

The title reflects the novel's central thesis: the colonial enterprise is not a civilizing mission but "organized barbarism." Galán exposes the structural violence that turns humans into "things" or "dolls," arguing for a "new creation" to save civilization from its own moral collapse.



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## PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

### Genre Deconstruction:

How does *La Barbarie Organizada* subvert the genre of the "legionary novel"? Compare its portrayal of war and soldiers with the romanticized or heroic accounts typical of the era.

### The Concept of "Barbarism":

Discuss the meaning of the title. How does Galán redefine "barbarism" and "civilization" in the context of the colonial war? Who are the real "barbarians" in the novel?

### Narrative Style:

Analyze Galán's "New Objective" style—the use of present tense, short sentences, and lack of emotional commentary. How does this "report-like" approach enhance the novel's critical impact?

### The Bildungsroman Aspect:

Trace the protagonist's development. What lessons does he learn from his experiences in the Legion? Does he achieve a clear political consciousness by the end?

### Social Class and War:

How does the novel depict the relationship between social class and military service? Discuss the motivations for enlistment (hunger, lack of work) versus the interests served by the war.

### Galán's Political Evolution:

Discuss Fermín Galán's transformation from a military officer to a revolutionary martyr. How is his political ideology (anarchism, republicanism) reflected in the novel's critique of authority and the state?

## PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **Galán, Fermín.** *La Barbarie Organizada*. Stockcero.
- **Barea, Arturo.** *The Forging of a Rebel*. (For comparative context).
- **Castañar, Fulgencio.** *El compromiso en la novela de la II República*. Siglo XXI, 1992.
- **Díaz Fernández, José.** *El nuevo romanticismo*. (For literary context).
- **Hernando, César de Vicente.** "Introducción" to *La Barbarie Organizada*. (This edition).
- **Sender, Ramón J.** *Imán*. (For comparative study).



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## PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

### 1. Who is the author of *La Barbarie Organizada*?

- A) Ramón J. Sender
- B) José Díaz Fernández
- C) Fermín Galán
- D) Arturo Barea **Correct Answer: C**

### 2. Fermín Galán is historically famous not only as an author but also as:

- A) A painter of the avant-garde.
- B) A military officer executed for leading a republican uprising.
- C) A conservative politician.
- D) An explorer of the Amazon. **Correct Answer: B**

### 3. What literary genre does the introduction suggest the novel belongs to, beyond being a war novel?

- A) Romance
- B) Science Fiction
- C) *Bildungsroman* (Novel of Formation)
- D) Gothic Horror **Correct Answer: C**

### 4. What stylistic approach characterizes the novel, according to the introduction?

- A) Flowery, romantic descriptions.
- B) "New Objectivity" (austere, report-like style).
- C) Surrealist stream of consciousness.
- D) Classical epic poetry. **Correct Answer: B**

### 5. What is the central thesis implied by the novel's title?

- A) War is a noble endeavor.
- B) The colonial enterprise is a form of systematic savagery, not civilization.
- C) The Legion brings order to chaos.
- D) Barbarism is only found in primitive societies. **Correct Answer: B**

Explore the "Spain in Crisis" Collection: This book is part of our comprehensive collection on the Spanish Civil War and its literary legacy: *Réquiem por un campesino español* (Sender); *Imán* (Sender); *La Barbarie Organizada* (Galán); *Vida de Fermín Galán* (Díaz Fernández & Arderius); and *Red October in Asturias* (Díaz Fernández).  
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