



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 & Arderíus); and *Red October in Asturias* (Díaz Fernández). Browse Collection:

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