



## STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (202)

**TEXT:** *Vida de Fermín Galán (Biografía política)* (1931)

**AUTHORS:** José Díaz Fernández & Joaquín Arderius

**EDITOR:** Víctor Fuentes

### PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Introduction by Víctor Fuentes and historical literary criticism)

#### 1. THE GENERATION OF "LITERATURA DE AVANZADA":

##### **Against "Dehumanization":**

José Díaz Fernández (1898-1941) and Joaquín Arderius (1885-1969) were key figures in the "Generación de 1930" and "literatura de avanzada" movement. They opposed Ortega y Gasset's "dehumanization of art," advocating for a "rehumanization" through literature that fused individual and collective revolutionary aspirations.

##### **Revolutionary Ideals:**

This movement, nurtured by post-WWI European art (Weimar Republic, Soviet literature) and disseminated through innovative editorials (Cénit, Ulises, Oriente), aimed for artistic and social revolution, reflecting a fervent desire for political change in Spain.

#### 2. FERMÍN GALÁN: ICONIC MARTYR AND "POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY":

##### **Emblematic Figure:**

Fermín Galán (1899-1930), a military officer executed for leading the Jaca uprising in 1930, is presented as an emblematic figure embodying the ideals and struggles of this generation. His life and death are portrayed as a testament to revolutionary commitment.

##### **Genre Innovation:**

The work is a "political biography," a hybrid genre blending historical document with novelistic artistry. It emphasizes Galán's personality and his journey from a soldier in Morocco (1919-1925) to a committed republican conspirator.

##### **Autobiographical & Fictional Blend:**

Díaz Fernández and Arderius, both accomplished novelists, infuse the biography with vivid narrative style, dialogue, and imaginative reconstruction, creating a dynamic, almost cinematic account that blurs the line between factual reporting and literary creation.

#### 3. CHRONOTOPES AND IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICTS:

##### **Geographical Trajectory:**

The narrative unfolds across significant "cronotopes": the battlefields of Morocco (Tetuan, Xauen), the conspiratorial circles of Madrid, the military prison of Montjuich, and finally Jaca, where Galán launched his ill-fated uprising.

##### **Critique of Military & Monarchy:**

The book implicitly and explicitly critiques the Spanish monarchy and the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera, positioning Galán's actions as a justified response to their corruption and failure.

##### **Galán's "Nueva Creación":**



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The text explores Galán's philosophical vision, his "Nueva Creación"—a new civilization based on justice, love, and fraternity, where ideas triumph over arms. This idealism is dramatically contrasted with his ultimate sacrifice.

**Legacy and Memory:**

The biography details Galán's transformation into a republican martyr, whose sacrifice ignited popular support for the Second Republic, celebrated in songs, speeches, and the public memory, despite later attempts by the Franco regime to erase his legacy.

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## PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

**"Literatura de Avanzada" vs. "Dehumanization of Art":**

Discuss the aesthetic and political differences between the "literatura de avanzada" championed by Díaz Fernández and Arderius, and Ortega y Gasset's concept of "dehumanization of art." How does *Vida de Fermín Galán* exemplify the former?

**The Genre of "Political Biography":**

How does this work blend elements of biography, history, and novel? How do the authors manage to maintain "veracidad de la observación y de los hechos" while also writing with the "voluntad libérrima del artista"?

**Fermín Galán as an Emblematic Figure:**

Analyze how Galán's life and death are presented as symbolic of a generation's ideals. How does his story contribute to the myth-making of the Second Republic?

**The Moroccan War in Galán's Consciousness:**

Discuss the role of Galán's military experiences in Morocco in shaping his political consciousness and his critique of the established order.

**Madrid and Conspiracies:**

How does the book portray Madrid as a center of political conspiracy and intellectual ferment during the Primo de Rivera dictatorship? What role did the "literatura de avanzada" group play in this environment?

**The Jaca Uprising and Its Legacy:**

Discuss the events of the Jaca uprising and its impact. How does the book portray Galán's decision-making and his relationship with the broader republican movement?

**Thematic Foreshadowing:**

How do the authors use dialogue and narration to foreshadow Galán's eventual martyrdom and its impact on the coming of the Republic?

**Memory and History:**

The introduction highlights the deliberate erasure of Galán's memory during Francoism and its later rediscovery. How does the book itself contribute to keeping this memory alive?

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## PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Díaz Fernández, José & Arderius, Joaquín. *Vida de Fermín Galán (Biografía política)*. Stockcero.
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- Sánchez Lanasca, Sergio. *Mujeres. Migración a la modernidad*. 2020.
- Tuñón de Lara, Manuel. *La España del siglo XX*. Laia, 1980.

## PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

### 1. Who are the co-authors of *Vida de Fermín Galán (Biografía política)*?

- A) Ramón J. Sender & Borja Rodríguez-Gutiérrez
- B) José Díaz Fernández & Joaquín Arderius
- C) Fermín Galán & José Díaz Fernández
- D) Joaquín Arderius & Ramón J. Sender

Correct Answer: B

### 2. What literary movement are the authors associated with, advocating for a "rehumanization of art"?

- A) Surrealism
- B) Ultraísmo
- C) Literatura de Avanzada (New Romanticism)
- D) Modernismo

Correct Answer: C

### 3. Fermín Galán became an emblematic figure due to his role in which event?

- A) The Disaster of Annual.
- B) The Asturian Revolution of 1934.
- C) The Jaca uprising against the monarchy in 1930.
- D) The Spanish Civil War.

Correct Answer: C

### 4. The book is described as a "political biography." How does it blend history with literary elements?

- A) By presenting only factual documents.
- B) By using a novelistic style, character development, and dialogue.
- C) By ignoring historical facts for pure fiction.
- D) By focusing solely on military strategies.

Correct Answer: B

### 5. What is the symbolic significance of Galán's execution, as highlighted by the book and subsequent popular memory?

- A) It was a minor political incident.
- B) It was the final defeat of the Republic.
- C) His blood became a catalyst for the proclamation of the Second Republic.
- D) It confirmed the strength of the dictatorship.

Correct Answer: C

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). Browse Collection:

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