

RECOVERING FORGOTTEN *Remembrance:*

Deportees, Victims and Women Protagonists
of European Remembrance



REFORE
network
Recovering the forgotten remembrance

INDEX

- Introduction 3
- Protagonists of European Memory from France 6
- Protagonists of European Memory from Italy 17
- Protagonists of European Memory from Portugal 28
- Protagonists of European Memory from Spain39

- Protagonists of European memory in the native languages of each partner organisation within the REFORE Network.....64

- Protagonists of European Memory from France _French version 65
- Protagonists of European Memory from Italy _Italian version 75
- Protagonists of European Memory from Portugal _Portuguese version... 85
- Protagonists of European Memory from Spain (Catalonia & León) (Spain) _Catalan and Spanish version95

- TEACHING GUIDE AND TEACHING UNITS 119

INTRODUCTION

“Recovering Forgotten Remembrance: Deportees, Victims and Women Protagonists of European Remembrance” is part of the **REFORE: Youth Network for Recovering the Forgotten Remembrance** project, co-funded by the European Union through the CERV programme. It has been created as an educational tool for formal, non-formal, and informal learning environments, particularly aimed at raising awareness among young people about European historical remembrance. It can also be used by educators as a pedagogical and teaching resource in the areas of history, human rights, democracy, European values, and gender equality. This material represents a valuable educational resource to learn about and disseminate European historical remembrance, with the goal of making the stories of deportees to Nazi concentration camps and victims of totalitarian regimes visible, as well as recognising the role of women protagonists in the construction and preservation of European remembrance.

The REFORE project aims to create a transnational European network that fosters a common culture of remembrance and mutual understanding among citizens from different European countries. This network seeks to value testimonies, individuals, places, and forgotten events, promoting European remembrance as an essential part of democracy and human rights. The project also places special emphasis on the role of women in European historical memory, aiming to counteract gender imbalances in historical narratives and ensure that women’s voices are recognised and disseminated.

The general objectives of the project include:

- Fostering a common European culture of remembrance and mutual understanding, particularly among young people.
- Developing coordinated educational and research activities at local and transnational levels to recover forgotten European memory.
- Creating educational and dissemination tools that highlight the European Union as a space of peace, justice, human rights, and democracy.
- Generating spaces for reflection to combat hate speech, distortion, and the forgetting of the Holocaust and victims of totalitarian regimes in Europe.
- Valuing women protagonists of European historical remembrance, contributing to a more balanced gender representation in historical narratives.



Co-funded by
the European Union

This educational and awareness-raising material has been created by the activist groups for forgotten historical remembrance in each partner organisation of the REFORE project. Each local group of activists was mainly composed of young people, thereby fostering their commitment to remembrance and education about crimes committed under totalitarian regimes. Each group, accompanied by educators and historical memory experts, carried out a research and study process on local realities concerning the victims of totalitarian regimes and the role of women in historical memory within each community.

Through this material, a European and transnational perspective of the Holocaust is offered, highlighting the experiences of people from France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. Additionally, the project emphasises the role of women in historical remembrance, helping to address the gender imbalance that still exists in European historical narratives. The research and documentation of the lives of these women and deportees not only reconstructs history but also creates spaces for critical reflection, promoting civic awareness and combating hate speech, distortion, and forgetting of these tragedies.

Among the actions promoted as part of the project and the process of producing this educational material are:

- Research on deportees to Nazi concentration camps, with the aim of making their stories known and raising awareness of remembrance initiatives such as the Stolpersteine project.
- Research and dissemination of women protagonists of European historical remembrance, recognising their contribution and highlighting their experiences in each REFORE participating country.
- Raising awareness among society and public administrations on the importance of protecting European remembrance as a key tool to strengthen democracy and shared European values.

This document therefore constitutes an educational and pedagogical tool that allows engagement with historical remembrance from a critical, inclusive, and European perspective. By giving voice to those who suffered persecution and to the women who were protagonists of remembrance, it reinforces the importance of human rights education, gender equality, and the preservation of historical memory as a common European heritage.





REFORE **network**

Recovering the forgotten remembrance

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY FROM FRANCE

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE



Rennes between 1940 and 1943:

Rennes was occupied by the Wehrmacht on 18 June 1940, at the time of the collapse of the French army, and became an important administrative and military centre. A climate of repression reigned there: censorship, curfews and restrictions. The population lived under close surveillance. From 1940-41, Resistance networks began to form, printing leaflets and organising escape routes. The German authorities and French police hunted down Resistance networks and Jewish refugees in Rennes. Arrests and deportations began in 1941.

ALBERT GORGIARD

- **Date of birth: February 22 ,1894**
- **Occupation: Deputy director of an agricultural cooperative**
- **French**

Biography

Originally from Betton in Rennes, Albert Gorgiard trained in industrial design from the age of 12 and worked in decoration workshops. He perfected his skills in art and industrial design by taking evening classes. In 1914, he was deemed unfit for service by the Draft Board and did not go to the front with his class, but returned to the Rennes arsenal where he spent the war checking shells.

During the occupation, he became deputy director of an agricultural cooperative. He joined the Resistance by engraving fake French and German stamps, which he used to make fake identity cards, fake demobilisation certificates and fake Ausweis (German identity papers). Hundreds of fake papers were ordered from him by his boss Victor Louviot because he was a member of Libération Nord and the Bordeaux Loupiac Network. Demand was high: young people refusing compulsory labour service joining the maquis, fugitives on their way to London or Algiers, downed American airmen, prisoners of the French Union and Commonwealth soldiers held in camps in Rennes longing to return to combat. Albert Gorgiard was arrested by the Gestapo, imprisoned at Jacques-Cartier Prison and deported to Nazi camps in Germany. He died on 24 April 1945 at the Wöbbelin camp (Germany). In his memory, a square in Rennes bears his name in tribute to his commitment, and he is listed among those deported who were born in Ille-et-Vilaine.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE



More information

Simone Veil wrote numerous books recounting her life, in which she describes her childhood, the war, her arrest, and her deportation to Auschwitz-Birkenau, including:

- Une vie (2007)
- Une jeunesse au temps de la Shoah
- Discours 2002-2007
- Pour les générations futures (2024)

SIMONE VEIL

- **Date of birth: July 13, 1927**
 - **Occupation: Politician, Holocaust survivor and icon of women's rights**
 - **French Jewish**
- ## Biography

OSimone Veil came from a secular Jewish family. She was arrested at the age of 16 by the Gestapo and deported with her family on 13 April 1944 on convoy no. 71 to the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. She lost her father, brother and mother there. She and her sister survived and were liberated in 1945. She returned forever marked by this experience and remained a witness to the Holocaust. After the war, she resumed her studies and became a magistrate. She worked in the prison administration and the Ministry of Justice, committed to improving prison conditions. From 1974 to 1979, she served as Minister of Health under Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. She fought to defend the law legalising abortion in 1975, which was passed despite fierce opposition. From 1979 to 1982, she was the first elected President of the European Parliament, working for European integration and the defence of human rights. She was a member of the Constitutional Council from 1998 to 2007 and was elected to the Académie Française in 2008. A leading voice in the memory of the Holocaust and the fight for women's rights, on 1 July 2018 her ashes were transferred to the Panthéon, where she rests among the great figures of French history.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE



More information

After the war, Yvette Lévi devoted her life to bearing witness. She regularly visits schools, memorial associations and memorial trips to Poland to recount the horrors of the Holocaust and pass on her experience to younger generations. She was awarded the Legion of Honour for her commitment and her role in passing on the memory of the Holocaust. She is also recognised as a leading witness to deportation in France

YVETTE LÉVI

- **Date of birth: June 21, 1926**
- **Occupation: Witness and activist for Holocaust remembrance**
- **French Jewish**

Biography

Yvette Henriette Lévy was born Dreyfuss into an Alsatian Jewish family. She grew up in a context marked by rising anti-Semitism in Europe. During the Occupation, her family was directly targeted by the anti-Semitic laws of Vichy and by Nazi persecution. At a very young age, she joined a resistance network and participated in clandestine actions to help hide and protect Jewish families, and contributed to liaison and message delivery missions. She and her brother were members of the Éclaireurs Israélites de France (Israeli Scouts of France). They went from house to house to identify children whose parents had been arrested and who had nothing to eat or drink. The neutral Girl Scouts, i.e. those without religious affiliation, took them to the free zone near Dijon to live with single women who were willing to look after them. On 21 July 1944, she was arrested by the German authorities along with her 26 comrades and sent to the Drancy camp. Ten days later, she was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau on convoy no. 77. She was then taken to a camp in Kratzau. On 9 May 1945, the camp was liberated by the Russians.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE



More information

She has written accounts such as *Retour à Birkenau* (Return to Birkenau) and *Une vie heureuse* (A Happy Life) with Marion Ruggieri. She has received numerous honours, including: Knight of the Legion of Honour, Commander of the National Order of Merit, Academic Palms and Arts and Letters.

She is one of the participants in the documentary *La Case du siècle: Les Filles de Birkenau* (2024).

GINETTE KOLINKA

- **Date of birth: February 4, 1925**
- **Occupation: witness and author committed to preserving the memory of the Holocaust**
- **French Jewish**

Biography

Ginette was born Cherkasky into an atheist Jewish family. On 13 March 1944, at the age of nineteen, she was arrested with her father, Léon Cherkasky, her twelve-year-old brother, Gilbert Cherkasky, and her fourteen-year-old nephew, Georges Marcou, by the Gestapo following a denunciation. Imprisoned first in Avignon and then in Les Baumettes, the family was subsequently interned at the Drancy camp. On 13 April 1944, the family was deported on convoy no. 71 to the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. When the train arrived, her father and brother were gassed. Ginette, meanwhile, was selected for work and sent to the women's camp. From October 1944 to April 1945, she was detained in the Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt camps. She worked in an aircraft parts factory at the Bergen-Belsen camp. In May 1945, she was transferred to another camp, which was liberated by the Allies upon her arrival. She was then repatriated to Lyon, before travelling to Paris on 6 June 1945, where she was reunited with her mother and four of her five sisters. Upon her return in 1945 and until 2000, she led a quiet life, rarely speaking publicly about her deportation. In the 2000s, she began giving talks in schools to educate young people about the Holocaust.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE



ANNE-MARIE VAN OOST

- **Date of birth: October 20, 1923**
- **Occupation: involved with the Belgian Red Cross**
- **Belgian**

Biography

Anne-Marie van Oost is known as Lily de Gerlache. Born into a wealthy family, she grew up in an environment that valued commitment and was marked by a strong social and patriotic conscience. Inspired by her mother, a former nurse during the First World War, Lily became involved in humanitarian work at a very early age. In 1940, she joined the Belgian Red Cross as a telephone operator. In 1942, she became an assistant in the camps of the Aide aux Enfants de Prisonniers (AEP), then an ambulance driver for the Red Cross. She joined the Secret Army (AS) in June 1944, under the command of General Jules Pire. She was a courier in Flanders, transporting information and support to the resistance networks. In July 1944, she was arrested in Brussels by the Gestapo and imprisoned in Ghent, then deported to Ravensbrück camp on 3 September 1944. She was initially assigned to physical labour (roads, forests, etc.), then, thanks to her experience as a paramedic, she was transferred in November 1944 to Block 11 as a nursing assistant. She was placed under the authority of Dr. Adélaïde Hautval, who looked after her and saved her life on several occasions. On 23 April 1945, her name appeared on a list of prisoners evacuated by the Swedish Red Cross as part of the 'white bus' operation.

More information

After the war, Lily Gerlache testified about the conditions at Ravensbrück and the solidarity among women that saved her life. She is deeply committed to preserving the memory of the Resistance and deportation, particularly that of women. Lily Gerlache is one of many Belgian women resistance fighters who were deported, whose story illustrates both the brutality of Nazi repression and the strength of sisterhood among prisoners. She published *Le Faux Silence* (1974), an account of her captivity and her experience at Ravensbrück.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE



More information

During World War II, Brittany was occupied by German troops as early as 1940, becoming a strategically important area for the occupying forces. The region experienced requisitions, police surveillance, and repression. Despite this, many Bretons joined the Resistance, particularly in rural and coastal areas. Brittany was also marked by the presence of prisoner-of-war camps and the forced conscription of young men through the Compulsory Work Service (CWS).

GERMAINE QUONIAM

- **Date of birth: August 3, 1907**
- **Occupation: Nurse**
- **French**

Biography

Germaine Quoniam was a member of the French Resistance from Dinan, in Brittany. A nurse from the beginning of the war, she refused to accept the defeat of 1940 and quickly joined the Resistance. In Dinan, she played a central role in helping African prisoners of war held at Frontstalag 133, a camp set up by the Germans in the town. Alongside her father, Charles Quoniam, a former soldier, she joined the local Committee for Prisoner Assistance, which served as a cover for clandestine operations.

Germaine organized prisoner escapes by providing them with false identity papers and hiding them in the surrounding region. She also helped young men evading the compulsory labor service (CWS), as well as downed Allied airmen, discreetly arranging for their evacuation. Her actions took place in a town under tight German surveillance, where collaboration and denunciation made any resistance activity extremely dangerous.

Known for her composure and discretion, she became a key figure in the Dinan Resistance. Threatened with arrest, she left Dinan to join the Free French Forces abroad. After the war, she returned regularly to Dinan, where she was honored by veterans. Her memory remains strong in the town, as she symbolizes the local courage shown in the face of the occupiers.

Her commitment in Dinan illustrates how ordinary citizens carried out extraordinary acts in the name of freedom.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Source: Based on the book 'Des femmes et des hommes plongés dans la guerre' (Women and Men Immersed in War) by Gilles Bourrien

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE



More information

During World War II, Brittany was occupied by the Germans, who established strategic military bases in the region. The population endured rationing, repression, and the Compulsory Work Service (CWS). In response, many Bretons, including Désiré and Marie Guichard, joined the Resistance to fight the occupation. The region played an important role in the battles leading up to its Liberation in 1944.

DÉSIRÉ ET MARIE GUICHARD

- **Date of birth: May 17, 1923– August 1 1924**
- **Occupation: Artisan**
- **French**

Biography

During World War II, Désiré Guichard, a resident of Dinan, was actively involved in the Breton Resistance. Deeply engaged in local networks, he took part in actions against the Nazi occupiers despite the constant dangers posed by German repression. One of the most notable events in his commitment was his involvement, on April 12, 1944, in organizing a daring escape: two resistance fighters imprisoned in Dinan managed to flee thanks to Désiré's help and the complicity of some members of the local police. However, this bold operation triggered a violent wave of repression in the region.

In May 1944, several resistance members from Dinan were arrested, tortured, and transferred to Rennes. On May 30, nine of them were sentenced to death and executed the following day. This tragedy deeply affected the local population.

Marie Guichard, meanwhile, played an essential but more discreet role. She supported the Resistance networks by sheltering fugitives, transmitting messages, and assisting with logistics –like many women of the time, often without official recognition.

The couple operated in a climate of big tension during a period when denunciations, arrests, and searches were frequent in Dinan. Despite the risks, they continued their commitment until the Liberation. Their courage and dedication are now part of the local memory of the Resistance. Through their actions, Désiré and Marie Guichard embody the silent but determined struggle of many Bretons against the German occupation.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Source: Based on the book 'Des femmes et des hommes plongés dans la guerre' (Women and Men Immersed in War) by Gilles Bourrien

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE



MARIE-LOUISE LILY CHARPENTIER

- **Date of birth: November 26, 1905**
- **Occupation: Social worker**
- **French**

Biography

Marie-Louise was a social worker at the office providing assistance to families of prisoners of war. She helped the Engelstein family, who left Poland to settle in Metz. When the city was annexed by the Germans in 1940, they were taken to Rennes. In 1943, Gestapo agents broke into their home and arrested Fishel Engelstein and his daughter-in-law Béatrice. Threatened with arrest and not knowing what to do about her two grandchildren, Mrs Engelstein went to the office providing assistance to families of prisoners of war, which supported the Resistance, where she met Marie-Louise Charpentier. Marie-Louise accompanied her to collect the children and took them to a friend's farm, where they would stay temporarily. For a month, Marie-Louise's brother and two friends brought them food, while she looked for a safer and more permanent hiding place for them. She then decided to send them to friends who were active in the Resistance in Paris, who would later help them get to relatives in the south of France. Marie-Louise received a telegram saying 'the five rabbits have arrived safely,' signalling the success of the operation. Marie-Louise was recognised by the International Institute for the Remembrance of the Shoah Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations on 15 May 1990.

Rennes between 1940 and 1943

Rennes was occupied by the Wehrmacht on 18 June 1940, at the time of the collapse of the French army, and became an important administrative and military centre. A climate of repression reigned there: censorship, curfews and restrictions. The population lived under close surveillance. From 1940-41, Resistance networks began to form, printing leaflets and organising escape routes. The German authorities and French police hunted down Resistance networks and Jewish refugees in Rennes. Arrests and deportations began in 1941.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE



GENEVIÈVE DE GAULLE-ANTHONIOZ

- **Date of birth: October 25, 1920**
- **Occupation: Resistance fighter and human rights activist**
- **French**

Biography

Niece of General de Gaulle, Geneviève De Gaulle-Anthonioz was a literature student in Rennes in 1940. The arrival of the Germans in June 1940 had a profound effect on her. She left Rennes to join her family in Paris. She was active in the Resistance movement *Défense de la France*, producing and distributing an underground newspaper. Her role consisted of distributing leaflets and newspapers, liaising between Resistance members, and sometimes carrying messages or equipment. In July 1943, she was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned in Fresnes, then deported to Ravensbrück, a concentration camp for women in Germany. She was liberated in April 1945.

After the war, she campaigned to preserve the memory of the deportations and became involved in the fight against poverty, serving as president of *ATD Quart Monde* from 1964 to 1998. She also fought for dignity and helped to raise awareness of extreme poverty as a violation of human rights, inspiring numerous social initiatives in France and abroad. She published a memoir entitled *La traversée de la nuit* (1998), in which she recounts her experience as a deportee. She received numerous honours: Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, Resistance medals, and foreign decorations. In 2015, 13 years after his death, his ashes were transferred to the Pantheon in Paris to honour his fight for human dignity.

Defence of France:

The movement was created in July 1941 in Paris by a group of students. Their main activity was to publish an underground newspaper, *Défense de la France*, to inform the population and counter the propaganda of Vichy and the Nazis. Initially, a few hundred copies were distributed, but this number quickly rose to more than 400,000 copies in 1944. The movement joined the French Forces of the Interior (FFI) and actively contributed to the Liberation of Paris.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context information

During the Second World War, Brittany was occupied by the German army. Ports and railway lines were heavily monitored, as the region was strategic. The population lived under strict control, facing shortages and constant fear. In the Resistance, women played an essential but often invisible role: as couriers, spies, or active fighters like Jeanne Bohec. Yet, they were rarely recognized and faced significant inequalities despite their commitment.

JEANNE BOHEC

- **16/02/1919 -11/01/2010**
- **Résistante**
- **French**

Biography

Jeanne Bohec (1919–2010) was a French resistance fighter of exceptional courage. Passionate about mathematics and an avid reader, she became interested at a young age in stories of women spies during the First World War. When France was invaded in 1940, she refused to remain passive. While many fled or resigned themselves, she made a bold decision for the time: alone, at just 21, she boarded a boat to England at the last minute, only hours before German soldiers arrived in Brest.

There, she joined the Resistance and trained in the use of explosives. One striking anecdote: she learned to make bombs using everyday products found in pharmacies, in order to bypass German controls. In 1944, she was parachuted back into France. She retrieved a bicycle from her parents in Brittany and travelled across the region to train resistance groups. Discreet but highly effective, she took part in sabotaging railway lines to slow down Nazi troops before the D-Day landings. This is how she earned her nickname: “the cyclist saboteur.”

Despite her bravery, she also faced sexism: at the end of the war, she was given fewer important missions than her male counterparts. After the war, she became a mathematics teacher, passing on her knowledge to younger generations.

Her story shows that anyone can act against injustice, even without weapons or a uniform. Today, as extremist and exclusionary ideas are re-emerging in Europe, her journey reminds us of one essential truth: democracy and freedom are fragile. Jeanne Bohec teaches us to remain vigilant, to take action at our own level, and never to let fear or indifference prevail

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY FROM ITALY

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



EUGENIO REALE

- **1905/1986**
- **Party Official**
- **Italiano**

Biografia

Born in Naples into a bourgeois family in 1905, from a young age he joined the anti-fascist movement and the Italian Communist Party (PCI), exposing himself to the regime's constraints. He was arrested and partly exiled. After 8 September 1943, he was arrested by the Nazi-fascists and deported to a German concentration camp as a political deportee. He endured deportation, which had profound consequences on his life.

In the postwar period, he was repatriated to Italy and took part in the creation of the new Republic. He served as a PCI leader, parliamentarian, and diplomat. His thought and opinions focused on issues such as democracy, peace, and human rights.

He was elected to the High Court of Justice in September 1944 and served in the National Assembly from 1945 to 1946. As Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, he later became ambassador to Warsaw in 1945, where he married Sulamita Kacyzne. He represented the Communist Party at the Cominform meeting and was elected to the Constituent Assembly for the PCI.

By the early 1950s, he had grown detached from the PCI and left in 1956 over its support for the Soviet invasion of Hungary, which led to his expulsion. He then moved toward socialism, co-founding *Corrispondenza socialista* in 1957 and opposing Togliatti. In the early 1960s, he reported on PCI-Soviet relations for the Office of Reserved Affairs under the code name "Gegé."

Context information

The internment camp of Le Vernet, located two kilometers from the village of Le Vernet (Ariège), was one of the main internment camps in France during World War II. Active from 1918 to 1945, it served different purposes throughout its existence. During the German occupation, along with the camp of Gurs, it functioned as a transit camp for thousands of Jews, who were then transferred to the Drancy camp before being deported to extermination camps in Poland. Later, the camp was used by the Allies as a prisoner-of-war camp.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context information

In September 1938, the Fascist racial laws were enacted in Italy to define Italians as belonging to the so-called "Aryan race," based on scientifically unfounded ideologies.

These laws were influenced by the Manifesto of Race, signed by ten scientists. As a result, many Jewish intellectuals and scientists were forced to leave Italy or were expelled from academic and professional life, including Enrico Fermi.

Between 1940 and 1943, internment camps were established and persecution intensified. After the armistice of 8 September 1943 and the creation of the Italian Social Republic, many Jews were arrested and deported, often via Fossoli, to extermination camps such as Auschwitz.

ENRICA CALABRESI

- **1891/1944**
- **Jewish zoologist and entomologist**
- **Italian**

Biography

Enrica Calabresi was a world-renowned Italian scientist and zoologist, specializing in entomology. After graduating in Natural Sciences in Florence in 1914, she focused her research on the study of beetles (Coleoptera), eventually becoming one of the foremost global experts on the Brentidae family.

From 1918 to 1921, she served as the secretary of the Italian Entomological Society, a prestigious role that was exceptionally rare for a woman at that time.

Academic Career: She held a professorship in Zoology and worked at the Universities of Florence and Pisa, where she also made significant contributions to agricultural entomology. Her scientific career was cut short in 1938 by the entry into force of the racial laws, which decreed her immediate expulsion from state academic institutions as a Jew. From 1938 to 1943, she continued her teaching activity at the Jewish school of Florence, guaranteeing education to the students expelled from the public system. On January 18, 1944, she was arrested by fascist militiamen in Florence. Taken to the Santa Maria Novella prison awaiting deportation toward the Auschwitz extermination camp, Enrica Calabresi decided to escape the forced transfer by ingesting zinc phosphide, a substance she carried with her specifically to avoid imprisonment in the concentration camps. She died during the night between the 19th and 20th of January 1944.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context information

Almost all Italian Jews who were deported were sent to Auschwitz. Of the 506 Jews sent to other camps, the largest group consisted of 396 individuals with French or British passports, who were transferred to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where many of them survived. This group included Jews deported from Libya to Italy in 1942.

Conditions were harsher for smaller groups classified as "political," who were deported from Italy to camps such as Buchenwald, Ravensbrück, and Flossenbürg.

ELISA SPRINGER

- **1918/2004**
- **Writer and lecturer**
- **Austrian naturalized Italian**

Biography

Elisa Springer (Vienna, 1918 – Matera, 2004) was an Austrian-born naturalized Italian writer and lecturer, known especially for having been a survivor of the Shoah and for having dedicated the last years of her life to bearing witness to the horror of the concentration camps.

Elisa was arrested in Milan in 1944, at 26 years old. She was deported first to Auschwitz, then to Bergen-Belsen and finally to Theresienstadt. She managed to survive the inhuman conditions of the camps until the liberation which occurred in May 1945.

Elisa moved to Italy, settling in Manduria (Apulia) and then in Matera (Basilicata). For over fifty years she chose not to tell anyone her experience, not even to her son Silvio. She covered the tattoo with bandages or long-sleeved clothes, trying to forget and to live a normal life.

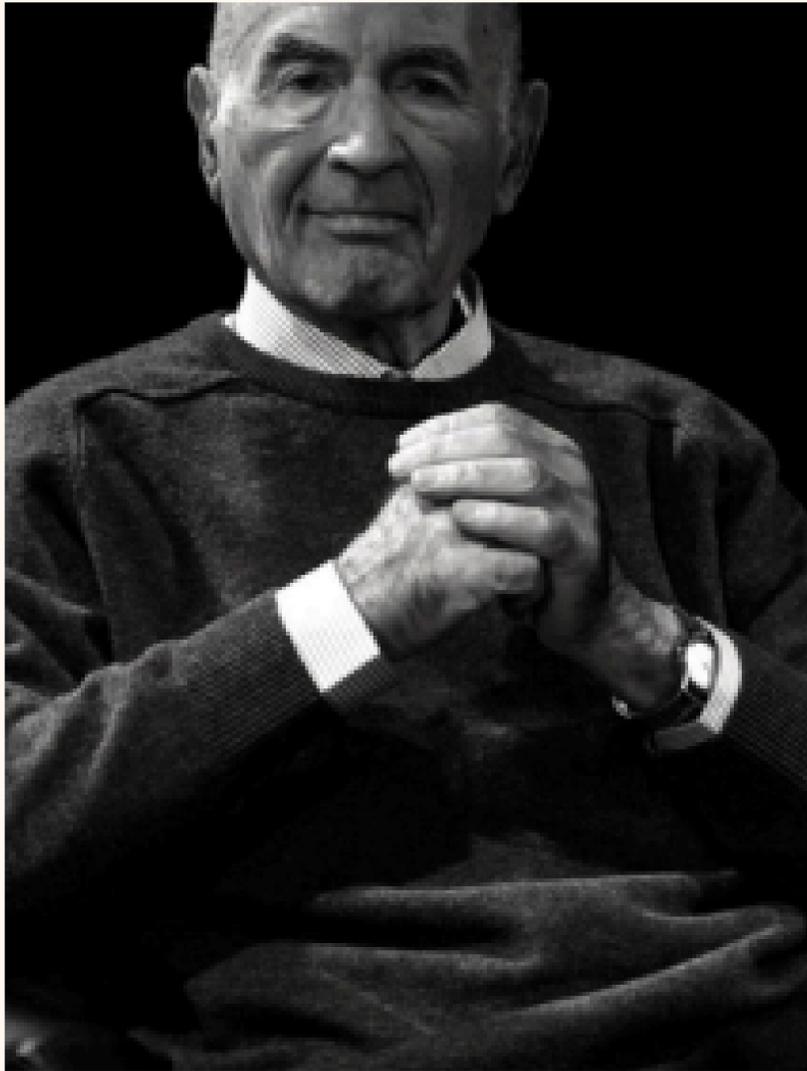
The turning point arrived towards the end of the '90s. Facing the resurgence of denialist movements and driven by the desire to leave a testimony to her son, she decided to break the silence. In 1997, she published her book of memoirs: 'The Silence of the Living'.

The book became a best-seller and a fundamental text in Italian schools.

It recounts with lucidity and pain not only the physical suffering, but the psychological humiliation suffered.

Civil Commitment Until her death, which occurred in 2004, Elisa Springer traveled tirelessly through Italy, meeting thousands of students. Her message was not of hatred or revenge, but of memory and education, so that the horror would never be repeated again.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



SAMI MODIANO

- **1930/ living**
- **Active witness of Shoah**
- **Italian**

Biography

Sami Modiano was born into a Sephardic Jewish family belonging to an ancient and deeply rooted community on the island. His father was a merchant, and Modiano's childhood was initially stable, but it was disrupted by anti-Jewish persecution and the Nazi occupation.

In July 1944, Sami Modiano was arrested on the island of Rhodes and deported together with his father to the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. He was only 14 years old. Upon arrival at the camp, he was tattooed with the registration number 181108, an indelible sign of the dehumanization he suffered. The deportation marked the definitive end of his family: none of his relatives survived, and Modiano remained the sole survivor.

Interned in the extermination camp, Modiano endured forced labor, hunger, violence, and constant selections. He witnessed the systematic extermination of groups deemed undesirable by the Nazis, recalling: "They numbered us at Birkenau, where they tore apart children, where they killed homosexuals, where they killed Roma, disabled children. I saw these things." He survived until the camp's liberation in January 1945, but the trauma remained, as he stated: "I haven't left Birkenau yet, I'm still there."

After liberation, he spent time in an orphanage, a common experience for young survivors who had lost their families. He later moved to Belgium and then to Italy, gradually rebuilding his life. His personal recovery coincided with a growing awareness of the importance of memory and the need to bear witness.

Context information

The 1938 enactment of Fascist anti-Jewish laws in Italy marked a major turning point, introducing restrictions that reflected deep-rooted antisemitism. A person was considered Jewish if born to Jewish parents or if they practiced Judaism, leading to widespread discrimination.

Key measures included bans on marriage between Italians and Jews, exclusion from public and some private employment, revocation of citizenship for certain foreign Jews, and limits on Jewish children's education. So-called "Aryanized" Jews were granted limited exceptions but still faced significant restrictions. All Jews were required to have their status recorded in civil registries.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context information

Nazi Germany conducted medical experiments on concentration camp prisoners mainly between 1942 and 1945, with 15,754 documented victims of various nationalities and ages, though the actual number is believed to be higher. About a quarter of these victims were killed, and survivors often suffered severe permanent injuries. At Auschwitz and other camps, under Eduard Wirths, selected inmates underwent experiments aimed at aiding German military personnel, developing new weapons, and advancing Nazi racial ideology and eugenics, including Josef Mengele's twin experiments. After the war, these crimes were prosecuted in the Doctors' Trial, leading to the creation of the Nuremberg Code of medical ethics.

ANDRA BUCCI TATIANA BUCCI

- **Andra: 1939/living; Tatiana: 1937/living**
- **Holocaust survivors**
- **Italian**

Biography

Andra Bucci was born in 1939 and Tatiana Bucci in 1937 in Fiume, a city that at the time was part of Italy (today Rijeka, Croatia). The two sisters belonged to a Jewish family and spent their early years in a context that would be deeply disrupted by racial laws and Nazi persecution during World War II.

In March 1944, Andra and Tatiana Bucci were arrested and deported with their family to the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, at ages four and six. The journey marked the start of a violent and dehumanizing experience, especially for children.

The sisters were confined in the Kinderblock, living under harsh conditions with wooden bunks, hunger, cold, and lack of medical care. Many children around them fell ill and died. They were used as human guinea pigs for pseudoscientific experiments by Nazi doctor Josef Mengele, subjected to painful tests without explanation. They survived because they were mistaken for twins, making them "useful" to the Nazis.

The bond between Andra and Tatiana was crucial for their survival, serving as a form of resistance in a place meant to destroy human relationships. After Auschwitz was liberated in 1945, the sisters survived the extermination. They spent some time in England, like many child survivors, before returning to Italy, where they began a long process of personal reconstruction and healing from their trauma.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



CARLA CAPPONI

- **1918/2000**
- **Party official**
- **Italian**

Biography

Born in Rome in 1918 into an anti-fascist family, she began her studies at the Visconti high school but left university following her father's death to dedicate herself to work. In 1943, she distinguished herself for her humanitarian efforts, assisting the wounded from the bombing of San Lorenzo and starting to frequent communist circles, where she met Rosario Bentivegna. After September 8, 1943, she joined the PCI (Italian Communist Party) and the "Carlo Pisacane" GAP (Patriotic Action Groups). She actively participated in armed actions against the Germans, standing out for her courage and personal initiative. On March 23, 1944, she helped organize the attack against the German company "Bozen." After the reprisal at the Fosse Ardeatine and a betrayal, she took refuge in the Roman countryside, where she served as a partisan vice-commander with the rank of captain. After the liberation of Rome, she married Rosario Bentivegna in 1944, and their daughter Elena was born in 1945. She received the Gold Medal for Military Valor for her commitment to the Resistance. In 1953, she was elected as a deputy for the PCI, and again in 1972, receiving significant electoral support. She divorced Bentivegna in 1974 but maintained friendly relations with him. In her later years, she published her memoirs "With a Woman's Heart" and was a member of the ANPI (National Association of Italian Partisans) presidency committee. Carla Capponi passed away in 2000. Her ashes, according to the wishes shared with Bentivegna, were scattered in the Tiber River in 2014, after the death of their daughter Elena, to honor the parents' wishes.

Context information

Active from the early stages of the war, when Italy was undergoing Allied bombings. Following the Italian armistice on September 8, 1943, Italy was split in half: the North and Center were occupied by Nazi troops and the puppet government of the Italian Social Republic was established, while the South remained monarchic and was the base for Allied forces, which would gradually advance further north. Partisan actions intensified progressively after '43, particularly involving the Central-Northern regions, until the end of the war.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context information

Iotti operated in the clandestine activities of the Resistance in Reggio Emilia within a context of Nazi occupation and fascist repression of the Italian Social Republic. Her role as a partisan courier was one of the most dangerous and crucial: she transported weapons, messages, flyers, and information between partisan formations, enabling the cohesion of the brigades and the organization of armed struggle, while exposing herself to the risk of capture, torture, and execution. In Milan, in '43, the Women's Defense Groups (GDD) were established, anti-fascist women's organizations coordinating activities in support of the Resistance (collecting food and assisting the families of deportees and partisans) while also becoming a vehicle for women's emancipation, freeing women from the roles of mothers and wives imposed by fascism.

NILDE IOTTI

- **1920/1999**
- **First female President of the Chamber of Deputies**
- **Italian**

Biography

Daughter of a socialist railway worker who was dismissed for political reasons, she grew up in difficult economic conditions. Orphaned of her father in 1934, she was able to continue her studies thanks to scholarships. She graduated in Literature from the Catholic University of Milan in 1942, having among her professors Amintore Fanfani. In 1942, she joined the National Fascist Party, a mandatory choice in order to teach in public schools. She worked as a teacher in the technical schools of the province of Reggio Emilia until 1946. After September 8, 1943, she became involved with the PCI (Italian Communist Party) and participated in the Resistance. She started as a courier and then joined the Women's Defense Groups, an anti-fascist women's organization, becoming a prominent figure within it. In 1946, she was elected to the municipal council of Reggio Emilia and shortly thereafter officially joined the PCI. In the same year, she was elected to the Constituent Assembly and was part of the Commission of 75, which drafted the Italian Constitution. A deputy from 1948 to 1999 without interruption, she focused primarily on women's rights and civil reforms. She was a key player in the battles for family law reform and for the introduction and defense of divorce (referendum of 1974). In 1979, she was elected President of the Chamber of Deputies with broad support. In her inaugural speech, she emphasized the value of women's emancipation and the importance of institutional impartiality. In November 1999, she resigned due to serious health problems and died on December 4 of the same year from cardiac arrest. She received civil state funerals, as per her wishes, and is buried in the Verano Cemetery in Rome.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



STEFANINA MORO

- **1927/1944**
- **Partisan courier**
- **Italian**

Biography

Originally from the Quezzi neighborhood of Genoa, during the liberation war she maintained communications between different partisan formations. At the age of 16, she was arrested and taken to the Casa del Fascio in Cornigliano and then to the Casa dello Studente on Corso Gastaldi. She was tortured—unsuccessfully—in an attempt to reveal the names of her comrades. She was later hospitalized in Asti, where she died on October 9, 1944, due to the torture she had endured.

Context information

The Italian liberation war was a complex of military operations and guerrilla actions conducted during the Italian campaign by the Allies, the Italian Co-belligerent Army, and the partisan brigades of the Italian resistance against Nazi Germany and the Italian Social Republic. The campaign concluded with the liberation of Italy from Nazi-fascist occupation.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



LIDIA MENAPACE

- **1924/1920**
- **Senator and writer**
- **Italian**

Biography

Lidia Menapace was one of the most significant figures in Italian anti-fascism and feminism. Born in Novara, she participated at a young age in the Resistance as a partisan courier under the battle name "Bruna," an experience that profoundly marked her entire life. After graduating from the Catholic University of Milan, she began a path of cultural and political engagement that led her to become one of the first women elected to the Provincial Council of Bolzano in the 1960s.

Over time, she moved from the Christian Democracy party to the left, becoming an authoritative voice for pacifism, anti-militarism, and women's rights. She was elected to the Senate of the Republic from 2006 to 2008 on the lists of the Communist Refoundation Party, distinguishing herself for her commitment against war and for the defense of constitutional values.

As a writer and essayist, she left numerous contributions on the relationship between politics, memory, and active citizenship. Her life represents an example of consistency, courage, and democratic participation, always guided by the idea that peace and equality are daily responsibilities of every citizen.

Context information

The FUCI (Italian Catholic University Federation) is a federation of groups of Catholic university students founded in 1896 in Fiesole and was the only alternative allowed by the Fascist Party, within the framework of university student organizations, to the Fascist University Groups. However, it soon became a target of fascist repression. Many of its members participated in the national liberation struggle and contributed to the drafting of the constitutional charter. The intellectuals of FUCI would later become many of the future Christian Democratic representatives of the leftist currents in the post-World War II period.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



ONORINA BRAMBILLA

- **1923/2011**
- **partesan**
- **Italian**

Biography

Born in Milan in 1923, she was an employee, president of the Association of Former Italian Political Persecuted Anti-Fascists in Milan, and head of the Women's Commission of ANPI. She passed away in Milan in 2011. On Thursday, December 7, 2006, she received the "Ambrogino d'oro," an award from the Municipality of Milan for distinguished citizens. This award recognized her lifelong commitment to keeping alive the memory of the Resistance and the Nazi extermination camps from which she had survived. On September 12, 1944, "Sandra," one of the most daring partisan couriers in Milan, was arrested by the fascist republicans after contributing to the strikes of 1943 and 1944. Despite being one of the Milanese leaders of the "Women's Defense Groups," a formation of the CLN that supported the partisan brigades, she never revealed any compromising information during the heavy interrogations. On November 11, after two months of imprisonment, she was transferred to the Bolzano-Gries concentration camp, where she remained until her liberation on April 29, 1945. During her imprisonment, she was identified with the registration number 6087. This experience of suffering and resistance was documented and shared in various conferences and debates, even in schools. In 2003, her contribution to the Resistance and historical memory was depicted in the film "Senza tregua" by Marco Pozzi, presented at the Venice Film Festival. Additionally, she participated in the making of the documentary "Il primo giorno - Milano, April 25, 1945," an important initiative that celebrated the Liberation of Milan.

Context information

The members of the Republican Fascist Party (PFR), known as "repubblichini," were the sole party of the Italian Social Republic, established on September 18, 1943, just a few days after Mussolini's liberation from prison by the Nazis as part of Operation Quercia. The founding of the party and the Italian Social Republic was part of the Nazi-fascist attempt to maintain control over Northern Italy. Anti-monarchists, they considered King Vittorio Emanuele III a traitor. Composed of extremist elements, the PFR sought to consolidate the fascist government and fight alongside Nazi Germany, adopting radical and violent measures against Jews, the Resistance, alleged traitors, and Freemasonry.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY FROM PORTUGAL

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context Information

Celeste Caeiro represents the participation of civil society in moments of political transformation. Her story is essential to understanding how the Carnation Revolution became a largely peaceful process, supported by the population. In the context of memory and human rights education, her figure helps illustrate that resistance is not only carried out by political leaders or activists, but also by everyday citizens whose actions can redefine history.

CELESTE CAEIRO

- **Date of birth/dead: 1933 – 2024**
- **Job: Restaurant worker**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

Celeste Caeiro became an iconic figure in Portuguese history due to her spontaneous and symbolic role in the Carnation Revolution on April 25, 1974. At the time, she was working in a restaurant in Lisbon that was supposed to celebrate its anniversary by offering flowers to customers. However, due to the unfolding military coup against the Estado Novo dictatorship, the restaurant closed, leaving many carnations unused.

On her way home, Celeste encountered soldiers occupying the streets and, in a simple act of kindness and curiosity, began handing out the flowers to them. The soldiers placed the carnations in the barrels of their rifles, transforming what could have been a violent uprising into a peaceful and symbolic revolution. This image quickly spread and became one of the most powerful representations of the end of dictatorship in Portugal.

Although she did not belong to any political movement or organized resistance group, Celeste's action captured the spirit of the revolution – collective, peaceful, and driven by the people. Her gesture highlights how ordinary individuals can become part of extraordinary historical moments.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context Information

Graça Marques Pinto represents the importance of youth participation and clandestine resistance during authoritarian regimes. Her experience helps us understand the hidden dimension of political struggle – the networks, risks, and sacrifices behind the visible outcomes of democratic change. She is also an example of how women played an active and often under-recognized role in political resistance movements.

GRAÇA MARQUES PINTO

- **Date of birth/dead: 1940 – (alive)**
- **Job: Teacher, activist**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

Graça Marques Pinto, known as Magaça, was a Portuguese teacher and activist deeply involved in the resistance against the Estado Novo dictatorship. As a young woman, she became engaged in political activism, particularly within student movements that opposed censorship, repression, and the lack of democratic freedoms in Portugal.

In 1969, she was arrested for distributing leaflets calling for a public demonstration to celebrate May 1st, International Workers' Day – a date that was prohibited by the regime due to its association with workers' rights and political mobilization. Her arrest reflects the strict control and repression exercised by the dictatorship over any form of public dissent. By 1973, Graça went underground, joining clandestine networks linked to the Portuguese Communist Party and supporting the leadership of the Union of Communist Students (UEC). Living in hiding required constant movement, secrecy, and personal sacrifice. During this period, she gave birth to her daughter while remaining in clandestinity, illustrating the profound personal impact of political resistance.

Her life story embodies the courage, resilience, and commitment of young activists who risked their freedom and safety to fight for democracy.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context Information

Cesina Bermudes represents the intersection between knowledge, activism, and social transformation. Her story highlights how professional fields such as medicine can also be spaces of resistance and advocacy. In the context of historical memory, she helps us reflect on the role of educated women in challenging both authoritarian regimes and patriarchal norms.

CESINA BERMUDES

- **Date of birth/dead: 1908 – 2001**
- **Job: Doctor, researcher, feminist**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

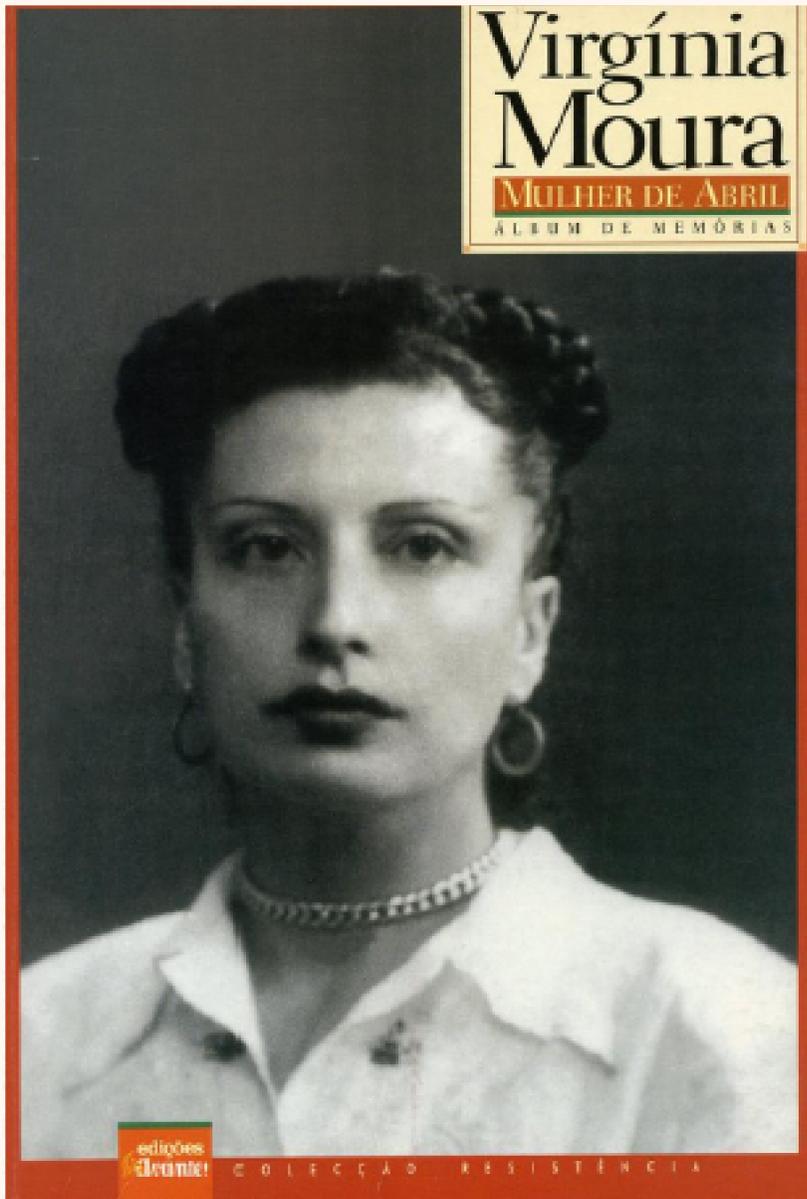
Cesina Bermudes was a pioneering Portuguese physician, obstetrician, researcher, and feminist, whose life combined scientific excellence with strong political and social commitment. At a time when women faced significant barriers in education and professional careers, she became one of the first women in Portugal to reach high academic achievement, obtaining a PhD in Medicine in 1947 – a remarkable accomplishment in a deeply patriarchal society.

Beyond her medical career, Cesina was actively involved in feminist and democratic movements. She played a role in organizations such as the National Democratic Women's Movement, which aimed to promote gender equality, social justice, and political participation. Her activism placed her in direct opposition to the Estado Novo regime, leading to her arrest and surveillance by the political police.

Cesina used both her scientific knowledge and her social engagement to advocate for women's rights, healthcare access, and broader social reforms. She understood that health, equality, and political freedom were deeply interconnected, and she dedicated her life to advancing these causes.

Her work and activism contributed to opening spaces for women in academia and public life, challenging both political repression and structural gender inequality.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context Information

Virgínia Moura represents the breaking of gender barriers in both professional and political spheres. Her story illustrates how women challenged not only authoritarian regimes but also deeply rooted social norms. In the context of memory work, she highlights the importance of recognizing women's contributions to resistance movements and democratic change.

VIRGINIA MOURA

- **Date of birth/dead: 1915 – 1998**
- **Job: Civil engineer, activist**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

Virgínia Moura was a Portuguese civil engineer and political activist who stood out both for her professional achievements and her resistance to the Estado Novo regime. She was one of the first women in Portugal to graduate in civil engineering, becoming only the second woman to enter this field – a significant milestone in a society where women were largely excluded from technical and scientific professions.

Alongside her professional career, Virgínia was deeply involved in political activism. As a member of the Portuguese Communist Party, she actively opposed the dictatorship and participated in efforts to mobilize resistance. Her political engagement led to repeated arrests – she was detained around 16 times – and constant surveillance by the political police (PIDE).

Despite the repression, Virgínia continued her activism, demonstrating remarkable resilience and determination. Her life reflects the challenges faced by women who not only entered male-dominated professions but also took on visible roles in political opposition.

She is remembered as both a pioneer in engineering and a committed activist who contributed to the broader struggle for democracy in Portugal.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context Information

Natália Correia represents the power of culture and intellectual resistance in confronting authoritarian regimes. Her work demonstrates how literature and artistic expression can challenge censorship, inspire critical thinking, and contribute to social transformation. She is a key figure in understanding the cultural dimension of resistance and the role of artists in defending democratic values.

NATALIA CORREIA

- **Date of birth/dead: 1923 – 1993**
- **Job: Writer, journalist, activist**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

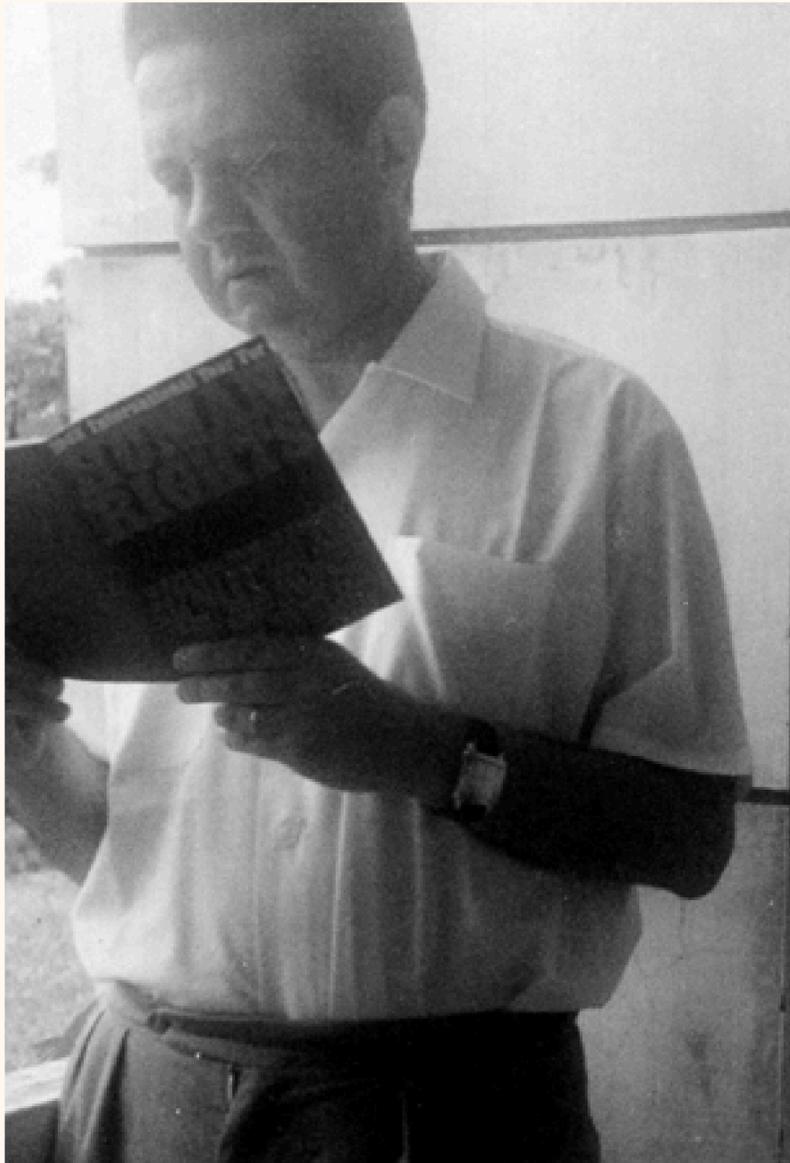
Natália Correia was a Portuguese intellectual, poet, writer, and political activist whose work and life were deeply connected to the fight for freedom and cultural expression. She became an influential figure in Portuguese cultural life, using literature, essays, and public debate as tools to challenge the Estado Novo regime.

Her writing often explored themes of identity, freedom, and social justice, and she was known for her bold and critical voice. Natália was actively involved in opposition movements and faced repression, including arrest, due to her political and cultural positions. Despite censorship, she continued to produce and promote work that questioned the dominant ideology of the regime.

She also contributed to Portuguese cultural heritage by writing the lyrics of the Azores regional anthem. After the Carnation Revolution, she remained an active public figure, participating in political life as a Member of Parliament and continuing to advocate for freedom of expression, human rights, and cultural development.

Natália Correia's legacy lies in her ability to combine artistic creativity with political resistance, making her one of the most important cultural figures of 20th-century Portugal.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



MÁRIO SOARES

- **Date of birth/dead: 1924 – 2017**
- **Job: Lawyer, politician**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

Mário Soares was a Portuguese lawyer and politician, widely regarded as one of the founding figures of modern democracy in Portugal. During the Estado Novo dictatorship led by António de Oliveira Salazar, he became a prominent opponent of the regime, defending political prisoners and advocating for civil liberties and democratic reforms. Because of his political activity, he was arrested multiple times and eventually forced into exile, living mainly in France, where he continued his political work and co-founded the Portuguese Socialist Party in 1973.

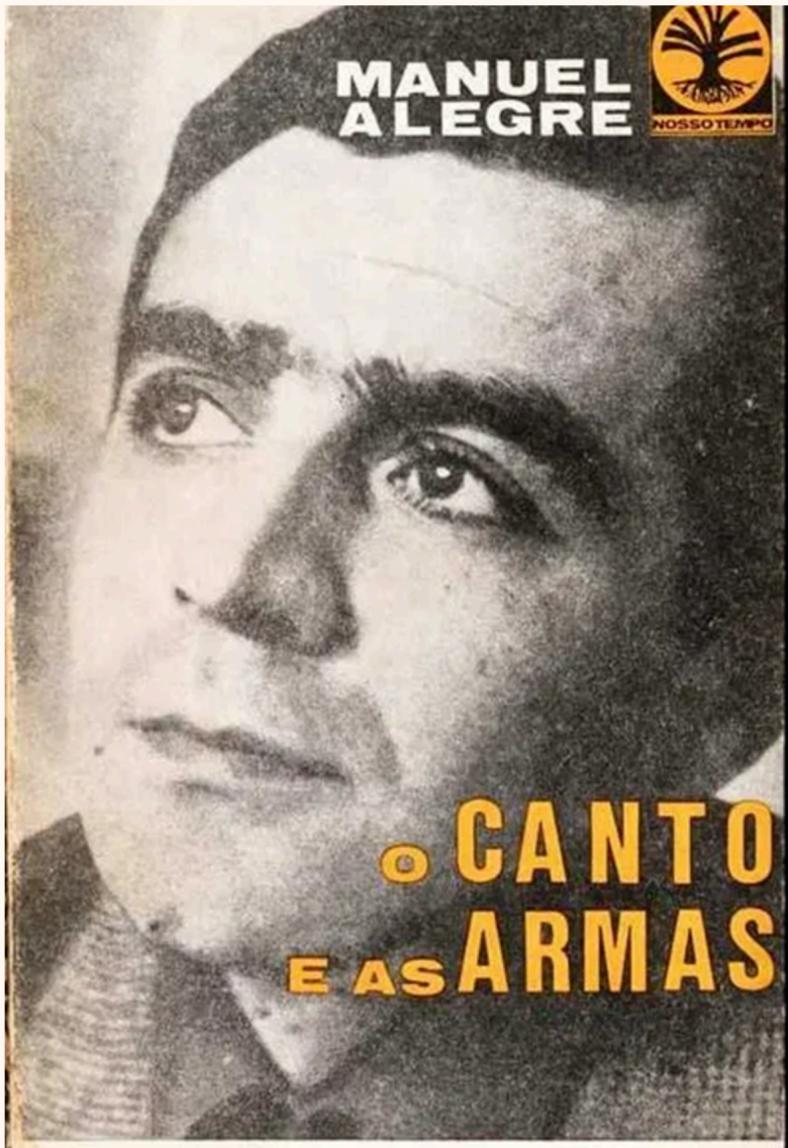
Following the Carnation Revolution of 25 April 1974, which ended nearly five decades of dictatorship, Soares returned to Portugal and played a central role in the country's democratic transition. He contributed to the establishment of democratic institutions and was actively involved in drafting the 1976 Constitution. He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs during the critical period of decolonization, later as Prime Minister in two different terms, and eventually as President of the Republic from 1986 to 1996, becoming the first civilian president elected after the revolution.

Throughout his life, Mário Soares remained a strong advocate for democracy, human rights, and European integration, helping position Portugal as an active member of the European community. He is remembered as a key figure in the peaceful transition from authoritarianism to democracy and as a symbol of political courage and commitment to freedom.

Context Information

Mário Soares represents the political transition from dictatorship to democracy in Portugal. His life reflects the struggle against authoritarianism and the construction of democratic institutions after 1974. He is also a symbol of European integration and the role of Portugal within a democratic Europe. His legacy is closely linked to human rights, freedom, and the consolidation of democratic values.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context Information

Manuel Alegre represents the connection between culture and political resistance. His work shows how literature and media can challenge authoritarian regimes and keep the spirit of freedom alive. He is a key example of how art and political activism can intersect in the fight for democracy.

MANUEL ALEGRE

- **Date of birth/dead: 1936 – (alive)**
- **Job: Poet, writer, politician**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

Manuel Alegre is a Portuguese poet, writer, and politician, widely recognized as a symbol of resistance against the Estado Novo dictatorship. He studied law at the University of Coimbra, where he became actively involved in student movements opposing the regime, particularly against censorship and the lack of political freedoms. His early activism led to his arrest and later to his forced exile after publicly criticizing the colonial wars while serving in the Portuguese army.

During his exile, mainly in Algeria and France, Alegre continued to resist the dictatorship through both political action and cultural production. He became an important voice of opposition through his writings and his participation in Rádio Voz da Liberdade, a radio station that broadcast messages against the regime and inspired hope among Portuguese citizens living under dictatorship. His poetry, deeply connected to themes of freedom, identity, and resistance, became a powerful tool for political expression and collective memory.

After the Carnation Revolution in 1974, Alegre returned to Portugal and became actively involved in democratic politics as a member of the Socialist Party. He served for many years as a Member of Parliament and later ran for President of the Republic in 2006 and 2011. Alongside his political career, he maintained a strong literary presence and was awarded the Camões Prize in 2017, one of the most prestigious awards in the Portuguese-speaking world.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context Information

Álvaro Cunhal represents the organized political resistance against the dictatorship, particularly through clandestine movements and long-term opposition structures. His life reflects the realities of repression, imprisonment, exile, and ideological struggle during the Estado Novo, as well as the complexities of the post-revolution political landscape.

ÁLVARO CUNHAL

- **Date of birth/dead: 1913 – 2005**
- **Job: Politician, writer**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

Álvaro Cunhal was a Portuguese politician, writer, and one of the most influential figures in 20th-century Portuguese history. He studied law at the University of Lisbon, where he became involved in left-wing student movements and joined the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) in the early 1930s. Due to his strong opposition to the Estado Novo dictatorship, Cunhal quickly became a central figure in the resistance against the regime. Throughout his life, Cunhal faced intense repression. He was arrested multiple times by the political police (PIDE) and spent more than 11 years in prison, including long periods in solitary confinement. In 1960, he carried out a famous escape from Peniche prison, which became a symbolic moment in the struggle against the dictatorship. After his escape, he lived in exile for several years, mainly in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, from where he continued to lead the PCP and coordinate resistance efforts. Following the Carnation Revolution in 1974, Cunhal returned to Portugal and took part in the provisional government as Minister without Portfolio. He played a significant role in shaping the political landscape of post-revolution Portugal and remained Secretary-General of the PCP until 1992. In addition to his political career, Cunhal was also a writer and artist, publishing novels and essays, sometimes under the pseudonym Manuel Tiago. He is remembered for his intellectual depth, political commitment, and lifelong dedication to his ideals.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context Information

Conceição Matos represents the lived experience of political repression under the dictatorship, particularly from a gender perspective. Her testimony highlights the role of women in resistance movements and the importance of preserving personal and collective memory to prevent the repetition of past injustices.

CONCEIÇÃO MATOS

- **Date of birth/dead: 1936 – (alive)**
- **Job: Political activist**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

Conceição Matos is a Portuguese political activist and former political prisoner, known for her role in the resistance against the Estado Novo dictatorship. Born in Grândola into a working-class family, she became politically active at a young age, joining the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) alongside her husband, Domingos Abrantes. Together, they participated in clandestine activities aimed at opposing the regime and defending democratic ideals.

Due to her involvement in resistance movements, Conceição Matos was arrested by the political police (PIDE) and subjected to imprisonment and torture. She spent several years in prison, where she endured harsh conditions, physical violence, and psychological pressure—experiences that reflect the broader reality faced by many political prisoners under the dictatorship. Her story is a powerful testimony of the repression exercised by the regime, particularly against women who actively challenged authoritarian power.

After the Carnation Revolution in 1974, she continued to play an important role in preserving historical memory. By sharing her experiences publicly, she has contributed to raising awareness about the injustices of the dictatorship and the importance of defending human rights. Today, she is recognized as a symbol of courage, resistance, and commitment to freedom, especially in the context of remembering political prisoners and their struggles.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Context Information

Maria Lamas represents the feminist struggle within the broader fight against dictatorship. Her work highlights how gender inequality was reinforced under authoritarian regimes and shows the importance of culture, journalism, and research in promoting social change and defending human rights.

MARIA LAMAS

- **Date of birth/dead: 1893 – 1983**
- **Job: Writer, journalist, activist**
- **Nationality: Portuguese**

Biography

Maria Lamas was a Portuguese writer, journalist, and feminist activist, widely recognized for her role in promoting women's rights and opposing the Estado Novo dictatorship. She began her career in journalism at a time when women's participation in public life was still very limited, quickly becoming an influential voice in Portuguese society. She worked as editor-in-chief of the magazine *Modas & Bordados*, where she transformed what was initially a traditional women's publication into a platform for discussing social issues, education, and women's emancipation.

Lamas became deeply involved in feminist and democratic movements, particularly through her leadership in the National Council of Portuguese Women. Her most notable work, *As Mulheres do Meu País* (1948), is a groundbreaking study that documents the lives, struggles, and conditions of women across Portugal, giving visibility to realities often ignored by society and the regime. Through her writing, she denounced inequality, poverty, and the lack of rights experienced by many women.

Due to her political and social activism, Maria Lamas was persecuted by the dictatorship. She was arrested by PIDE and later forced into exile in France, where she continued her work in defense of freedom and human rights. After the Carnation Revolution in 1974, she returned to Portugal, where her contributions were finally recognized. She remains an important figure in Portuguese history, representing the intersection of feminism, culture, and resistance against authoritarianism.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY FROM SPAIN

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



The Civil War in Terrassa

During the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), Terrassa underwent a profound social transformation. The city remained under Republican control and was strongly influenced by the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT), an anarchist trade union founded in Spain in 1910, as well as other workers' organizations. Factories were collectivized, social services were created, and the city council was restructured with the participation of trade unions. Women, such as Quitèria Tarragó Casellas, assumed prominent political roles. This entire process was brought to an end with the arrival of Francoist troops in 1939, marking the end of the revolutionary experience and the beginning of repression.

QUITÈRIA TARRAGÓ CASELLAS

- **23/06/1896 – 1980**
- **Textile worker, 1st Woman City Councillor of Terrassa**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Quitèria Tarragó Casellas was born in 1896 in Sant Gallard (in the Conca de Barberà region). The youngest of five siblings, she grew up in a modest family. Her family later moved to Sabadell, where she began working in the textile industry while continuing her studies to become a midwife. In 1925, she settled in Terrassa, where she was hired at the Maternity Hospital. At that time, she joined the Official College of Midwives and became affiliated with the UGT (General Union of Workers). A committed activist, she defended progressive ideals and was actively involved in trade union and political struggles. Close to republican and anarcho-syndicalist movements, she took part in initiatives aimed at improving working conditions, defending women's rights, and ensuring that women could give birth under optimal hygienic conditions.

During the Spanish Civil War, on July 9, 1937, she became the first woman elected as a city councillor in the Terrassa City Council, serving as Councillor for Culture and Social Action. Her election marked an important milestone in the inclusion of women in politics during the Second Spanish Republic.

After the Republican defeat, she was reported for her political and trade union activities. Accused of "military rebellion," she was sentenced to twelve years in prison. She was imprisoned in Terrassa and later in the Les Corts women's prison, until she was granted conditional release in February 1944. Upon her release, she was forced into exile and forbidden from returning to Terrassa. Gradually, she disappeared from public life, and it is believed that she settled in Valencia before later opening a practice in Barcelona. Quitèria Tarragó Casellas died in 1980, leaving behind a legacy of struggle for social justice and women's rights.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Her term as city councillor

Teresa served as a city councillor in the Terrassa City Council in 1938, during the Civil War, at a time when trade unions and popular organizations were taking on governing responsibilities. Committed to libertarian and feminist values, she worked particularly in the areas of healthcare, maternity, and social welfare. She promoted the reorganization of the Terrassa Maternity Hospital, defended the rights of working mothers, and supported secular and emancipatory education. She also took part in the creation of basic services for the working-class population. Her work was cut short with the arrival of Francoist troops in January 1939, which forced her into exile. Despite her short time in office, her political action represents a transformative experience centered on social justice and women.

TERESA TORRELLES ESPINA

- **27/05/1908 - 18/05/1991**
- **Textile Worker, 2nd Woman City Councillor of Terrassa**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Teresa Torrelles Espina, known as "Teresina," was born into a family of Catalan peasants forced into exile to the textile colonies. In 1914, she settled in Esparreguera with her family, where she developed an early political and social awareness. A devoted reader and self-taught, her class consciousness emerged at a very young age, and her critical spirit turned her into a rebellious young woman with avant-garde ideas that were uncommon at the time. At the age of sixteen, she joined the libertarian movement in the city and met Joan Graells Llopart, who would become her life partner and comrade in struggle until his death in October 1938 on the Ebro front.

An anarchist and feminist activist, she became involved in Terrassa in the organization of working women and in the Cultural and Cooperative Mutual Society, advocating for equal pay, maternity leave, and free education. She promoted a scientific, democratic, and high-quality education aimed at forming critical and independent minds. In 1936, she took part in the founding of the Mujeres Libres (Free Women) movement, and in 1938 she was elected as a city councillor in Terrassa, becoming the second woman ever to hold this position.

After the Francoist victory, she went into exile in France with her daughter and later lived in Argentina and Venezuela, where she continued her trade union activism. She returned to France in 1966 and died in Béziers in 1991. Her struggle for the emancipation of women and workers remains a fundamental legacy of the anarchist movement.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



MARIA BIGORDÀ MONTMANY

- **21/09/1916 – 08/09/2009**
- **Weaver**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Maria Bigordà Montmany was born in 1916 in Ullastrell, into a modest farming family. From the age of six, she helped her parents in the fields. Although she could not attend school, she learned to read at home thanks to the book *La Terra* from the newspaper of the Rabassaires' Union. Her father, a member of the Republican Left of Catalonia, took her from a very young age to the political meetings he attended.

At the age of 15, she found work in a textile factory and also worked as a maid at the same time. Influenced by anarchist and trade unionist ideas, she became involved in defending workers' and women's rights, actively participating in social struggles.

At 16, Maria married Josep Portero Serrano, a 29 year old weaver. The couple had two daughters, but their marriage was marked by domestic violence, which Maria reported without success. After the birth of their second daughter, they separated, leaving her in a precarious situation. Her youngest daughter died due to lack of medical care.

In 1939, after the war, Maria was reported for her political and trade union activities. Accused of "military rebellion," she was sentenced to 12 years in prison and jailed in Terrassa, and later in Les Corts, where she lived alongside communist militants and strengthened her political awareness.

Released under conditions in 1941, she was forced into exile in Madrid before returning to Ullastrell in 1942 to live with her parents under surveillance.

In 1953, Maria resumed her work as a weaver and committed herself to union struggles, supporting the Workers' Commissions (CCOO) and participating in clandestine meetings. After her retirement in 1976, she officially joined the Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (PSUC). Maria died on September 8, 2009, at the age of 92, leaving a legacy of struggle for workers' rights and social justice.

Textile Industry in Catalonia

The textile industry was one of the most important economic drivers in Catalonia during the 20th century. It was characterized by highly diversified production, including cotton, wool, and synthetic fibers. Factories were large workplaces, often with difficult working conditions, especially for women, who made up a significant part of the workforce.

The textile sector was also a center of trade union and political activity. Many labor movements and struggles to improve workers' rights emerged from this field. During the Civil War, many textile factories were collectivized and managed directly by workers, reflecting the social revolution taking place in Catalonia at the time.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



MARINA GINESTÀ I COLOMA

- **29/01/1919 – 06/01/2014**
- **Journalist, Translator**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Marina Ginestà i Coloma was born in Toulouse into a Catalan working-class family committed to trade union struggles. She grew up in Barcelona after her parents returned to Catalonia. From a very young age, she was influenced by the communist and anarcho-syndicalist ideals that shaped the Catalan working-class society of the time. At the age of 17, when the Civil War broke out in July 1936, she became actively involved on the Republican side and joined the Communist Party of Spain (PCE). Although she was not a frontline combatant, Marina Ginestà played an important role as a journalist and translator, facilitating communication between Spanish anti-fascist forces and their international allies. She also took part in propaganda efforts aimed at strengthening resistance against the Franco regime.

With the defeat of the Spanish Republic in 1939, she went into exile in France, where she was arrested and sent to a refugee camp. Shortly after, she managed to emigrate to the Dominican Republic, but in 1946 she was forced to leave due to the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. She later settled in Venezuela before returning to France, where she spent most of her life.

Her image, captured by photographer Juan Guzmán in 1936, showing her on the rooftop of the Hotel Colón in Barcelona holding a rifle, remains one of the most iconic symbols of youth committed to the fight against fascism during the Civil War.

The photographer Juan Guzmán

Juan Guzmán (born Hans Gutmann in 1905 in Germany) was a highly regarded photographer, especially famous for his work during the Spanish Civil War. With a strong commitment to Republican causes, he documented key moments of the conflict, capturing images that convey both the harshness of war and the spirit of resistance. His work is an essential visual testimony for understanding the history and social reality of that period. After the war, Guzmán continued his photographic career in Mexico, where he influenced several generations of artists and photographers.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



The Aragón Front

After the fascist coup of 1936, the Catalan popular forces organized military columns to halt the Francoist advance eastward. These columns moved into Aragón, establishing one of the most stable fronts of the entire war. In addition to fighting, these columns promoted the collectivization of land and villages, creating a revolutionary social structure in liberated areas, managed directly by peasants and workers.

The front remained almost immobile for months, partly due to military disorganization and internal differences among Republican forces. Finally, at the beginning of 1938, Francoist troops launched a strong offensive that broke the Aragón Front, marking the beginning of the loss of Catalonia.

PAULINA ÒDENA GARCÍA

- 22/01/1911 - 14/09/1936
- **Politician, Journalist, Militia Fighter**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Paulina Òdena García was born in 1911 in Barcelona. She grew up in a working-class environment and, from a young age, was influenced by the revolutionary ideas that shaped Catalonia at the time. Because of this, she joined the Communist Party of Spain (PCE), where she was actively involved in defending the workers' cause and the anti-fascist movement.

When the Francoist coup d'état broke out in July 1936, Paulina became involved in the resistance alongside the Republican forces. She participated in the defense of Barcelona, where the Francoist insurgents were quickly defeated thanks to worker and popular mobilization. Due to her commitment and leadership skills, she joined the anti-fascist militias and eventually became a commander in the Republican army.

Paulina was sent to the Aragón front, where she fought alongside Republican forces against Francoist troops. In September 1936, during fighting near Monte Aragón, she and her comrades were surrounded by the enemy. Rather than being captured by the Francoists, she chose to take her own life, an act that deeply impacted her fellow soldiers and made her a symbol of resistance and courage. Her dedication and sacrifice made her an emblematic figure of the anti-fascist struggle. Even today, Paulina Òdena represents the determination of Republican women who took up arms to defend freedom and social justice.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY

Portraits of Deportees in Nazi Concentration Camps, Extracted from the Stolpersteine Project in Terrassa

Between 1940 and 1941, around seventy Republicans born or residing in Terrassa were deported to Nazi camps. Most of them, 41 individuals, were murdered, while the rest either returned later or remained in exile. In total, over 9,000 Spanish Republicans were deported to extermination camps between 1940 and 1945, and nearly 60% did not survive. After losing the Spanish Civil War, many crossed the border, were interned in refugee camps, and were later handed over to Nazi authorities. The majority ended up in the Mauthausen camp.

To recover their memory, the Stolpersteine project was launched. Stolpersteine (German for “stumbling stones”) are small cobblestones with a brass plaque engraved with the name and basic information of a victim of Nazism. They are placed in front of the victim’s last residence or at another significant location linked to the person, with the goal of remembering the victims in public spaces and keeping their memory alive.

The Terrassa City Council, together with the Memorial Democràtic of the Generalitat de Catalunya, plans to develop this program in the city by installing the first memory stones in front of homes or locations closest to each honored individual.

Discover the history of Terrassa’s deportees and the locations of the various Stolpersteine:
<https://emap.terrassa.cat/mapGIS/?modul=memoria>



PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



The CNT

The Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT) is a Spanish anarcho-syndicalist trade union founded in 1910, aimed at defending workers' rights through direct action and self-management. It promotes anarchism as a social model, seeking a society without the State or hierarchies, based on cooperation, solidarity, and individual freedom. The CNT played a key role in labor movements and the Spanish Civil War, particularly in Catalonia, where it organized collectivizations, strikes, and resistance against fascism. During the Second Republic, it became one of the main labor forces in the country. After the Republican defeat, it was harshly repressed under Franco, but continued its activities in exile and clandestinely, keeping its ideals alive until the restoration of democratic freedoms.

ÁNGEL OLIVARES GALLEGO

- **06/02/1921 - 04/03/1982**
- **Dry Cleaner**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Ángel Olivares Gallego was born in Abrucena (Almería) on February 6, 1921. In 1926, his family settled in Terrassa, where he grew up with his sister Remedios and worked as a dry cleaner at the Textile Manufacturing company, following in his father's footsteps. From a young age, he was active in the Libertarian Youth of Terrassa. Despite his reserved nature, he stood out at a CNT rally attended by Juan García Oliver and Federica Montseny, where he delivered a highly praised speech that made him a reference for the city's young libertarians.

In 1938, at 18, he enlisted in the 26th Division (formerly the Durruti Column). After the Republican defeat, he crossed into France in February 1939 and was interned in several camps. Assigned to a Foreign Workers Company on the Maginot Line, he was captured by the Nazis and deported in December 1940 to the Mauthausen concentration camp. Later, he was sent to various labor detachments and eventually to the Ebensee sub-camp, where he survived until liberation in May 1945.

After the war, he settled in France. Committed to the memory and rights of Republican deportees, he actively participated in the CNT in exile and was a founder and secretary in France of the Spanish Federation of Deported and Interned Political Prisoners, working for recognition and pensions for the victims of Nazism. He died in Paris on March 4, 1982, leaving a legacy marked by struggle, exile, and dedication to preserving the memory of Republican deportees.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Angel+Olivares+Gallego.pdf/4820ad4a-a8b6-47ea-9439-111b78704f5d

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Mauthausen Camp

The Mauthausen concentration camp was one of the harshest Nazi camps during the Second World War, located in Austria. It was classified as a "Category III" camp, intended for prisoners considered irrecoverable enemies, with extremely brutal conditions: forced labor, starvation, constant violence, and very high mortality.

The presence of Spaniards in Mauthausen is explained by the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War: after Franco's victory, thousands of Republicans fled to France, and with the Nazi occupation in 1940, many were captured and deported, especially to Mauthausen. It is estimated that around 7,500 Spaniards were sent there, and more than half died due to the harsh conditions.

DIEGO LOZANO RIBERA

- **30/10/1916 - 13/05/1942**
- **Unemployed**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Diego was born on October 30, 1916, in Alhabía, Almería. In 1919, he moved with his family to Terrassa. During his youth, Diego worked as a knitter, but he was also passionate about boxing, a very popular sport at the time, standing out as a promising local talent.

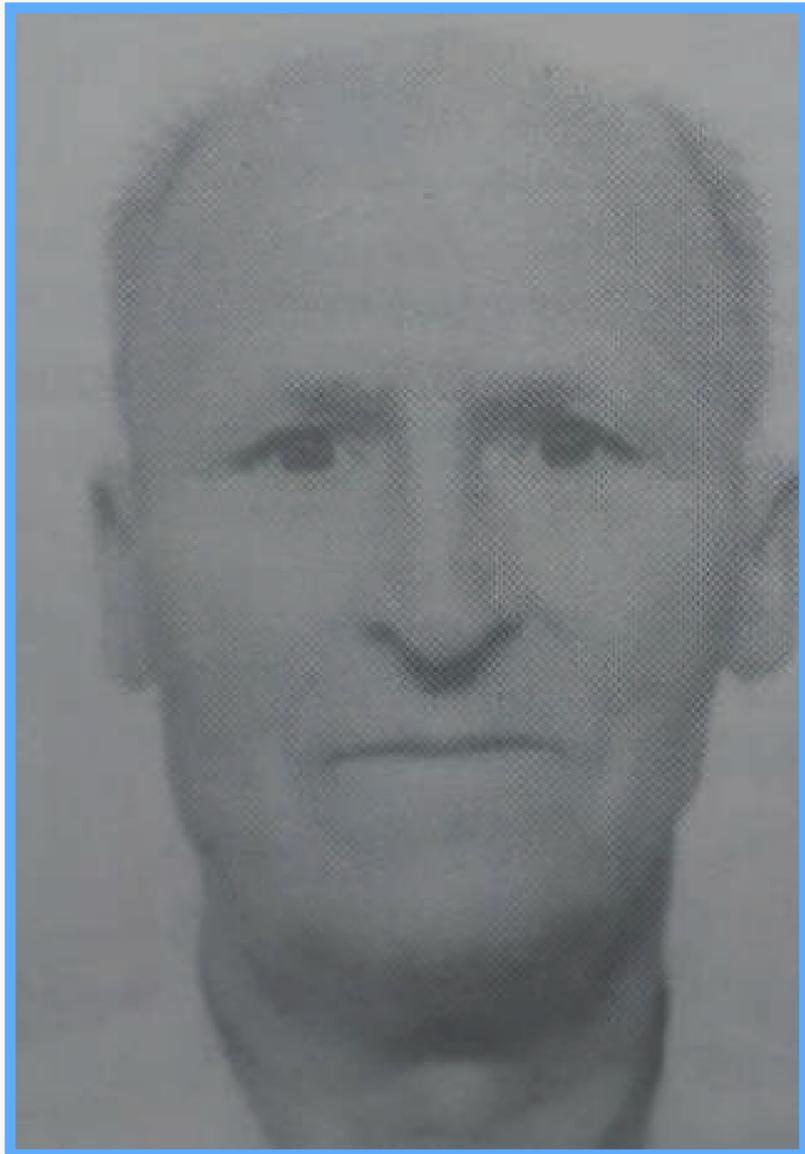
After the retreat of the Republican army, Diego crossed the border into France. From several camps in southern France, he joined the 80th Foreign Workers Company (CTE), first sent to the Alps near Gap and later to the Maginot Line.

France's defeat in May 1940 led to his capture by the Nazis in the Belfort sector, and he was interned as a prisoner at Stalag XI-Altengrabow. On April 26, 1941, he was deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp, and on October 20, 1941, he was sent to the Gusen subcamp. According to fellow deportee Miquel Serra, during the harsh winter of 1941, when Diego was critically ill in the infirmary, he received help from a former Catalan boxing champion, Lozano, which enabled him to survive temporarily.

Meanwhile, in Terrassa, his mother, Carmen Riber (who had been imprisoned and sentenced in 1940 to 12 years for aiding the rebellion) sent a letter on March 13, 1944, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, requesting information about her son, due to the lack of news and the inaction of the Francoist authorities. The German Red Cross reported that Diego Lozano Ribera had died on May 13, 1942, in Mauthausen, although official camp records indicate that his death occurred in Gusen.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Diego+Lozano+Ribera.pdf/a5d65f48-6f37-498b-a132-fd3605b5bcaa

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Amical de Mauthausen

The Amical de Mauthausen is an association founded in 1962 in France by Spanish survivors of Nazi concentration camps, particularly Mauthausen, after the Second World War. Later, it was also reorganized in Spain following the return of democracy.

Its purpose is to preserve the memory of Spanish deportees and honor the victims. Specifically, it organizes educational trips to Mauthausen, participates in international commemorative events, gives talks in schools and institutes, collaborates on historical memory projects, and preserves archives and testimonies of survivors, promoting values such as human rights, peace, and the fight against fascism.

JOSÉ SAURA RIBERA

- **27/08/1902 - 23/09/1984**
- **Textile worker**
- **Espanyol**

Biography

José Saura was born on August 27, 1902, in Pueyo de Santa Creu, Aragón. As a young man, he emigrated to Terrassa, where he worked in a textile company and married Consuelo Peñarroya Mampel, with whom he had two daughters.

During the Spanish Civil War, he volunteered for the Macià-Companys Column in Aragón. On February 10, 1939, after the fall of Barcelona, he went into exile in France. There, he was interned in camps in southern France and joined the 116th Foreign Workers Company. On June 4, 1940, he was captured by the Germans in Dunkirk and transferred to several prisoner-of-war camps in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, and Poland. On January 25, 1941, he was deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp with prisoner number 3521, where he worked in various labor detachments, including a munitions factory in Steyr, until his liberation on May 5, 1945. He was repatriated to France on May 20 and returned to Terrassa on October 15, 1948, reuniting with his family after more than nine years of separation. José Saura actively participated in the Amical de Mauthausen from its founding in 1962, attending commemorative events and advocating for the memory of the deportees. He died in Terrassa on September 23, 1984.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Jose+Saura+Ribera.pdf/4646b66f-81ee-4e38-ba32-59bacfc5fd01

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



ERC

ERC is a Catalan political party founded in 1931, rooted in the republican and Catalanist movements of the early 20th century. Its ideology combines republicanism, leftist politics, and Catalan independence, with a strong commitment to defending social rights, economic justice, and the promotion of Catalan language and culture.

ERC has played a significant role in Catalan politics and has been present during key moments in the country's history, such as the Second Republic and the democratic transition after Franco's regime. The party advocates for the creation of a Catalan Republic as an expression of sovereignty and self-government, while also promoting social and cultural policies that support cohesion and the well-being of Catalan society.

JOSEP JULIÀ BRUGUERA

- **11/10/1917 - 24/12/1941**
- **Shop assistant**
- **Spanish**

Biography

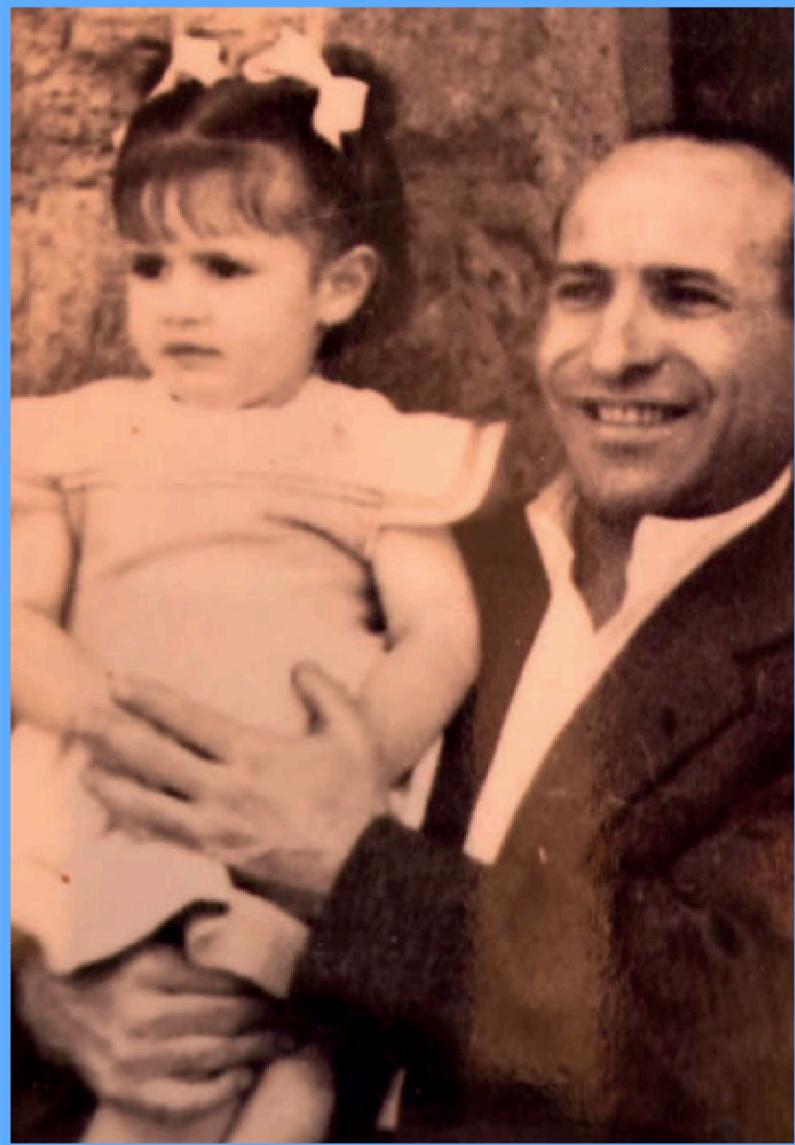
Jose was born on October 11, 1917, in Terrassa, the son of Mercè and Llorenç. In his youth, he worked as a shop assistant at the Compañia Anónima Lanera Vasco Catalana and lived on Societat Street with his father and older brother, Pere. He was active in the CNT and Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC).

At the start of the Spanish Civil War, on August 24, 1936, he volunteered for the Macià-Companys Column. During the Republican retreat, he crossed into France and joined the 32nd Foreign Workers Company (CTE), where he was with his friend Josep Escoda. The company was captured by the Germans in May 1940. As a prisoner of war, he was interned at Stalag XVII-A in Kaisersteinbruch until April 7, 1941, when he was deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp and later to the Gusen subcamp on October 20, 1941.

Josep Julià died on December 24, 1941, in Gusen, reportedly drowned by a Polish kapo in a bucket of ice-cold water. Meanwhile, in Terrassa, his father was arrested on March 15, 1939, and sentenced on February 17, 1942, for aiding the rebellion, likely unaware of his son's tragic fate.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Josep+Julia+Bruguera.pdf/15d0a259-c394-4f2c-8754-2bb8eba5bcd0

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Stalag IX-B de Bad Orb

Stalag IX-B was a prisoner-of-war camp located in Bad Orb, Nazi Germany, during the Second World War. Originally intended for Allied military prisoners, mainly British and French, it later also held Spanish Republican prisoners who had been captured in France after the Spanish Civil War and deported by the Nazis.

Conditions in the camp were harsh: food shortages, forced labor, and disease were common, although it did not reach the extreme brutality of camps like Mauthausen. Some prisoners survived thanks to internal organization, mutual support, and resistance in the face of the camp's hardships. Today, Stalag IX-B is remembered as a witness to the deportations and the impact of war on political and military prisoners.

PERE PRAT NOGUÉS

- **06/05/1904 - 1959**
- **Weaver**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Pere was born on May 6, 1904, in Terrassa, the son of Josep and Filomena. In his youth, he worked as a weaver at Fontanals y Cia. By 1936, he lived on Pla de l'Ametllera Street with his wife, Teresa Albareda Carulla, and their son, Romà. Known in libertarian circles as Sbert, he stood out as an active CNT member and participant in Terrassa's social and political life.

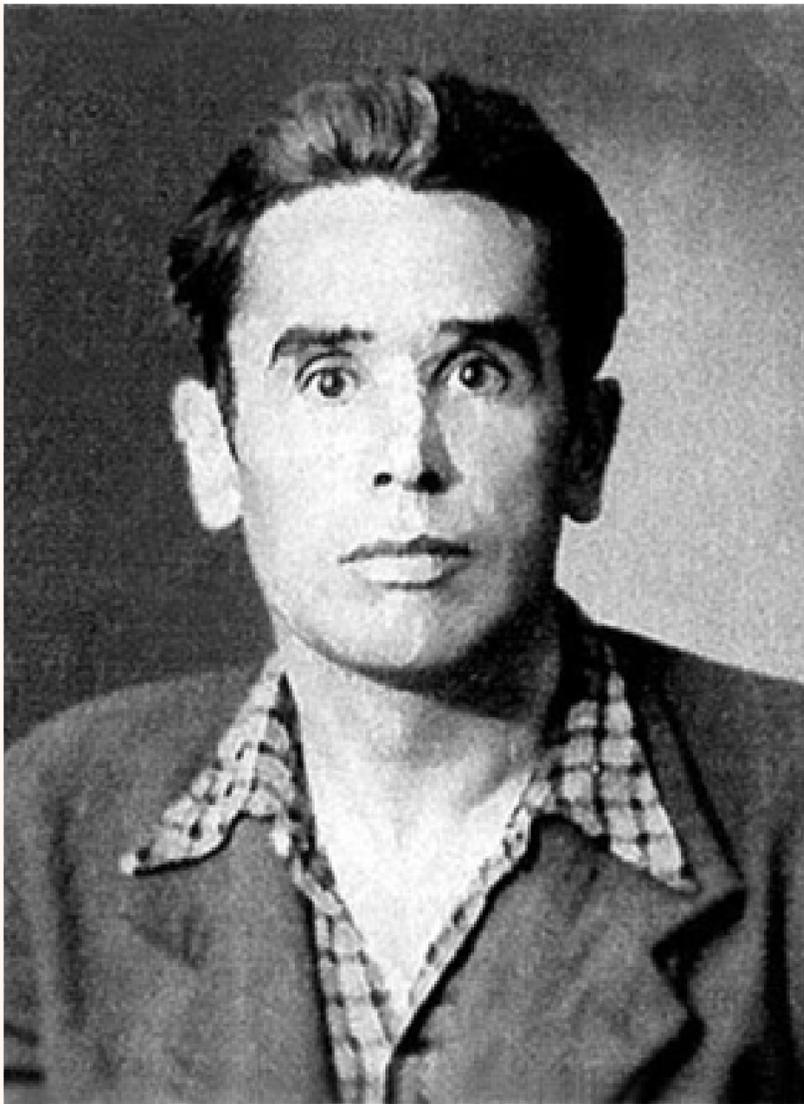
After the end of the Spanish Civil War, he sought refuge in France. He was later arrested by the Nazis and interned at Stalag IX-B in Bad Orb before being deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp on February 24, 1942. During his time at Mauthausen, he joined the clandestine resistance organization, serving as head of the CNT committee and the Iberian Anarchist Federation (FAI) within the National Anti-Fascist Front (FNA). He was recognized for his role in organizing resistance and helping fellow prisoners survive under extreme conditions.

Pere survived the horrors of the camp and was liberated on May 5, 1945. After the war, he settled in Andorra, where he actively participated in border networks and supported guerrilla groups. His home became known as a safe and welcoming refuge for exhausted and persecuted comrades.

He died prematurely in 1959, a result of the physical and moral toll endured during his deportation. His comrades remember him as an exemplary, courageous, and committed activist who defended libertarian ideals until the end of his life.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Pere+Prat+Nogues.pdf/38784fdc-5bf3-47b3-bale-6fa59ce8c561

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



PRISCILIANO GARCÍA GAITERO

- **28/07/1910 – 30/06/1949**
- **Communist militant**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Prisciliano García Gaitero (28 July 1910 – 30 June 1949) was born in Carbajal de Fuentes de León and grew up in Mieres, where he worked as a miner and became involved in the workers' movement, joining the Communist Party of Spain in 1934. Following the Spanish coup of July 1936, he enlisted in the Republican army on the Northern Front, attaining the rank of lieutenant. The fall of Asturias in 1937 forced him into exile, and in 1938 he crossed the Pyrenees into France, where, like thousands of Republicans, he was interned in camps and subjected to forced labour.

In 1940 he was captured by Nazi Germany armed forces troops and deported to the concentration camp system of the Third Reich, passing through Stalag XB and later Mauthausen concentration camp, one of the harshest camps for Spaniards, who were regarded as stateless and political enemies. There, and later in Gusen concentration camp and Dachau concentration camp, he endured extreme hunger, systematic violence, and exploitation in the armaments industry. Despite this, he became part of solidarity networks among Spanish deportees and international brigadiers—vital for survival—and took part in acts of passive resistance and sabotage aimed at weakening the Nazi machinery. Seriously ill, he managed to survive until liberation in 1945 thanks to collective support among prisoners.

The physical consequences of deportation marked his life in exile in France, where he died in 1949. His written testimony stands as a powerful denunciation of Nazi barbarity and a lasting contribution to historical memory. His life symbolises the antifascist struggle, the suffering of Republican exile, and the dignity of those who resisted even under the most inhumane conditions.

Political and social repression

During the Spanish Civil War and the dictatorship of Francisco Franco, Spain experienced extreme political and social repression against Republicans and left-wing activists. Following defeat in 1939, thousands of Republican exiles fled to France, where many were later captured by Nazi forces during the Second World War.

Between 1940 and 1945, around 10,000 Spaniards were deported to Nazi concentration camps, where they were classified as “political enemies” or stateless persons; approximately 60% died in these systems of forced labour and extermination. This tragedy reflects the intersection of Francoist repression, Republican exile, and the brutal Nazi persecution across Europe.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



ALIPIO RODRÍGUEZ OMAÑA

- **14/06/1919 -1979**
- **A miner and supporter of the workers' struggle**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Alipio Rodríguez Omaña (Tapia de la Ribera, León, 14 June 1919 – Le Havre, France 1979) was a young man from León committed to defending the Republic and social rights. A miner in La Magdalena, he enlisted at the age of 18 in the Asturias Battalion No. 50 in Villamanín, taking part in the defence of the Northern Front and sustaining war injuries. His militancy reflected the commitment of many people from León to social justice and the workers' struggle during the Spanish Civil War.

Following the collapse of the Northern Front in León in 1937, Alipio was forced into exile in France, where he continued his antifascist activity by joining the French Resistance against Nazi occupation. In 1940 he was arrested by the Gestapo and deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp, where he endured forced labour and the loss of a lung. Despite these harsh conditions, he maintained his dignity and political commitment, recording his experiences in a diary that reflects the solidarity and resistance of Spaniards in the Nazi camps.

His story, closely linked to León, symbolises the social and political commitment of Republican supporters from the region: working-class militancy, the defence of freedom and justice, and resistance to fascism. After liberation, he settled in Le Havre, where he continued his life working and passing on his legacy to his family. His testimony is now preserved in the León Public Library as a record of the sacrifice made by people from León in defence of democracy.

Mauthausen - Gusen

More than 7,000 Spanish Republicans, exiled after the Spanish Civil War, were deported to Mauthausen concentration camp and its subcamps, forming the largest national group. Gusen I and II camps were notorious for forced labour in quarries, workshops, and factories, under conditions of cold, hunger, and beatings. Around 4,500 Spaniards died after being abandoned by the Francoist regime. The Rotspanier shared food, organised mutual aid, and maintained cultural ties, preserving dignity and life. The memory of these prisoners reflects not only extreme suffering but also the solidarity and resistance that extended the antifascist struggle beyond the Spanish Civil War.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



MÁXIMO FIERRO OREJAS

- 1890 – 1941
- Politician
- Spanish

Biography

Máximo Fierro Orejas (1890–1941) was a Spanish politician and civil servant originally from Cármenes (León), although he has been born in Mestas de Con (Asturias). Affiliated with the UGT and the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, he served as mayor and was appointed municipal judge of Cármenes on 2 January 1937 by the Council of Justice of Asturias and León. During the Spanish Civil War, faced with the advance of Francoist troops on the Northern Front, he was forced to flee, embarking from Gijón to France, passing through Catalonia in an attempt to continue Republican resistance from exile.

Máximo lived in Igualada before being interned in the Argelès-sur-Mer concentration camp, where his advanced age and physical condition, which required him to walk with crutches, made survival extremely difficult. In August 1940, he was arrested by the Germans and deported to Mauthausen concentration camp as part of the first group of Spanish deportees. He was later transferred to the subcamp of Gusen concentration camp on 24 January 1941, where the harsh conditions and extermination methods, such as cold showers, led to his death a few days later.

Fierro Orejas was an enlightened victim of Nazi repression, a liberal figure whose “offence” lay in attempting to mediate and seek concord between opposing factions, distrusted by the radical left and opposed by the conservative right of Transmontaña. His story reflects the tragic fate of many Spanish Republicans in exile and in concentration camps, as well as the price they paid for their political commitment and intellectual integrity.

Historical context

After the fall of the Republic in 1939, thousands of Spanish Republicans fled to France seeking refuge. Many were interned in makeshift camps such as the Argelès-sur-Mer concentration camp, located on the beach and subject to extreme conditions: overcrowding, cold, hunger, and poor hygiene. They remained there until their transfer to Nazi camps such as Mauthausen concentration camp or Gusen concentration camp, facing repression and suffering while keeping the antifrancoist resistance alive from exile.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



MARCELINO MORÁN FERNÁNDEZ

- **26/05/1912 – 25/06/1941**
- **Military**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Marcelino Morán Fernández was born on 26 May 1912 in Mondreganes, a small village in the municipality of Cebanico, León. He grew up in a humble family in the rural countryside of León. After completing his military service in the León Cavalry Regiment, he moved to Barcelona in 1934, where he joined the Assault Guards, rising to the rank of corporal in 1936. During the Civil War, he joined the Republican security forces, moving in 1938 to the 32nd Assault Group linked to the Military Intelligence Service, reflecting his commitment to defending the Republican order against Franco's advance.

Following the Republican defeat, his trail goes cold, like that of thousands of exiled combatants. Although the exact circumstances of his arrest are unknown, he was captured by the Nazi authorities during the German occupation of France. As was the case with thousands of Spanish Republicans, he was deemed stateless by the Franco regime, which facilitated his deportation. He was deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp and subsequently transferred to Dachau on 1 May 1941, where he was registered under number 25,538. Barely two months later, on 25 June 1941, he died in the camp, a victim of the harsh living conditions, although the Red Cross informed his family that he had died in a supposed 'hospital' in Germany, a common euphemism used to conceal the reality of the concentration camps.

His story reflects the fate of many Republicans from León: from political commitment and the defence of the Republic to exile, deportation and death in Nazi concentration camps.

Spanish Exile

After Franco's victory in 1939, thousands of Republicans fled to France. With the German invasion of France in 1940, many were captured by the Nazi army. It is estimated that between 9,000 and 10,000 Spaniards were deported to Nazi concentration camps.

Around half a million people are believed to have left Spain at the end of the Spanish Civil War in 1939, forming the Republican exile. The vast majority crossed the French border in the Catalonia region, initially facing internment camps, and many eventually settled permanently in France, Mexico, and other Latin American countries.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Rotspanier

After the Republican defeat in 1939, hundreds of thousands of Spaniards fled to France, many of whom were interned in makeshift camps. With the outbreak of the Second World War, around 7,000 were deported to Nazi camps, primarily Mauthausen concentration camp and Gusen concentration camp. There they endured forced labour, hunger, beatings, and executions; nearly half died. The Spanish Rotspanier maintained internal resistance, solidarity, and cultural practices, surviving under extreme conditions. Their struggle extended the antifascist defence beyond the Spanish Civil War and dignified Spain's historical memory.

RUFINO BAÑOS LOZANO

- **19/08/1917 – 1980**
- **Republican militant**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Rufino Baños Lozano (El Burgo Ranero, León, Spain, 19 August 1917 – Maisons-Alfort, France, 1980) was a young Republican activist whose life was shaped by the collective tragedy of the Spanish Civil War and Nazi repression. At the age of 19, he left León to enlist in the Republican army on the Northern Front, determined to defend the Republic against the advancing Francoist forces. Following the defeat, like thousands of Spaniards, he went into exile in France and became caught up in the brutality of the Second World War.

On 27 January 1941, he was interned in the Nazi forced-labour and concentration camp Mauthausen concentration camp and, two months later, transferred to its subcamp Gusen concentration camp. He was registered under number 43,227 as a Rotspanier, identified with a blue triangle marking Spaniards considered stateless. There, he worked for years in the Wiener Graben stone quarry, enduring hunger, beatings, and endless working days—reflecting the inhumane conditions imposed by the Nazi regime.

As his son recalls, football provided Rufino with “a corner of peace and laughter” amid the horror: on Sundays, matches were played between teams organised by nationality. His skill on the pitch drew the attention of an SS officer, who moved him from the quarry to work in a workshop, slightly improving his situation. Later, he worked in the kitchen and participated in forms of internal resistance, such as stealing and redistributing food to fellow prisoners, a risk that could lead to beatings or other punishments.

Rufino survived the liberation of Gusen in May 1945. After the war, he settled in France, physically weakened by years of captivity, and lived there until 1980.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



CNT

Many of those deported to Nazi camps were, in many cases, linked to the CNT—the National Confederation of Labour—an anarcho-syndicalist trade union that not only promoted self-management and the defence of workers' rights, but was also a key player during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939). The CNT organised agricultural and industrial collectivisations, actively contributed to the Republican front and defended ideals of freedom and solidarity in the face of fascism. Their activism made many members targets of persecution during Franco's repression and, later, under Nazism in France and in the concentration camps, reflecting the high price they paid for their political and social commitment.

ANTONIO ABELLA BARREDO

- **26/06/1912 – 05/12/1941**
- **CNT militant**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Antonio Abella Barredo was born on 26 June 1912 in Paradaseca, León (Spain). He came from a working-class family. His father was murdered by the coup plotters during the Civil War. Antonio volunteered for the 207th Infantry Battalion "Onofre", based in Gijón, and was a member of the CNT. He took part in the Republican defence in northern Spain. Following the fall of the northern front and pressure from Franco's troops, he fled to Catalonia. At the end of the Civil War, Antonio went into exile in France, where many Spanish refugees were interned in camps and transit centres. Following the German invasion of France, he was arrested by the Gestapo and deported to Mauthausen, one of the deadliest concentration camps for Spanish Republicans. There, like other deportees, he was subjected to forced labour and inhumane conditions.

Antonio died in Gusen on 5 December 1941. His last contact with his family was a letter from France in which he expressed his desire to return to Spain, aware of the danger he faced. The family was officially informed of his death by the French authorities and through the records of the FEDIP (Spanish Federation of Deportees and Political Internees). Most of the deportees from León, like Antonio, perished in Gusen, one of the subcamps of Mauthausen, victims of slave labour, starvation and systematic Nazi repression. His story reflects the double persecution suffered by Spanish Republicans: first at the hands of Franco's regime and then by the Nazi regime in Europe. His life and death symbolise the tragedy of the exiled and deported people of León, and stand as a testament to the suffering of Spanish anti-fascists during the Second World War.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



Franco's repression

During the Spanish Civil War and Franco's dictatorship, Spain experienced severe political and social repression, particularly against Republicans, left-wing activists and civil rights campaigners. Following the Republican defeat in 1939, many exiles sought refuge in France, where they took part in the Resistance against the Nazi occupation during the Second World War. Concentration camps, forced labour and political persecution marked the experience of the resistance fighters and refugees.

NEUS CATALÀ

- **06/10/1915 – 13/04/2019**
- **Anti-fascist activist and communist militant**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Neus Català (6 October 1915 – 13 April 2019) was a Spanish nurse and activist who became one of the most courageous figures associated with the Spanish Civil War and the European anti-fascist struggle. During the war, she worked as a nurse and activist for the United Socialist Youth of Catalonia, playing an active role in defending the Republic and assisting the civilian population. In 1939, she carried out one of her most memorable acts: she helped evacuate 180 orphaned children from a children's home near Barcelona, taking them to France to save them from Franco's advancing forces. Once on French soil, she decided to stay and continued to support Republican refugees. During the Second World War, she collaborated with the French Resistance alongside her husband, hiding messages, weapons and people persecuted by the Nazis. In 1943, she was arrested by the Gestapo and deported to the Ravensbrück concentration camp, where she was subjected to forced labour in the arms industry, but took part in acts of sabotage that rendered thousands of pieces of Nazi ammunition useless. Following the liberation of the camp in 1945, she returned to France and continued to fight against Francoism from exile. She lived for over a century, dedicating her life to preserving historical memory and human rights, becoming a symbol of anti-fascist resistance, political commitment and the value of individual action in the face of injustice and oppression.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



URANIA MELLA SERRANO

- **15/11/1899 – 26/05/1945**
- **A fighter against fascism and Franco's regime**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Urania Mella Serrano (15 November 1899 – 26 May 1945) was a prominent Galician political activist and feminist, the daughter of the anarchist thinker Ricardo Mella. From a young age, she was committed to women's education and rights, teaching reading and writing to women who had no access to basic education. During the Second Republic, she chaired the Union of Anti-Fascist Women of Vigo, linked to the national organisation promoted by the Communist International, and actively promoted women's political participation and the defence of workers' rights.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1936, Urania took part in the armed resistance in the Lavadores district of Vigo, fighting the rebels alongside other Republican militants. Her activism made her a target of Franco's repression: she was sentenced to death, a sentence commuted to thirty years' imprisonment, and spent more than nine years in extreme conditions in Sarrarán prison (Guipúzcoa), where she suffered forced separation from her children and the regime's systematic violence.

Despite the repression, Urania maintained her political commitment until her conditional release in 1943. She moved to Lugo, but died in 1945 at the age of 45, a victim of a brain tumour left untreated during her imprisonment. Her life symbolises the anti-Franco struggle, the political prominence of women in Galicia and the sacrifice of those who resisted fascism, making her a symbol of historical memory and resistance.

Historical context

At the beginning of the 20th century, Spain underwent profound political and social changes. After decades of restricted rights, the advent of the Second Republic (1931–1939) opened up new opportunities for women: they were able to vote, access higher education and participate in political life, although they continued to face resistance and structural inequalities. During the Civil War (1936–1939), many women took part in both frontline and rear-line duties within organisations, supporting the Republican cause and challenging traditional gender roles. Franco's victory marked a profound setback. The dictatorship imposed a patriarchal model of strict social and political norms that restricted women's rights.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



The Revolution of 1934

During the Spanish Second Republic, the entry of ministers from the Confederación Española de Derechas Autónomas into the government in 1934 provoked strong opposition from communists and socialists. The workers' uprising known as the Revolution of 1934 was particularly significant in Asturias and León, where miners and workers took up arms, organised under the alliance Uníos Hermanos Proletarios.

The revolt was harshly suppressed by the army, leaving behind a legacy of working-class struggle and notable youth and female participation, in which Aida de la Fuente stood out as a symbol of resistance.

AIDA LAFUENTE

- **25/02/1915 – 13/10/1934**
- **Active young member of the Communist Youth League**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Aida de la Fuente was born on 25 February 1915 in León and moved as a child to Oviedo, where she grew up in a communist family deeply committed to the workers' struggle. Her father, Gustavo de la Fuente González, founder of the Communist Party in Oviedo, and her siblings, members of the Communist Youth, shaped her political upbringing and inspired her from a very young age to become involved in defending the rights of working men and women.

An active member of the Communist Youth, Aida stood out during the Asturian Revolution of 1934, carrying out duties as a liaison, supplying fighters, and assisting in hospitals, demonstrating exceptional courage and commitment. Her role was not limited to direct action; she became a symbol of youth and female participation in the workers' struggle, a reference point for resistance and solidarity.

She died at just 19 years of age during the repression in San Pedro de los Arcos, Oviedo, and her figure became an emblem of sacrifice and the fight for social justice. Known as the "Red Rose of Asturias", her memory is preserved in tributes, songs, poems, and the writings of intellectuals and artists, establishing her as a historical icon of female heroism and of the communist movement during the Spanish Second Republic, reminding us of the strength of youth and the determination of those who fought for a fairer world.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



A pioneering female politician

During the Spanish Civil War, León came under Francoist control from the early months of 1936. The province experienced intense repression: mass arrests, executions and disappearances affected Republican activists, trade unionists and women active in politics.

The Convent of San Marcos became a concentration camp through which thousands of political prisoners passed, subjected to starvation, overcrowding and systematic violence. The figure of María Sánchez Miñambres, the first female councillor on León City Council, symbolises the fledgling and difficult participation of women in politics at that time.

MARÍA SÁNCHEZ MIÑAMBRES

- 1889 – 1977
- The first woman to be elected as a councillor for León City Council.
- Spanish

Biography

María Sánchez Miñambres (1889–1977) was a prominent figure from León whose life story reflects the difficulties women faced in making their mark in public life within a male-dominated society. Born into a middle-class family, she received an education that was unusual for her time, spending periods in Madrid and travelling throughout Europe, particularly to France, where she came into contact with cultural trends and feminist movements that shaped her thinking. With an interest in the arts and intellectual life, she contributed to magazines such as *Renacimiento* and *Vida Leonesa*, being one of the few women present in these circles.

In 1925 she became the first female councillor on León City Council and one of the first female councillors in Spain, a post she held until 1930 with a notable public presence. During the Second Republic she became involved in political and social initiatives, such as the Left-Wing Women's Bloc of León, reflecting the ideological complexity of an era of intense change.

Following the outbreak of the Civil War in 1936, she was arrested and imprisoned in the Convento de San Marcos concentration camp, where thousands of political prisoners suffered repression. Her assets were seized and she was sentenced to twelve years in prison, also spending time in Sarrararán prison. She remained imprisoned for more than three and a half years, until her release in 1941. Her life symbolises both the advancement of women in public life and the repression suffered during the Franco regime.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



TERESA MONGE MELCÓN

- **1913 – 1936**
- **A young left-wing activist from León**
- **Spanish**

Biography

Teresa Monge Melcón (1913–October 1936) was a Spanish socialist activist and one of the most prominent female voices in the labour movement in León during the early years of the Second Republic. Born in León in 1913 into a family committed to socialism, Teresa was educated at the Sierra Pambley School, an institution linked to the Institución Libre de Enseñanza, where she was taught the values of social justice and solidarity. From a very young age, she became involved in politics and left-wing organisations; by the mid-1930s, she had become a central figure in women's activism in the province. She was president of the women's group of the Socialist Youth of León and helped to set up support centres for the children of prisoners following the revolutionary events of 1934, as well as taking part in solidarity initiatives to collect and distribute clothing and food for workers facing reprisals.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in July 1936, Teresa Monge was arrested by the rebel forces and imprisoned in the San Marcos concentration camp in León. In October of that year, aged just 23, she was taken from the camp and murdered in the area known as the Fresno field, in Fresno del Camino, in an episode of political repression that shocked the city and which, over time, made her a symbol of the victims of Francoism in León.

Teresa is notable for her role as an activist, youth leader and a leading figure in the fight for equality and social justice.

San Marcos concentration camp

During the Spanish Civil War, much of the province of León quickly fell under the control of the rebel forces following the coup d'état of July 1936. There was intense political repression against those who sympathised with the Republicans and trade unionists. Detentions, extrajudicial executions and disappearances marked the lives of the people of León. Against this backdrop, the Convent of San Marcos in the city of León was converted into one of Franco's main concentration camps in north-western Spain. It is believed that more than 10,000 people passed through it, enduring overcrowding, starvation, torture and systematic violence, in a city with a population of barely 40,000. More than 1,500 people were shot.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY

HEROINES AND FIGHTERS FROM LEÓN: MILITIA MEMBERS, MAQUIS AND WOMEN OF THE RESISTANCE

During the coup d'état of 18 July 1936 against the Second Republic, the rebel forces put forward many 'justifications', including their fear of the social changes brought about by the growing presence of women in public life. In a deeply patriarchal society influenced by religious and traditional values, women's active participation in politics, work and social movements represented a break with the rigid model of the 'angel of the home'. In León, these tensions became apparent in both the city and the countryside, and many women from León went on to play leading roles in various spheres of the resistance. Their contribution can be grouped into three main categories: that of the female militiamen, that of the anti-Franco maquis and guerrillas, and that of the 'women in red' who supported their families and communities during times of repression.

WOMEN MILITIAMEN FROM LEÓN: BREAKING STEREOTYPES

In the province of León, as in other Republican areas, the war enabled women to occupy public spaces that had previously been denied to them. Not only did they carry out labour and logistical tasks, but some also chose to take an active part in combat, defending the Republican cause and their rights.

Organisations such as Mujeres Libres promoted the idea that these women should retain their professional and social autonomy once the war was over. Among the most prominent female combatants from León were María Luisa Bayón Valle, Herminia García Tascón, Antonia Cancelas Chamorro, Isabel Llamazares, María Sánchez Fernández, María Rodríguez García, Amalia de la Fuente Peral and Dolores Sierra Rubio. Although a 1936 decree restricted their direct access to the front line, many remained involved in the war effort and political activities. Some, such as Ana María Melón, Florentina de Cabo Arenas and Concepción Arias Gavela, were persecuted or convicted for their activism, reflecting the repression faced by women who broke away from traditional roles.

THE MAQUIS AND THE GUERRILLAS IN LEÓN: 'THE WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS' AND THE NETWORK OF COURIERS

After the end of the Civil War, the struggle did not disappear entirely. In post-war Spain, particularly up until the early 1950s, an anti-Franco guerrilla movement known as the maquis emerged in León; these were groups of partisans who resisted repression from the mountains. This guerrilla movement spread across rural and mountainous areas such as La Cabrera and El Bierzo, and formed part of the León-Galicia Guerrilla Federation, with leaders such as Manuel Girón Bazán, an iconic figure of the resistance in the province. The maquis were known as 'those of the mountains', men and women who lived in the hills to avoid persecution and organise sabotage operations.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY

A key part of their strategy was the network of couriers, made up mainly of women who transported weapons, food, information and messages between guerrilla groups and villages, risking their freedom and safety to maintain the cohesion of the resistance. Their logistical work, often overlooked, was crucial to the survival of the maquis in the years following the war.

In this context, a tragic incident occurred on 24 April 1951: Antonio León Carrera and Carmen Ballesteros Rodríguez, residents of Santa Eulalia de Cabrera, were murdered in an operation linked to the fight against the maquis. Historical research indicates that these murders were part of a scheme to infiltrate certain individuals into the guerrilla groups, gaining the trust of members such as Girón only to betray them weeks later. This incident illustrates how post-war violence affected both combatants and civilians caught up in the León resistance network.

WOMEN IN RED FROM LEÓN: RESILIENCE WITHIN THE FAMILY

The women in red were wives, mothers, sisters and relatives of Republicans who had been shot, imprisoned or forced to join the guerrilla movement. Although they did not always take part in the armed struggle, they were subjected to direct repression and punished for the actions of their loved ones. In León, many suffered humiliation, imprisonment, financial penalties and social stigmatisation, persecuted simply because of their family ties to Republicans or maquis.

Despite this repression, many women from León forged support networks—exchanging food, providing supplies for prisoners, passing on messages and fostering community solidarity—which were essential forms of civil resistance. Their work, though silenced for a long time, was a fundamental pillar in maintaining dignity and family unity amidst persecution.

LEÓN: MEMORY, RESISTANCE AND HISTORICAL RECOVERY

The province of León was a crossroads of various forms of resistance during the Civil War and the post-war period. Female militiamen breaking gender stereotypes, the maquis prolonging the anti-Franco struggle from the mountains, and the 'women in red' sustaining family life amidst persecution all form a complex story of courage and suffering.

Recognising these experiences is essential to highlight the central role of women in historical memory, in a narrative that for decades has tended to be male-dominated, leaving out their leading roles and contributions. Incorporating women's history allows us to reconstruct a more complete and fair account, where women are not passive subjects, but active agents of resistance, resilience and social transformation.

Highlighting the women who were protagonists of European historical memory also helps to counteract the gender imbalance identified in the narrative of European memory. Sharing their life stories helps to redress their invisibility and to create a more inclusive and representative narrative that recognises the political, social and human dimensions of women's resistance across Europe. This approach not only enriches our understanding of the anti-Franco struggle in León, but is also part of a broader effort towards historical recovery and symbolic justice at a continental level.

**PROTAGONISTS OF
EUROPEAN MEMORY IN THE
NATIVE LANGUAGES OF
EACH PARTNER
ORGANISATION WITHIN THE
REFORE NETWORK**

LES PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



Rennes entre 1940 et 1943

Rennes est occupée par la Wehrmacht le 18 juin 1940, au moment de l'effondrement de l'armée française et devient un centre administratif et militaire important. Un climat de répression y règne : censure, couvre-feu et restrictions. La population vit sous surveillance étroite. Dès 1940-41, des réseaux de Résistance se forment : impression de tracts, organisation de filières d'évasion. Les autorités allemandes et la police française traquent les réseaux de Résistance et les personnes juives réfugiées à Rennes. Les arrestations et les déportations commencent en 1941.

ALBERT GORGIARD

- **Date de naissance : 22/02/1894**
- **Profession : Sous-directeur d'une coopérative agricole**
- **Française**

Biographie

Originaire de Betton à Rennes, Albert Gorgiard suit une formation en dessin industriel dès 12 ans et travaille dans des ateliers de décoration. Il se perfectionne en dessin d'art et en dessin industriel en faisant des cours du soir. En 1914, il est reconnu inapte par le Conseil de révision et ne part pas au front avec sa classe mais revient à l'arsenal de Rennes où il passe la guerre à la vérification des obus.

Il devient pendant l'occupation, sous-directeur d'une coopérative agricole. Il s'engage dans la Résistance en gravant de faux tampons français et allemands avec lesquels il fabrique de fausses cartes d'identité, de faux certificats de démobilisation et de faux Ausweis (papiers d'identité en allemand). Des centaines de faux papiers lui sont commandés par son chef Victor Louviot car il est membre de Libération Nord et du Réseau Bordeaux Loupiac. La demande était forte : jeunes réfractaires au Service du Travail Obligatoire rejoignant les maquis, fugitifs en route vers Londres ou Alger, aviateurs américains abattus, prisonniers de l'Union française et soldats du Commonwealth détenus dans les camps de Rennes aspirant à retourner au combat. Albert Gorgiard est arrêté par la Gestapo incarcéré à la prison Jacques-Cartier et déporté en Allemagne dans les camps nazis. Il décède le 24 avril 1945 au camp de Wöbbelin (Allemagne).

Pour sa mémoire : un square à Rennes porte son nom en hommage à son engagement et il est inscrit sur la liste des déportés nés en Ille-et-Vilaine.

LES PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



SIMONE VEIL

- **Date de naissance : 13/07/1927**
- **Profession : Femme politique**
- **Juive Française**

Biographie

Simone Veil est issue d'une famille Juive laïque. Elle est arrêtée à l'âge de 16 ans par la Gestapo et déportée avec sa famille le 13 avril 1944 par le convoi n°71 au camp d'Auschwitz-Birkenau. Elle y perd son père, son frère et sa mère. Sa sœur et elles survivent et sont libérées en 1945. Elle revient marquée à jamais par cette expérience et restera une témoin de la Shoah. Après la guerre, elle reprend ses études et devient magistrate. Elle travaille notamment à l'administration pénitentiaire et au ministère de la Justice, engagée pour l'amélioration des conditions de détention. De 1974 à 1979, elle devient ministre de la Santé sous Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Elle se bat pour défendre la loi légalisant l'IVG en 1975, adoptée malgré de violentes oppositions. De 1979 à 1982, elle est la première présidente élue du Parlement Européen œuvrant pour la construction européenne et dans la défense des droits humains. Elle est membre du Conseil constitutionnel de 1998 à 2007 et élue à l'Académie française en 2008. Grande voix de la mémoire de la Shoah et de la lutte pour les droits des femmes, le 1er juillet 2018 ses cendres ont été transférées au Panthéon où elle repose parmi les grandes figures de l'histoire française.

Plus d'informations

Simone Veil a écrit de nombreux ouvrages retraçant sa vie dans lesquelles elle raconte son enfance, la guerre, son arrestation, sa déportation à Auschwitz-Berkenau dont:

- Une vie (2007)
- Une jeunesse au temps de la Shoah
- Discours 2002-2007
- Pour les générations futures (2024)

LES PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



YVETTE LÉVI

- **Date de naissance : 21/06/1926**
- **Profession : Témoin et militante de la mémoire de la Shoah**
- **Juive Française**

Biographie

Yvette Henriette Lévy est née Dreyfuss et issue d'une famille juive alsacienne. Elle grandit dans un contexte marqué par la montée de l'antisémitisme en Europe. Pendant l'Occupation, sa famille est directement visée par les lois antisémites de Vichy et par la persécution nazie. Très jeune, elle rejoint un réseau de résistance et participe à des actions clandestines pour aider à cacher et protéger des familles juives, et contribue à des missions de liaison et de transmission de messages. Son frère et elle étaient chez les Éclaireurs israélites de France. Ils allaient de maison en maison pour recenser les enfants dont les parents ont été arrêtés et qui n'avaient ni à manger ni à boire. Les éclaireuses neutres, c'est-à-dire sans confession, les faisaient passer en zone libre du côté de Dijon chez des femmes seules qui voulaient bien s'en occuper. Le 21 Juillet 1944, elle est arrêtée par les autorités allemandes avec ses 26 camarades pour le camp de Drancy. Dix jours après elle a été déporté à Auschwitz-Birkenau à bord du convoi n°77. Elle a ensuite été emmenée dans un camp à Kratzau. Le 9 mai 1945, le camp est libéré par les russes.

Plus d'informations

Après la guerre, Yvette Lévi consacre sa vie à témoigner. Elle intervient régulièrement dans les établissements scolaires, les associations mémorielles et lors de voyages de mémoire en Pologne, afin de raconter l'horreur de la Shoah et de transmettre son expérience aux jeunes générations.

Elle a été décorée de la Légion d'honneur pour son engagement et son rôle dans la transmission de la mémoire. Elle est également reconnue comme grande témoin de la déportation en France.

LES PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



GINETTE KOLINKA

- **Date de naissance : 04/02/1925**
- **Profession : Témoin et auteure engagée dans la mémoire de la Shoah**
- **Juive Française**

Biographie

Ginette est née Cherkasky dans une famille juive athée. Le 13 mars 1944, à dix-neuf ans, elle est arrêtée avec son père, Léon Cherkasky, son jeune frère de douze ans, Gilbert Cherkasky, et son neveu de quatorze ans, Georges Marcou, par la Gestapo à la suite d'une dénonciation. Incarcérée à la prison d'Avignon puis à celle des Baumettes, la famille est ensuite internée au camp de Drancy. Le 13 avril 1944, la famille est déportée par le convoi n°71 vers le camp d'Auschwitz-Birkenau. A l'arrivée du train, son père ainsi que son frère sont gazés. Ginette, quant à elle, est sélectionnée pour le travail et rejoint le camp des femmes. D'octobre 1944 à avril 1945, elle est détenue dans les camps de Bergen-Belsen puis de Theresienstadt. Elle travaille dans une usine de pièces d'aviation au camp Bergen-Belsen. En mai 1945, elle change de camp et à son arrivée le camp est libéré par les Alliés. Elle est ensuite rapatriée à Lyon, puis rejoint Paris le 6 juin 1945, où elle retrouve sa mère et quatre de ses cinq sœurs. A son retour en 1945 et jusqu'en 2000, elle mène une vie discrète en ayant peu de paroles publiques sur sa déportation. Dans les années 2000, elle commence à témoigner dans les écoles pour parler de la Shoah et sensibiliser les jeunes.

Plus d'informations

Elle a écrit des récits tels que Retour à Birkenau et Une vie heureuse avec Marion Ruggieri. Elle a reçu de nombreuses distinctions telles que : Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, Commandeur de l'ordre national du Mérite, des Palmes académiques et des Arts et des Lettres.

Elle est l'une des participantes du documentaire La Case du siècle : Les Filles de Birkenau (2024)

LES PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



ANNE-MARIE VAN OOST

- **Date de naissance : 20/10/1923**
- **Profession : engagée à la Croix-Rouge de Belgique.**
- **Belge**

Biographie

Anne-Marie van Oost est connue sous le nom de Lily de Gerlache. Issue d'une famille aisée, elle grandit dans un milieu très attaché à l'engagement, marqué par une forte conscience sociale et patriotique. Inspirée par sa mère, ancienne infirmière pendant la Première Guerre mondiale, Lily s'oriente très tôt vers l'engagement humanitaire. Dès 1940, elle s'engage comme téléphoniste à la Croix-Rouge de Belgique. En 1942, elle devient assistante dans les camps de l'Aide aux Enfants de Prisonniers (AEP), puis ambulancière à la Croix-Rouge. Elle rejoint l'Armée Secrète (AS) en juin 1944, sous le commandement du général Jules Pire. Elle était messagère dans les Flandres, transportait des informations et soutien aux réseaux résistants. En juillet 1944, elle est arrêtée à Bruxelles par la Gestapo et incarcérée à la prison de Gand, puis déportée au camp de Ravensbrück le 3 septembre 1944. Elle est affectée d'abord à des travaux physiques (routes, forêts...), puis, grâce à son expérience d'ambulancière, transférée en novembre 1944 au Block 11 comme aide-soignante. Placée sous l'autorité de la doctoresse Adélaïde Hautval, qui veille sur elle et lui sauve la vie à plusieurs reprises. Le 23 avril 1945, son nom figure sur une liste de prisonnières évacuées par la Croix-Rouge suédoise dans le cadre des « bus blancs ».

Plus d'informations

Lily Gerlache témoigne après la guerre sur les conditions à Ravensbrück et sur la solidarité féminine qui lui a sauvé la vie. Elle est très engagée dans la transmission de la mémoire de la Résistance et de la déportation, notamment celle des femmes. Lily Gerlache est l'une des nombreuses femmes belges résistantes déportées, dont le parcours illustre à la fois la brutalité de la répression nazie et la force de la fraternité entre prisonnières. Elle a publié *Le Faux Silence* (1974), récit de sa captivité et de son expérience à Ravensbrück.

LES PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



GERMAINE QUONIAM

- **Date de naissance : 3 Août 1907**
- **Profession : Infirmière**
- **Française**

Biographie

Germaine Quoniam est une résistante originaire de Dinan, en Bretagne. Infirmière dès le début de la guerre, elle refuse la défaite de 1940 et s'engage rapidement dans la Résistance. À Dinan, elle joue un rôle central dans l'aide aux prisonniers de guerre africains détenus au Frontstalag 133, un camp installé par les Allemands en ville. Avec son père, Charles Quoniam, ancien militaire, elle rejoint le Comité local d'assistance aux prisonniers, qui devient une couverture pour des actions clandestines.

Germaine organise des évasions de prisonniers en leur fournissant des fausses cartes d'identité et en les cachant dans la région. Elle aide aussi des réfractaires au STO (jeunes refusant de partir travailler en Allemagne) et des aviateurs alliés abattus, en les faisant exfiltrer discrètement. Ses actions se déroulent dans une ville sous étroite surveillance allemande, où la collaboration et la délation rendent toute activité dangereuse.

Connue pour son sang-froid et sa discrétion, elle devient une figure clé de la Résistance dinannaise. Menacée d'arrestation, elle quitte Dinan pour rejoindre les Forces françaises libres à l'étranger. Après la guerre, elle revient régulièrement à Dinan, où elle est honorée par les anciens combattants. Sa mémoire y reste vive, car elle incarne le courage local face à l'occupant.

Son engagement à Dinan montre comment des citoyens ordinaires ont accompli des actes extraordinaires pour la liberté.

Plus d'informations

Pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, la Bretagne est occupée par les troupes allemandes dès 1940, devenant un point stratégique important pour l'occupant. La région subit réquisitions, surveillance policière et répression. Malgré cela, de nombreux Bretons rejoignent la Résistance, particulièrement dans les zones rurales et côtières. La Bretagne est aussi marquée par la présence de camps de prisonniers et le passage forcé du STO (Service du Travail Obligatoire).

LES PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



Plus d'informations

Pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, la Bretagne est occupée par les Allemands, qui y installent des bases militaires stratégiques. La population subit des rationnements, des répressions et le Service du Travail Obligatoire. Face à cela, de nombreux Bretons, comme Désiré et Marie Guichard, rejoignent la Résistance pour combattre l'occupation. La région joue un rôle important dans les combats jusqu'à la Libération en 1944.

DÉSIRÉ ET MARIE GUICHARD

- **Date de naissance :** 17/05/1923 – 01/08/1924
- **Profession :** Artisan(e)
- **Français**

Biographie

Pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, Désiré Guichard, habitant de Dinan, s'engage activement dans la Résistance bretonne. Très impliqué dans les réseaux locaux, il participe à des actions contre l'occupant nazi, malgré les dangers constants liés à la répression allemande. L'un des faits marquants de son engagement est sa participation, le 12 avril 1944, à l'organisation d'une évasion spectaculaire : deux résistants, emprisonnés à Dinan, réussissent à s'enfuir grâce à l'aide de Désiré, ainsi qu'à la complicité de membres de la police locale. Cette opération audacieuse déclenche cependant une vague de répression violente dans la région.

En mai 1944, plusieurs résistants de Dinan sont arrêtés, torturés et transférés à Rennes. Le 30 mai, neuf d'entre eux sont condamnés à mort et exécutés dès le lendemain. Ce drame marque profondément la population locale. Marie Guichard, quant à elle, joue un rôle essentiel mais plus discret. Elle soutient les réseaux de Résistance en hébergeant des clandestins, en transmettant des messages et en aidant à la logistique, comme beaucoup de femmes à l'époque, souvent sans reconnaissance officielle.

Le couple agit dans un climat de grande tension, à une période où les dénonciations, les arrestations et les perquisitions sont fréquentes à Dinan. Malgré les risques, ils poursuivent leur engagement jusqu'à la Libération. Leur courage et leur dévouement font aujourd'hui partie de la mémoire locale de la Résistance. Par leurs actions, Désiré et Marie Guichard incarnent le combat silencieux mais déterminé de nombreux Bretons face à l'Occupation allemande.

LES PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



MARIE-LOUISE LILY CHARPENTIER

- **Date de naissance : 26/11/1905**
- **Profession : Assistante sociale**
- **Française**

Biographie

Marie-Louise était assistante sociale au bureau d'assistance aux familles des prisonniers de guerre. Elle a aidé la famille Engelstein. Celle-ci a qui a quitté la Pologne pour s'installer à Metz et La ville ayant été annexer par les Allemands en 1940, les ont emmenés à partir pour Rennes. En 1943, des agents de la Gestapo firent irruption dans leur maison et arrêterent Fishel Engelstein, et Béatrice sa belle-fille. Ayant été menacée de se faire arrêter et ne sachant pas quoi faire pour ses deux petits-enfants, Madame Engelstein s'est rendue au bureau d'assistance aux familles des prisonniers de guerre / qui soutient la Résistance où elle rencontra Marie-Louise Charpentier. Marie-Louise l'accompagne pour récupérer les enfants et les emmène chez un ami, dans une ferme où ils logeront temporairement. Pendant un mois le frère de Marie-Louise et deux amis leur rapportait à manger et en parallèle elle leur cherchait une cachette plus sûre et durable. Elle décide ensuite de les envoyer chez des amis actifs dans la Résistance à Paris, qui les aideront par la suite à se rendre chez des parents dans le Sud de la France. Marie-Louise a reçu un télégramme « les cinq lapins sont bien arrivés » lui signalant le succès de l'opération.

Marie-Louise a été reconnue par l'Institut International pour la Mémoire de la Shoah Yad Vashem en tant que Juste Parmi les Nations le 15 Mai 1990.

Rennes entre 1940 et 1943

Rennes est occupée par la Wehrmacht le 18 juin 1940, au moment de l'effondrement de l'armée française et devient un centre administratif et militaire important. Un climat de répression y règne : censure, couvre-feu et restrictions. La population vit sous surveillance étroite. Dès 1940-41, des réseaux de Résistance se forment : impression de tracts, organisation de filières d'évasion. Les autorités allemandes et la police française traquent les réseaux de Résistance et les personnes juives réfugiées à Rennes. Les arrestations et les déportations commencent en 1941.

LES PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



Défense de la France

Le mouvement a été créé en juillet 1941 à Paris, par un groupe d'étudiants. Leur action principale est de publier un journal clandestin Défense de la France afin d'informer la population et contrer la propagande de Vichy et des nazis. Au départ quelques centaines d'exemplaires étaient diffusés mais très vite le nombre monte à plus de 400 000 exemplaires en 1944. Le mouvement rejoint les Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur (FFI) et contribue activement à la Libération de Paris.

GENEVIÈVE DE GAULLE-ANTHONIOZ

- **Date de naissance : 25/10/1920**
- **Profession : Résistante et Militante des droits de l'Homme**
- **Française**

Biographie

Nièce du général de Gaulle, Geneviève De Gaulle-Anthonioz était étudiante en lettres à Rennes en 1940. L'arrivée des Allemands en juin 1940 la marque profondément. Elle quitte Rennes pour rejoindre sa famille à Paris. Elle mène des actions de résistance dans le mouvement Défense de la France en fabriquant et en diffusant un journal clandestin. Son rôle consistait à répartir et distribuer les tracts et journaux, à établir des liaisons entre résistants, et transporter parfois des messages ou du matériel. En juillet 1943, elle est arrêtée par la Gestapo et elle est emprisonnée à Fresnes puis déportée au camp de Ravensbrück, camp de concentration pour femmes en Allemagne. Elle est libérée en avril 1945.

Après la guerre, elle milite pour la mémoire de la déportation et s'engage dans la lutte contre la pauvreté en devenant présidente d'ATD Quart Monde de 1964 à 1998. Elle lutte également pour la dignité et contribue à faire reconnaître la misère comme une atteinte aux droits de l'Homme, inspirant de nombreuses actions sociales en France et à l'étranger. Elle a publié un témoignage intitulé : La traversée de la nuit (1998), où elle raconte son expérience de déportée. Elle a reçu de nombreuses distinctions : Grand-croix de la Légion d'honneur, médailles de la Résistance, et décorations étrangères. En 2015, 13 ans après sa mort ses cendres ont été transférées au Panthéon à Paris pour honorer son combat pour la dignité humaine.

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MÉMOIRE EUROPÉENNE



JEANNE BOHEC

- **16/02/1919 - 11/01/2010**
- **Résistante**
- **Française**

Biographie

Jeanne Bohec (1919–2010) est une résistante française au courage exceptionnel. Passionnée de mathématiques et grande lectrice, elle s'intéresse très jeune aux récits de femmes espionnes pendant la Première Guerre mondiale. Quand la France est envahie en 1940, elle refuse de rester passive. Alors que beaucoup fuient ou se résignent, elle prend une décision folle pour l'époque : seule, à 21 ans, elle embarque à la dernière minute sur un bateau pour l'Angleterre, quelques heures avant l'arrivée des soldats allemands à Brest.

Là-bas, elle rejoint la Résistance et se forme à la fabrication d'explosifs. Une anecdote marquante : elle apprend à créer des bombes avec des produits du quotidien, trouvables en pharmacie, pour contourner les contrôles allemands. En 1944, elle est parachutée en France. Elle récupère un vélo chez ses parents en Bretagne et sillonne la région pour former des groupes de résistants. Discrète mais redoutablement efficace, elle participe à des sabotages de voies ferrées pour ralentir les troupes nazies avant le Débarquement. C'est ainsi qu'elle gagne son surnom : "la plastiqueuse à bicyclette".

Malgré son courage, elle subit aussi le sexisme de son époque : à la fin de la guerre, on lui confie moins de missions importantes que ses homologues masculins. Après la guerre, elle devient professeure de mathématiques, transmettant son savoir aux jeunes générations.

Son histoire montre que chacun peut agir face à l'injustice, même sans arme ou uniforme. Aujourd'hui, alors que certaines idées extrémistes et de rejet refont surface en Europe, son parcours nous rappelle une chose essentielle : la démocratie et la liberté sont fragiles. Jeanne Bohec nous apprend qu'il faut rester vigilant, s'engager à son échelle et ne jamais laisser la peur ou l'indifférence l'emporter.

Context information

Pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, la Bretagne est occupée par l'armée allemande. Ports et voies ferrées sont fortement surveillés, car la région est stratégique. La population vit sous contrôle, entre pénuries et peur. Dans la Résistance, les femmes jouent un rôle essentiel mais souvent invisible : agentes de liaison, espionnes ou résistantes actives comme Jeanne Bohec. Pourtant, elles sont rarement reconnues et subissent de fortes inégalités malgré leur engagement.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



Contexto

Celeste Caeiro simboliza o caráter pacífico da Revolução de Abril e o papel fundamental da população civil na conquista da liberdade. A sua história demonstra como pequenos gestos podem ter um impacto histórico profundo e reforça a ideia de que a mudança social também nasce da ação coletiva e quotidiana.

CELESTE CAEIRO

- **Nascimento/morte: 1933 – 2024**
- **Profissão: Funcionária restauração**
- **Portuguesa**

Biografia

Celeste Caeiro tornou-se uma figura icónica da história portuguesa devido ao seu papel espontâneo e simbólico na Revolução dos Cravos, a 25 de abril de 1974. Na altura, trabalhava num restaurante em Lisboa que iria celebrar o seu aniversário oferecendo flores aos clientes. No entanto, devido ao golpe militar em curso contra a ditadura do Estado Novo, o restaurante encerrou, ficando com vários cravos por utilizar.

No caminho para casa, Celeste encontrou soldados nas ruas e, num gesto simples de empatia, começou a distribuir os cravos. Os militares colocaram as flores nos canos das espingardas, transformando um momento potencialmente violento num símbolo de paz e mudança. Esta imagem rapidamente se tornou uma das mais marcantes da história contemporânea portuguesa e deu nome à Revolução dos Cravos.

Embora não fosse uma líder política nem estivesse ligada a movimentos organizados, o seu gesto representa a força das pessoas comuns na construção da história e a importância da participação cidadã em momentos decisivos.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



Contexto

Graça Marques Pinto representa a resistência clandestina e o papel central dos jovens e estudantes na oposição ao regime. A sua experiência ajuda-nos a compreender a dimensão invisível da luta política e destaca a importância das mulheres nesses processos de resistência.

GRAÇA MARQUÊS PINTO

- **Nascimento/morte: 1940 – (viva)**
- **Profissão: Professora, ativista**
- **Portuguesa**

Biografia

Graça Marques Pinto, conhecida como Magaça, foi uma professora e ativista portuguesa profundamente envolvida na resistência contra o Estado Novo. Desde jovem, participou em movimentos estudantis e políticos que denunciavam a repressão, a censura e a ausência de liberdades em Portugal.

Em 1969, foi presa por distribuir panfletos que apelavam à celebração do 1.º de Maio, Dia Internacional dos Trabalhadores, uma data proibida pelo regime devido ao seu simbolismo político. Este episódio revela o controlo rigoroso exercido pela ditadura sobre qualquer forma de mobilização social.

Em 1973, passou à clandestinidade, integrando redes ligadas ao Partido Comunista Português e apoiando a direção da União dos Estudantes Comunistas (UEC). Viver escondida implicava deslocações constantes, risco permanente e grandes sacrifícios pessoais. Durante esse período, chegou a ter a sua filha enquanto vivia na clandestinidade, o que demonstra o impacto profundo da luta política na vida pessoal.

A sua trajetória reflete a coragem e o compromisso de muitos jovens que arriscaram a liberdade para lutar por um país democrático.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



Contexto

Cesina Bermudes representa a ligação entre ciência, feminismo e resistência política. A sua história evidencia o papel das mulheres qualificadas na luta contra a opressão e na promoção de mudanças estruturais na sociedade.

CESINA BERMUDES

- **Nascimento/morte: 1908 – 2001**
- **Profissão: Médica, obstetra, investigadora, ativista feminista**
- **Portugu*esa**

Biography

Biografia

Cesina Bermudes foi uma médica, obstetra, investigadora e ativista feminista portuguesa, destacando-se tanto na área da saúde como na luta pelos direitos das mulheres. Num contexto marcado por fortes desigualdades de género, tornou-se pioneira ao alcançar um doutoramento em Medicina em 1947, sendo uma das primeiras mulheres em Portugal a atingir esse nível académico.

Para além da sua carreira médica, envolveu-se ativamente em movimentos feministas e democráticos, nomeadamente no Movimento Democrático de Mulheres. A sua atividade política colocou-a em confronto direto com o regime do Estado Novo, tendo sido presa e vigiada pela polícia política.

Cesina defendia que a saúde, a igualdade de género e a justiça social estavam profundamente interligadas. Ao longo da sua vida, trabalhou para melhorar as condições de vida das mulheres e promover o seu acesso a direitos fundamentais, contribuindo também para a transformação social e cultural do país.

O seu percurso demonstra como o conhecimento científico pode ser uma ferramenta de intervenção social e política.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



Contexto

Virgínia Moura representa a quebra de barreiras de género e o papel ativo das mulheres na resistência política. A sua trajetória mostra como a luta pela igualdade e pela democracia estiveram frequentemente interligadas.

VIRGINIA MOURA

- **Nascimento/morte: 1915 – 1998**
- **Profissão: Engenheira civil, ativista política**
- **Portuguesa**

Biografia

Virgínia Moura foi uma engenheira civil e ativista política portuguesa que se destacou tanto pelo seu percurso profissional como pela sua oposição ao Estado Novo. Foi a segunda mulher em Portugal a formar-se em engenharia civil, abrindo caminho numa área dominada por homens e desafiando normas sociais profundamente enraizadas.

Paralelamente à sua carreira, envolveu-se na luta política como membro do Partido Comunista Português, participando ativamente na resistência ao regime. Devido à sua atividade, foi presa diversas vezes – cerca de 16 detenções – e esteve sob constante vigilância da PIDE.

Apesar da repressão, Virgínia manteve o seu compromisso com a luta pela liberdade, demonstrando grande resiliência e determinação. A sua vida ilustra a dupla luta enfrentada por muitas mulheres: a afirmação profissional e a participação política num contexto de forte repressão.

É recordada como uma figura de coragem e pioneirismo, tanto na engenharia como na resistência antifascista.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



MARIA LAMAS

- **Nascimento/morte: 1893 – 1983**
- **Profissão: Escritora, jornalista, ativista feminista**
- **Portuguesa**

Biografia

Maria Lamas foi uma escritora, jornalista e ativista feminista portuguesa, destacando-se na luta pelos direitos das mulheres e na oposição ao Estado Novo. Iniciou a sua carreira no jornalismo numa época em que a participação feminina na vida pública era muito limitada. Tornou-se diretora da revista Modas & Bordados, que transformou numa plataforma para discutir questões sociais, educação e emancipação feminina.

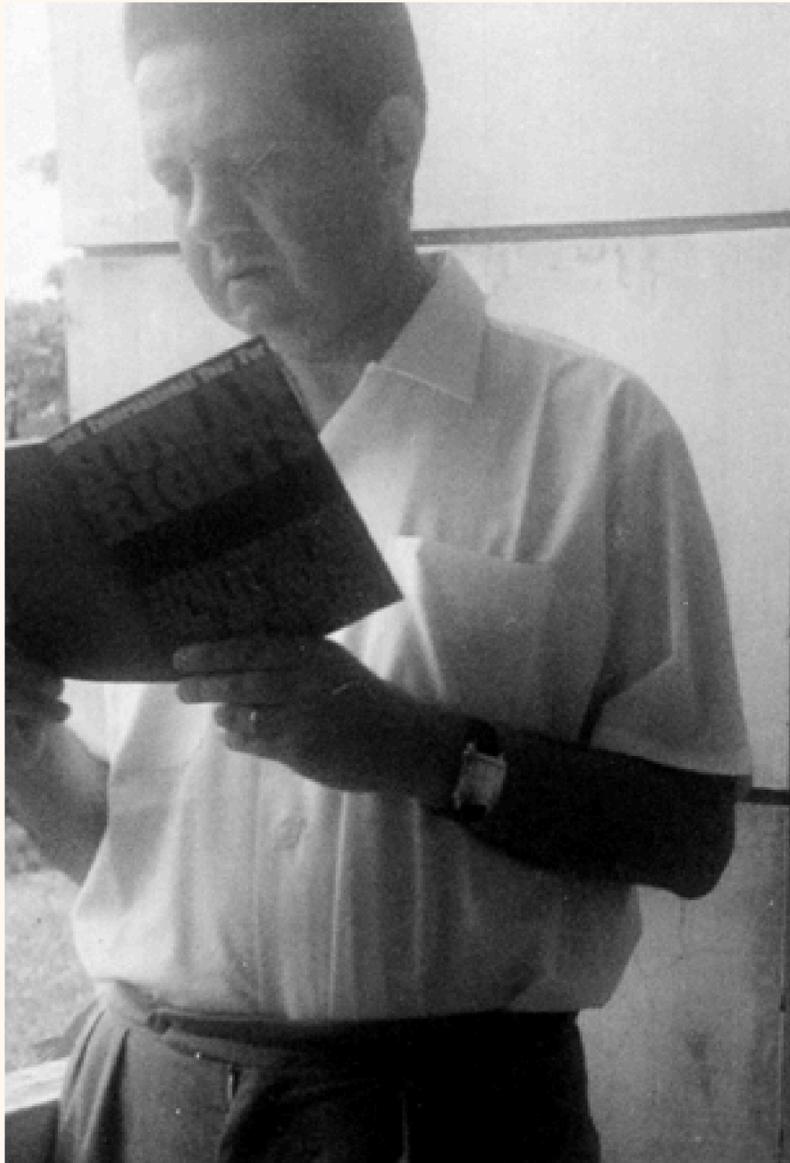
Teve um papel importante no movimento feminista, nomeadamente através da sua liderança no Conselho Nacional das Mulheres Portuguesas. A sua obra mais conhecida, *As Mulheres do Meu País* (1948), é um estudo pioneiro sobre a vida das mulheres em Portugal, dando visibilidade às desigualdades sociais e às condições de vida frequentemente ignoradas.

Devido à sua atividade, foi perseguida pelo regime, presa pela PIDE e forçada ao exílio em França. Após a Revolução de 1974, regressou a Portugal, onde o seu contributo foi finalmente reconhecido. É considerada uma figura fundamental na interseção entre feminismo, cultura e resistência política.

Contexto

Maria Lamas representa a luta feminista no contexto da ditadura, evidenciando o papel da cultura e do jornalismo na promoção dos direitos humanos e da igualdade.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



MÁRIO SOARES

- **Nascimento/morte: 1924 – 2017**
- **Profissão: Advogado, político**
- **Português**

Biografia

Mário Soares foi um advogado e político português, amplamente reconhecido como uma das principais figuras da construção da democracia em Portugal. Durante a ditadura do Estado Novo, liderada por António de Oliveira Salazar, destacou-se como opositor do regime, defendendo presos políticos e promovendo os direitos civis e as liberdades fundamentais. Devido à sua atividade política, foi várias vezes preso e acabou por ser forçado ao exílio, vivendo sobretudo em França, onde continuou o seu trabalho político e cofundou o Partido Socialista em 1973.

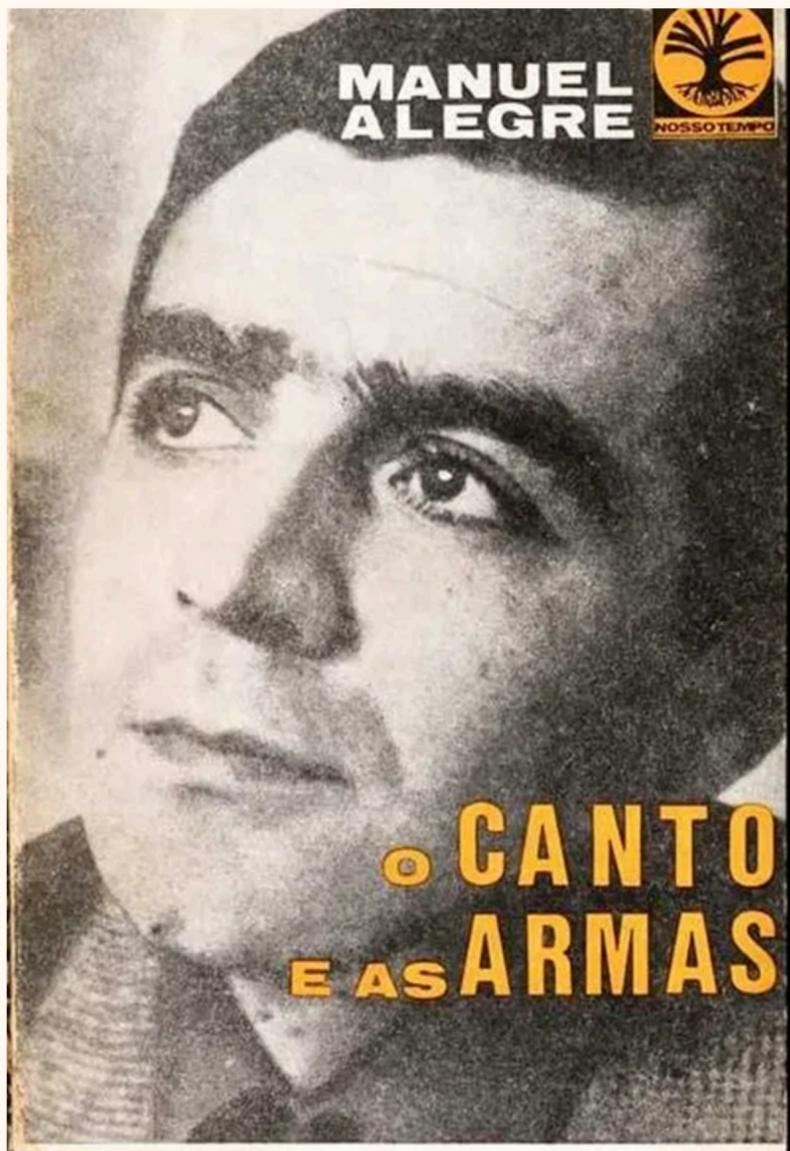
Após a Revolução dos Cravos, a 25 de abril de 1974, regressou a Portugal e teve um papel central na transição democrática. Participou ativamente na construção das instituições democráticas e no processo de elaboração da Constituição de 1976. Foi Ministro dos Negócios Estrangeiros durante o período da descolonização, posteriormente Primeiro-Ministro em dois mandatos e, mais tarde, Presidente da República entre 1986 e 1996, tornando-se o primeiro presidente civil eleito após a ditadura.

Ao longo da sua vida, Mário Soares foi um firme defensor da democracia, dos direitos humanos e da integração europeia, contribuindo para posicionar Portugal como um país plenamente integrado no espaço europeu. É recordado como um símbolo da transição pacífica para a democracia e do compromisso com a liberdade.

Contexto

Mário Soares representa a transição política da ditadura para a democracia em Portugal. A sua vida reflete a luta contra o autoritarismo e a construção de instituições democráticas após 1974.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



Contexto

Manuel Alegre representa a ligação entre cultura e resistência política, mostrando como a literatura e os meios de comunicação podem desafiar regimes autoritários e manter viva a luta pela liberdade.

MANUEL ALEGRE

- **Nascimento/morte: 1936 – (alive)**
- **Profissão: Poeta, escritor, político**
- **Português**

Biografia

Manuel Alegre é um poeta, escritor e político português, reconhecido como uma das vozes mais marcantes da resistência ao Estado Novo. Estudou Direito na Universidade de Coimbra, onde se envolveu ativamente nos movimentos estudantis contra o regime, denunciando a censura e a ausência de liberdades políticas. A sua atividade levou à sua prisão e, posteriormente, ao exílio, após ter criticado publicamente a guerra colonial enquanto cumpria serviço militar.

Durante o exílio, sobretudo na Argélia e em França, continuou a lutar contra a ditadura através da intervenção política e cultural. Tornou-se uma figura importante da oposição, nomeadamente através da sua participação na Rádio Voz da Liberdade, que transmitia mensagens contra o regime. A sua poesia, profundamente marcada pelos temas da liberdade, identidade e resistência, teve um forte impacto na sociedade portuguesa.

Após o 25 de Abril de 1974, regressou a Portugal e integrou a vida política como membro do Partido Socialista, tendo sido deputado durante vários anos. Candidatou-se à Presidência da República em 2006 e 2011. Em paralelo, manteve uma carreira literária de grande relevância, tendo recebido o Prémio Camões em 2017.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



Contexto

Álvaro Cunhal representa a resistência política organizada e clandestina contra a ditadura, refletindo as experiências de repressão, prisão e exílio.

ÁLVARO CUNHAL

- **Nascimento/morte: 1913 – 2005**
- **Profissão: Político, escritor**
- **Portugu*es**

Biography

Biografia

Álvaro Cunhal foi um político e escritor português, uma das figuras mais influentes da oposição ao Estado Novo. Estudou Direito na Universidade de Lisboa, onde se envolveu em movimentos estudantis de esquerda e aderiu ao Partido Comunista Português (PCP) na década de 1930. Tornou-se rapidamente uma figura central na resistência ao regime.

Ao longo da sua vida, foi várias vezes preso pela polícia política (PIDE), tendo passado mais de 11 anos na prisão, incluindo longos períodos em isolamento. Em 1960 protagonizou uma fuga histórica da prisão de Peniche, um momento simbólico na luta contra a ditadura. Posteriormente, viveu no exílio, principalmente na União Soviética e noutros países, de onde continuou a liderar o PCP e a organizar a oposição. Após a Revolução dos Cravos, regressou a Portugal e integrou o governo provisório como Ministro sem Pasta. Manteve-se como Secretário-Geral do PCP até 1992. Paralelamente, desenvolveu também uma atividade literária, publicando obras sob o pseudónimo Manuel Tiago. É lembrado pela sua forte convicção política e pelo seu papel na resistência organizada ao regime.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



Contexto

Conceição Matos representa a experiência direta da repressão e o papel das mulheres na resistência, destacando a importância da memória e do testemunho.

CONCEIÇÃO MATOS

- **Nascimento/morte: 1936 – (alive)**
- **Profissão: Ativista política**
- **Portuguesa**

Biografia

Conceição Matos é uma ativista política portuguesa e antiga presa política, conhecida pela sua resistência ao Estado Novo. Nascida em Grândola, envolveu-se desde cedo na luta contra o regime, integrando o Partido Comunista Português juntamente com o seu companheiro, Domingos Abrantes. Participou em atividades clandestinas de oposição e defesa da democracia.

Foi presa pela PIDE e sujeita a tortura e condições de detenção extremamente duras, passando vários anos na prisão. A sua experiência reflete a realidade de muitos opositores ao regime, em particular das mulheres que participaram ativamente na resistência e enfrentaram repressão violenta.

Após o 25 de Abril, continuou a dar testemunho da sua experiência, contribuindo para a preservação da memória histórica e para a sensibilização das novas gerações sobre a importância dos direitos humanos. É hoje reconhecida como um símbolo de coragem e resistência.

PROTAGONISTAS DA MEMÓRIA EUROPEIA



Contexto

Maria Lamas representa a luta feminista no contexto da ditadura, evidenciando o papel da cultura e do jornalismo na promoção dos direitos humanos e da igualdade.

MARIA LAMAS

- **Nascimento/morte: 1893 – 1983**
- **Profissão: Escritora, jornalista, ativista feminista**
- **Portuguesa**

Biografia

Maria Lamas foi uma escritora, jornalista e ativista feminista portuguesa, destacando-se na luta pelos direitos das mulheres e na oposição ao Estado Novo. Iniciou a sua carreira no jornalismo numa época em que a participação feminina na vida pública era muito limitada. Tornou-se diretora da revista *Modas & Bordados*, que transformou numa plataforma para discutir questões sociais, educação e emancipação feminina.

Teve um papel importante no movimento feminista, nomeadamente através da sua liderança no Conselho Nacional das Mulheres Portuguesas. A sua obra mais conhecida, *As Mulheres do Meu País* (1948), é um estudo pioneiro sobre a vida das mulheres em Portugal, dando visibilidade às desigualdades sociais e às condições de vida frequentemente ignoradas.

Devido à sua atividade, foi perseguida pelo regime, presa pela PIDE e forçada ao exílio em França. Após a Revolução de 1974, regressou a Portugal, onde o seu contributo foi finalmente reconhecido. É considerada uma figura fundamental na interseção entre feminismo, cultura e resistência política.

PROTAGONISTI DELLA MEMORIA EUROPEA



ANDRA BUCCI TATIANA BUCCI

- **Andra: 1939/vivente; Tatiana: 1937/ living**
- **Sopravvissute dell'olocausto**
- **Italiane**

Biografia

Andra Bucci nacque nel 1939 e Tatiana Bucci nel 1937 a Fiume, una città che all'epoca faceva parte dell'Italia (oggi Rijeka, Croazia). Le due sorelle appartenevano a una famiglia ebrea e trascorsero i primi anni della loro vita in un contesto che sarebbe stato profondamente sconvolto dalle leggi razziali e dalla persecuzione nazista durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale.

Nel marzo 1944, Andra e Tatiana Bucci furono arrestate e deportate con la loro famiglia nel campo di sterminio di Auschwitz-Birkenau, all'età di quattro e sei anni. Il viaggio segnò l'inizio di un'esperienza violenta e disumana, particolarmente traumatica per i bambini.

Le sorelle furono confinate nel Kinderblock, vivendo in condizioni dure, con letti di legno, fame, freddo e mancanza di cure mediche. Molti bambini intorno a loro si ammalarono e morirono. Furono usate come cavie umane per esperimenti pseudoscientifici condotti dal medico nazista Josef Mengele, sottoposte a dolorosi test senza alcuna spiegazione. Sopravvissero perché furono scambiate per gemelle, risultando così "utili" per i nazisti.

Il legame tra Andra e Tatiana fu fondamentale per la loro sopravvivenza, costituendo una forma di resistenza in un luogo progettato per distruggere le relazioni umane. Dopo la liberazione di Auschwitz nel 1945, le sorelle sopravvissero allo sterminio. Trascorsero un periodo in Inghilterra, come molti bambini sopravvissuti, prima di tornare in Italia, dove iniziarono un lungo percorso di ricostruzione personale e di elaborazione del trauma.

Context information

La Germania nazista condusse esperimenti medici sui prigionieri dei campi di concentramento principalmente tra il 1942 e il 1945, con 15.754 vittime documentate di varie nazionalità ed età. Circa un quarto di queste vittime fu ucciso, mentre i sopravvissuti subirono spesso gravi lesioni permanenti.

Ad Auschwitz e in altri campi, sotto la supervisione di Eduard Wirths, alcuni prigionieri selezionati furono sottoposti a esperimenti volti a supportare il personale militare tedesco, sviluppare nuove armi e promuovere l'ideologia razziale nazista e l'eugenetica, inclusi gli esperimenti sui gemelli condotti da Josef Mengele.

Dopo la guerra, questi crimini furono giudicati nel Processo ai medici, che portò alla creazione del Codice di Norimberga sull'etica medica.

PROTAGONISTI DELLA MEMORIA EUROPEA



ELISA SPRINGER

- **1918/2004**
- **Scrittrice e docente**
- **Austriaca naturalizzata italiana**

Biografia

Elisa Springer (Vienna, 1918 – Matera, 2004) fu una scrittrice e docente di origine austriaca naturalizzata italiana, nota soprattutto per essere stata una sopravvissuta alla Shoah e per aver dedicato gli ultimi anni della sua vita a testimoniare l'orrore dei campi di concentramento. Elisa fu arrestata a Milano nel 1944, a 26 anni. Fu deportata prima ad Auschwitz, poi a Bergen-Belsen e infine a Theresienstadt. Riuscì a sopravvivere alle condizioni disumane dei campi fino alla liberazione, avvenuta nel maggio 1945.

Dopo la guerra si trasferì in Italia, stabilendosi a Manduria (Puglia) e poi a Matera (Basilicata). Per oltre cinquant'anni scelse di non raccontare a nessuno la sua esperienza, nemmeno a suo figlio Silvio. Copriva il tatuaggio con bende o indumenti a maniche lunghe, cercando di dimenticare e di condurre una vita normale.

Il punto di svolta arrivò verso la fine degli anni '90. Di fronte alla risorgenza dei movimenti negazionisti e spinta dal desiderio di lasciare una testimonianza a suo figlio, decise di rompere il silenzio. Nel 1997 pubblicò il suo libro di memorie, *Il silenzio dei vivi*.

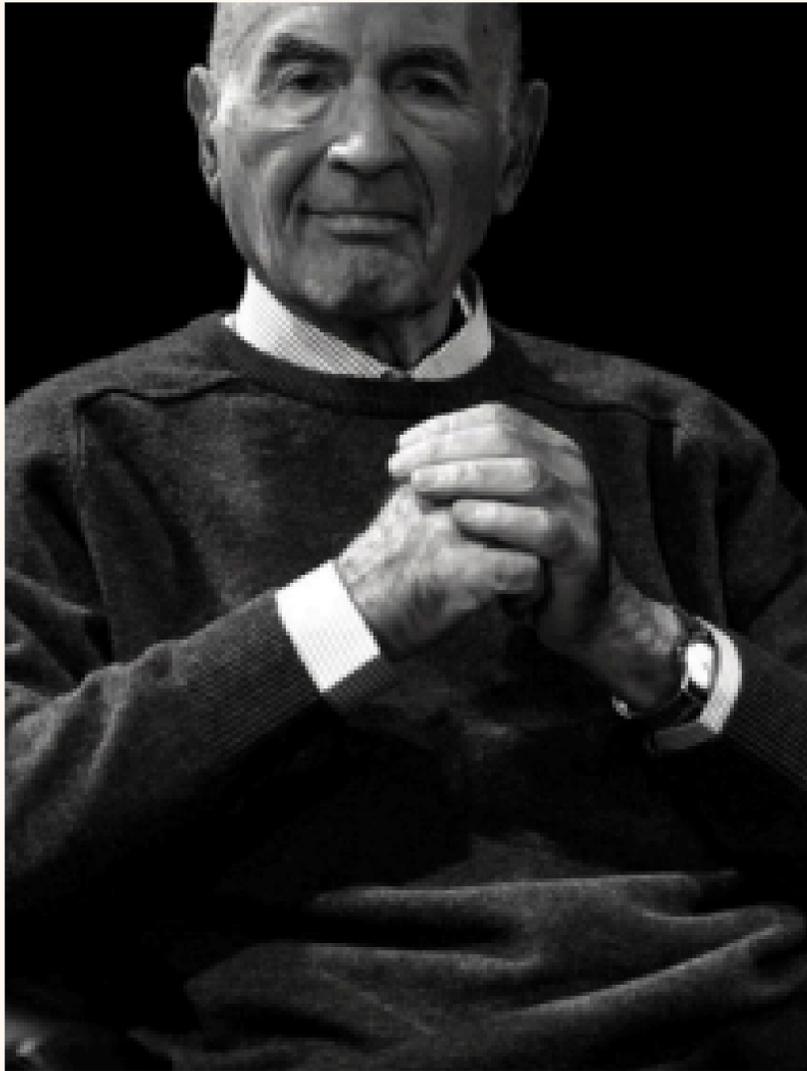
Il libro divenne un best-seller e un testo fondamentale nelle scuole italiane. Racconta con lucidità e dolore non solo la sofferenza fisica, ma anche l'umiliazione psicologica subita.

Impegno civile: Fino alla sua morte, avvenuta nel 2004, Elisa Springer viaggiò instancabilmente per l'Italia, incontrando migliaia di studenti. Il suo messaggio non era di odio o vendetta, ma di memoria ed educazione, affinché l'orrore non si ripettesse mai più.

Contesto

Quasi tutti gli ebrei italiani deportati furono inviati ad Auschwitz. Dei 506 ebrei destinati ad altri campi, il gruppo più numeroso era costituito da 396 persone con passaporto francese o britannico, trasferite nel campo di concentramento di Bergen-Belsen, dove molti di loro sopravvissero. Questo gruppo comprendeva anche ebrei deportati dalla Libia in Italia nel 1942. Le condizioni erano più dure per i gruppi più piccoli classificati come "politici", deportati dall'Italia verso campi come Buchenwald, Ravensbrück e Flossenbürg.

PROTAGONISTI DELLA MEMORIA EUROPEA



SAMI MODIANO

- **1930/ vivente**
- **Testimone attivo della Shoah**
- **Italiano**

Biografia

Sami Modiano nacque in una famiglia ebraica sefardita appartenente a una comunità antica e profondamente radicata sull'isola. Suo padre era un commerciante e l'infanzia di Modiano fu inizialmente serena, ma venne sconvolta dalle persecuzioni antiebraiche e dall'occupazione nazista.

Nel luglio 1944, Sami Modiano fu arrestato sull'isola di Rodi e deportato insieme a suo padre nel campo di sterminio di Auschwitz-Birkenau. Aveva soltanto 14 anni. All'arrivo al campo, gli fu tatuato il numero di registrazione 181108, un segno indelebile della disumanizzazione subita. La deportazione segnò la fine definitiva della sua famiglia: nessuno dei suoi parenti sopravvisse e Modiano rimase l'unico sopravvissuto.

Internato nel campo di sterminio, Modiano sopportò lavori forzati, fame, violenze e continue selezioni. Assistette allo sterminio sistematico dei gruppi considerati indesiderabili dai nazisti, ricordando: «Ci numeravano a Birkenau, dove separavano i bambini, dove uccidevano gli omosessuali, dove uccidevano i rom e i bambini disabili. Ho visto queste cose». Sopravvisse fino alla liberazione del campo, avvenuta nel gennaio 1945, ma il trauma rimase, come lui stesso dichiarò: «Non ho ancora lasciato Birkenau, ci sono ancora».

Dopo la liberazione trascorse del tempo in un orfanotrofio, esperienza comune per i giovani sopravvissuti che avevano perso le loro famiglie. Successivamente si trasferì in Belgio e poi in Italia, ricostruendo gradualmente la propria vita. La sua ripresa personale coincise con una crescente consapevolezza dell'importanza della memoria e della necessità di testimoniare.

Contesto

La promulgazione nel 1938 delle leggi razziali fasciste in Italia segnò una svolta storica, introducendo restrizioni che riflettevano un antisemitismo profondamente radicato. Una persona era considerata ebrea se nata da genitori ebrei o se praticava l'ebraismo, dando origine a una diffusa discriminazione.

Le principali misure includevano il divieto di matrimoni tra italiani ed ebrei, l'esclusione dall'impiego pubblico e da alcune occupazioni private, la revoca della cittadinanza per alcuni ebrei stranieri e limiti all'istruzione dei bambini ebrei. I cosiddetti ebrei "arianizzati" beneficiavano di alcune eccezioni, ma rimanevano soggetti a restrizioni significative. Tutti gli ebrei erano obbligati a far registrare il proprio status negli archivi civili.

PROTAGONISTI DELLA MEMORIA EUROPEA



Contesto

Nel settembre 1938 furono promulgate in Italia le leggi razziali fasciste, volte a definire gli italiani come appartenenti alla cosiddetta "razza ariana", basandosi su ideologie scientificamente infondate.

Queste leggi furono influenzate dal Manifesto della Razza, firmato da dieci scienziati. Di conseguenza, molti intellettuali e scienziati ebrei furono costretti a lasciare l'Italia o furono espulsi dalla vita accademica e professionale, tra cui Enrico Fermi.

Tra il 1940 e il 1943 furono istituiti campi di internamento e la persecuzione si intensificò. Dopo l'armistizio dell'8 settembre 1943 e la nascita della Repubblica Sociale Italiana, molti ebrei furono arrestati e deportati, spesso tramite il campo di Fossoli, verso campi di sterminio come Auschwitz.

ENRICA CALABRESI

- **1891/1944**
- **Zoologa ebrea ed etnomologa**
- **Italiana**

Biografia

Enrica Calabresi fu una scienziata e zoologa italiana di fama internazionale, specializzata in entomologia. Dopo la laurea in Scienze Naturali a Firenze nel 1914, concentrò le sue ricerche sullo studio dei coleotteri (Coleoptera), diventando in seguito una delle massime esperte mondiali della famiglia Brentidae.

Dal 1918 al 1921 fu segretaria della Società Entomologica Italiana, un ruolo prestigioso e eccezionalmente raro per una donna in quel periodo.

Carriera accademica: Ricoprì la cattedra di Zoologia e lavorò presso le Università di Firenze e Pisa, dove diede anche importanti contributi all'entomologia agraria. La sua carriera scientifica fu interrotta nel 1938 dall'entrata in vigore delle leggi razziali, che ne decretarono l'immediata espulsione dalle istituzioni accademiche statali in quanto ebrea. Dal 1938 al 1943 continuò la sua attività didattica presso la scuola ebraica di Firenze, garantendo l'istruzione agli studenti espulsi dal sistema pubblico.

Il 18 gennaio 1944 fu arrestata dai militi fascisti a Firenze. Trasportata nel carcere di Santa Maria Novella in attesa di deportazione verso il campo di sterminio di Auschwitz, Enrica Calabresi decise di sfuggire al trasferimento forzato ingerendo fosforo di zinco, sostanza che portava con sé appositamente per evitare la prigionia nei campi di concentramento. Morì durante la notte tra il 19 e il 20 gennaio 1944.

PROTAGONISTI DELLA MEMORIA EUROPEA



EUGENIO REALE

- **1905/1986**
- **Politico**
- **Italiano**

Biografia

Nato a Napoli in una famiglia borghese nel 1905, fin da giovane aderì al movimento antifascista e al Partito Comunista Italiano (PCI), esponendosi ai vincoli e ai rischi imposti dal regime. Fu arrestato e in parte esiliato. Dopo l'8 settembre 1943, fu nuovamente arrestato dai nazi-fascisti e deportato in un campo di concentramento tedesco come deportato politico. Sopportò la deportazione, che ebbe profonde conseguenze sulla sua vita.

Nel periodo postbellico fu rimpatriato in Italia e partecipò alla creazione della nuova Repubblica. Ricoprì ruoli di dirigente del PCI, parlamentare e diplomatico. Il suo pensiero e le sue opinioni si concentrarono su temi quali la democrazia, la pace e i diritti umani.

Fu eletto alla Corte Suprema di Giustizia nel settembre 1944 e servì nell'Assemblea Nazionale dal 1945 al 1946. In qualità di Sottosegretario di Stato agli Affari Esteri, divenne poi ambasciatore a Varsavia nel 1945, dove sposò Sulamita Kacyzne. Rappresentò il Partito Comunista alla riunione del Cominform e fu eletto all'Assemblea Costituente per il PCI.

All'inizio degli anni '50 si distaccò progressivamente dal PCI e lo lasciò nel 1956 a causa del sostegno del partito all'invasione sovietica dell'Ungheria, che portò alla sua espulsione. Si orientò quindi verso il socialismo, co-fondando Corrispondenza socialista nel 1957 e opponendosi a Togliatti. All'inizio degli anni '60 riferì sui rapporti PCI-Unione Sovietica per l'Ufficio Affari Riservati con il nome in codice "Gegé."

Contesto

Il campo di internamento di Le Vernet, situato a due chilometri dal villaggio di Le Vernet (Ariège), fu uno dei principali campi di internamento in Francia durante la Seconda Guerra Mondiale. Attivo dal 1918 al 1945, servì a diversi scopi nel corso della sua esistenza. Durante l'occupazione tedesca, insieme al campo di Gurs, funzionò come campo di transito per migliaia di ebrei, che venivano poi trasferiti al campo di Drancy prima di essere deportati nei campi di sterminio in Polonia. Successivamente, il campo fu utilizzato dagli Alleati come campo per prigionieri di guerra.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



CARLA CAPPONI

- **1918/2000**
- **Funzionaria di partito**
- **Italiana**

Biografia

Nata a Roma nel 1918 in una famiglia antifascista, intraprese gli studi presso il liceo Visconti, ma abbandonò l'università a seguito della morte del padre per dedicarsi al lavoro. Nel 1943, si distinse per il suo impegno umanitario, assistendo i feriti del bombardamento di San Lorenzo e iniziando a frequentare ambienti comunisti, dove conobbe Rosario Bentivegna. Dopo l'8 settembre 1943 entrò nel PCI e nei GAP "Carlo Pisacane". Partecipò attivamente ad azioni armate contro i tedeschi, distinguendosi per coraggio e iniziativa personale. Il 23 marzo 1944 collaborò all'organizzazione dell'attentato contro la compagnia tedesca "Bozen". Dopo la rappresaglia delle Fosse Ardeatine e un tradimento, si rifugiò nella campagna romana, dove fu vicecomandante partigiana con grado di capitano. Dopo la liberazione di Roma, sposò Rosario Bentivegna nel 1944 e nel 1945 nacque la loro figlia Elena. Ricevette la Medaglia d'oro al valor militare per il suo impegno nella Resistenza. Nel 1953 fu eletta deputata del PCI, e ancora nel 1972, ottenendo un grande consenso elettorale. Divorziò da Bentivegna nel 1974 ma mantenne con lui rapporti amichevoli. Negli ultimi anni pubblicò le sue memorie "Con cuore di donna" e fu membro del Comitato di presidenza dell'ANPI. Carla Capponi morì nel 2000. Le sue ceneri, secondo la volontà condivisa con Bentivegna, furono disperse nel fiume Tevere nel 2014, dopo la morte della figlia Elena, per rispettare i desideri dei genitori.

Contesto

Attiva sin dalle prime fasi della guerra, quando l'Italia è attraversata dai bombardamenti alleati. A seguito dell'armistizio italiano dell'8 settembre 1943, l'Italia si spacca a metà: il Nord e il Centro subiscono l'occupazione delle truppe naziste e la creazione del governo fantoccio della Repubblica Sociale Italiana, mentre il Sud rimane monarchico ed è sede delle forze alleate, che pian piano avanzeranno sempre più verso nord. Le azioni partigiane, dopo il '43, si intensificheranno progressivamente, coinvolgendo in particolare le regioni del Centro-Nord, fino alla fine della guerra.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



**NILDE
IOTTI**

- **1920/1999**
- **Prima donna Presidente della Camera dei Deputati**
- **Italiana**

Biografia

Figlia di un ferroviere socialista licenziato per motivi politici, crebbe in condizioni economiche difficili. Rimasta orfana del padre nel 1934, poté continuare gli studi grazie a borse di studio. Si laureò in Lettere all'Università Cattolica di Milano nel 1942, avendo tra i suoi professori Amintore Fanfani.

Nel 1942 si iscrisse al Partito Nazionale Fascista, scelta obbligatoria per poter insegnare nelle scuole pubbliche. Lavorò come insegnante nelle scuole tecniche della provincia di Reggio Emilia fino al 1946. Dopo l'8 settembre 1943 si avvicinò al PCI e partecipò alla Resistenza. Iniziò come staffetta portaordini e poi entrò nei Gruppi di difesa della donna, organizzazione antifascista femminile, diventandone una figura di rilievo.

Nel 1946 fu eletta nel consiglio comunale di Reggio Emilia e poco dopo entrò ufficialmente nel PCI. Nello stesso anno fu eletta all'Assemblea Costituente e fece parte della Commissione dei 75, che redasse la Costituzione italiana. Deputata dal 1948 al 1999 senza interruzioni, si occupò soprattutto di diritti delle donne e riforme civili. Fu protagonista delle battaglie per la riforma del diritto di famiglia e per l'introduzione e la difesa del divorzio (referendum del 1974).

Nel 1979 fu eletta Presidente della Camera con largo consenso. Nel suo discorso di insediamento sottolineò il valore dell'emancipazione femminile e l'importanza dell'imparzialità istituzionale. Nel novembre 1999 si dimise per gravi problemi di salute e morì il 4 dicembre dello stesso anno per arresto cardiaco. Ricevette funerali di Stato civili, come da sua volontà, ed è sepolta al Cimitero del Verano di Roma.

Contesto

Iotti operò nell'attività clandestina della Resistenza a Reggio Emilia in un contesto di occupazione nazista e repressione fascista della Repubblica Sociale Italiana. Il suo ruolo di staffetta partigiana era uno dei più pericolosi e cruciali: trasportava armi, messaggi, volantini e informazioni tra le formazioni partigiane, permettendo la coesione delle brigate e l'organizzazione della lotta armata, ma esponendosi al rischio di cattura, tortura e fucilazione.

A Milano, nel '43, nacquero i Gruppi di Difesa della Donna (GDD), organizzazioni femminili antifasciste coordinanti attività a sostegno della Resistenza (raccolta di cibo e assistenza alle famiglie dei deportati e partigiani) oltre a diventare veicolo di emancipazione femminile che sottrasse le donne ai ruoli di madri e mogli imposti dal fascismo.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



STEFANINA MORO

- 1927/1944
- Staffetta partigiana
- Italiana

Biografia

Originaria del quartiere Quezzi di Genova, durante la guerra di liberazione teneva i collegamenti fra diverse formazioni partigiane. A 16 anni fu arrestata e condotta alla Casa del Fascio di Cornigliano e poi alla Casa dello Studente di corso Gastaldi. Venne torturata – invano – affinché rivelasse i nomi dei compagni. Fu poi ricoverata nell'ospedale di Asti, dove morì il 9 ottobre 1944, a causa delle torture subite.

Contesto

La guerra di liberazione italiana fu il complesso di operazioni militari e azioni di guerriglia condotte durante la campagna d'Italia dagli Alleati, dall'Esercito Cobelligerante Italiano e dalle brigate partigiane della resistenza italiana contro la Germania nazista e la Repubblica Sociale Italiana. La campagna si concluse con la liberazione dell'Italia dall'occupazione nazifascista.

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



LIDIA MENAPACE

- **1924/1920**
- **Scrittrice e senatrice**
- **Italiana**

Biografia

Lidia Menapace è stata una delle figure più significative dell'antifascismo e del femminismo italiano. Nata a Novara, partecipò giovanissima alla Resistenza come staffetta partigiana con il nome di battaglia "Bruna", esperienza che segnò profondamente tutta la sua vita. Dopo la laurea all'Università Cattolica di Milano, iniziò un percorso di impegno culturale e politico che la portò a essere tra le prime donne elette nel Consiglio provinciale di Bolzano negli anni Sessanta.

Nel tempo passò dalla Democrazia Cristiana alla sinistra, diventando una voce autorevole del pacifismo, dell'antimilitarismo e dei diritti delle donne. Fu eletta al Senato della Repubblica dal 2006 al 2008 nelle liste del Partito della Rifondazione Comunista, distinguendosi per l'impegno contro la guerra e per la difesa dei valori costituzionali.

Scrittrice e saggista, ha lasciato numerosi contributi sul rapporto tra politica, memoria e cittadinanza attiva. La sua vita rappresenta un esempio di coerenza, coraggio e partecipazione democratica, sempre guidata dall'idea che la pace e l'uguaglianza siano responsabilità quotidiane di ogni cittadino.

Contesto

La FUCI (Federazione Universitaria Cattolica Italiana) è una federazione di gruppi di studenti universitari cattolici nata nel 1896 a Fiesole e fu l'unica alternativa concessa dal Partito Fascista, nell'ambito delle organizzazioni studentesche universitarie, ai Gruppi Universitari Fascisti. Tuttavia fu presto mira della repressione fascista. Molti dei suoi membri parteciparono alla lotta di liberazione nazionale e contribuirono alla scrittura della Carta costituzionale. Gli intellettuali fucini saranno poi molti dei futuri esponenti democristiani delle correnti di sinistra nel secondo Dopoguerra

PROTAGONISTS OF EUROPEAN MEMORY



ONORINA BRAMBILLA

- **1923/2011**
- **partigiana**
- **Italiana**

Biografia

Nata a Milano nel 1923, impiegata, presidente dell'Associazione ex perseguitati politici italiani antifascisti di Milano e responsabile della Commissione femminile dell'ANPI. Deceduta a Milano nel 2011. Aveva ricevuto, giovedì 7 dicembre 2006, l'«Ambrogino d'oro», il riconoscimento del Comune di Milano ai cittadini illustri. Un premio per l'impegno che, per tutta la vita, "Nori" aveva dedicato a tener viva la memoria della Resistenza e dei campi di sterminio nazisti ai quali era sopravvissuta.

Il 12 settembre 1944, "Sandra", una delle più audaci staffette partigiane milanesi, venne arrestata dai fascisti repubblicani dopo aver contribuito agli scioperi del 1943 e 1944. Nonostante fosse una delle leader milanesi dei "Gruppi di difesa della donna", una delle formazioni del CLN che supportava le brigate partigiane, non rivelò mai informazioni compromettenti durante i pesanti interrogatori.

L'11 novembre, dopo due mesi di prigionia, venne trasferita nel campo di concentramento di Bolzano-Gries, dove rimase fino alla liberazione, il 29 aprile 1945. Durante la prigionia, venne identificata con il numero di matricola 6087. Questa esperienza di sofferenza e resistenza fu documentata e condivisa in vari convegni e dibattiti, anche nelle scuole.

Nel 2003, il suo contributo alla Resistenza e alla memoria storica venne raccontato nel film "Senza tregua" di Marco Pozzi, presentato alla Mostra del Cinema di Venezia. Inoltre, partecipò alla realizzazione del documentario "Il primo giorno - Milano, 25 aprile 1945", un'importante iniziativa che celebrava la Liberazione di Milano.

Contesto

I membri del Partito Fascista Repubblicano (PFR), chiamati "repubblicani", erano il partito unico della Repubblica Sociale Italiana, istituito il 18 settembre 1943, pochi giorni dopo la liberazione di Mussolini dal carcere grazie ai nazisti, nell'ambito dell'Operazione Quercia. La fondazione del partito e della Repubblica Sociale Italiana si inserisce nel tentativo nazifascista di mantenere il controllo del Nord Italia. Anti-monarchici, consideravano il re Vittorio Emanuele III un traditore. Composto da elementi estremisti, il PFR cercava di consolidare il governo fascista e combattere al fianco della Germania nazista, adottando scelte radicali e violente contro ebrei, Resistenza, presunti traditori e massoneria.

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



Guerra Civil a Terrassa

Durant la Guerra Civil (1936–1939), Terrassa va viure una profunda transformació social. La ciutat va quedar en mans de les forces republicanes i va ser fortament influenciada per la Confederació Nacional del Treball (CNT), sindicat anarquista fundat a Espanya l'any 1910) i altres organitzacions obreres. Es van col·lectivitzar fàbriques, es van crear serveis socials i es va reformar l'ajuntament amb la participació de sindicats. Les dones, com Quitèria Tarragó Casellas, van assumir rols polítics destacats. Tot aquest procés es va veure truncat amb l'entrada de les tropes franquistes el 1939, que va suposar la fi de l'experiència revolucionària i l'inici de la repressió.

QUITÈRIA TARRAGÓ CASELLAS

- **23/06/1896 – 1980**
- **Llevadora**
- **Espanyola**

Biografia

Quitèria Tarragó Casellas va néixer l'any 1896 a Sant Gallard (comarca de la Conca de Barberà). Última de cinc germans, va créixer en una família modesta. La seva família es va traslladar a Sabadell, on va començar a treballar a la indústria tèxtil mentre continuava els seus estudis per esdevenir llevadora. L'any 1925 es va establir a Terrassa, on va ser contractada a l'Hospital Maternal. En aquell moment, es va unir al Col·legi Oficial de Llevadores i es va afiliar a la UGT. Militant compromesa, va defensar ideals progressistes i es va implicar activament en les lluites sindicals i polítiques. Propera als corrents republicans i anarco-sindicalistes, va participar en moviments que pretenien millorar les condicions laborals, defensar els drets de les dones i també va lluitar per garantir que les dones poguessin donar a llum en condicions òptimes d'higiene.

En plena Guerra Civil, el 9 de juliol de 1937, es va convertir en la primera dona elegida com a regidora de l'Ajuntament de Terrassa, ocupant el càrrec de regidora de Cultura i Acció Social. La seva elecció va marcar una fita important en la incorporació de les dones a la política durant la Segona República Espanyola.

Després de la derrota republicana, va ser denunciada per la seva activitat política i sindical. Acusada de "rebel·lió militar", va ser condemnada a dotze anys de presó. Va estar empresonada a Terrassa i posteriorment a la presó de dones de Les Corts, fins que va obtenir la llibertat condicional el febrer de 1944. En sortir, va ser obligada a l'exili i se li va prohibir tornar a Terrassa. A poc a poc, va desaparèixer de la vida pública i es creu que es va establir a València abans d'obrir una consulta a Barcelona. Quitèria Tarragó Casellas va morir l'any 1980, deixant un llegat de lluita per la justícia social i els drets de les dones.

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



TERESA TORRELLES ESPINA

- **27/05/1908 - 18/05/1991**
- **Obrera tèxtil, 2a dona regidora de l'Ajuntament de Terrassa**
- **Espanyola**

Biografia

Teresa Torrelles Espina, anomenada "Teresina", va néixer en una família de pagesos catalans obligada a l'exili cap a les colònies tèxtils. L'any 1914, s'estableix a Esparreguera amb la seva família, on desenvolupa una consciència política i social precoç. Gran lectora i autodidacta, la seva consciència de classe es desperta molt jove, i el seu esperit crític la converteix en una jove rebel amb idees avantguardistes poc comunes a l'època. Als setze anys, s'uneix al moviment llibertari de la ciutat i coneix Joan Graells Llopart, que esdevindrà el seu company de vida i de lluita fins a la seva mort l'octubre de 1938 al front de l'Ebre.

Militant anarquista i feminista, s'implica a Terrassa en l'organització de les dones obreres i la Mutualitat Cultural i Cooperativista, defensant la igualtat salarial, el permís de maternitat i l'educació lliure. Promou una educació científica, democràtica i de qualitat, destinada a formar esperits crítics i lliures. L'any 1936, participa en la fundació del moviment Dones Lliures i és elegida el 1938 regidora de Terrassa, convertint-se així en la segona dona que ha ocupat mai aquest càrrec. Després de la victòria franquista, s'exilia a França amb la seva filla, i posteriorment, a Argentina i Veneçuela, on continua el seu compromís sindical. Torna a França l'any 1966 i mor a Besiers el 1991. La seva lluita per l'emancipació de les dones i dels treballadors continua sent un llegat fonamental del moviment anarquista.

El seu mandat com a regidora

Teresa va ser regidora a l'Ajuntament de Terrassa el 1938, en plena Guerra Civil, en un moment en què sindicats i organitzacions populars assumien tasques de govern. Compromesa amb els valors llibertaris i feministes, va treballar especialment en els àmbits de la sanitat, la maternitat i el benestar social. Va impulsar la reorganització de la Maternitat de Terrassa, va defensar els drets de les mares treballadores i va promoure una educació laica i emancipadora. També va participar en la creació de serveis bàsics per a la població obrera. La seva tasca es va veure truncada amb l'arribada de les tropes franquistes, en gener de 1939 que la van obligar a exiliar-se. Tot i la seva curta etapa institucional, la seva acció política representa una experiència transformadora amb la justícia social i les dones al centre.

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



MARIA BIGORDÀ MONTMANY

- **21/09/1916 – 08/09/2009**
- **Teixidora**
- **Espanyola**

Biografia

Maria Bigordà Montmany va néixer l'any 1916 a Ullastrell, en una família pagesa modesta. Des dels sis anys va ajudar els seus pares al camp. Malgrat no poder anar a l'escola, va aprendre a llegir a casa gràcies al llibre La Terra del diari de la Unió de Rabassaires. El seu pare, militant d'Esquerra Republicana, la va portar des de ben petita a les reunions polítiques en què participava. A l'edat de 15 anys, va trobar feina en una fàbrica tèxtil i va treballar en paral·lel com a criada. Influïda per les idees anarquistes i sindicalistes, es va implicar en la defensa dels drets dels treballadors i de les dones, participant activament en les lluites socials.

Als 16 anys, la Maria es va casar amb Josep Portero Serrano, un teixidor de 29 anys. La parella va tenir dues filles, però el seu matrimoni va quedar marcat per violència domèstica que la Maria va denunciar sense èxit. Després del naixement de la seva segona filla es van separar, fet que la va portar a una situació de precarietat. La seva filla més petita va morir per manca d'atenció mèdica.

L'any 1939, després de la guerra, van denunciar la Maria per les seves activitats polítiques i sindicals. Acusada de "rebel·lió militar", va ser condemnada a 12 anys de presó i empresonada a Terrassa, i després a Les Corts, on va conèixer amb militants comunistes i va enfortir la seva consciència política. Alliberada sota condicions el 1941, es veu obligada a exiliar-se a Madrid abans de tornar amb els seus pares a Ullastrell el 1942, sota vigilància.

El 1953, Maria va reprendre la seva feina de teixidora i es va comprometre amb les lluites sindicals, donant suport a les Comissions Obreres (CCOO) i participant en reunions clandestines. Després de la seva jubilació el 1976, es va adherir oficialment al Partit Socialista Unificat de Catalunya (PSUC). La Maria va morir el 8 de setembre de 2009, als 92 anys, deixant un llegat de lluita pels drets dels treballadors i la justícia social.

Indústria tèxtil a Catalunya

La indústria tèxtil va ser un dels motors econòmics més importants de Catalunya durant el segle XX. Es caracteritzava per una producció molt diversificada, que incloïa cotó, llana i fibres sintètiques. Les fàbriques eren grans centres de treball, sovint amb condicions laborals difícils, especialment per a les dones, que formaven part important de la força laboral.

El sector tèxtil va ser també un focus d'activitat sindical i política. Molts dels moviments obrers i les lluites per millorar els drets dels treballadors van sorgir precisament d'aquest àmbit. Durant la Guerra Civil, moltes fàbriques tèxtils van ser col·lectivitzades, passant a ser gestionades directament pels treballadors, un exemple de la revolució social que es vivia a Catalunya.

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



MARINA GINESTÀ I COLOMA

- **29/01/1919 - 06/01/2014**
- **Periodista, Traductora**
- **Espanyola**

Biografia

Marina Ginestà i Coloma va néixer a Tolosa, en una família obrera catalana compromesa amb les lluites sindicals. Va créixer a Barcelona després del retorn dels seus pares a Catalunya. De ben jove, va ser influenciada pels ideals comunistes i anarcosindicalistes que marcaven la societat obrera catalana de l'època. A l'edat de 17 anys, quan va esclatar la Guerra Civil el juliol de 1936, es va implicar activament en el bàndol republicà i es va adherir al Partit Comunista d'Espanya (PCE).

Tot i que no va ser combatent al front, Marina Ginestà, va tenir un paper important com a periodista i traductora, facilitant la comunicació entre les forces antifeixistes espanyoles i els seus aliats internacionals. També va participar en accions de propaganda destinades a enfortir la resistència contra el règim franquista.

Amb la derrota de la República Espanyola el 1939 es va exiliar a França, on va ser arrestada i enviada a un camp de refugiats. Poc després, va trobar la manera d'emigrar a la República Dominicana, però el 1946 es va veure obligada a marxar a causa de la dictadura de Rafael Trujillo. Es va establir posteriorment a Veneçuela, abans de tornar a França, on va passar la major part de la seva vida.

La seva imatge, capturada pel fotògraf Juan Guzmán el 1936, on va aparèixer al terrat de l'Hotel Colón de Barcelona amb un fusell a la mà, continua sent un dels símbols més emblemàtics de la joventut compromesa en la lluita contra el feixisme durant la Guerra Civil.

El fotògraf Juan Guzmán

Juan Guzmán (nascut com a Hans Gutmann el 1905 a Alemanya) va ser un fotògraf de reconegut prestigi, especialment famós per la seva feina durant la Guerra Civil Espanyola. Amb un enfocament compromès amb les causes republicanes, va documentar moments clau del conflicte, capturant imatges que transmeten la cruesa de la guerra i l'esperit de resistència. La seva obra és un testimoni visual imprescindible per comprendre la història i la realitat social d'aquell període. Després de la guerra, Guzmán va continuar la seva carrera fotogràfica a Mèxic, on va influir en diverses generacions d'artistes i fotògrafs.

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



El Front d'Aragó

Després del cop d'estat feixista de 1936, les forces populars catalanes, van organitzar columnes militars per frenar l'avanç franquista cap a l'es, que es van dirigir a l'Aragó, on es va establir un dels fronts més estables de tota la guerra. A més de combatre, aquestes columnes van impulsar la col·lectivització de terres i pobles, creant una estructura social revolucionària en zones alliberades, gestionada directament pels pagesos i treballadors. El front va romandre gairebé immòbil durant mesos, en part per la desorganització militar i les diferències entre les forces republicanes. Finalment, al principi del 1938, les tropes franquistes van llançar una forta ofensiva que va trencar el Front d'Aragó marcant l'inici de la pèrdua de Catalunya.

PAULINA ÒDENA GARCÍA

- 22/01/1911 - 14/09/1936
- Política, Periodista, Miliciana
- Espanyola

Biografia

Paulina Òdena García va néixer el 1911 a Barcelona. Va créixer en un entorn obrer i, des de molt jove, va ser influenciada per les idees revolucionàries que marcaven la Catalunya de l'època. A causa d'això, es va afiliar al Partit Comunista d'Espanya (PCE), on va militar activament en defensa de la causa obrera i antifeixista.

Quan va esclatar el cop d'estat franquista el juliol de 1936, la Paulina es va implicar a la resistència al costat de les forces republicanes. Va participar en la defensa de Barcelona, on els insurgents franquistes van ser ràpidament vençuts gràcies a la mobilització obrera i popular. A causa del seu compromís i les seves habilitats de lideratge es va integrar a les milícies antifeixistes i va arribar a ser comandant de l'exèrcit republicà.

Paulina va ser enviada al front d'Aragó, on va lluitar amb les forces republicanes contra les tropes franquistes. Al setembre de 1936, durant els combats a prop de Monte Aragón, ella i els seus companys d'armes es van veure envoltats per l'enemic. En lloc de caure capturada pels franquistes, va preferir treure's la vida, un acte que va impactar profundament els seus companys i la va convertir en un símbol de resistència i coratge.

El seu compromís i sacrifici la van convertir en una figura emblemàtica de la lluita antifeixista. Encara avui, Paulina Òdena representa la determinació de les dones republicanes que van prendre les armes per defensar la llibertat i la justícia social.

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA

Retrats de deportats als camps de concentració nazis, Extrets del projecte Stolpersteine de Terrassa

Entre 1940 i 1941, uns setanta republicans nascuts o residents a Terrassa van ser deportats a camps nazis. La majoria, 41 d'ells, van ser assassinats, i la resta van tornar temps després o van romandre a l'exili. En total, més de 9.000 republicans espanyols van ser deportats a camps d'extermini entre 1940 i 1945, i prop del 60% no va sobreviure. Després de perdre la Guerra Civil, molts van creuar la frontera, van ser internats en camps de refugiats i posteriorment lliurats a les autoritats nazis. La majoria va acabar al camp de Mauthausen.

Per recuperar-ne la memòria, s'impulsa el projecte Stolpersteine. Les Stolpersteine (en alemany, "pedres que fan ensopegar") són petits llambordins amb una placa de llautó on es grava el nom i les dades bàsiques d'una víctima del nazisme. Es col·loquen davant del seu darrer domicili o en un lloc significatiu vinculat a la persona, amb l'objectiu de recordar les víctimes a l'espai públic i mantenir-ne viva la memòria.

L'Ajuntament de Terrassa, conjuntament amb el Memorial Democràtic de la Generalitat de Catalunya, preveu desenvolupar aquest programa a la ciutat, instal·lant les primeres pedres de memòria davant dels habitatges o espais més propers a cada persona homenatjada.

Descobreix la història dels deportats de Terrassa i la ubicació de les diferents llambordes Stolpersteine: <https://emap.terrassa.cat/mapGIS/?modul=memoria>



PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



La CNT

La Confederació Nacional del Treball és un sindicat anarcosindicalista espanyol fundat el 1910 amb l'objectiu de defensar els drets dels treballadors mitjançant l'acció directa i l'autogestió. Promou l'anarquisme com a model social, buscant una societat sense Estat ni jerarquies, basada en la cooperació, la solidaritat i la llibertat dels individus. La CNT va tenir un paper molt important en els moviments obrers i en la Guerra Civil espanyola, especialment a Catalunya, on va organitzar col·lectivitats, vagues i la resistència contra el feixisme. Durant la Segona República va esdevenir una de les principals forces sindicals de l'Estat. Després de la derrota republicana, va ser durament reprimida pel franquisme, però va continuar la seva activitat a l'exili i en la clandestinitat, mantenint viu el seu ideari fins a la recuperació de les llibertats democràtiques.

ÁNGEL OLIVARES GALLEGO

- 06/02/1921 - 04/03/1982
- Tintorer
- Espanyol

Biografia

Ángel Olivares Gallego va néixer a Abruena (Almeria) el 6 de febrer de 1921. L'any 1926 la seva família es va establir a Terrassa, on va créixer amb la seva germana Remedios i on treballà de tintorer a la Manufactura Tèxtil, com el seu pare. De ben jove va militar a les Joventuts Llibertàries de Terrassa. Tot i el seu caràcter reservat, va destacar en un míting de la CNT amb la presència de Juan García Oliver i Federica Montseny, on va pronunciar un discurs molt celebrat que el convertí en un referent per als joves llibertaris de la ciutat.

El 1938, amb divuit anys, s'enrolà a la 26a Divisió (antiga Columna Durruti). Amb la derrota republicana creuà la frontera francesa el febrer de 1939 i fou internat en diversos camps. Integrat en una Companyia de Treballadors Estrangers a la línia Maginot, va ser capturat pels nazis i deportat el desembre de 1940 al camp de concentració de Mauthausen. Posteriorment fou destinat a diversos kommandos i finalment al subcamp d'Ebensee, on va sobreviure fins a l'alliberament el maig de 1945.

Després de la guerra es va establir a França. Compromès amb la memòria i els drets dels deportats republicans, va participar activament en la CNT a l'exili i va ser fundador i secretari a França de la Federación Española de Deportados e Internados Políticos, treballant pel reconeixement i les pensions de les víctimes del nazisme. Va morir a París el 4 de març de 1982, deixant el testimoni d'una vida marcada per la lluita, l'exili i el compromís amb la memòria dels deportats republicans.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Angel+Olivares+Gallego.pdf/4820ad4a-a8b6-47ea-9439-111b78704f5d

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



Camp de Mauthausen

El camp de concentració de Mauthausen va ser un dels camps nazis més durs durant la Segona Guerra Mundial. Situat a Àustria, era de "categoria III", destinat a presoners considerats enemics irrecuperables, amb condicions extremadament brutals: treballs forçats, fam, violència constant i una mortalitat molt elevada.

En aquest context, la presència d'espanyols s'explica per les conseqüències de la Guerra Civil Espanyola: després de la victòria de Franco, milers de republicans es van exiliar a França i, amb l'ocupació nazi del 1940, molts van ser capturats i deportats, sobretot a Mauthausen. Es calcula que uns 7.500 espanyols hi van ser enviats, i més de la meitat hi van morir a causa de les dures condicions.

DIEGO LOZANO RIBERA

- **30/10/1916 - 13/05/1942**
- **Anudador a l'atur**
- **Espanyol**

Biografia

Va néixer el 30 d'octubre de 1916 a Alhabía, Almeria. Qmb la seva família, es va traslladar el 1919 a Terrassa. Durant la seva joventut, Diego va treballar com a anudador, però també era aficionat a la boxa, un esport molt popular a l'època, destacant com a jove promesa local.

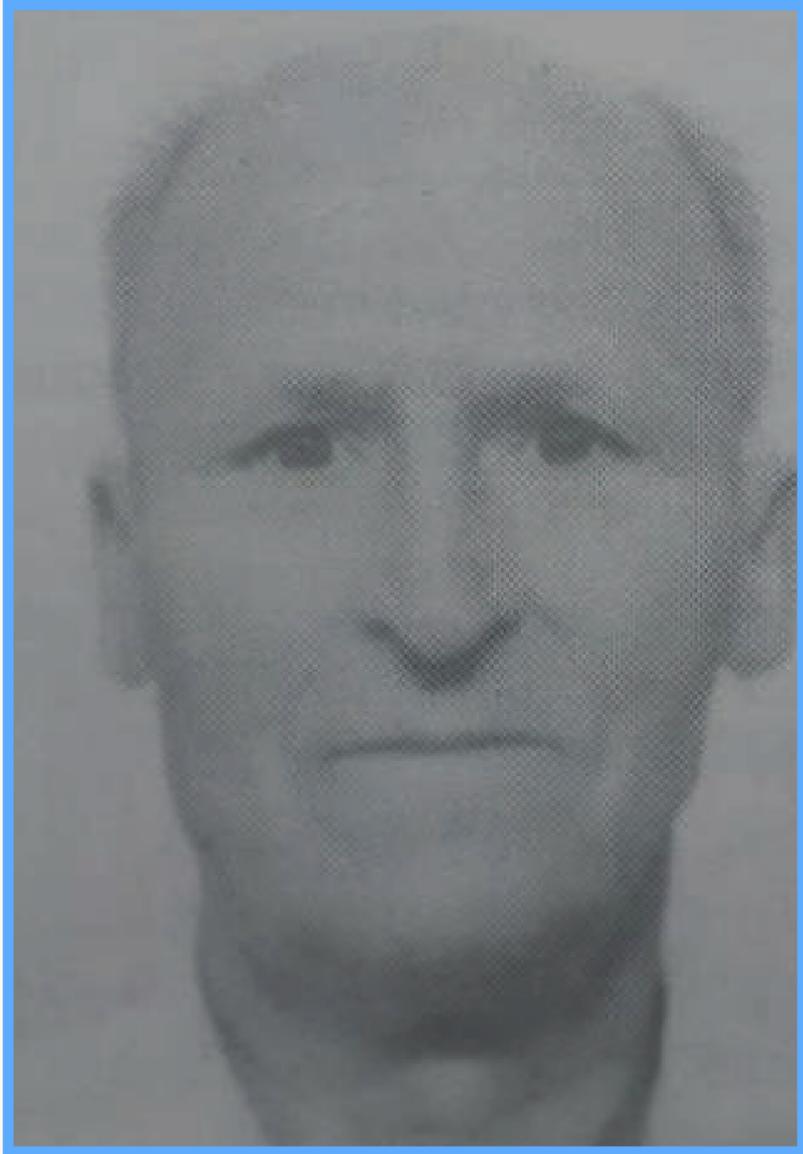
Amb la Retirada de l'exèrcit republicà, Diego va haver de creuar la frontera cap a França. Des d'alguns camps del sud francès, es va integrar a la companyia de treballadors 80 CTE, enviada primer als Alps, prop de Gap, i després a la Línia Maginot.

La derrota de França al maig de 1940 el va portar a ser capturat pels nazis al sector de Belfort i internat com a presoner al Stalag XI-Altengrabow. El 26 d'abril de 1941 va ser deportat al camp de concentració de Mauthausen i el 20 d'octubre de 1941 destinat al subcamp de Gusen. Segons Miquel Serra, també deportat, durant l'hivern de 1941, quan estava pràcticament incurable a la infermeria, va rebre ajuda d'un excampió català de boxa, en Lozano, que li va permetre sobreviure.

Mentrestant, a Terrassa, la seva mare Carmen Ribera, després d'haver estat empresonada i condemnada el 1940 a 12 anys per auxili a la rebel·lió, davant la falta de notícies i la passivitat de les autoritats franquistes, va aconseguir que s'enviés una carta el 13 de març de 1944 a través del Comitè Internacional de la Creu Roja, sol·licitant informació sobre el seu fill. La Creu Roja alemanya va informar que Diego Lozano Ribera havia mort el 13 de maig de 1942 a Mauthausen, tot i que els registres oficials del camp indiquen que la seva mort va tenir lloc a Gusen.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Diego+Lozano+Ribera.pdf/a5d65f48-6f37-498b-a132-fd3605b5bcaa

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



Amical de Mauthausen

La Amical de Mauthausen és una associació fundada l'any 1962 a França per supervivents espanyols dels camps de concentració nazis, especialment del camp de Mauthausen, després de la Segona Guerra Mundial. Més endavant, també es va reorganitzar a Espanya amb l'arribada de la democràcia.

El seu objectiu és preservar la memòria dels deportats espanyols i homenatjar les víctimes. En concret, organitza viatges educatius a Mauthausen, participa en actes commemoratius internacionals, impulsa xerrades a escoles i instituts, col·labora en projectes de memòria històrica i conserva arxius i testimonis dels supervivents, promovent valors com els drets humans, la pau i la lluita contra el feixisme.

JOSÉ SAURA RIBERA

- 27/08/1902 - 23/09/1984
- Treballador tèxtil
- Espanyol

Biografia

Va néixer el 27 d'agost de 1902 a Pueyo de Santa Creu, Aragó. De jove va emigrar a Terrassa, on va treballar en una empresa tèxtil i es va casar amb Consuelo Peñarroya Mampel, amb qui va tenir dues filles.

Durant la Guerra Civil Espanyola, es va unir com a voluntari a la columna Macià-Companys a l'Aragó. El 10 de febrer de 1939 va sortir a l'exili cap a França després de la caiguda de Barcelona. Allà va ser intern en camps del sud francès i es va unir a la 116^a Companyia de Treballadors Estrangers. El 4 de juny de 1940 va ser capturat pels alemanys a Dunkerque i traslladat a diversos camps de presoners a Bèlgica, Holanda, Alemanya i Polònia.

El 25 de gener de 1941 va ser deportat al camp de concentració de Mauthausen amb el número de presoner 3521, on va treballar en diferents komandos, inclosa una fàbrica de municions a Steyr, fins al seu alliberament el 5 de maig de 1945. Va ser repatriat a França el 20 de maig i va tornar a Terrassa el 15 d'octubre de 1948, retrobant-se amb la seva família després de més de nou anys de separació.

José Saura va participar activament en l'Amical de Mauthausen des de la seva fundació el 1962, assistint a actes commemoratius i reivindicant la memòria dels deportats. Va morir a Terrassa el 23 de setembre de 1984.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Jose+Saura+Ribera.pdf/4646b66f-81ee-4e38-ba32-59bacfc5fd01

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



JOSEP JULIÀ BRUGUERA

- 11/10/1917 - 24/12/1941
- **Dependent de comerç**
- **Espanyol**

Biografia

Va néixer l'11 d'octubre de 1917 a Terrassa, fill de Mercè i Llorenç. De jove treballava com a dependent de comerç a la Compañia Anónima Lanera Vasco Catalana i vivia al carrer de la Societat amb el seu pare i el seu germà gran, Pere. Militava a la CNT i a ERC.

Amb l'inici de la Guerra Civil Espanyola, el 24 d'agost de 1936, es va allistar voluntari a la columna Macià-Companyns. Durant la Retirada va creuar a França i s'hi va unir a la companyia de treballadors estrangers (CTE) 32, on va coincidir amb el seu amic Josep Escoda. La companyia va ser capturada pels alemanys al maig de 1940. Com a presoner de guerra, va ser internat a l'estalag XVII-A de Kaisersteinbruch fins al 7 d'abril de 1941, quan va ser deportat al camp de concentració de Mauthausen i posteriorment al subcamp de Gusen el 20 d'octubre de 1941.

Josep Julià va morir el 24 de desembre de 1941 a Gusen, segons es relata, ofegat per un kapo polonès en una galleda d'aigua gelada.

Mentrestant, a Terrassa, el seu pare va ser detingut el 15 de març de 1939 i condemnat el 17 de febrer de 1942 per auxili a la rebel·lió, ignorant probablement la tràgica sort del seu fill.

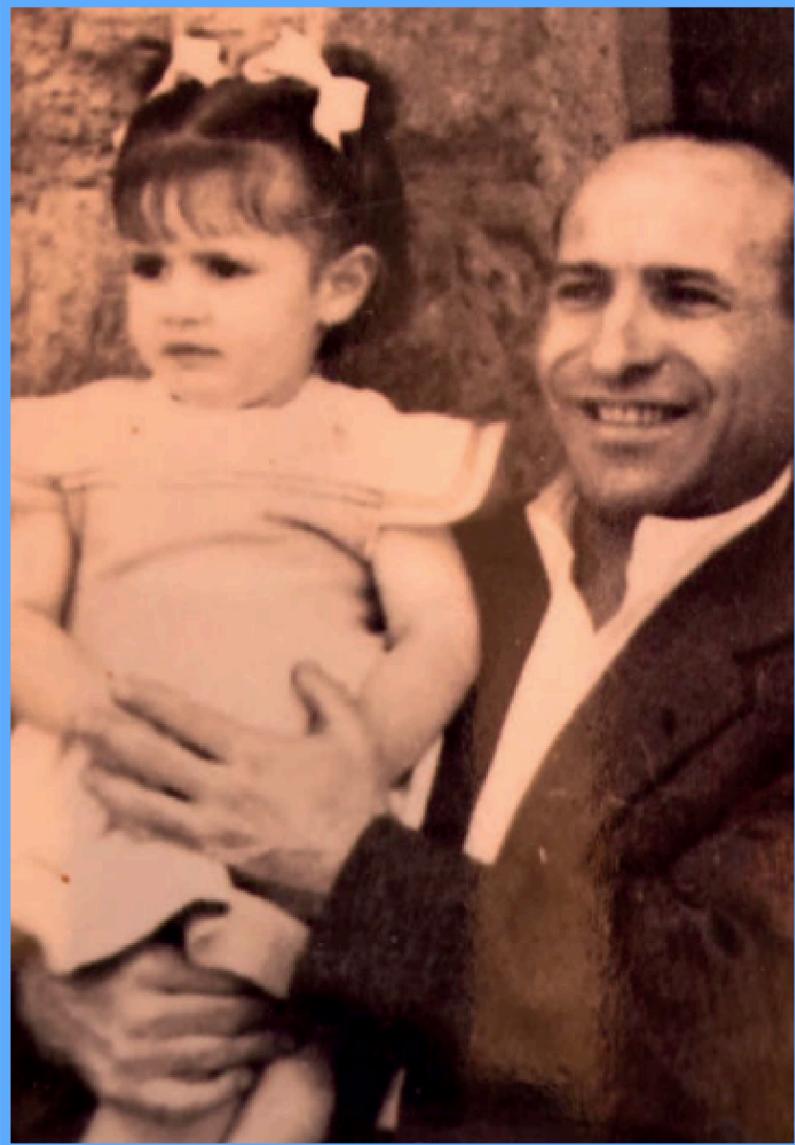
ERC

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC) és un partit polític català fundat l'any 1931, amb arrels en el moviment republicà i catalanista de principis del segle XX. La seva ideologia combina el republicanisme, l'esquerra política i l'independentisme, amb un fort compromís amb la defensa dels drets socials, la justícia econòmica i la promoció de la llengua i cultura catalanes.

ERC ha tingut un paper destacat en la política de Catalunya i ha estat present en moments clau de la història del país, com durant la II República i la transició democràtica després del franquisme. El partit defensa la creació d'una República catalana com a expressió de sobirania i autogovern, alhora que impulsa polítiques socials i culturals per afavorir la cohesió i el benestar de la societat catalana.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Josep+Julia+Bruguera.pdf/15d0a259-c394-4f2c-8754-2bb8eba5bcd0

PROTAGONISTES DE LA MEMÒRIA EUROPEA



Stalag IX-B de Bad Orb

El Stalag IX-B era un camp de presoners de guerra situat a Bad Orb, a l'Alemanya nazi, durant la Segona Guerra Mundial. Originalment destinat a allotjar presoners militars aliats, principalment britànics i francesos, més tard també hi van ser internats presoners espanyols republicans que havien estat capturats a França després de la Guerra Civil Espanyola i deportats pels nazis.

Les condicions al camp eren dures: manca d'aliment, treballs forçats i malalties eren habituals, tot i que no tenia la brutalitat extrema de camps com Mauthausen. Alguns presoners van sobreviure gràcies a l'organització interna, l'ajuda mútua i la resistència davant les dificultats del camp. Aquest camp és avui recordat com un testimoni de les deportacions i dels efectes de la guerra sobre els presos polítics i militars.

PERE PRAT NOGUÉS

- 06/05/1904 - 1959
- Teixidor
- Espanyol

Biografia

Va néixer el 6 de maig de 1904 a Terrassa, fill de Josep i Filomena, i de jove treballava com a teixidor a Fontanals i Cia. El 1936 vivia al carrer del Pla de l'Ametllera amb la seva dona, Teresa Albareda Carulla, i el seu fill Romà. Conegut en els ambients llibertaris com Sbert, va destacar com a militant de la CNT i actiu participant en els àmbits socials i polítics de Terrassa.

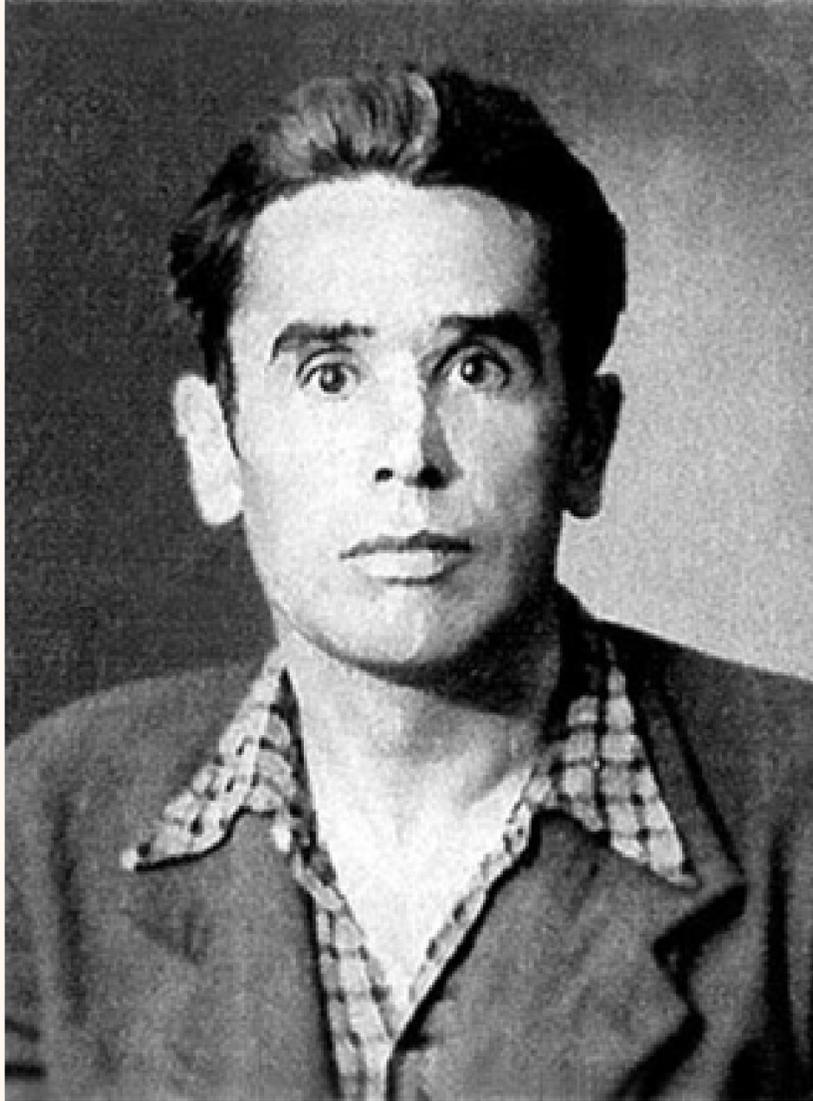
Amb l'acabament de la Guerra Civil, es va refugiar a França. Posteriorment va ser detingut pels nazis i internat al stalag IX-B de Bad Orb, abans de ser deportat al camp de concentració de Mauthausen el 24 de febrer de 1942. Durant la seva estada al camp, va integrar-se a l'organització clandestina de resistència, exercint com a responsable del comitè de la CNT i de la Federació Anarquista Ibèrica (FAI) dins del Front Nacional Antifeixista (FNA). Es va destacar per la seva tasca en la insurrecció i organització clandestina, ajudant els companys a sobreviure en condicions extremes.

Va sobreviure als horrors del camp i va ser alliberat el 5 de maig de 1945. Després de la guerra, es va establir a Andorra, on va participar activament en xarxes de passos fronterers i suport a grups de guerrillers. La seva casa es recordava com un refugi segur i acollidor per a tots els companys esgotats i perseguits.

Va morir prematurament el 1959, a causa del desgast físic i moral sofert durant la deportació. Els seus companys el recorden com un militant exemplar, solidari, valent i compromès, que va defensar els ideals llibertaris fins al final de la seva vida.

terrassa.cat/documents/12006/45001487/Pere+Prat+Nogues.pdf/38784fdc-5bf3-47b3-bale-6fa59ce8c561

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



Represión política y social

Durante la Guerra Civil española y la dictadura franquista, España vivió represión política y social extrema contra republicanos y militantes de izquierda. Tras la derrota en 1939, miles de exiliados republicanos huyeron a Francia, donde muchos fueron capturados por las fuerzas nazis durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Entre 1940 y 1945, cerca de 10.000 españoles fueron deportados a campos de concentración nazis, siendo clasificados como "enemigos políticos" o apátridas, y cerca del 60% murió en estas prisiones de trabajo forzado y exterminio. La tragedia de estos deportados refleja la intersección entre la represión franquista, el exilio republicano y la brutal persecución nazi en Europa.

PRISCILIANO GARCÍA GAITERO

- **28/07/1910 – 30/06/1949**
- **Militante Comunista**
- **Español**

Biografía

Prisciliano García Gaitero (28 de julio de 1910 – 30 de junio de 1949) nació en Carbajal de Fuentes de León y creció en Mieres, donde trabajó como minero y se vinculó al movimiento obrero, iniciando su militancia en el Partido Comunista en 1934. Tras la sublevación franquista, se incorporó al ejército republicano en el Frente Norte, alcanzando el grado de teniente. La caída de Asturias en 1937 lo empujó al exilio, cruzando los Pirineos en 1938 hacia Francia, donde, como miles de republicanos, fue internado en campos y obligado a trabajos forzados.

En 1940 fue capturado por las tropas nazis y deportado al sistema concentracionario del Tercer Reich, pasando por el Stalag XB y posteriormente por Mauthausen, uno de los campos más duros para los españoles, considerados apátridas y enemigos políticos. Allí, y más tarde en Gusen y Dachau, sufrió hambre extrema, violencia sistemática y explotación en la industria armamentística. Pese a ello, formó parte de redes de solidaridad entre deportados españoles y brigadistas internacionales, esenciales para la supervivencia, y participó en actos de resistencia pasiva y sabotaje que buscaban debilitar la maquinaria nazi. Gravemente enfermo, logró sobrevivir hasta la liberación en 1945 gracias al apoyo colectivo entre prisioneros.

Las secuelas físicas de la deportación marcaron su vida en el exilio francés, donde falleció en 1949. Su testimonio escrito constituye una valiosa denuncia de la barbarie nazi y un legado de memoria histórica. Su vida simboliza la lucha antifascista, el sufrimiento del exilio republicano y la dignidad de quienes resistieron incluso en las condiciones más inhumanas.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



Mauthausen - Gusen

Más de 7.000 republicanos españoles, exiliados tras la Guerra Civil, fueron deportados a Mauthausen y sus subcampos, siendo el grupo mayoritario. Gusen I y II destacaban por trabajos forzados en canteras, talleres y fábricas, bajo frío, hambre y palizas. Cerca de 4.500 españoles fallecieron tras ser abandonados por el régimen franquista. Los Rotspanier compartían comida, organizaban ayuda mutua y mantenían vínculos culturales, preservando dignidad y vida. La memoria de estos prisioneros refleja no solo el sufrimiento extremo, sino también la solidaridad y resistencia que prolongaron la lucha antifascista más allá de la Guerra Civil española.

ALIPIO RODRÍGUEZ OMAÑA

- **14/06/1919 -1979**
- **Minero, defensor de la lucha obrera**
- **Español**

Biografía

Alipio Rodríguez Omaña (Tapia de la Ribera, León, 14 de junio de 1919 – Le Havre, Francia, 1979) fue un joven leonés comprometido con la defensa de la República y los derechos sociales. Minero en La Magdalena, se alistó a los 18 años en el Batallón de Asturias nº 50 en Villamanín, participando en la defensa del frente norte y sufriendo heridas de guerra. Su militancia reflejaba el compromiso de muchos leoneses con la justicia social y la lucha obrera durante la Guerra Civil.

Tras la caída del frente norte en León en 1937, Alipio se vio obligado a exiliarse en Francia, donde continuó su labor antifascista integrándose en la Resistencia contra la ocupación nazi. En 1940 fue detenido por la Gestapo y deportado al campo de concentración de Mauthausen, donde sufrió trabajos forzados y la pérdida de un pulmón. A pesar de las duras condiciones, mantuvo su dignidad y su compromiso político, registrando sus vivencias en un diario que refleja la solidaridad y resistencia de los españoles en los campos nazis.

Su historia, vinculada a León, simboliza el compromiso social y político de los republicanos leoneses: militancia obrera, defensa de la libertad y la justicia, y resistencia frente al fascismo. Tras la liberación, se estableció en Le Havre, donde continuó su vida trabajando y transmitiendo su legado a su familia, conservado hoy en la Biblioteca Pública de León como testimonio del sacrificio de los leoneses en defensa de la democracia.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



MÁXIMO FIERRO OREJAS

- 1890 – 1941
- Político
- Español

Biografía

Máximo Fierro Orejas (1890–1941) fue un político y funcionario español natural de Cármenes (León), ocasionalmente nacido en Mestas de Con (Asturias). Afiliado a la UGT y al Partido Socialista Obrero Español, ejerció como alcalde y fue nombrado juez municipal de Cármenes el 2 de enero de 1937 por el Consejo de Justicia de Asturias y León. Durante la Guerra Civil, ante el avance de las tropas franquistas en el frente norte, se vio obligado a huir y embarcarse en Gijón rumbo a Francia, pasando luego por Cataluña para intentar continuar su resistencia republicana desde el exilio. Máximo residió en Igualada y posteriormente fue internado en el campo de concentración de Argelès-Sur-Mer, en Francia, donde su avanzada edad y su estado físico, que le obligaba a caminar con muletas, dificultaban su supervivencia. En agosto de 1940 fue detenido por los alemanes y deportado a Mauthausen, integrando la primera expedición de españoles. Más tarde fue trasladado al subcampo de Gusen el 24 de enero de 1941, donde las durísimas condiciones y métodos de exterminio, como las duchas frías, causaron su muerte pocos días después.

Fierro Orejas fue una víctima ilustrada de la represión nazi, de talante liberal, cuyo “pecado” consistió en intentar mediar y buscar la concordia entre los bandos enfrentados, siendo desconfiado para la izquierda radical y enemigo para la derecha trasmontana. Su historia refleja el destino trágico de muchos republicanos españoles en el exilio y los campos de concentración, así como el precio que pagaron por su compromiso político y su integridad intelectual.

Contexto histórico

Tras la caída de la República en 1939, miles de republicanos españoles huyeron a Francia buscando refugio. Muchos fueron internados en campos improvisados como Campo de concentración de Argelès-sur-Mer, situados en la playa y con condiciones extremas: hacinamiento, frío, hambre y carencia de higiene. Allí permanecieron hasta su traslado a campos nazis como Mauthausen o Gusen, enfrentándose a la represión y al sufrimiento mientras mantenían viva la resistencia antifranquista desde el exilio.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



MARCELINO MORÁN FERNÁNDEZ

- 26/05/1912 – 25/06/1941
- Militar
- Español

Biografía

Marcelino Morán Fernández nació el 26 de mayo de 1912 en Mondreganes, una pequeña localidad perteneciente al municipio leonés de Cebanico. Creció en el seno de una familia humilde del medio rural leonés. Tras realizar el servicio militar en el Regimiento de Caballería de León, emigró a Barcelona en 1934, donde ingresó en el cuerpo de Guardias de Asalto, alcanzando el grado de cabo en 1936. Durante la Guerra Civil se integró en estructuras de seguridad republicanas, pasando en 1938 al 32 Grupo de Asalto vinculado al Servicio de Información Militar, reflejo de su compromiso con la defensa del orden republicano frente al avance franquista.

Tras la derrota republicana, su rastro se vuelve difuso, como el de miles de combatientes exiliados. Aunque no se conocen con exactitud las circunstancias de su detención, fue capturado por las autoridades nazis en el contexto de la ocupación alemana de Francia. Como ocurrió con miles de republicanos españoles, fue considerado apátrida por el régimen franquista, lo que facilitó su deportación. Fue deportado al campo de concentración de Mauthausen y posteriormente trasladado a Dachau el 1 de mayo de 1941, donde fue registrado con el número 25.538. Apenas dos meses después, el 25 de junio de 1941, falleció en el campo, víctima de las duras condiciones de vida, aunque la Cruz Roja comunicó a su familia que murió en un supuesto "hospital" en Alemania, una fórmula habitual que ocultaba la realidad de los campos de concentración.

Su historia representa el destino de muchos republicanos leoneses: del compromiso político y la defensa de la República al exilio, la deportación y la muerte en los campos nazis.

Exilio español

Tras la victoria de Franco en 1939, miles de republicanos huyeron a Francia. Con la invasión alemana de Francia en 1940, muchos fueron capturados por el ejército nazi. Se estima que entre 9.000 y 10.000 españoles fueron deportados a campos de concentración nazis.

Se estima que alrededor de medio millón de personas abandonaron España al finalizar la Guerra Civil en 1939, convirtiéndose en el exilio republicano. La gran mayoría cruzó la frontera francesa en la zona de Cataluña, enfrentándose inicialmente a campos de internamiento, y muchos se establecieron definitivamente en Francia, México y otros países latinoamericanos.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



Rotspanier

Tras la derrota republicana en 1939, cientos de miles de españoles huyeron a Francia, muchos internados en campos improvisados. Con la Segunda Guerra Mundial, unos 7.000 fueron deportados a campos nazis, principalmente Mauthausen y Gusen. Allí sufrieron trabajos forzados, hambre, palizas y ejecuciones; casi la mitad murió. Los Rotspanier españoles mantuvieron resistencia interna, solidaridad y cultura, sobreviviendo en condiciones extremas. Su lucha prolongó la defensa antifascista más allá de la Guerra Civil y dignificó la memoria histórica de España.

RUFINO BAÑOS LOZANO

- **19/08/1917 – 1980**
- **Militante republicano**
- **Español**

Biografía

Rufino Baños Lozano (El Burgo Ranero, León, 19 de agosto de 1917 – Maisons-Alfort, Francia, 1980) fue un joven militante republicano cuya vida quedó marcada por la tragedia colectiva de la Guerra Civil y la represión nazi. Con 19 años abandonó León para alistarse en el ejército republicano en el frente norte, decidido a defender la República frente al avance franquista. Tras la derrota, como miles de españoles, se exilió en Francia y quedó atrapado en la brutalidad de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. El 27 de enero de 1941 fue internado en el campo de concentración y trabajos forzados nazi de Mauthausen (Austria) y, dos meses después, en su subcampo Gusen, registrado con el número 43.227 como Rotspanier (término alemán, traducido como "españoles rojos") y con el triángulo azul que identificaba a los españoles deportados, considerados apátridas. Allí trabajó durante años en la cantera de piedra de Wiener Graben, soportando hambre, palizas y jornadas interminables, reflejo de las condiciones inhumanas impuestas por el régimen nazi. Como recuerda su hijo, el fútbol fue para Rufino "una parcela de paz y risa" en medio del horror: los domingos se jugaban partidos entre equipos por nacionalidades. Su destreza futbolística le valió la atención de un SS, que lo sacó de la cantera y lo puso a trabajar en un taller, mejorando ligeramente su situación. Más tarde pasó a la cocina y participó en formas de resistencia interna, como el robo y redistribución de comida para compañeros, riesgo que conllevaba palizas u otras represalias. Rufino sobrevivió a la liberación de Gusen en mayo de 1945. Después de la guerra se estableció en Francia, muy afectado físicamente por los años de cautiverio y vivió hasta 1980.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



ANTONIO ABELLA BARREDO

- **26/06/1912 – 05/12/1941**
- **Miliciano de la CNT**
- **Español**

Biografía

Antonio Abella Barredo nació el 26 de junio de 1912 en Paradaseca, León (España). Provenía de una familia trabajadora. Su padre fue asesinado por los golpistas durante la Guerra Civil. Antonio se alistó voluntariamente en el Batallón de Infantería nº 207 “Onofre”, con sede en Gijón, y estaba afiliado a la CNT. Participó en la defensa republicana en la zona norte de España. Tras la caída del frente norte y la presión de las tropas franquistas, huyó a Cataluña. Al concluir la Guerra Civil, Antonio se exilió en Francia, donde muchos refugiados españoles quedaron internados en campos y centros de tránsito. Tras la invasión alemana de Francia, fue detenido por la Gestapo y deportado a Mauthausen, uno de los campos de concentración más letales para los republicanos españoles. Allí, como otros deportados, fue sometido a trabajos forzados y condiciones inhumanas.

Antonio murió en Gusen el 5 de diciembre de 1941. Su último contacto con la familia fue una carta desde Francia en la que expresaba su deseo de regresar a España, consciente del peligro que corría. La familia fue informada de su fallecimiento oficialmente a través de las autoridades francesas y el expediente de la FEDIP (Federación Española de Deportados e Internados Políticos). La mayoría de los leoneses deportados, como Antonio, perecieron en Gusen, una de las subcampos de Mauthausen, víctima del trabajo esclavo, el hambre y la represión sistemática nazi. Su historia refleja la doble persecución sufrida por los republicanos españoles: primero por el franquismo y luego por el régimen nazi en Europa. Su vida y muerte simbolizan la tragedia de los leoneses exiliados y deportados, y constituye un testimonio del sufrimiento de los antifascistas españoles durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

CNT

Muchos de los deportados a los campos nazis estaban, en muchos casos, vinculados a la CNT — Confederación Nacional del Trabajo—, sindicato anarcosindicalista que no solo promovía la autogestión y la defensa de los derechos obreros, sino que fue un actor clave durante la Guerra Civil Española (1936-1939).

La CNT organizó colectivizaciones agrarias e industriales, contribuyó activamente al frente republicano y defendió ideales de libertad y solidaridad frente al fascismo. Su militancia convirtió a muchos afiliados en blanco de persecución durante la represión franquista y, posteriormente, del nazismo en Francia y los campos de concentración, reflejando el alto precio que pagaron por su compromiso político y social.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



Represión franquista

Durante la Guerra Civil española y la dictadura franquista, España vivió una profunda represión política y social, especialmente contra republicanos, militantes de izquierda y defensores de los derechos civiles. Tras la derrota republicana en 1939, muchos exiliados se refugiaron en Francia, donde participaron en la Resistencia contra la ocupación nazi durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Los campos de concentración, los trabajos forzados y la persecución política marcaron la experiencia de los resistentes y refugiados.

NEUS CATALÀ

- **06/10/1915 – 13/04/2019**
- **Activista antifascista y militante comunista**
- **Española**

Biografía

Neus Català (6 de octubre de 1915 – 13 de abril de 2019) fue una enfermera y activista española que se convirtió en una de las figuras más valientes vinculadas a la Guerra Civil española y a la lucha antifascista europea. Durante la guerra trabajó como enfermera y militante de las Juventudes Socialistas Unificadas de Cataluña, participando activamente en la defensa de la República y en la asistencia a la población civil. En 1939 protagonizó una de sus acciones más recordadas: ayudó a evacuar a 180 niños huérfanos de una colonia infantil cercana a Barcelona, conduciéndolos hasta Francia para salvarlos del avance franquista. Una vez en territorio francés, decidió quedarse y continuó apoyando a refugiados republicanos. Durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial colaboró con la Resistencia francesa junto a su marido, ocultando mensajes, armas y personas perseguidas por el nazismo. En 1943 fue detenida por la Gestapo y deportada al campo de concentración de Ravensbrück, donde sufrió trabajos forzados en la industria armamentística, pero participó en sabotajes que inutilizaron miles de municiones nazis. Tras la liberación del campo en 1945, regresó a Francia y continuó luchando contra el franquismo desde el exilio. Vivió más de un siglo, dedicó su vida a preservar la memoria histórica y los derechos humanos, convirtiéndose en un símbolo de la resistencia antifascista, del compromiso político y del valor de la acción individual frente a la injusticia y la opresión.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



URANIA MELLA SERRANO

- **1899 - 1945**
- **Luchadora incansable contra el fascismo y el franquismo**
- **Española**

Biografía

Urania Mella Serrano (15 de noviembre de 1899 – 26 de mayo de 1945) fue una destacada activista política y feminista gallega, hija del pensador anarquista Ricardo Mella. Desde joven se comprometió con la educación y los derechos de las mujeres, enseñando lectura y escritura a mujeres sin acceso a formación básica. Durante la Segunda República presidió la Unión de Mujeres Antifascistas de Vigo, vinculada a la organización estatal impulsada por la Internacional Comunista, y promovió activamente la participación política femenina y la defensa de los derechos de los trabajadores.

Con el estallido de la Guerra Civil en 1936, Urania participó en la resistencia armada en el barrio de Lavadores de Vigo, enfrentándose a los sublevados junto a otros militantes republicanos. Su activismo la convirtió en objetivo de la represión franquista: fue condenada a muerte, pena conmutada por treinta años de prisión, y pasó más de nueve años en condiciones extremas en la cárcel de Sarrarrián (Guipúzcoa), donde sufrió la separación forzada de sus hijos y la violencia sistemática del régimen.

A pesar de la represión, Urania mantuvo su compromiso político hasta su liberación condicional en 1943. Se trasladó a Lugo, pero falleció en 1945 a los 45 años, víctima de un tumor cerebral no tratado durante su encarcelamiento. Su vida simboliza la lucha antifranquista, el protagonismo político de las mujeres en Galicia y el sacrificio de quienes resistieron al fascismo, convirtiéndose en referente de memoria histórica y resistencia.

Contexto histórico

España a comienzos del siglo XX atravesó profundas transformaciones políticas y sociales. Tras décadas de limitación de derechos, la llegada de la Segunda República (1931-1939) abrió nuevas posibilidades para las mujeres: pudieron votar, acceder a educación superior y participar en la vida política, aunque seguían enfrentando resistencias y desigualdades estructurales. Durante la Guerra Civil (1936-1939), muchas mujeres participaron tanto en tareas del frente como en la retaguardia en organizaciones, apoyando el esfuerzo republicano y desafiando roles tradicionales de género. La victoria franquista supuso un retroceso profundo. La dictadura impuso un modelo patriarcal de estrictas normas sociales y políticas que restringieron los derechos de las mujeres.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



AIDA LAFUENTE

- **25/02/1915 – 13/10/1934**
- **Joven integrante de las Juventudes Comunistas**
- **Española**

Biografía

Aida de la Fuente nació el 25 de febrero de 1915 en León y se trasladó siendo niña a Oviedo, donde creció en una familia comunista profundamente comprometida con la lucha obrera. Su padre, Gustavo de la Fuente González, fundador del Partido Comunista en Oviedo, y sus hermanos, militantes de las Juventudes Comunistas, marcaron su educación política y la motivaron a implicarse desde muy joven en la defensa de los derechos de los trabajadores y trabajadoras. Integrante activa de las Juventudes Comunistas, Aida destacó durante la Revolución de Asturias de 1934, desempeñando funciones de enlace, abastecimiento de combatientes y asistencia en hospitales, mostrando una valentía y compromiso excepcionales. Su protagonismo no se limitó a la acción directa; se convirtió en símbolo de la participación juvenil y femenina en la lucha obrera, un referente de resistencia y solidaridad. Murió con apenas 19 años durante la represión en San Pedro de los Arcos, Oviedo, y su figura pasó a ser un emblema del sacrificio y la lucha por la justicia social. Conocida como la "Rosa Roja de Asturias", su memoria se conserva en homenajes, canciones, poemas y escritos de intelectuales y artistas, consolidándola como un icono histórico del heroísmo femenino y del movimiento comunista en la Segunda República española, recordándonos la fuerza de la juventud y la determinación de quienes lucharon por un mundo más justo.

Revolución de 1934

Durante la Segunda República española, la entrada de ministros de la Confederación Española de Derechas Autónomas en el gobierno en 1934 provocó el rechazo de comunistas y socialistas. La insurrección obrera conocida como la Revolución de 1934 tuvo especial relevancia en Asturias y León, con mineros y trabajadores armados organizados bajo la alianza Uníos Hermanos Proletarios. La revuelta fue duramente reprimida por el ejército, dejando un legado de lucha obrera y protagonismo juvenil y femenino, en el que Aida de la Fuente destacó como símbolo de resistencia.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



MARÍA SÁNCHEZ MIÑAMBRES

- 1889 – 1977
- Primera mujer Concejala del Ayuntamiento de León.
- Española

Biografía

María Sánchez Miñambres (1889–1977) fue una destacada figura leonesa cuya trayectoria refleja las dificultades de las mujeres para abrirse paso en la vida pública en una sociedad dominada por hombres. Nacida en el seno de una familia burguesa, recibió una formación poco habitual para su época, con estancias en Madrid y viajes por Europa, especialmente a Francia, donde entró en contacto con corrientes culturales y movimientos feministas que marcaron su pensamiento. Interesada por las artes y la vida intelectual, participó en revistas como *Renacimiento* o *Vida Leonesa*, siendo una de las escasas mujeres presentes en estos espacios.

En 1925 se convirtió en la primera concejala del Ayuntamiento de León y en una de las primeras concejalas de España, cargo que desempeñó hasta 1930 con notable presencia pública. Durante la Segunda República se vinculó a iniciativas políticas y sociales, como el Bloque Femenino de Izquierdas de León, reflejando la complejidad ideológica de una época de intensos cambios.

Tras el estallido de la Guerra Civil en 1936, fue detenida y encarcelada en el campo de concentración de Convento de San Marcos, donde miles de presos políticos sufrieron represión. Sus bienes fueron incautados y fue condenada a doce años de prisión, pasando también por la cárcel de Saturrarán. Permaneció encarcelada más de tres años y medio, hasta su liberación en 1941. Su vida simboliza tanto el avance de las mujeres en la vida pública como la represión sufrida durante el franquismo.

Pionera política

Durante la Guerra Civil española, León quedó bajo control franquista desde los primeros meses de 1936. La provincia vivió una represión intensa: detenciones masivas, fusilamientos y desapariciones afectaron a militantes republicanos, sindicalistas y mujeres activas en política.

El Convento de San Marcos se convirtió en un campo de concentración donde pasaron miles de presos políticos, sometidos a hambre, hacinamiento y violencia sistemática. La figura de María Sánchez Miñambres, primera concejala del Ayuntamiento de León, simboliza la incipiente y difícil participación de la mujer en la política en esa época.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA



Campo de Concentración de San Marcos

Durante la Guerra Civil española, gran parte de la provincia de León quedó rápidamente bajo control de las fuerzas sublevadas tras el golpe de Estado de julio de 1936. Hubo una intensa represión política contra personas que simpatizaban con la republicanos y sindicalistas. Detenciones, ejecuciones extrajudiciales y desapariciones marcaron la vida de los leoneses. En este contexto, el edificio del Convento de San Marcos de la ciudad de León fue convertido en uno de los principales campos de concentración franquistas del noroeste de España. Por él se cree que pasaron más de 10.000 personas en condiciones de hacinamiento, hambre, tortura y violencia sistemática, en una ciudad que apenas contaba con 40.000 habitantes. Mas de 1500 personas fueron fusiladas.

TERESA MONGE MELCÓN

- **1913 - 1936**
- **Joven activista leonesa**
- **Española**

Biografía

Teresa Monge Melcón (1913 – octubre de 1936) fue una militante socialista española y una de las voces femeninas más destacadas del movimiento obrero en León durante los primeros años de la Segunda República. Nacida en León en 1913 en el seno de una familia comprometida con el socialismo, Teresa se formó como alumna de la Escuela Sierra Pambley, una institución vinculada a la Institución Libre de Enseñanza, donde se educó en valores de justicia social y solidaridad. Desde muy joven se implicó en la política y en organizaciones de izquierda; a mediados de los años treinta se convirtió en una figura central del activismo femenino en la provincia. Fue presidenta del grupo femenino de las Juventudes Socialistas de León y colaboró en la creación de espacios de apoyo a hijos e hijas de presos tras los sucesos revolucionarios de 1934, además de participar en iniciativas solidarias de recogida y distribución de ropa y alimentos para trabajadores represaliados. Con el estallido de la Guerra Civil en julio de 1936, Teresa Monge fue detenida por las fuerzas sublevadas y recluida en el campo de concentración de San Marcos en León. En octubre de ese año, con apenas 23 años, fue sacada y asesinada en el paraje conocido como el campo de Fresno, en Fresno del Camino, en un episodio de represión política que conmocionó a la ciudad y que la convirtió, con el tiempo, en símbolo de las víctimas del franquismo en León.

La figura de Teresa destaca por su papel como activista, líder juvenil y figura representativa de la lucha por la igualdad y la justicia social.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA

HEROÍNAS Y LUCHADORAS LEONESAS: MILICIANAS, MAQUIS Y MUJERES DE RESISTENCIA

Durante el golpe de Estado del 18 de julio de 1936 contra la Segunda República, las fuerzas sublevadas airearon muchas “justificaciones”, entre ellas su temor a los cambios sociales provocados por la creciente presencia de la mujer en la vida pública. En una sociedad profundamente patriarcal influida por valores religiosos y tradicionales, la participación activa de las mujeres en política, trabajo y movimientos sociales representaba una ruptura con el rígido modelo del “ángel del hogar”. En León, estas tensiones se hicieron visibles tanto en la ciudad como en el medio rural, y muchas mujeres leonesas pasaron a ser protagonistas en distintos ámbitos de la resistencia. Su aportación puede agruparse en tres grandes formas: la de las milicianas, la de los maquis y guerrilla antifranquista y la de las mujeres de rojo que sostuvieron a sus familias y comunidades en tiempos de represión.

MILICIANAS LEONESAS: ROMPEDORAS DE ESTEREOTIPOS

En la provincia de León, al igual que en otras zonas republicanas, la guerra permitió que mujeres ocuparan espacios públicos que hasta entonces les habían sido negados. No solo realizaron tareas laborales y logísticas, sino que también algunas decidieron participar activamente en combate, defendiendo la causa republicana y sus derechos.

Organizaciones como Mujeres Libres impulsaron la idea de que estas mujeres mantuvieran su autonomía laboral y social una vez terminada la guerra. Entre las combatientes leonesas más destacadas estuvieron María Luisa Bayón Valle, Herminia García Tascón, Antonia Cancelas Chamorro, Isabel Llamazares, María Sánchez Fernández, María Rodríguez García, Amalia de la Fuente Peral y Dolores Sierra Rubio. A pesar de que un decreto de 1936 limitó su acceso directo a la primera línea, muchas se mantuvieron vinculadas al esfuerzo bélico y político. Algunas, como Ana María Melón, Florentina de Cabo Arenas y Concepción Arias Gavela, fueron perseguidas o condenadas por su activismo, reflejo de la represión que enfrentaron las mujeres que se desmarcaron de los roles tradicionales.

MAQUIS Y GUERRILLA EN LEÓN: “LAS DEL MONTE” Y LA RED DE ENLACES

Tras el fin de la guerra civil, la lucha no desapareció del todo. En la posguerra española, especialmente hasta principios de los años cincuenta, surgió en León un movimiento guerrillero antifranquista conocido como los maquis, grupos de partisanos que resistieron la represión desde las montañas. Esta guerrilla se extendió por zonas rurales y montañosas como La Cabrera y el Bierzo, y formó parte de la Federación de Guerrillas de León-Galicia, con líderes como Manuel Girón Bazán, figura emblemática de la resistencia en la provincia. Los maquis eran conocidos como “los del monte”, hombres y mujeres que vivían en los montes para evitar la persecución y organizar operaciones de sabotaje.

PROTAGONISTAS DE LA MEMORIA EUROPEA

Una parte fundamental de su estrategia era la red de enlaces, compuesta principalmente por mujeres que transportaban armas, alimentos, información y mensajes entre grupos guerrilleros y pueblos, arriesgando su libertad e integridad para mantener la cohesión de la resistencia. Su labor logística, muchas veces invisibilizada, fue decisiva para la supervivencia de los maquis en los años posteriores a la guerra.

En ese contexto, ocurrió un episodio trágico el 24 de abril de 1951: Antonio León Carrera y Carmen Ballesteros Rodríguez, vecinos de Santa Eulalia de Cabrera, fueron asesinados en una operación vinculada a la lucha contra los maquis. La investigación histórica indica que estos asesinatos formaron parte de maniobras para infiltrar a ciertos individuos en los grupos guerrilleros, logrando ganarse la confianza de integrantes como Girón para, semanas después, traicionarlos. Este hecho refleja cómo la violencia de la posguerra alcanzó tanto a combatientes como a civiles atrapados en la red de resistencia leonesa.

MUJERES DE ROJO LEONESAS: RESISTENCIA EN EL ÁMBITO FAMILIAR

Las mujeres de rojo eran esposas, madres, hermanas y familiares de republicanos fusilados, encarcelados o forzados a la guerrilla. Aunque no siempre participaron en la lucha armada, fueron objeto de represión directa castigadas por la actividad de sus seres queridos. En León, muchas sufrieron humillaciones, encarcelamientos, sanciones económicas y estigmatización social, siendo perseguidas simplemente por su vínculo familiar con republicanos o maquis.

Pese a esta represión, numerosas mujeres leonesas tejieron redes de apoyo —intercambio de alimentos, provisiones para presos, transmisión de mensajes y solidaridad comunitaria— que fueron formas esenciales de resistencia civil. Su labor, aunque silenciada durante mucho tiempo, fue un sostén fundamental para mantener la dignidad y la unidad familiar en medio de la persecución.

LEÓN: MEMORIA, RESISTENCIA Y RECUPERACIÓN HISTÓRICA

La provincia de León fue un cruce de distintas formas de resistencia durante la Guerra Civil y la posguerra. Las milicianas rompiendo estereotipos de género, los maquis prolongando la lucha antifranquista desde los montes y las mujeres de rojo sosteniendo la vida familiar en medio de la persecución conforman una historia compleja de valentía y sufrimiento.

Reconocer estas experiencias es esencial para visibilizar el papel central de la mujer en la memoria histórica, en un relato que durante décadas ha tendido a un tono masculino, dejando fuera su protagonismo y sus contribuciones. Incorporar la historia de las mujeres, permite reconstruir un relato más completo y justo, donde la mujer no es un sujeto pasivo, sino un agente activo de resistencia, resiliencia y transformación social.

Poner en valor a las mujeres que fueron protagonistas de la memoria histórica europea permite, además, contrarrestar el desequilibrio de género detectado en el relato de la memoria europea. Difundir sus historias de vida contribuye a reparar su invisibilización y a generar una narrativa más inclusiva y representativa, que reconozca la dimensión política, social y humana de la resistencia femenina en toda Europa. Este enfoque no solo enriquece la comprensión de la lucha antifranquista en León, sino que también se inscribe en un esfuerzo más amplio de recuperación histórica y justicia simbólica a nivel continental.

TEACHING GUIDE AND TEACHING UNITS

1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

This teaching guide was developed within the framework of the European project REFORE, co-financed by the CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) program. It responds to the need to strengthen European historical memory as a key tool for defending democratic values, human rights, and active citizenship. It is designed to educate about European historical memory using the awareness-raising educational materials created by the REFORE NETWORK project entitled "Recovering forgotten remembrance: deportees, victims and women protagonists of European Remembrance".

The pedagogical approach aligns with:

- Recommendations of the European Commission on values education
- EU Key Competences Framework
- IHRA Recommendations on Holocaust Education

2. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Promoting European historical memory as a democratic tool
- Promote critical thinking and historical literacy
- Preventing hate speech and disinformation
- To make visible the role of women in history
- Promote youth participation

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the program, the participants in the implemented Learning Units will be able to:

- Identify key facts about the Holocaust and totalitarian regimes
- Analyze historical sources from a critical perspective
- Recognizing the role of women in historical memory
- To express well-founded opinions on memory and democracy
- Actively participate in collective memory processes

4. METHODOLOGY

- Project-based learning (PBL)
- Participatory and experiential approach
- Human rights education
- Gender perspective
- Collaborative learning

5. INDICATORS

Quantitative indicators:

- ≥80% active participation of participants
- ≥70% completion of activities
- ≥60% creation of educational products

Qualitative indicators:

- Improving critical thinking (rubrics)
- Increased historical knowledge (+40% initial/final test)
- Change of attitude towards hate speech

Evidence:

- Student products
- Teacher observation
- Registration of participation

6. EVALUATION SYSTEM

- Continuous assessment
- Self-assessment
- Peer evaluation
- Competency-based assessment

Assessment tools:

- Evidence collection templates
- Teacher observation forms
- Registration of participation
- Documentation of created products (podcasts, biographies, mock-ups)

7. PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK (LOGFRAME)

General objective	Expected results	Activities	Indicators	Means of verification
Promoting European historical memory	Participants learn about the Holocaust and European memory	Research and analysis sessions	% of participants with adequate knowledge (>70%)	Pre/post-test, rubrics, participation
To make the role of women visible	Stories of women documented and shared	Research and creative products	% of jobs that include a gender perspective (>60%)	Student products, reports
Raising awareness about hate speech	Students demonstrate critical thinking and responsible attitudes	Debates, reflection dynamics	Attitudinal improvement according to rubric (>50% improvement)	Teacher observation, questionnaires

8. EXPECTED IMPACT

- Increased historical awareness
- Development of active citizenship
- Reduction of discriminatory attitudes

9. CONCLUSION

This guide meets European standards of educational quality, facilitating the implementation of educational actions with measurable impact and justifiable evidence for European Union programs such as Erasmus+ and CERV.

TEACHING UNIT 1

Understanding European Remembrance and the Holocaust

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understanding the concept of European Remembrance
- Analyzing the Holocaust from a transnational perspective
- Identify the mechanisms that lead to hate speech and violence
- Develop critical thinking and ethical reflection skills

CONTENTS:

- Historical memory: concept and social function
- The Holocaust and totalitarianism in Europe
- Victims and consequences
- The “Pyramid of Hate”
- Denialism and historical distortion
- IHRA Recommendations for Holocaust Education (<https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/recommendations-for-holocaust-teaching-and-learning>)

DURATION:

3 sessions (approx. 60 minutes each)

SESSION 1: WHY REMEMBER?

- Initial activity
 - Activity: “Words that connect us with the past”
 - The students write words associated with “memory”
- Main activity
 - Guided explanation of the concept of historical memory
 - Reading of excerpts from the material “Recovering forgotten remembrance: deportees, victims and women protagonists of European Remembrance”
- Final activity
 - Debate: What happens when a society forgets its history?

SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE HOLOCAUST

- Initial activity
- Triggering question: What do you know about the Holocaust?
- Main activity
- Work in groups on different countries (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal) analyzing the testimonies about deportees and the Holocaust that appear in the material "Recovering the forgotten remembrance: deportees, victims and women protagonists of European remembrance"
- Final activity
- Group discussion and final reflection.

SESSION 3: THE PYRAMID OF HATE

- Main activity
- Explanation of the Pyramid of Hate
- Relationship with current examples (bullying, racism, discrimination)
- Practical activity
- Analysis of real cases, through news found in the media and hate speech on social networks.
- Group work and written reflection: What can I do to prevent hate? Creation of a poster with the reflections.
- Final activity
- Final group sharing and reflection.

METHODOLOGY:

- Dialogue-based learning
- Values education
- Participatory approach
- Meaningful learning

EVALUATION:

- Reflective journal
- Participation in debates
- Critical analysis skills

KEY COMPETENCIES:

- Social and civic competence
- Cultural awareness
- Critical thinking

TEACHING UNIT 2

Deportees and Victims: Stories that Build Memory

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Learn real stories of deportation
- Develop empathy towards the victims
- Understanding the importance of individual memory

CONTENTS:

- Deportation to concentration camps
- European historical context
- Life stories
- Stolpersteine Project (<https://www.stolpersteine.eu/en/>)
- Use of the Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust available in several languages from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) (<https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/recommendations-for-holocaust-teaching-and-learning>)

DURATION:

3 sessions

SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION TO STORIES

- Initial activity
 - Presentation of the historical context
- Main activity
 - Presentation of testimonies and biographies from the material «Recovering forgotten remembrance: deportees, victims and women protagonists of European Remembrance»
- Final activity
 - Group reflection

SESSION 2: GROUP RESEARCH

- Main activity
 - I work in groups. Each group works with one deported person.
 - They prepare a biography: Origin, History, Deportation, Legacy,...
-
- Final activity
 - Presentation of the prepared biographies.
 - Group reflection generating spaces of empathy.

SESSION 3: MEMORY AND SYMBOLISM

- Creative activity
 - Design of a Stolperstein (sheet or model). The Stolpersteine Project is presented (<https://www.stolpersteine.eu/en/>)
-
- Main activity
 - Presentation of the crafted Stolpersteins.
-
- Final reflection
 - Why remember at a local level and make visible the victims of totalitarianism?
 - Group reflection generating spaces of empathy.

METHODOLOGY:

- Project-based learning
- Cooperative work
- Emotional education

EVALUATION:

- Presentation Rubric
- Group work
- Quality of research

KEY COMPETENCIES:

- Historical Empathy
- Communication
- Investigation

TEACHING UNIT 3

Women and Memory: Invisible Protagonists

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To make visible the role of women in history
- Analyze gender bias
- Promote equality and historical justice

CONTENTS:

- Women in contexts of war and repression
- Historical invisibility
- Memory with a gender perspective

DURATION:

2 sessions

SESSION 1: WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

- Initial activity
 - Question: How many women from history do you remember?
- Main activity
 - Analysis of biographies of women from the material "Recovering forgotten remembrance: deportees, victims and women protagonists of European Remembrance"
 - Working in groups to develop the cultural, political, social or academic causes of the invisibility of women in history through the creation of a mural or a concept map with the main causes and proposals for visibility.
- Final reflection
 - Why have women been made invisible throughout history?

SESSION 2: WOMEN'S STORIES

- Initial activity: Group work
 - Research on a woman protagonist of historical memory through internet searches and/or through listening to podcasts from the REFORE project dedicated to women figures and through the biographies of women in the material "Recovering forgotten remembrance: deportees, victims and women protagonists of European Remembrance"
- Creative activity
 - Creation of a podcast and/or informational poster with the protagonist's timeline.
- Final activity
 - Presentation of the works

METHODOLOGY:

- Gender perspective
- Creative learning
- Historical narrative

EVALUATION:

- Creative product
- Critical reflection
- Stake

KEY COMPETENCES:

- Gender equality
- Critical thinking
- Creative expression

This educational resource has been developed by the **REFORE NETWORK: Youth Network for Recovering the Forgotten Remembrance** project, a European initiative coordinated by the **Auryn Association** (León, Spain), which works in collaboration with a network of partner organisations committed to education, european remembrance and youth participation. This network includes Association Intercultura (France), Associazione Culturale Link (Italy), La Víbria Intercultural (Terrassa, Spain) and Associação para a Igualdade Aequalitas (Portugal).

Call: CERV-2023-CITIZENS-REM

Type of Action: CERV-LS

Project name: REFORE NETWORK: Youth network for Recovering the Forgotten Remembrance

Acronym: REFORE NETWORK

Number: 101143887



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

'Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.'



REFORE network

Recovering the forgotten remembrance