



The Spanish Navy in 1936-37

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Cold Wars 2014

Admiralty Trilogy Seminar

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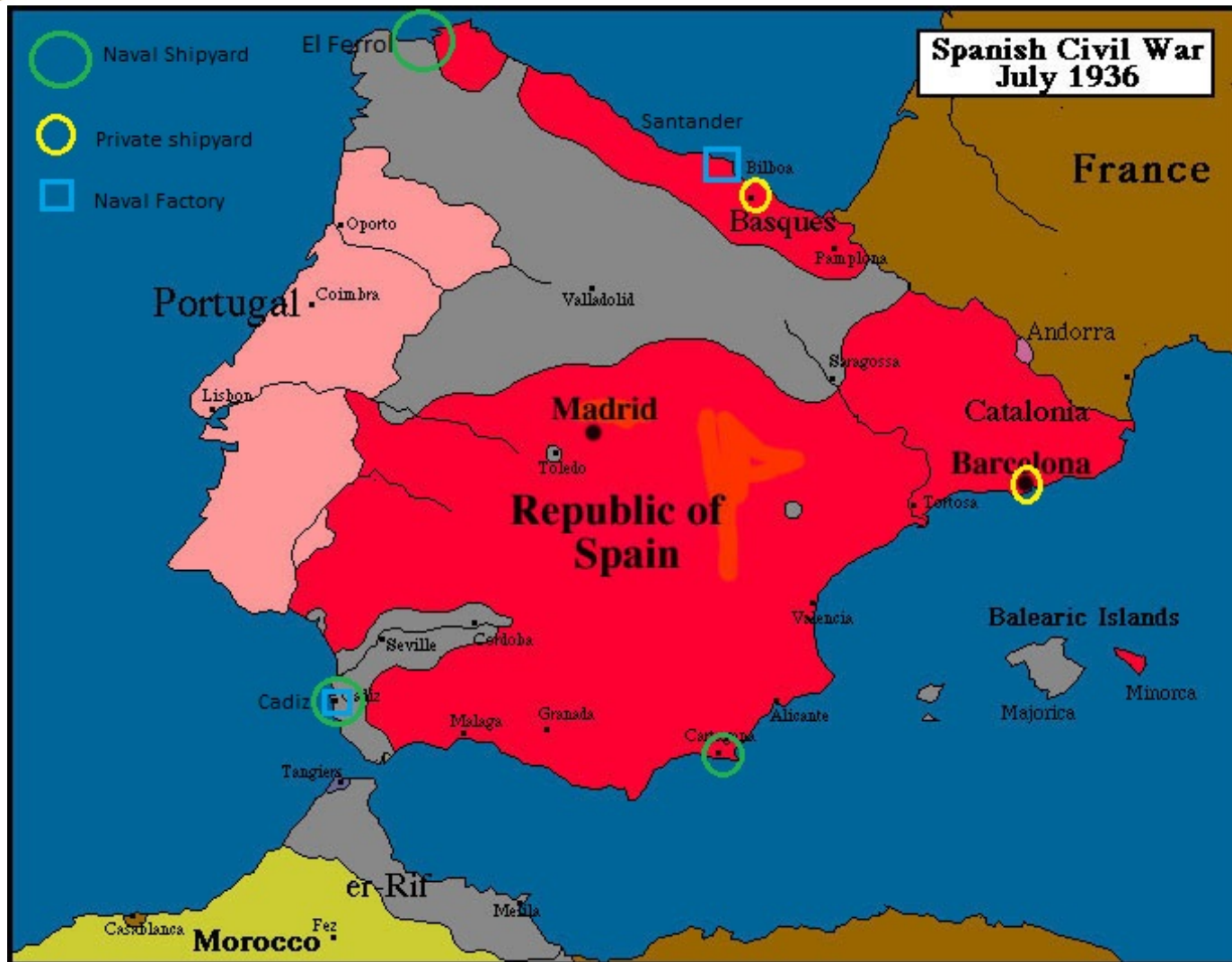


Introduction



- ◆ **On the eve of the revolt, the Spanish Navy was rated in the top ten in the world**
 - Consisted of roughly 69 ships
 - Major units were hopelessly obsolescent or incomplete
 - Fair mix of cruisers, destroyers, submarines, and smaller ships
 - Warship designs based on British concepts, most were Spanish built
- ◆ **The Civil War split the Navy as with all other Spanish institutions**
 - Republicans were able to keep a majority of the ships ($\approx 2/3$'s)
 - Nationalist had most of the officer cadre, Republicans had most of the seasoned enlisted seamen
- ◆ **Infrastructure was split in favor of the Nationalists**
 - Captured the shipyards in Cadiz and El Ferrol, where they also acquired the heavy cruisers *Baleares* and *Canarias*, then still under construction
 - El Ferrol and Cadiz were the primary naval shipyards for the Spanish Navy, complete with large graving docks, while Cartagena had only a floating drydock - limited the Republican ability for extensive overhaul and repairs

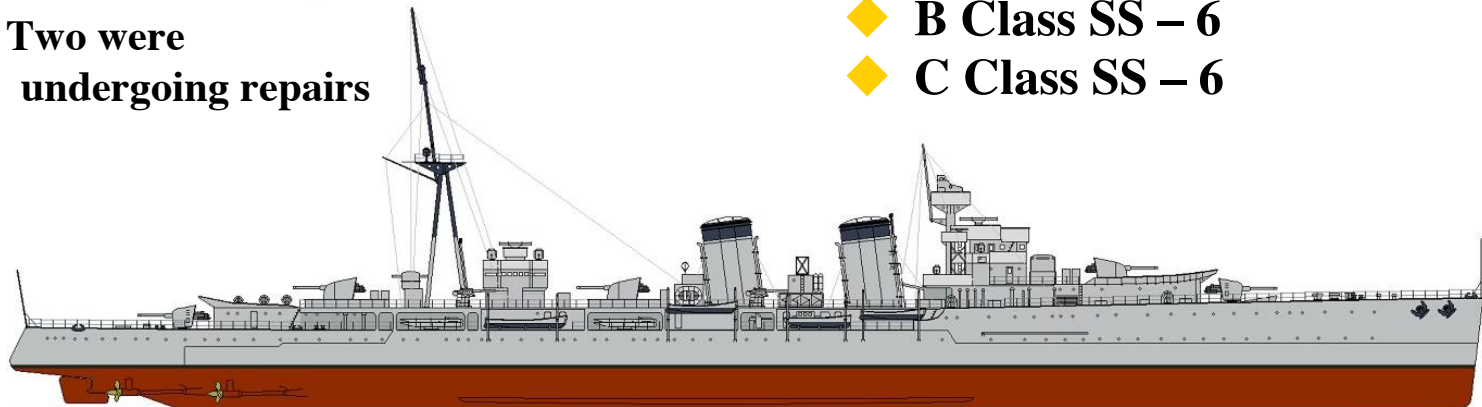
Main Spanish Naval Facilities





Spanish Navy Order of Battle in 1936

- ◆ *España* Class BB – 2
- ◆ *Canarias* Class CA – 2
 - Both incomplete, under construction
- ◆ *Principe Alfonso* Class CL – 3
- ◆ *Méndez Núñez* Class CL – 1
- ◆ *Reina Victoria Eugenia* Class CL – 1
- ◆ *Churruca* 1st Group Class DD – 7
- ◆ *Churruca* 2nd Group Class DD – 7
 - Five were incomplete, under construction
- ◆ *Alsedo* Class DD – 3
 - Two were undergoing repairs
- ◆ T-1 Class TB – 12
- ◆ *Calvo Sotelo* Class PG – 1
- ◆ *Castillo* Class PG – 3
- ◆ *Alcázar* Class PG – 3
- ◆ *Arcila* Class PG – 2
- ◆ *Castle* Class PG – 3
- ◆ *Uad Kert* Class PG – 1
- ◆ *Galicia* Class PG – 1
- ◆ *Recalde* Class PG – 1
- ◆ *Jupiter* Class ML – 3
 - Incomplete, under construction
- ◆ B Class SS – 6
- ◆ C Class SS – 6



Principe Alfonso
Class Light Cruiser



Battleships: *España* Class

Displacement: 15,700 tons (normal)

Length: 459 feet (139.9 meters)

Beam: 79 feet (24 meters)

Max Speed: 20 knots (In 1936 only capable of 14 knots)

Main Battery: 8 x Vickers MkH 12in/50 (305mm/50)

Main Armor Belt: 230mm





Spanish vs Italian and French

Battleship Characteristics

<u>Class</u>	<u>DPs</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Armor</u>	<u>Main</u>	<u>Pen/Dam</u>
<i>España</i>	454	~14	18 / 4	8 x 305mm	31 / 24
<i>Cavour</i>	639	27	21 / 8	10 x 320mm	43 / 29
(modernized 1933-37)					
<i>Andrea Doria</i>	635	21	21 / 7	13 x 305mm	30 / 23
(pre-modernized - 1937-40)					
<i>Bretagne</i>	572	20	23 / 8	10 x 340mm	42 / 29
<i>Courbet</i>	594	20	23 / 8	12 x 305mm	38 / 27
<i>Dunkerque</i>	758	30	33 / 15	8 x 330mm	47 / 30



Battleship Comparison

Number of Game Turns to 75% Damage Target

<u>Attacker</u>	<u>Cavour</u>	<u>Doria</u>	<u>Bretagne</u>	<u>Courbet</u>	<u>Dunkerque</u>
España	9	9	8	9	21



Battleship Comparison

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Attacker

<u>Target</u>	<u>Cavour</u>	<u>Doria</u>	<u>Bretagne</u>	<u>Courbet</u>	<u>Dunkerque</u>
España	4	4	4	5	5

- ◆ *España* also at a significant disadvantage as it is a Gunnery Standard 2 ship against Gunnery Standard 4 opponents
- ◆ Spanish battleships outclassed in every category - *obsolete*



Heavy Cruisers: *Canarias* class

Displacement: 10,113 tons (standard)

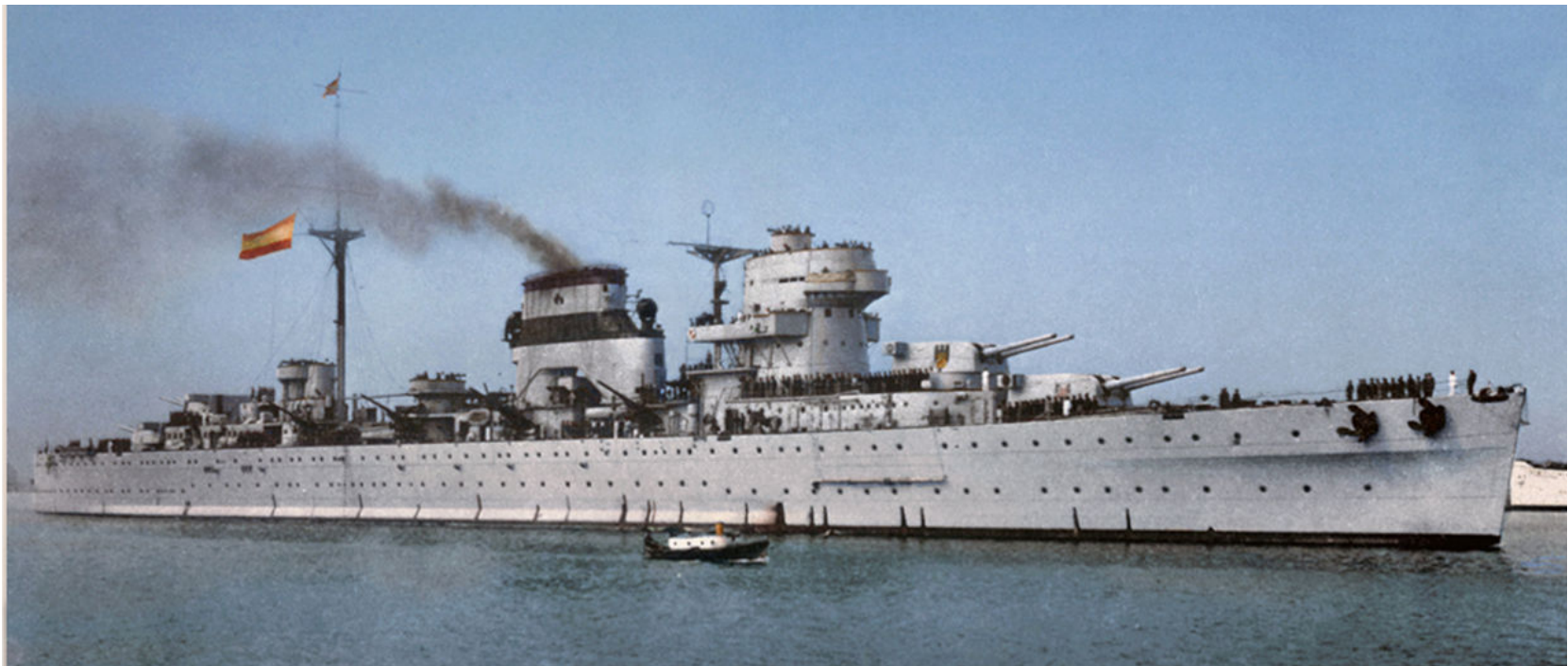
Length: 635 feet (193.6 meters)

Beam: 64 feet (19.5 meters)

Max Speed: 33 knots

Main Battery: 8 x Vickers MkD 8in/50 (203mm/50)

Main Armor Belt: 50mm





Spanish vs Italian and French

Heavy Cruisers

<u>Class</u>	<u>DPs</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Armor</u>	<u>Main</u>	<u>Torpedoes</u>
<i>Canarias</i>	399	33	5 / 3	8 x 203mm	None*
<i>Bolzano</i>	419	33	7 / 5	8 x 203mm	(2) 4
<i>Zara</i>	430-440	30	14 / 7	8 x 203mm	None
<i>Trento</i>	409	31	6 / 4	8 x 203mm	(2) 4
<i>Algérie</i>	396	32	10 / 7	8 x 203mm	(3) 2
<i>Suffren</i>	396	31	5 / 4	8 x 203mm	(3) 2
<i>Duquesne</i>	396	34	3 / 3	8 x 203mm	(3) 2

◆ *Canarias* and *Baleares* incomplete at the start of the civil war – many of the weapons not installed or jury rigged, no fire control system installed



Light Cruisers: *Principe Alfonso* class

Displacement: 7,475 tons (standard)

Length: 579.3 feet (176.6 meters)

Beam: 54 feet (16.5 meters)

Max Speed: 33 knots

Main Battery: 8 x Vickers-Carraca BL 6in/50 (152mm/50)

Main Armor Belt: 76mm (Partial coverage)





Spanish vs Italian and French

Light Cruisers

Class	DPs	Speed	Armor	Main	Torpedoes
<i>Principe Alfonso</i>	277	33	5 / 3	8 x 152mm	(3) 4
<i>Méndez Núñez</i>	206	29	5 / 2	6 x 152mm	(3) 4
Condottieri (1-4)	253-350	32-37	2/2-8/3	8 x 152mm	(2) 2 - (3) 2
Condottieri (5th)	381	31	11/4	10 x 152mm	(3) 2
<i>La Galissonnière</i>	330	34	10 / 3	9 x 152mm	(2) 2
<i>Duguay-Trouin</i>	271	33	2 / 2	8 x 155mm	(3) 4

◆ *Principe Alfonso* class is the most modern and complete major unit in the Spanish Navy at the start of the civil war

– Entered service in 1926, not modernized before the war



Destroyers: *Churruca* class

Displacement: 1,536 tons (standard)

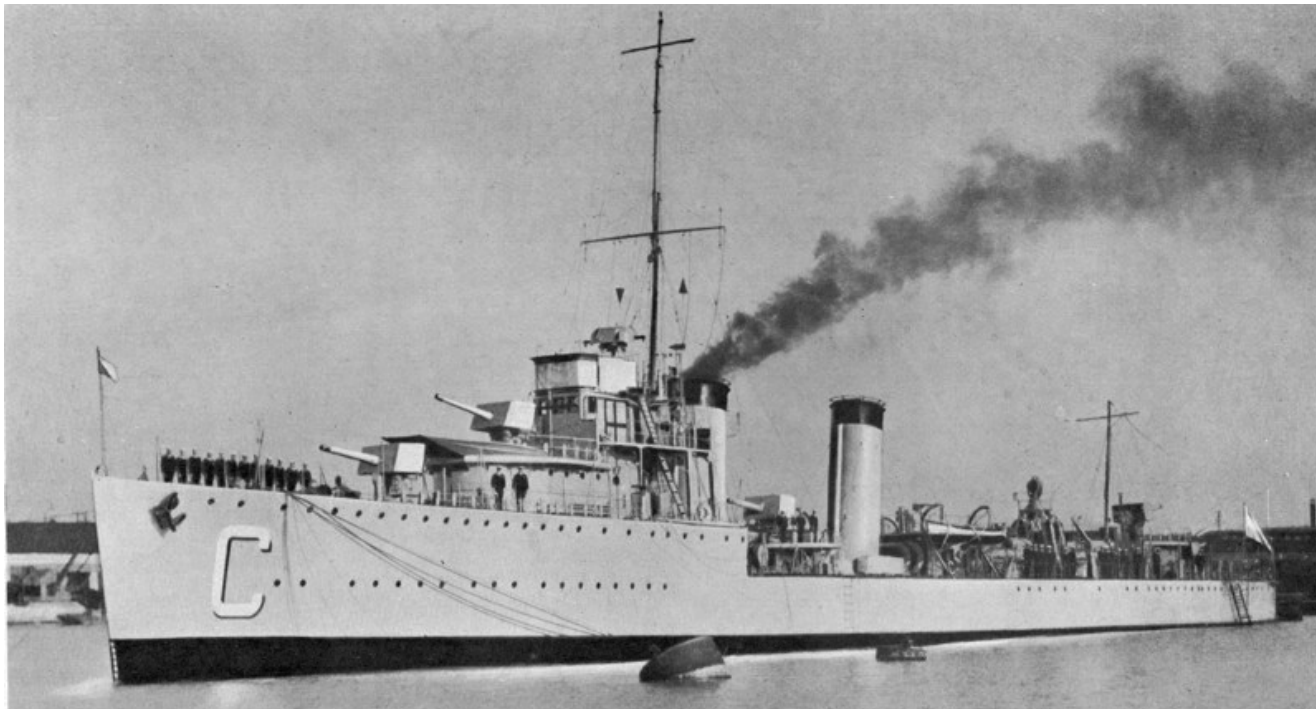
Length: 333 feet (101.5 meters)

Beam: 31.8 feet (9.7 meters)

Max Speed: 36 knots

Main Battery: 5 x Vickers-Carraca LA 4.7in/45 (120mm/45)

Torpedo Tubes: 6 x 533mm





Spanish vs Italian and French

Destroyers

<u>Class</u>	<u>DPs</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Main</u>	<u>Torpedoes</u>
<i>Churruca</i>	113	36	5 x 120mm	(3) 2
<i>Alsedo</i>	79	34	3 x 102mm	(2) 2
<i>Navigatori</i>	131	35	6 x 120mm	(2) 2
<i>Maestrale</i>	121	32	4 x 120mm	(3) 2
<i>L'Adroit / Bourrasque</i>	86-89	32	4 x 130mm	(3) 2

◆ *Churruca* class is a very capable destroyer, and compares favorably with most of its brethren in other navies



Readiness

◆ Mechanical defects

- Lack of refit and modernization upgrades prior to the war
- Lack of adequate maintenance
 - Especially the Republicans that lost the major naval shipyards
- Lack of adequate logistics

◆ Personnel defects

- Lack of experience in naval operations
- Fractured nature of Spanish Navy personnel
 - Few officers in the Republican Navy
 - Few experienced enlisted seaman in the Nationalist Navy



Conclusion

- ◆ **Due to financial neglect and a fractured personnel / infrastructure situation, the Spanish Navy was NOT ready for intense active operations**
 - Major units were either incomplete or hopelessly obsolete

- ◆ **Although rate in the top ten navies (7th or 8th) there is a large capability gap between the top five and the next five - Against another regional navy, the Spanish were definitely 2nd rate**

- ◆ **But against itself, it could be very effective**
 - Especially as the primary focus of both navies was on escorting merchant shipping or commerce raiding



Q&A

Questions?

