

Transatlantic Antifascisms

Antifascism has received little attention compared to its enemy. No historian or social scientist has previously attempted to define its nature and history – yet antifascism became perhaps the most powerful ideology of the twentieth century. Michael Seidman fills this gap by providing the first comprehensive study of antifascisms in Spain, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States with new interpretations of the Spanish Civil War, French Popular Front, and Second World War. He shows how two types of antifascism – revolutionary and counterrevolutionary – developed from 1936 to 1945. Revolutionary antifascism dominated the Spanish Republic during its civil war and re-emerged in Eastern Europe at the end of World War II. By contrast, counterrevolutionary antifascists were hegemonic in France, Britain, and the United States. In Western Europe, they restored conservative republics or constitutional monarchies based on Enlightenment principles. This innovative examination of antifascism will interest a wide range of scholars and students of twentieth-century history.

MICHAEL SEIDMAN teaches at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, having studied at the University of Amsterdam, University of California, Berkeley and Swarthmore College. His first book, *Workers against Work: Labor in Barcelona and Paris during the Popular Fronts, 1936–38* (1991), has been translated into six languages. Other publications include *Republic of Egos: A Social History of the Spanish Civil War* (2002, Spanish translation, 2003); *The Imaginary Revolution: Parisian Students and Workers in 1968* (2004); and *The Victorious Counterrevolution: The Nationalist Effort in the Spanish Civil War* (2011, Spanish translation, 2012). *Transatlantic Antifascisms* has also been translated into Spanish.

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*From the Spanish Civil War to the End of
World War II*

Michael Seidman

University of North Carolina Wilmington



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La lucidité est la blessure la plus proche du soleil.
René Char

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Preface</i>	xi
1 Introduction	1
2 Revolutionary Antifascism in the Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939	9
3 The Antifascist Deficit during the French Popular Front	52
4 British and French Counterrevolutionary Antifascism	84
5 Counterrevolutionary Antifascism Alone, 1939–1940	105
6 American Counterrevolutionary Antifascism	130
7 Antifascisms United: 1941–1944	160
8 Beyond Fascism and Antifascism: Working and Not Working	182
9 Antifascisms Divided, 1945	233
10 Conclusion and Epilogue	251
<i>Notes</i>	255
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	292
<i>Index</i>	315

Illustrations

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| 1.1 | Ethiopian Emperor Selassie protests Italian invasion of his country at the League of Nations in 1936. Getty Images. | page 7 |
| 2.1 | Antifascist street parade at Eastbourne (England), 29 April 1938. Getty Images. | 10 |
| 2.2 | Male and female militia fighters on the march at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, July 1936. Keystone/Getty Images. | 18 |
| 2.3 | CNT-UGT collectivized food store in Barcelona during Spanish Revolution. Getty Images. | 20 |
| 2.4 | Dolores Ibárruri (Pasionaria), Spanish Republican leader, salutes members of the International Brigades. Getty Images. | 23 |
| 2.5 | Spanish Civil War, British volunteers in the International Brigades, 1937. Getty Images. | 27 |
| 2.6 | Pablo Picasso, <i>Guernica</i> (1937), arriving at Madrid, 1981. Getty Images. | 45 |
| 2.7 | Josep Renau, “Peasant, defend with weapons the government which gave you land,” 1936. Getty Images. | 46 |
| 2.8 | Spanish Republican refugees in France, 1939. Getty Images. | 49 |
| 3.1 | Socialist leader Léon Blum and Communist leader Maurice Thorez at Popular Front rally, 10 June 1936. Getty Images. | 56 |
| 3.2 | “Communism Means War,” poster produced during French Popular Front. Getty Images. | 67 |
| 6.1 | Grant Wood (1891–1942), <i>Parson Weems’ Fable</i> , 1939. Oil on canvas. Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas. | 144 |
| 6.2 | Thomas Hart Benton, <i>Again</i> . Art © T.H. Benton Testamentary Trusts/UMB Bank Trustee/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY. | 145 |

List of Illustrations		ix
6.3	Stuart Davis, <i>Ultramarine</i> (1943). Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Joseph E. Temple Fund.	158
6.4	Robert Motherwell, <i>Elegy to the Spanish Republic, no. 126</i> (1965–1975). Getty Images.	159
7.1	Churchill and Roosevelt at divine service, 10 August 1941, during Atlantic Conference. Getty Images.	163
7.2	Giraud, Roosevelt, de Gaulle, and Churchill (left to right), Casablanca Conference, January 1943. Getty Images.	167
8.1	Henry Moore, <i>Four Miners at the Coalface</i> (1942). Reproduced by permission of The Henry Moore Foundation.	212
8.2	<i>Rosie the Riveter</i> (1942). Courtesy of the National Archives. Getty Images.	229
9.1	Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin at Yalta Conference, February 1945. Getty Images.	234

Preface

This study of the two main varieties of antifascism in the major nations of the Atlantic world is, like most books, an individual and collective effort. At the University of North Carolina Wilmington my gratitude includes Paul Townend, Mark Spaulding, Susan McCaffray, Lynn Mollenauer, Aswani Volety, and the Inter-Library Loan staff. A UNCW Research Reassignment, local academic jargon for a sabbatical, allowed valuable time; a Summer Initiative and Cahill Award granted material resources to complete the project. Beyond my home institution, Tom Buchanan, Herrick Chapman, Jean-Pierre Le Goff, William O'Neill, Anthony Oberschall, Josep Parello, Don Reid, Henri Simon, Jens Späth, Nigel Townson, Jean-Paul Vilaine, and especially Hugo García offered encouragement and helpful criticism. Special thanks go to the extraordinarily knowledgeable Stanley Payne. I am indebted to editors Lew Bate-man and Michael Watson who shepherded the manuscript through an extremely valuable review process.

Readers should be aware that I have used “Fascist” to designate the Italian brand of fascism, which will remain in lowercase unless it refers to the Mussolinian movement. The use of “Communism” refers to the political parties which were led by the Soviet Union; “communism” in lowercase denotes groups outside of the Third International who demanded collectivization of most, if not all, private property. “Resisters” in uppercase signifies those who fought against the German occupation. “Nazi” is used as shorthand for German National Socialist.