

Sección Tres: Experiencias, reseñas, debates e informes

Teoría crítica y marxismo en las ciencias sociales y humanas: alcances, limitaciones y reconfiguraciones. Sociología transformadora.

Didactic guide for the use of testimonies and experiences on the civil war, postwar and early Francoism. The story told. ¹

Marina Montero Pérez
Córdoba University
marina9627@hotmail.com

Reseña del libro *Didactic guide for the use of testimonies and experiences on the civil war, postwar and early Francoism. The story told.* Spain: McGraw-Hill. Ana Beatriz Pérez González and Laura Sevilla Brenes (2022).

Writing about events without reinventing them, but using the facts as narrated by the actors who lived them, is increasingly essential in historical education and using an innovative methodology.

As a teacher, I consider it essential for the new generations to know and learn about the circumstances of Spain's recent history. At the stage of secondary education in Spain and the Baccalaureate, the civil war, the post-war period and Franco's regime, are studied in the subject of History. A less theoretical and more experiential vision could help our students learn about the past by knowing the facts. The narrative method, based on testimonies, could be used for the Teaching/Learning of this period. This has many advantages, among others, to know and learn from the past when there are no longer closer generations alive (grandparents, ancestors) who can pass on directly as witnesses the facts. In addition to a sentimental learning, it implies, a knowledge regarding the management, the use, the double use of the goods and food. But also, to know the other version of the facts, the ideology of the moment, the confrontation between brothers that happens for example in a civil war. And obviously, to contribute to the overcoming of the history of a country.

This is the purpose of this book that we refer to here: a didactic guide for the use of testimonies and experiences on the civil war, postwar and early Francoism. The story told, written by two

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specialists in the field of humanities and education: Sevilla Brenes and Pérez-González. These authors have previously worked on issues related to the culture of peace as indicated at the end of this edition of McGraw in their biographies.

Sevilla Brenes, has been a researcher in social work, social services, social policies, citizenship; Pérez-González, has studied historical sociology analyzing, for example the "estraperlo" as a social process (Pérez-González, 2004). The "estraperlo" is illegal activity involving trade in goods subject to State intervention or tax. Both authors are research members of INDESS (University Research Institute for Sustainable Social Development), which gives an idea of the significance of their work.

The book we are reviewing is therefore essential as a specialized piece of work for teachers who want to go beyond purely theoretical teaching. The testimonies included in it, which belong exclusively to people who lived through the events, can be of immense value to the new generations.

This is an easy to read book, divided into three chapters, the first two of theoretical foundation and analysis and teaching treatment, and the third one is a compilation of testimonies by categories of analysis for their treatment in the classrooms. These categories are elements of classification for the thematic analysis on various topics, on which to work in the classroom. In them, reference is first made to what is estimated by different authors on the condition of Spain as a country and its democratic transition and the following categories that include testimonies are: Economical; Misery, hunger and food control; Reuse of materials and daily life; Political, ideological; (and subsections of Ideological control and Prisons, refugee, labor and concentration camps); War, Traumas; Fear; Women; Solidarity and resistances aspects. It can therefore be seen, that the most important issues for the study of that period in Spain are developed through the method of the narration of the actor who lives the events.

Finally, the book includes a list of references on narratives or testimonies and an appendix for teaching and didactic use. Another point of interest is that it contains references to the chapters related to the theoretical foundation.

The prologue is written by Professor Carlos Vladimir Zambrano, an anthropologist specialized in territorialization, who tackles important issues including the definition of new concepts of theoretical analysis such as "Recuperation", of "recovering", which are very interesting for the study of the subject of Historical Memory.

The Law of Historical Memory, has been approved in Spain after many attempts recently, Law 20/2022 (BOE October 20), finally as a controversial issue in Spanish society. The book raises therefore the need or not to recover the historical past, as a legacy to new generations, the consequences of observing the facts from all perspectives, or the need to settle accounts by overcoming a "difficult" period in the history of Spain, beyond what some English Hispanists have been able to appreciate.

It is therefore not intended to "add fuel to the fire" with this careful copy of the MacGraw Hill publishing house, well known in the academic field, but rather to make a compilation of the stories lived by the authors, by the civil society.

The review of the bibliography on Francoism based on real testimonies of social actors, has included in this issue the consultation of 166 works of articles and specialized books, which gives an idea of the great work of recovery, as a repository, carried out by the authors. From our perspective, it is a necessary work, which was to be carried out to obtain an essential list and repository on the facts of this period and of which will be of great interest, not only for secondary and high school teachers in Spain, but also for the work of other teachers specialized in this subject in other countries. That is to say, we consider it to be a fundamental work for their study and work in other specialized centers such as universities institutes and teaching establishments in other countries, and perhaps it would deserve a translation at least in English and French. This work is also part of the recent European historiography. It deserves to be read and consulted beyond our borders.

References

Pérez-González, A. Beatriz (2004). *Estraperlo en Cádiz, la estrategia social*. Cádiz: Quórum Editores.

