

P.S. Ya hablémos de la visita p[ri]maveral.

JOSE ORTEGA Y GASSET

The death of José Ortega y Gasset on Tuesday will bring a crowd of memories back to all who are old enough to remember the Spanish Republican Revolution, the Civil War and the great intellectual conflict of the century, which Spain has yet to settle. Shall Europe forever end at the Pyrenees, or will Spain become a part of Europe?

This was the great struggle to which Ortega y Gasset gave his life as the champion of Europeanization. Although a little young for the in-

scription, he was one—the last survivor—of the four great intellectuals who made what was called the "Generation of '98." Joaquín Costa and Angel Ganivet had gone before the Second Republic. The Basque philosopher, Miguel de Unamuno, was determined enough to stay in Spain when the civil war broke out, but he died before it ended, cursing "both your houses." Ortega y Gasset went away, and for that he was never forgiven by the Republicans, although now that he is dead they may feel more charitable. However, it hurt them when he returned to Spain in 1949 after twelve years in exile to work and publish again. "The Government pays no attention whatever to me," he wrote, "and does not interfere in the least."

It had no reason to, but in the vital years of his career José Ortega y Gasset was a firebrand whose ideas profoundly affected the course of Spanish history. He was called, with some justice, the "Philosopher of the Second Republic" that began with the overthrow of King Alfonso XIII in 1931, but he almost immediately repudiated the republic that emerged. It was not his republic; it was not an ideal republic. But he liked fascism no better and that would go for the Franco regime, as anybody would realize who knew him.

José Ortega y Gasset was a failure in the sense that Spain is still outside of Europe. Yet ideas never entirely fail and never die. The times were out of joint for Ortega y Gasset, but Spain lives and there will be other times, and when they come Spain will be a part of Europe, and no one will say that José Ortega y Gasset was a failure.

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Querido amigo:

le adjunto el recorte del editorial del Times de hoy dedicado al maestro Ortega. Desde anoche he estado viendo mis notas sobre Ortega, y también considerando lo que significa su muerte. Me parece q. se queda España un tanto más vacía. Y no sé pero me parece que se debería intentar algo, algo así como una nueva Rev. de Occ., en otra forma muy distinta desde luego. Quizá a Mariás se le ocurra algo.

Ayer el Times le confundía con Unamuno — a Ortega — en el telegrama de Madrid. Hoy ya ve que sacan a España de Europa. Claro, se entiende lo que quieren decir pero no deja de ser impreciso. Seguramente ~~Exp~~ Europa es para ellos la Cámara de los Comunes y la acera derecha de la Rue de Rivoli.

Me siento más deprimido q. otros días -- su ausencia se siente considerablemente en este despacho de BMawr -- y la muerte de Ortega me ha afectado en mi entraña hispánica, para decirlo pedantemente y sinceramente

Hasta otro rato.

Un abrazo,
Juan

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