

Spain passes “Law of Historical Memory”

After months of negotiations, the Spanish parliament has approved a controversial bill which for the first time officially recognizes the victims of the 1936-39 civil war – in which at least 500,000 people died – and the ensuing 40-year right-wing dictatorship of *General Francisco Franco*



Civil War and Franco dictatorship

Goal: Recognizes and widens rights of those who suffered persecution or violence for political, ideological or religious reasons during



state aid if they refuse to remove them

Symbols: Bans Franco-era statues, plaques and other symbols from streets and public buildings. Church and other institutions risk losing



to honour memory of all victims

Valley of the Fallen: Prohibits all political events at Franco's mausoleum, regime's most potent symbol, and demands monument be used



unmarked mass graves

Burial of victims: Obliges town halls to facilitate exhumation of victims executed by Franco's forces and supporters and who were buried in



Trials: Declares “illegitimate” verdicts of summary trials that led to execution or imprisonment of thousands of Franco's enemies



government overthrown by Franco

Reparation: Seeks symbolic amends to all victims of war, including Catholic clergy and others executed by militia loyal to Republican