

BLAS INFANTE

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“Mi nacionalismo antes que andaluz es humano. Creo que por el nacimiento, la naturaleza señala a los soldados de la Vida el lugar en donde han de luchar por ella. Yo quiero trabajar por la Causa del espíritu en Andalucía porque en ella nací. Si en otra parte me encontrare, me esforzaría con esta causa con igual fervor”

(Above all, I have a sense of human nationalism before that of an Andalusian one. I believe that by birth, nature indicates to the soldiers of life, the place in which they can fight for it. I want to work for the cause of the spirit in Andalusia because that is where I was born. If I were in another place I would make the same effort for this cause with the same fervor.)

- Blas Infante was born in Casares (Málaga) on July 5th 1885 and belonged to a middle class family of farmers. He is known as the “Father of the Andalusian fatherland” because he has been the most representative ideologist of Andalusian politics.

- After finishing his degree in Law in Granada, he worked as a notary in different places in Andalusia. Thanks to this, he improved his knowledge of the people throughout this region and he started getting in touch with the ideas of Andalusian nationalism. This led to his defense of the idea of the existence of Andalusia as a Spanish region different from the rest of Spain.

- During the reign of Alfonso the 12th, he published several works such as “*La dictadura pedagógica*” (The Pedagogical Dictatorship), “*Cuentos de animales*” (Animals tales), etc. However, his most influential work was “*El Ideal Andaluz*” (The Andalusian Ideal). In this book he tried to promote Andalusian patriotism as a way to fight against injustices. He also explained how to increase people’s confidence; he asked for the introduction of free and universal education and defended the

1883: Constitution of Antequera

1885: Birth of Blas Infante

1886: Birth of Alfonso 12th

1898: Spanish-American war. Spain lost all its colonies.

1918: Ronda Assembly

1923-1930: Primo Rivera’s Dictatorship.

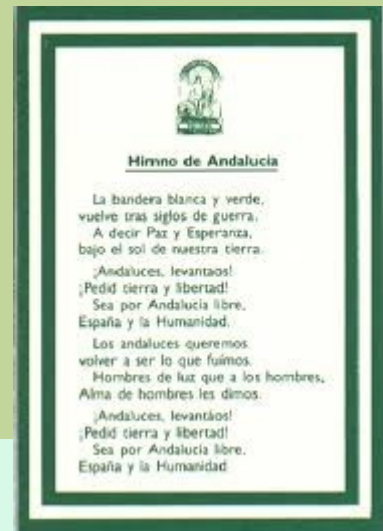
1936: Political elections: Victory of the “Frente Popular”

Franco’s Coup d’état

1936: Death of Blas Infante

expropriation of large estates in order to regulate the economy.

- In 1918, Infante's proposal of adopting a green and white flag and a Hercules coat of arms was accepted by the Ronda Assembly.



- In 1919, he along with the “Centros Andaluces” (Andalusian Centers) signed “El Manifiesto Andalucista de Córdoba” (The Andalusian Manifesto of Córdoba). In this document, they claimed the abolition of centralist powers; they defended a free Andalusia and they asked the Andalusian people to be “the most efficient of the United States of Spain”.

- During the Second Republic, Blas Infante was the President of the “Junta Liberalista de Andalucía” (the Liberalist government of Andalusia). In his new book (1931), “La verdad sobre el Complot de Tablada y El Estado libre de Andalucía” (The Truth about Tablada Complot and the free State of Andalusia), he demonstrated his discontent with the actuation of the Republic. Two years after, he used the melody of the religious chant “Santo Dios” to create the Hymn of Andalusia.
- He was arrested in his house of Cora del Río on 11th August 1936 and executed by firing squad.

ANDALUSIA'S FLAG

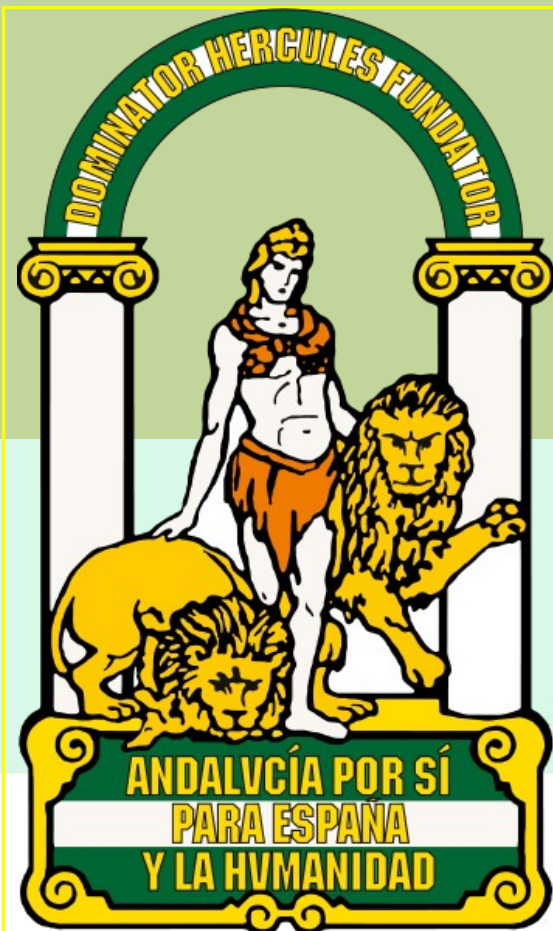


SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLOURS

- The green color is the symbol of the union and hope.
- The white color stands for peace and dialogue.
- Blas Infante chose these two colors because, according to him, they had been the most used colors along the history of Andalusia:
- The green color was the standard of the Umayyad dynasty.
- The white color symbolizes the forgiveness between the Almohads.

COAT OF ARMS OF ANDALUSIA





CHARACTERISTICS

- It is based on the coat of arms of Cadiz, city which, according to Blas Infante, was “the head of



our region”.

- The Pillars of Hercules have a mythological origin. They were located in the Strait of Gibraltar and marked the limit from the known and unknown world. According to the legend, it was Hercules who placed them there, separating the African continent from the European Continent. Each pillar represents the mountains at each side of the Strait, on one side we have the one in Gibraltar and on the other side we have The Hacho Mountain in Ceuta.
- In the centre we see a young Hercules symbolizing the eternal young force of spirit which dominates the instinctive animal force (represented by the lions).
- Above the pillars, we find this Latin inscription: “Dominator Hercules Fundator”.