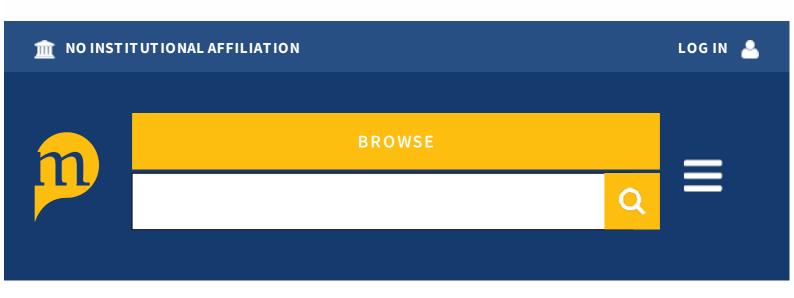
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Pilar and Maria: Hemingway's feminist homage to the new woman of Spain in for whom the bell tolls.



Pilar and Maria: Hemingway's Feminist Homage to the "New Woman of Spain" in For Whom the Bell Tolls

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Abstract

The emancipation of women during the Spanish Civil War provides the context for this exploration of the characters Pilar and Maria in He ming way's For Whom the Bell Tolls. Examining these women within the frame work of the "New Woman" of Spain provides a richer understanding of each character individually as well as a new appreciation of their connections. Such context is fundamental to discerning how He ming way encapsulates the socio-political climate of the Spanish Civil War in the novel.

PILAR AND MARIA: HEMINGWAY'S FEMINIST HOMAGE TO THE "NEW WOMAN OF SPAIN" IN FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

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PRIOR TO THE OUTSET OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR (1931-1936), the
"New Woman of Spain" was a recurring theme in the platform of sweeping
social and political reform proposed by the democratically elected Republican government of Spain. The oft-repeated slogan reflected a major shift away
from the traditional view of Spanish women's proper role as one of docility,
subservience, and invisibility, and towards one of empowerment, agency, and
autonomy. During the bitter and devastating three-year conflict that followed,
this new feminist consciousness prevailed. In "Women in the Civil War,"
Catherine Coleman notes:

The struggle for gender equality was one of the important social battles also being fought during the civil war... political party propaganda promoted a new and positive image of the antifascist Spanish woman balancing out the predominant image of woman as victim of military action and rearguard repression. (50)

Along with the fact that women played a large and important part in the Republican war effort, this move towards gender re-identification offers a unique context for examining Ernest Hemingway's portrayals of Pilar and Maria in For Whom the Bell Tolls. Numerous scholars have examined these two characters in light of gender issues. However, existing criticism has failed to consider how Hemingway might have deliberately infused his characterizations of the women with these significant changes in Spanish gender relations during this important historical period. In fact, there are elements in both

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