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"The Spanish Civil War was essentially a domestic matter that rapidly became an international issue."

To what extent do you agree?

The Spanish Civil War was a conflict of 4 years that ~~had~~ ^{lead to} drastic outcomes for the Spanish population. ~~After the~~ ^{one of them} ~~Spanish Civil War~~ ^{being} Franco ^{of} set up a repressive and violent dictatorship, which dominated Spain until Franco's death in 1975. The Spanish Civil War was caused by mostly Spain related issues, such as ~~the~~ ~~failure~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~left~~ ~~to~~ ~~bring~~ ~~lasting~~ ~~reforms~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~failure~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~right~~ ~~to~~ ~~accept~~ ~~change~~. It can therefore be said that the Spanish Civil War was mostly a domestic issue. However, there is some debate about whether this internal conflict would have ^{even} turned into a civil war without external help. Excellent opening - context + thesis.

~~As~~ Firstly the Spanish Civil War had long term causes that were ~~purely~~ purely domestic issues and therefore it was essentially a domestic matter that later turned into an international issue. The underlying problems that ~~Spain~~ were causes of the SCW (Spanish Civil War) were problems that Spain had after abolishing the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera in 1931. These issues were things such as ~~the~~ the latifundio system of landownership which was ineffective and caused lots of economic problems, the ^{strong} role that the Church and the army played in Spain and low living standards of industrial which led to discontent in the Spanish population. The problem

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of these issues that they were not solved effectively by the Spanish governments. The ~~Spanish~~ internal Spanish government force that moved like a pendulum from left wing to right wing was unable to solve the countries problems of economy and society. ^{For example, the} ~~The~~ ~~ref~~ land reforms that had been made by Azaña during the Second Republic from 1931 to 1933, ~~the~~ were halted by the right wing government CEDA and ~~after the~~ ~~It~~ tried to be reestablished by the Popular Front government in 1936. This shows clearly that the reasons for the outbreak of the SCW and therefore ~~essenti~~ the SCW itself was ^{caused by} domestic problems.

~~Another~~ Another point that shows that the SCW was a domestic ~~issue~~ issue that ~~only~~ turned into an international ~~conf~~ ^{one} is the immediate cause it resulted from, namely the ~~the~~ military coup of the right wing opposition against the ~~the~~ Popular Front government on the 17 July 1936. This military coup was inspired by the army's ^{especially of many conservative officers,} fear of losing their influence and their unwillingness to agree to any reforms. ~~Many historians~~ ~~agree that the~~ Many historians blame the left wing government of Azaña for the SCW, as they failed in ^{effectively} introducing reforms. However, the historian Paul Preston claims that the right was never willing to accept change. This strongly suggests that the SCW was a domestic matter that was caused by the rights backwardness and conservatism.

It is clearly visible throughout the cause of the

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war that international involvement played a big part in the war, ^{as can be seen, for example, with the involvement of Italy,} however, ~~it is~~ it could be claimed that the involvement of Germany ~~triggered~~ made the war possible and therefore the SCW was an international issue from ~~the~~ ^{its} beginning in 1936 to its end in 1939. As the Condor Legion helped to airlift the Nationalist army from Morocco to mainland Spain, where they were able to seize power in Andalusia, it could be argued that only because of the German involvement the war ~~was~~ started. Without the German help Franco's army might not have been able to reach mainland Spain and as other Spanish militias were not as strong as the Moroccan army the Nationalists might not have risked to start a civil war and therefore war might not have broken out.

In conclusion, I would argue that the Spanish Civil War was an essentially domestic matter, as it resulted mostly from internal instabilities and problems, but later, as can be seen in the involvement of Germany, Italy, the USSR ~~and~~, Britain and Portugal turned into an issue of international importance. The historian Hugh Thomas also agrees as he claimed that the SCW was an 'internal' issue that was determined by 'external factors', ~~in~~ external factors meaning foreign assistance. However, as the trigger of the war, the coup d'état ~~of~~ on 17 July 1936, was made possible through German assistance it could also be argued that it was ~~an~~ an international conflict from the start.

An excellent essay Lena.