

The Theme of the Spanish Civil War in E. Hemingway's Novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls"

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Abstract. This article analyzes the novel by E. Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls", as well as the analysis of the main characters and characters of the novel against the background of the Spanish Civil War. Ernest Hemingway knew firsthand what war is and what it is. He was a participant in the First World War. He experienced a painful and painful life in the trenches, was wounded. Hemingway went to war as a volunteer in the American Red Cross detachment. His first military experience, and he will have quite a few of them, he reflected in the novel "Goodbye, weapons!". This book, which became a slogan of protest against the war, brought him worldwide fame. It contains the mental suffering of the heroes, which the author himself experienced on the battlefields. This book is about a common human tragedy, where there is a bitter hopeless conclusion: "When people bring so much courage to this world, the world must kill them to break them...He kills the kindest, and the tenderest, and the bravest indiscriminately."

1 Introduction

In July 1936, a Fascist uprising broke out in Spain. The Republicans, of course, were not ready for it, and therefore, within a few days, entire regions were in the hands of the rebels, and after some time the siege of Madrid and Barcelona began. A wave of terror and murder was rolling across the country. Despite the events taking place, the West clearly expressed its position of non-interference in the internal political affairs of Spain, which in fact meant aiding the Francoists. Their side was openly supported by the leading European countries with a fascist dictatorship – Italy and Germany. German bombers dropped their bombs on Spanish cities, which after the bombing were strewn with the corpses of civilians.

The Italian divisions were advancing on Valencia, urgently transferred from Abyssinia. The Republicans were experiencing the strongest onslaught. They suffered heavy losses, retreating further into the country. Naturally, there were also those states that helped and sympathized with the fighters for the Republic in every possible way. The United States created International Brigades consisting of volunteers who were anti-fascists from different parts of the world. They also provided the supply of weapons and humanitarian aid. On the territory of Spain, where there was a bloody civil war, the prologue of the Second World War was played out.

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But in Spain, completely different conflicts ensued, and the war was completely different, because the enemy was not one particular state that started a war over some disputed territories or resources, the enemy was an ideology that corroded society like an ulcer, which decomposed the moral and moral principles of man, which would bring only one thing to the future world. the death of millions and millions of people. And this ideology was fascism. Hemingway called fascism “a lie uttered by bandits,” therefore, from the very first days of the Francoist revolt, the writer took an irreconcilable and active position in the fight against this global scourge. For him to stay away would mean only one thing – humility and acceptance of this lie. And he, a former soldier who went through the war, hating and despising it, re-joined the ranks of the army.

In the spring of 1937, Hemingway flew to Madrid. The Civil War was taking place right before his eyes in its bloody horror. His hatred of fascism grew stronger every day. He wasn't scared. He wasn't worried about his life at all. He was worried about the fate of the Spanish people and their future. He left his beloved and sunny Spain, hoping that someday it would be reborn and throw off the shackles of dark turmoil. He left her with the last detachments of Republicans who retreated across the Pyrenees to France a year and a half later. After several years of struggle with the Francoists, the Republic was defeated.

2 Research Methodology

In the novel, the writer makes it clear that the Spanish tragedy is not only the result of a clash of antagonistic political doctrines, it is a concrete expression of what is sometimes called the “torments of history”, inevitable whenever the old world collapses and a new reality arises on its ruins [1].

“For Whom the Bell Tolls” it is reliable in the smallest detail, and at the same time it cannot be said that the novel is closed with its material. The event that took place in Spain is one of the severe historical turning points when the fate of individuals and people is being decided.

The work contains not only motives of humanity and compassion, but also highlights such themes as cruelty and violence. They are reflected in the arguments and thoughts of the heroes, in the actions and deeds of not only fascists, but also Republicans. An example of this is an episode in the novel describing the massacre of residents of one small town over twenty members of the fascist party who joined it not because of their beliefs, but simply because “it was fashionable to be a party member.”

Also in the novel there is a theme of the highest revolutionary duty, which was personified by a strong and kind woman Pilar. This topic is of paramount importance for solving the problem of individualism. But in addition to certain moods and themes, in the novel there is a love line between the main characters - the Inter-Brigade fighter Robert Jordan and the Spanish girl Maria. This love gives the heroes a kind of “way out” of the current hopeless situation. Before meeting each other, each of them performed their duty: Robert carried out the orders of the General Staff, Maria helped the partisans in the fight against the Francoists. They both understand that sooner or later everything will come to an end. This end will be painful and cruel, but thanks to the love that has flared up brightly, like a spark, between them, the end is not so terrible for them and they are waiting with calmness for his arrival.

3 Results and Discussions

In 1940, the writer's novel “For Whom the Bell Tolls”, written a few years after the end of the war in Spain, was published. It was released at the beginning of the Second World War,

when fascism conquered one country after another in Europe, when dictators were confident in the invincibility of their ideology. It is surprising that at the very moment when fascism achieved its goals and objectives, the novel clearly predicted that fascism was doomed to long-term existence, it was waiting for a crushing and inevitable defeat.

“For Whom the Bell Tolls” is not a novel about the private destinies of characters and heroes, but a novel about the fate of the people and their tragedy. After all, a civil war is the most terrible war that can happen. It’s terrible when your friend from yesterday is standing in front of you, pointing a rifle at your chest, simply because you are a representative of the “wrong party”. It is disastrous for a mother to know that her two dear and beloved sons are fighting against each other. It is unfair when one single people united by a common culture, traditions and language should split and shed blood.

From the very first pages of the novel, the reader will understand that the book is about the moral duty of countering evil and murder, about false and true humanity, about justice, which has a fine line, about the inconsistency of history, about the mistakes of the Republic that predetermined its tragic defeat in the civil war.

In the novel, the action takes place within three days. The plot is built near the description of an ordinary operation against the Francoists in their rear, namely, in the explosion of the bridge, which Robert Jordan should produce. Despite the small chronological space, the intensity of passions and the intensity of conflicts can easily fit into five hundred pages of the book. Thanks to the lively dialogues, the memories of the heroes, their stories around the campfire, the preparation for the task and the description of the mountainous terrain of Spain, the reader will not feel any isolation and understatement when familiarizing himself with the work. In his novel, Hemingway faithfully reproduced the events of the Civil War and showed all the flavor and peculiarity of the common Spanish people.

The bridge, which is often spoken about in the novel, from which all the threads of the narrative diverge and to which all the threads of the narrative are pulled together again in the finale, becomes the central image of the work, which most noticeably makes this tonality feel [1]. For Robert, the bridge is “the pivot around which the fate of humanity will turn.” Of course, he does not have such a huge significance for the operation that Jordan attached to him. But the fact is that we are talking about more than just following the order to blow up the bridge. The war in Spain has become the starting point of world history for the next decade, and Robert understands this with all clarity. The pressure of such responsibility – for all of humanity – is enormous in an ordinary episode associated with a specific combat mission [1].

But in addition to lofty ideas and thoughts, there is a concrete reality of war that corrects even Jordan’s selfless motives. The order is executed – the bridge is blown up. But for the sake of this, the detachment of El Sordo, a local guerrilla and fighter for the Republic, was left behind and was destroyed by the enemies. Robert himself will die for this. Yes, the goal is fulfilled – but will the fate of humanity change?

4 Conclusions

The combat significance of the bridge was insignificant, but the incredible strength of the heroes applied to the elimination of the bridge, their dying consciousness in honestly fulfilled duty to the Republic and to themselves, their endurance and strength in the face of danger, their solidarity and camaraderie gives an answer to the fact that it is heroism, devotion, faith and courage that can change the fate of mankind.

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