

**AZAÑA, MANUEL
(1880–1940)**

President of Spain, 1931–33 and 1936–39. Azaña was a man of letters before entering politics. With his long-time companion, the theater director Cipriano Rivas Cherif, whose sister he was to marry in 1929, he edited the literary magazine *La Pluma* (1920–23), and then joined the board of the more political *España* (1923–24). In the late 1920s he published a novel, *Garden of the Monks*, dedicated to Rivas Cherif, and much literary scholarship. Elected president of the influential Athe-

naeum of Madrid in 1930, Azaña emerged as a national leader with the proclamation of the Second Republic in 1931. It was he who declared that Spain was no longer Catholic, and an opposition to Catholicism, support for personal liberty, and a belief in the power of the intellect were at the center of his political philosophy.

BIBLIOGRAPHY. *Azaña*, Madrid: Edascal, 1980; Frank Sedwick, *The Tragedy of Manuel Azaña*, Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1963.

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