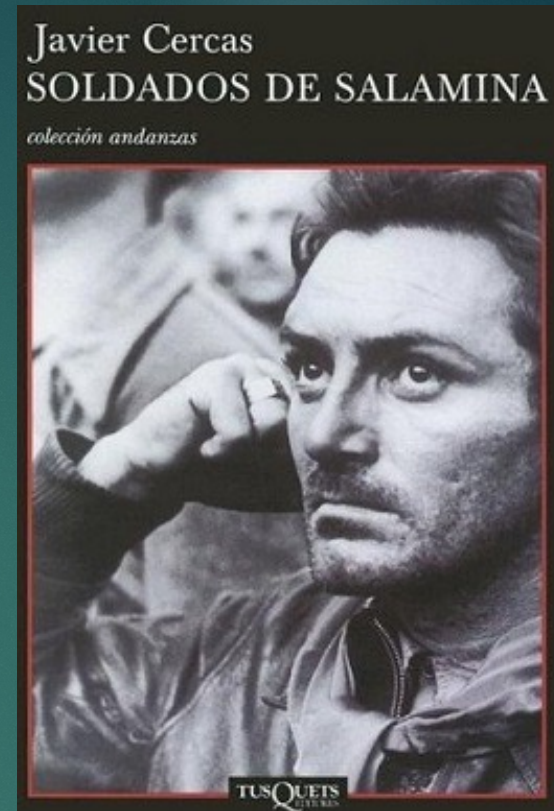


Javier Cercas. *Soldiers of Salamis* (2001)

Connections

- What connections can we make with other texts we read in this course?
- What can we make of the appearance of Bolaño in this text?
Does it shed any light on *Amulet*? What connections can we find between *Amulet* and *Soldiers of Salamis*?



War

- What is a war?
- What kinds of wars (or armed conflicts) are there?

- Why do people go to war?
- What are their motivations?

- What particularities have the Spanish Civil War?



- What is the essential secret Cercas wants to unveil?
- Why does Cercas want to reconstruct a minor episode in the war?

“Those stories don’t interest anyone any more, not even those of us who lived through them; there was a time when they did, but not any more”
Miralles to Cercas (173)



The screenshot shows the top of a web page from El País. The header includes the logo 'EL PAÍS', the location 'Cataluña', and a search bar. The main title of the article is 'Un secreto esencial JAVIER CERCAS'. Below the title is a profile picture of Javier Cercas and his name. The article text begins with 'Acaban de cumplirse 60 años de la muerte de Antonio Machado, en las postrimerías de la guerra civil. De todas las historias de aquella historia, sin duda la de Machado es una de las más tristes, porque termina mal. Se ha contado muchas veces. Procedente de Valencia, Machado llegó a Barcelona en abril de 1938, en compañía de su madre y de su hermano José, y se alojó primero en el hotel Majestic y luego en la Torre de Castañer, un viejo palacete situado en el paseo de Sant Gervasi. Allí siguió haciendo lo mismo que había hecho desde el principio de la guerra: defender con sus escritos al Gobierno legítimo de la República. Estaba viejo, fatigado y enfermo, y ya no creía en la derrota de Franco; escribió: "Esto es el final: cualquier día caerá Barcelona. Para los estrategas, para los políticos, para los historiadores, todo'.

On the right side of the page, there is a promotional banner for 'Hoy en EL PAÍS' with the text: 'El podcast diario con Ana Fuentes e Iñigo Domínguez donde conocer cada noticia y su contexto.'

Fact and Fiction

- What truth claims are made in this novel? Can we trust the narrator's account?
- How consequential are the falsehoods or errors in the text?
- How important, by contrast, is it that we take at least some of what we are told to be true?



Rafael Sánchez Mazas



Antoni Miralles. Movie

Title

- What can we say about the title? Does anyone know what the battle of Salamis was?
- What does Falange mean?
- How do we interpret “at the eleventh hour it has always been a squad of soldiers that has saved civilization”
- Epigraph: “The gods desire to keep the stuff of life hidden from us” Hesiod



Battle of Salamis. 480 BC

