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Maeztu Whitney, Ramiro de (1875-1936)

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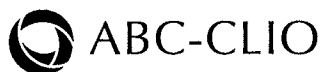
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World Literature in Spanish

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**Maeztu Whitney, Ramiro de
(1875–1936)**

A key member of Spain's *Generation of 1898, this journalist, essayist, and public

intellectual lived in Paris, Havana, and London, and traveled throughout Germany and Italy as a war correspondent during World War I. He also served as Spanish ambassador to Argentina from 1928 until 1930, representing Primo de Rivera's dictatorship.

Maeztu's ideology evolved from socialist to rightist positions. During his youth, he criticized Spain's society, denouncing Castilian peasants' miserable living conditions and Spain's war in Cuba in *Hacia otra España* (1899; *Toward Another Spain*). In *Authority, Liberty and Function in the Light of the War* (1916), published originally in English, Maeztu showed his admiration for liberal British institutions. Later on, his thinking became more conservative, as evidenced in *Don Quijote, Don Juan y La Celestina* (1926). But Maeztu is best known as propagator of the idea of *hispanidad*, which he developed in *Defensa de la hispanidad* (1934; *Defense of Hispanicity*). Defining *hispanidad* as the spiritual unity that all Spanish-speaking countries share, his vision is clearly imperialist, since he emphasizes that Spain created this phenomenon through "the conquest of America," which brought the Catholic religion and Spanish language to the Americas.

Although Maeztu was murdered upon the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Francoist ideologues constantly borrowed his ideas about *hispanidad* and Spain's need to reassert its imperial leadership.

Iker González-Allende

See also Francoism, Fascism, and Literature in Spain; National Catholicism; Spain and Self-Identity in the Nation.

Work By:

Defensa de la hispanidad. Madrid: Rialp, 1998.

Work About:

Hennessy, Alistair. "Ramiro de Maeztu: *Hispanidad* and the Search for a Surrogate Imperialism." *Spain's 1898 Crisis: Regenerationism, Modernism, Post-colonialism*. Ed. Joseph Harrison and Alan Hoyle. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2000, 105–17.