

COMMON ROOTS BETWEEN GREECE, TURKEY, GERMANY AND SPAIN

- Las cuatro banderas-

Hello, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Federico García Lorca High School. My name is Miguel Ángel Ávila Aguilar and I teach classical languages, Latin and Ancient Greek. I beg your pardon for my English that I certainly know that it won't be perfect, but I will try to explain as clearest as possible what have in common Greek, Turkish, German and we Spanish people. First of all, and the most important thing that we all have in common, furthermore races, religions, language, culture and history, is that we are part of the humankind: we all are one. But, attending to history and culture, it is commonly accepted that ancient Greece was the origin of the western civilisation: concepts like democracy and philosophy- **étimos griegos**- were created by the ancient Greeks. But if we travel to the dawn of the Greek history, we find at the first place **the minoans, who were not Greek- palacio de Cnosos, taurocatapsia**- but had such a great influence into the development of the following Greek culture. Archaeologists and historians affirm that the Minoans were related to the *peleset*, the philistines of the Old Testament, whose birthplace was probably was the Anatolian peninsula, the place where the nation of Turkey is nowadays located. If we continue looking at the Greek history, we will find out that the first properly Greeks were the Mycenaeans, who lived in the city of Mycenae- **puerta de los leones**- and was because of a German archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann- **Heinrich Schliemann**- that that city was discovered. According to Greek mythology, was king Agamemnon of Mycenae the leader of the Greek army that went to Troy in search of Helen, his brother Menelaus' wife, who was taken there by prince Paris,- **Paris y Helena**- fallen in love with her, a fact that initiated the famous war of Troy. And was Heinrich Schliemann himself who discovered the archaeological site of the city of Troy, located in the hill of Hissarlik, in Turkey- **mapa de Troya, imágenes de la ciudad**-. And now the question is ¿What have in common we Spanish people, Greek and German? It is well known that Spanish language, like French, Italian and Portuguese is a Romance language, so it descends from Latin, the language of the ancient Romans- **Augusto de prima porta**. According to traditional theories, Latin, Greek and German descend from the Indo-European language (like the Romance languages descend from Latin), whose we don't keep nowadays any written document, and that was probably spoken by several tribes of shepherds, called as Indo-Europeans, - **mapa de las migraciones indoeuropeas**- that began to descend from the Ural mountains to the current Europe from Fourth millennium B.C. From nineteenth century philologists have formed the idea of an Indo-European language by comparison of different words that have the same meaning in different languages- **ejemplo de pater, πατήρ, Vater**. Both Greece (Graecia) and Spain (Hispania) were part of the ancient Roman empire, but it was not the case of Germany (Germania), whose origins and character relates the Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus in his work *De origine ac situ Germanorum*.- **imagen de Tácito**.

What can we say about Turkey and the Turkish language? Turkish is not an Indo-European language: some philologists relate Turkish with the Altaic languages like Mongolian and the Tungus languages. It is well known that the Oghuz Turkish, spoken by the Seljukid dynasty, is the ancestor of the modern one, and the Seljuks became Islamized over the year 950 A.D. like we Spanish people became Islamized as well after the Arabic invasion in 711. So the Ottoman Empire kept being Islamic until Mustafa Kemal Atatürk- **imagen de Atatürk**- who became the first president of the modern Republic of Turkey in 1923 and turned the country into the laic state which is nowadays. Atatürk was precisely born in Thessaloniki, which is today one of the biggest Greek cities and where a huge community of Sephardic Jews that came from Spain lived. And what can we say about the Turkish contributions to Western civilization? One of the most famous Turkish inventions is yoghurt-**yogurt**- whose name comes from Turkish *yogurt* “curdled milk” or from *yogurtur*, which means “long life”, if I don’t fail. And, talking about food, we must acknowledge to Germany one of the most delicious dishes of all over the world, the hamburger- **hamburguesa**- that was created in the city of Hamburg, in the northern country. ¿What about the Spanish contributions to the civilization? Everybody has heard about flamenco dancing, sangría, paella and bullfighting, but very few people know the figure of Emilio Herrera Linares-**Emilio Herrera Linares**- who was born here in Granada at the end of the nineteenth century, was the president of the Spanish Republic in the exile during the Spanish Civil War and created the first space suit- **traje espacial de Emilio Herrera**- several years before than Armstrong and Aldrin travelled to the moon. We can’t finish this speech without mentioning some of the most important writers of every country: most of the people know the figures of Homer, Sappho from Lesbos, Plato or Aristotle – **Homero, Safo, Platón, Aristóteles**- in ancient Greece, but few people know about Konstantinos Kavafis, Yannis Ritsos or Yorgos Seferis of modern Greece – **Kavafis, Ritsos, Seferis**. Probably only the Turkish students know about Yunus Emre, Namik Kemal, Ömer Seyfettin or Nazım Hikmet.- **Yunus Emre, Namik Kemal, Ömer Seyfettin, Nazım Hikmet** Figures of German literature like Friedrich Schiller, Friedrich Hölderlin, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe or Friedrich Nietzsche- **Schiller, Hölderlin, Goethe, Nietzsche**- are well known all over the world, and in Spain, first of all, we have don Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, who created the immortal character of don Quijote de la Mancha, don Félix Lope de Vega y Carpio, don Miguel de Unamuno y Jugo, and, of course, Federico García Lorca, born in Granada, who gives the name of this high school- **Cervantes, Lope, Unamuno, Lorca**- I appreciate so much your attention and know it’s time to play Kahoot!