

106. Y NO HAI REMEDIO (AND THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE), FROM LOS DESASTRES DE LA GUERRA (THE DISASTERS OF WAR), PLATE 15. FRANCISCO DE GOYA. 1810–1823 C.E. (PUBLISHED 1863). ETCHING, DRYPOINT, BURIN, AND BURNISHING.

GOYA





## FORM

- ▶ Black and white
- ▶ The landscape has some depth and the scene is dark





## FUNCTION

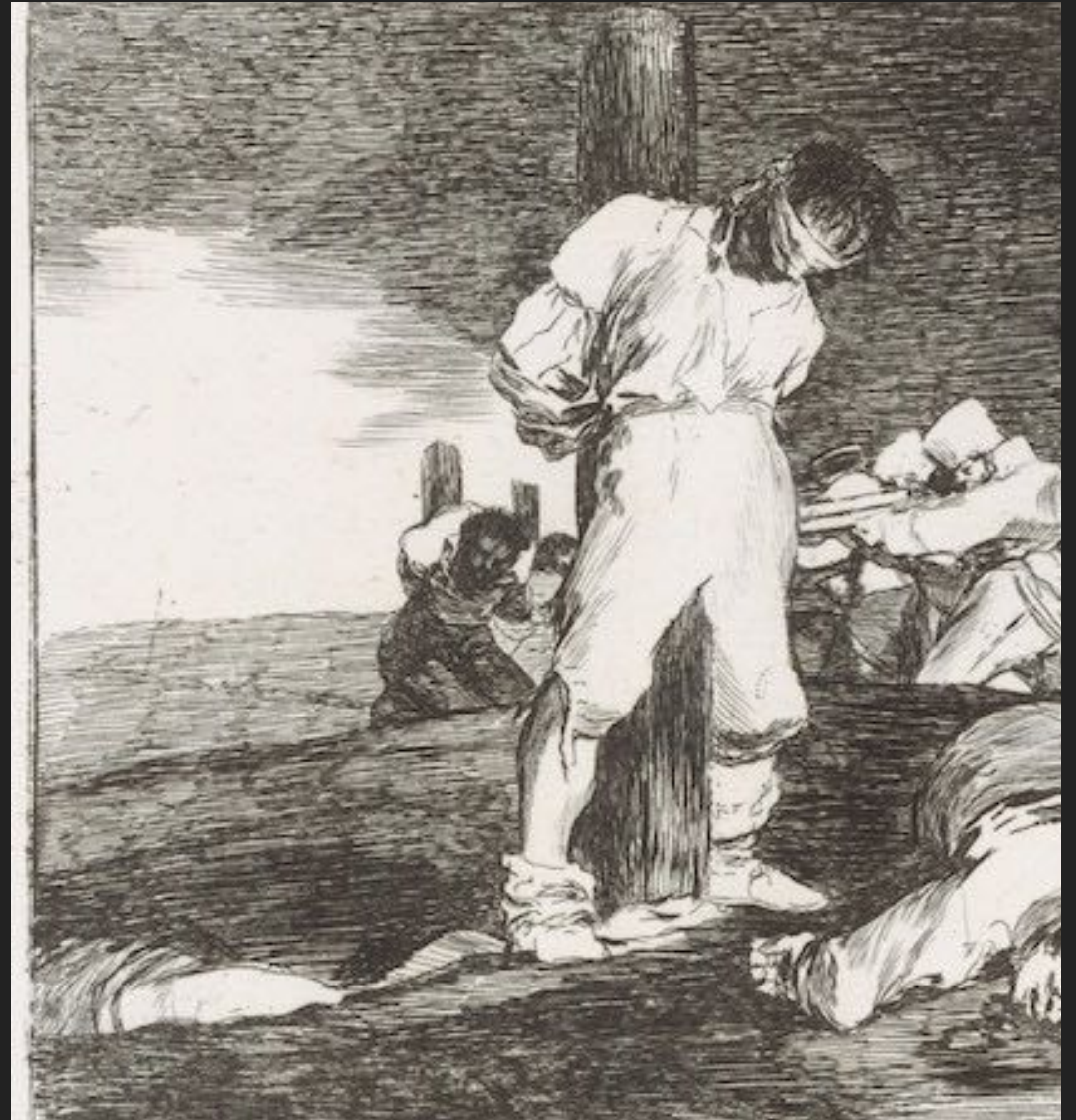
- ▶ Meant to protest the French occupation and the brutality against the Spanish people
- ▶ Show conflicts between French troops and civilians → consequences
- ▶ Showing that war brings out the inhuman in people





## CONTENT

- ▶ central highlighted figure, blindfolded and tied to a post. Alter Christus (another Christ)
- ▶ other victims in the background on their knees, ready to be executed
- ▶ Ditch with bodies





## CONTENT

- ▶ Firing squad in the background
- ▶ Guns to the right. Disembodied barrels suggest the ways war robs those shooting of their humanity.
- ▶ already shot figure with twisted body on the ground. Head has a bloody wound. His face looks out toward us, forcing us to face the gruesome reality





### CONTEXT

- ▶ Disasters of war was created from 1810-1820. 82 images meant to protest against the French occupation of Spain by Napoleon Bonaparte
- ▶ Napoleon tricked the king of Spain into letting his troops cross the border → then he usurped the king and put his brother on the throne. There was an uprising and a lot of Spaniards died. The French were pushed out after the Peninsular war → very bloody conflict





## CONTEXT

- ▶ Also satirizing Spanish socio-economy → which caused people to live in poverty
  - ▶ First plates → effect of conflict
  - ▶ Middle plates → effect of famine
  - ▶ Last plates → disappointment and demoralization of Spaniards
- ▶ Their new monarch was also a tyrant and would not institute political reform





## THEMES

- ▶ Power and authority
- ▶ The human psyche
  - ▶ Psychology, human monsters, the inhumanity in humans
- ▶ Violence and terror
- ▶ Art as a form of protest





## OTHER WORKS BY GOYA

- ▶ Goya originally worked as a court painter.
- ▶ Here is his portrait of the family of the Spanish King Charles IV





## OTHER WORKS BY GOYA

- ▶ His famous *The Third of May 1808*
  - ▶ Show consequences of the Spanish uprising against the French
  - ▶ Many similarities between this and *And There's Nothing to be Done*





## OTHER WORKS BY GOYA

- ▶ His most gruesome *This is Worse*
  - ▶ Shows massacre of Spanish civilians by the French Army
  - ▶ Inspired by an incomplete Hellenistic sculpture





## OTHER WORKS BY GOYA

- ▶ *One Cannot Look*
  - ▶ Compare with *And There's Nothing to be Done*





## OTHER WORKS BY GOYA

- ▶ *Saturn Devouring his Son*
- ▶ Goya was a recluse in his later life.
- ▶ He painted 14 works like this one directly on the plaster walls of his house

