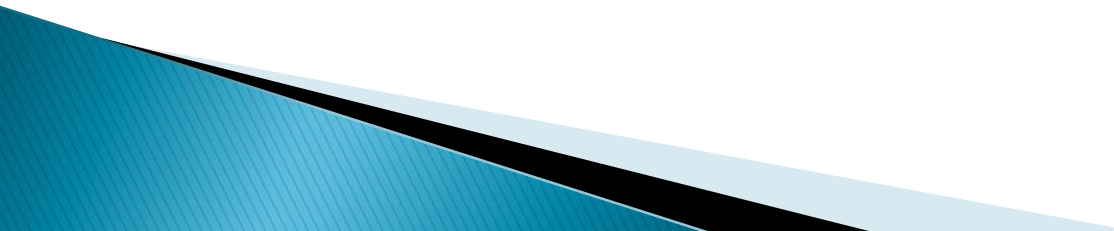


# School spaces and school hygiene: Two issues not always together (Spain, 1857–1931)

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# Points to discuss

- ▶ Aims
  - ▶ Legislation on hygienic conditions in public schools.
  - ▶ The primary public school buildings of Málaga viewed by the teachers.
  - ▶ Conclusions
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# Aims

1° To study the hygienic conditions of public primary schools and its impact on Malaga from 1857 to 1931 (from the first Education Act till the 2nd Republic)

2° To Investigate the impact of these conditions in the school reality from the own opinion of the teachers

# **1° Legislation on hygienic conditions in public schools**

# 1° Legislation on hygienic conditions in public schools

## 19th Century

### Regulations on Public Primary Schools: 26 November 1830

"There will be a public school in every village in a convenient place, that is not intended for another public service. The schoolroom must be proportioned to the number of children that will attend, have enough light, ventilation and offer protection against the inclement weather.(art. 3°).

Education Act, 9 September 1857 (Ley Moyano, Moyano Act)

Public schools "will be in charge of the respective City Councils, which have to include compulsorily in their municipal budgets, the amount needed to cover their costs" (art. 97).

## 20th Century

R. D. 28 April 1905

Each student must have at least one square meter in the classroom; the area of all the spaces of ventilation and lighting, doors, windows ...- has to be equivalent to a quarter of the total; every school must have at least one toilet and one urinal, as well as the water needed for the hygiene and needs of students.

# To summarize :

- ▶ The legislation is not clear: It said nothing about the pedagogical conditions required for the school buildings, and,
- ▶ And,
- ▶ – municipalities are responsible of these buildings (to choose it, to pay the rent, the building maintenance...) but
- ▶ – the poverty, the misery suffered by most of them, did not allow them to spend even the strictly necessary for this purpose.

2° The primary public school buildings of Málaga viewed by the teachers.

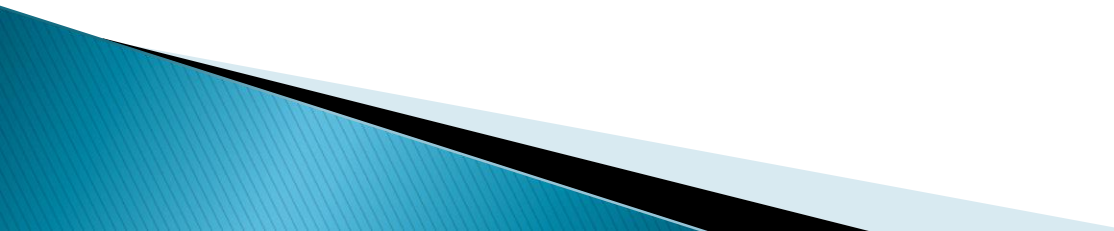
# Conditions of public school buildings : SPAIN and MÁLAGA, 1880

	In OWNERSHIP			RENTED		TOTAL	
	Condictions	N	%	N	%	N	%
	GOOD	3517	27,05	1416	15,51	4933	22,09
SPAIN	MEDIOCRE	6544	49,57	4721	51,72	11265	50,46
	BAD	3139	23,38	2990	32,77	6129	27,45
	TOTAL	13200	59,12	9127	40,88	22327	100,00
	GOOD	20	38,46	37	15,35	57	19,45
MALAGA	MEDIOCRE	22	42,31	133	55,19	155	52,90
	BAD	10	19,23	71	29,46	81	27,65
	TOTAL	52	17,75	241	82,25	293	100,00

# Everyone criticized the poor hygienic and pedagogical conditions

- ▶ **Deputy Minister of Public Education (1909)**
- ▶ “...the City Councils should undertake without excuse, delay or pretext the necessary work to remodel the public schools as they should be or to move them to better buildings (Circular, 1909: 757)
  
- ▶ **Board of Public Instruction of Malaga (1903)**
- ▶ "Regarding this aspect, nothing satisfying or nice can be said by this Board, since the school buildings both in the capital and in the villages lack absolutely of sanitary and pedagogical conditions.
- ▶ The children that attend these schools are deprived of the main elements necessary to their life: light, air, space and joy.
- ▶ They must stay in a and a unbreathable atmosphere, in an ambiance more likely a prison or a cell than a school, temple of knowledge. There, the work is disgusting, teaching is a torment, the hours devoted to education are eternal and unbearable.“ (Memory in compliance Royal Decree 2 September 1902).

# Teachers' opinions

- ▶ Teachers' opinions show often the harsh circumstances in which they had to carry out their daily work. These circumstances were against the health and even against the dignity of teachers and children.
  - ▶ There were many and varied complaints: small schoolroom; poor hygienic and pedagogical conditions; inappropriate surroundings...
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# Some examples

- ▶ The teacher of the school named **El Salvador** reported that “Children and teacher’s health will be in a continuous and imminent danger if the school continues for a long time in these rooms where the moisture flows, the floor and the walls expel saltpeter, and in which a scandalous noise can be heard and an unbearable stench is perceived. These are the conditions in which this school is installed, using as playground a courtyard that it is also used behind as public laundry and public toilet facilities.”
- ▶ The female school teacher of *San Juan Nepomuceno* describes her school as “an accumulation of defects. Because of them, it is impossible to put into practice any education systems. Its light is very bad, vicious and sick, and it makes often necessary to eliminate the course of hand sewing that it is so important for the women.”
- ▶ The female school teacher of **St. Joseph** (1909) explains that "the courses have to start tomorrow [...] but the necessary repair work is unfinished [...] The school lacks both of windows and of a coat of paints on the walls. Neither the school nor the teacher’s house has running water and the toilet is installed within the classroom, causing discomfort and health damages ...".

To conclude



The main responsible persons for the lack of hygiene were to be found mainly among municipal politicians who showed little interest in public education.

The consequences that generated the bad conditions of schools were serious:

- Loss of prestige of public education
- The disinterest of students for attending class increases
- Nevertheless, the most disastrous consequence were that some schools had to remain closed some months or even years before the essential repair work were done.

# Pictures of the facades of some schools

# Ntra. Sra. Carmen, boys, San Andrés 2



# El Salvador, boys, Trinidad 38



# Ntra. Sra. Dolores, boys, Refino 44



# S. Ciriaco y Sta. Paula-La Coracha 14



# San José, girls, Dos Aceras 17



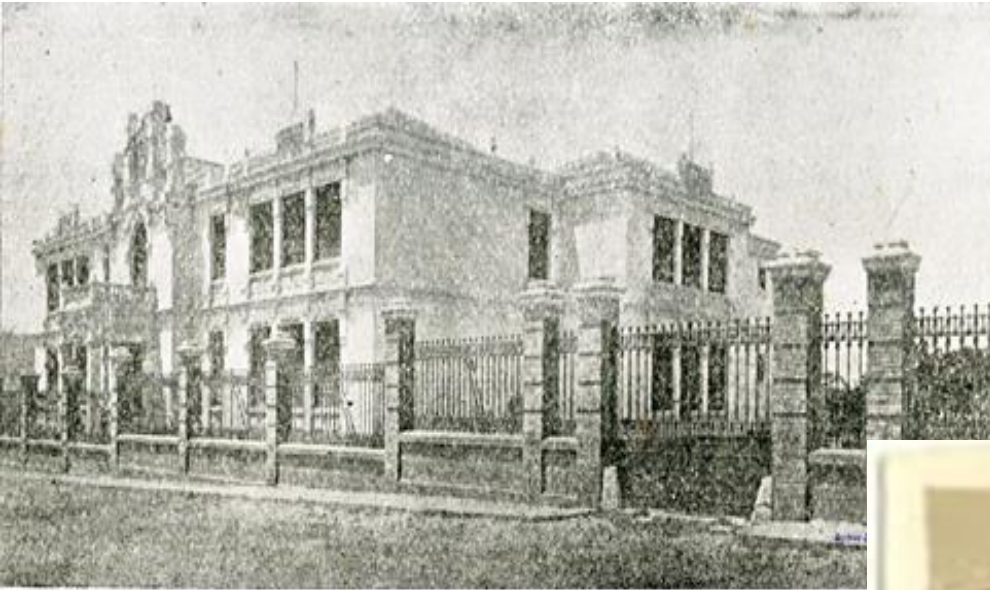
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DE ARTICULOS  
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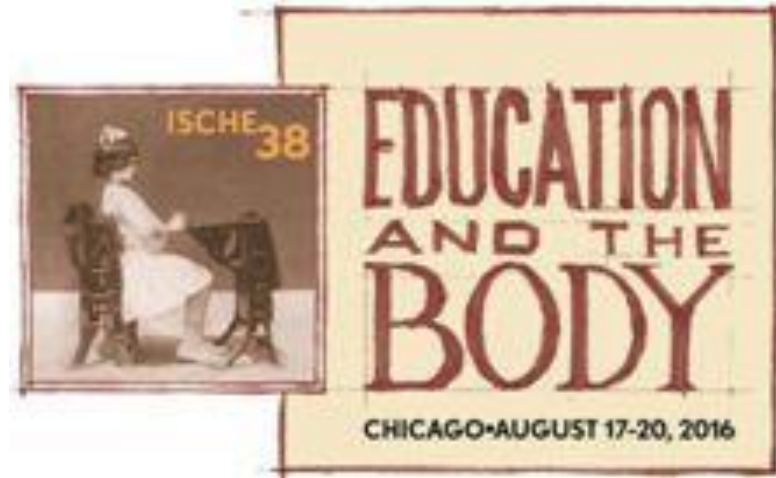
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H  
"Luzes Pop  
con fondo  
y música"

# Grupo Escolar Bergamín (1917)

The first graded school in Málaga and the first public school built *ad hoc*





**THANKS FOR LISTENING**