Why did the Nationalists win the Civil War?

Foreign Intervention
- Nationalists receive support from Germany and Italy
  - Germany see it as a chance to train their troops (Guernica) and threaten France
  - Italy sought prestige and influence in the Mediterranean
- Republicans were diplomatically supported by the West but they would not intervene
  - Britain saw the Republican’s as a form of Bolshevism
  - France would have opposed the Fascists but not without British support
  - The USSR did support the Republicans militarily and financially but not to the same extent of Germany and Italy.

Nature of the Armies
- The Nationalists had the strength and experience of the Spanish Army
  - Strong, young and enthusiastic army (the force behind key victories at Valencia, Castellon and Alicante) especially under Franco with his experience from Morocco
  - United with the compulsion to defend the unity of ‘Holy Spain’
  - Constant stream of foreign supplies spurred the Nationalists to greater victories
- The Republicans suffered from age
  - While they had many experienced leaders they did not have the energy and enthusiasm of the Nationalists
  - Uncommitted with frequent incidences of sailors murdering their rebelling officers
  - Poor quality Soviet weaponry made soldiers less willing to take risks or even want to go into battle

Military Tactics and Failings
- General Franco was a strong, experienced and tactical military leader
  - Brutal but successful, 200,000 Republicans were executed throughout the Civil War
  - Massacre of 1500 Republican’s in the Bull Ring at Badajoz in August 1936
  - A lapse in Franco’s tactics included his logistical planning when he moved his troops into the North as opposed to towards Madrid
- Republicans made too many mistakes that the Nationalists were able to use to their favour
  - SIM = secret police force to suppress the nationalists, it was successful but failed to employ the Guerilla Tactics used by Franco’s men and were thus easy to target
  - Short-comings in aircraft in comparison to the Luftwaffe provided by Hitler
  - Failure to move south to prevent Franco’s passing through the Straits of Gibraltar enabled Franco to seal victory of the Nationalists.

Resources
- The Nationalists were able to procure for themselves easy access to vital resources
  - Foreign allies were happy to support them through resources due to their war on communism; particularly the support they received from the business community was important as they did not want to see a state controlled economy in Spain