Social

Land Reform - the policy most hoped for. Land vital to economy. Depression especially affected rural areas.

1. **Article 44** of Constitution. Allowed property to be taken for “social utility”
2. **1932 Agrarian Law** allowed land to be redistributed amongst peasants/working class, including church land and large estates. In theory compensation was to be paid. Land technically owned by state but could be used for collective farms.
3. **Law of Agricultural Reform.** Allowed land to be removed without full compensation for large landowners.

- Compensation funds limited; Landowners saw reforms as direct attack and moved to right.
- Land Reform also alarmed small peasant land owners, attack on property rights, move to Soviet model?
- **Cabellero** described Agrarian Reform Law “an aspirin to cure appendicitis”. Only helped 7000 families. Peasants frustrated with slow pace and CNT encouraged uprisings.
- Debate within government, division about individual vs. collective ownership
- Debt in rural areas still huge and lack of productivity.
- Shift in power from landowners to labourers due to improvements in worker rights.
- Conclusion: too radical and yet poorly/slowly implemented so scared many without helping large numbers

*Casas Viejas* January 1933

- Farmers annoyed with slow pace of agrarian land reform; the same groups who supported Republic.
- Inspired by CNT anarchists, attacks local Civil Guard barracks.
- Assault Guard came in as reinforcements: 20 peasants shot, many tortured, houses burned.
- Horrors are publicised and Left Republic’s reputation destroyed; ‘too radical’. CNT distance themselves and call for end of Republic. Right wing parties organised and anticipate win in next election. CEDA forms.
- Clearly Republic is losing control of events in rural Spain. Many more peasants killed in uprisings.
- Caused many peasants to be bitter and disillusioned. Socialists pull out.

Civil Liberties

- Given vote 1933 Political rights most advanced in Europe at time, abortion allowed.
- Pensions
- **Worker Rights:** Protection of Interests of Labourers. 8 hour day, disputes resolved from arbitration committees, minimum wage, overtime.
- Abolition of death penalty.
- Theatre, cinema and fine arts to rural areas by cultural missionaries. Right saw this as threat to morals.