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## Summary

*Transforming 20th century Spanish and European history, or dialogue with the contemporary in the playwriting and theatrical work of Juan Mayorga*

Keywords: Juan Mayorga, historical drama, contemporary Spanish drama, historical theater

The subject of this dissertation is an analysis of historical plays written by the contemporary Spanish playwright Juan Mayorga (born 1965). They concern the Spanish civil war (*Siete hombres buenos*, *El jardín quemado*) and the Holocaust (*Himmelweg*, *The Cartographer*). The study of these dramatic works is complemented by Mayorga's essays on literature and the art of theater, with particular emphasis on historical theater. A significant part of the dissertation is devoted to the presentation of historical drama as a genre whose evolution in Spain is connected with the existence and fall of the Franco dictatorship.

Each of the selected works has been problematized in a different way, but the method adopted in their analysis is common: it is based on establishing the relationship between the historical background of dramatic events and historical facts. It was also important to take into account the fact that these plays, referred to as historical, constitute an example of „historical-critical theater”, a category introduced by the author himself. Elements which required separate and in-depth reflection were the metatheatricality of Mayorga's dramas and the inclusion of the viewer in their structure.

As a result of the analysis carried out, it was possible to determine how and at what levels Mayorga enters into a dialogue with the present in his historical dramas. This was possible after a prior definition of the permanent elements in the creative process of Mayorga as the author of historical theater. These include: applying the probability rule, indirect ways of portraying violence, writing „open” works in a specific way and searching for universal meanings in particular events. All this makes Mayorga's historical plays attain the level of paradigmatic works in the context of contemporary Spanish drama.