"A Low Dishonest Decade"

Welcome to "A Low Dishonest Decade"--a course devoted to British writing of the 1930s. The title comes from a poem by W. H. Auden, called "September 1, 1939." The first five lines of the poem go this way:

"I sit in one of the dives
On Fifty-Second Street
Uncertain and afraid
As the clever hopes expire
Of a low dishonest decade:"

Auden, Spender, and Isherwood in the thirties

The following books will be used in the course.

- Graves/Hodge *The Long Weekend*
- Auden *The English Auden*
- Lawrence, T. E. *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*
- Huxley *Point Counter-Point*
- Waugh, E. *Vile Bodies*
- Orwell *Homage to Catalonia*
- Orwell *The Road to Wigan Pier*
- Greene, G. *The Confidential Agent*
- Smith, S. *Novel on Yellow Paper*
- Isherwood *Berlin Stories*
- West, R. *Black Lamb & Grey Falcon*
- Woolf, V. *Diary 1936-1941*

One of the central events in Europe during this period was the Spanish Civil War. Auden's poem on the subject, will be read in its proper place during the course: