

[E-BOOK] The Spanish Civil War: A Modern Tragedy (Routledge Sources in History)

The Spanish Civil War: A Modern Tragedy (Routledge Sources in History)

Von *George R. Esenwein*
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Von George R. Esenwein : The Spanish Civil War: A Modern Tragedy (Routledge Sources in History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Spanish Civil War: A Modern Tragedy (Routledge Sources in History):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Pertinent Events with Excellent AnalysisVon Gene TProfessor Payne has written an extraordinarily compact history of the

struggle that captures its major elements and accompanies the story with sober analysis devoid of the polemics that tend to characterize other recent histories on the subject appearing in paperback. The recounting of dramatic events is also placed in the international, domestic historical and cultural context essential for a better understanding of the overall conflict and the ideological extremes shaped by the confluence of these contextual factors. Payne effectively takes on some of the sticky old myths that continue to appear in other new works. The facts he assembles and the cogent analysis of them avoid cavalier demonization and exculpation. The book gave me a better appreciation of just how much the events surrounding the cataclysms reflected a genuine, bottom-up working class revolution. And likewise, the importance that Spain's own leftist parliamentary leaders and the Soviets placed on downplaying, for the outside world, the revolutionary aspects of the struggle they so laboriously sought to harness. The tactic, which never reflected abandonment by Stalin of longer term strategic aims, helped significantly to project a simplified image abroad of a conflict between liberal democracy with a social democratic slant and fascist tyranny. Also interesting was Payne's depiction of how each side often managed to resist efforts of their foreign sponsors to move them in directions deemed contrary to their own goals or perceived interests. In reviewing some of the frequent critiques by military analysts of the handling of combat operations, the author likewise provides a variety of perspectives that help the reader better understand the dilemmas faced by each side at the time. The Spanish Civil War left an indelible mark on 20th century Europe. For a reader generally familiar with the subject or one completely new to it, Payne provides an excellent, easy-to-read understanding of its multiple dimensions and complexities. Such an understanding, aided by a healthy historical detachment, could also serve as a useful aid in evaluating the perennial dilemma surrounding outside intervention in civil wars elsewhere. If you only have time for one book on Spain's major 20th century war, this latest book by Payne -- probably the subject's foremost English language historian -- is the one to read. I took the liberty below of excerpting two passages I think represent the balance and context marking this new book: Pg 104 " Mass executions began almost immediately in the Spanish war, even sooner than in Russia, where organized mass killings started only in 1918, when the Bolsheviks officially instituted the Red Terror. ..The conflict in Spain was the last revolutionary civil war of the generation that followed World War I, feeding on the propaganda, fears, and hatreds generated by its predecessors. Associated with this was the fact that the 1930s were a time of growing tension in which the earlier example of Bolshevism was followed by the rise of fascism - a deadly combination that evoked increasingly widespread fear and hatred. More specific to Spain was the run-up to the revolution, with increasing political violence since 1931 producing approximately 2,500 deaths during the intervening years. Even the Russian revolution of 1917 did not have this kind of violent prelude, which was without precedent." (The reference refers to "domestic," aside from Russia's WWI involvement.) Pg. 143 " For the three principal democracies, the Spanish war was troublesome, and each approached it differently. To their citizens the Spanish war was sort of political mirror in which they saw the reflection of whatever issues concerned them most. For militant antifascists, the war was a great antifascist struggle, and for militant anticommunists it was an anti-communist crusade. The extreme left saw it as a great revolution, Catholics and conservatives as a crucial struggle to defend Christian civilization. Those who believed that German expansionism was the primary menace saw in Spain an opportunity to thwart German policy. Those whose primary goal was simply to avoid broader war at all costs - and these were the largest single sector - supported nonintervention, regardless of whichever side they viewed as having the best cause or being less objectionable."

Kurzbeschreibung This exciting collection of primary sources on the Spanish Civil War uses military and political documents, media accounts, and contemporary propaganda to create a representative and illuminating survey of this enormously complicated event more than sixty-five years after it ended. Structured chronologically from a full introduction which delineates the field, this book ranges from the origins of the uprising against Franco through to its turbulent aftermath. It clearly outlines key points in the conflict and highlights the little-known roles of race and gender in determining the war's outcome. The book also unearths many rare sources for the first time and reveals the variety of perspectives held by those immediately involved in the war. This is an ideal resource for all students of history and military history.

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