The Spanish Civil War

This book presents an original new history of the most important conflict in European affairs during the 1930s, prior to the events that produced World War II – the Spanish Civil War. It describes the complex origins of the conflict, the collapse of the Spanish Republic, and the outbreak of the only mass worker revolution in the history of Western Europe. Stanley G. Payne explains the character of the Spanish revolution and the complex web of republican politics, while also examining in detail the development of Franco’s counterrevolutionary dictatorship. Payne gives attention to the multiple meanings and interpretations of war and examines why the conflict provoked such strong reactions in its own time, and long after. The book also explains the military history of the war and its place in the history of military development; the nonintervention policy of the democracies; and the role of German, Italian, and Soviet intervention, concluding with an analysis of the place of the war in European affairs and in comparative perspective of revolutionary civil wars of the twentieth century.

Stanley G. Payne has taught history at several universities, including Columbia University, UCLA, and the University of Wisconsin. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a corresponding member of Real Academia Española de la Historia, Madrid. He has received various awards and prizes, most recently the Marshal Shulman Book Award of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (2005) and the Gran Cruz de Isabel la Católica from the Spanish government (2009). He has been the coeditor of the Journal of Contemporary History since 1999. Professor Payne is the author of more than 20 books and 150 articles, as well as coauthor or coeditor of 9 books. Most recently, he is the author of The Collapse of the Spanish Republic, 1933–1936: Origins of the Civil War; Franco and Hitler: Spain, Germany, and World War II; Spain: A Unique History; and Civil War in Europe, 1905–1949.
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The Spanish Civil War

STANLEY G. PAYNE

University of Wisconsin, Madison
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Stanley G. Payne
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### Chronology of Major Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>New Republican government under Juan Negrín</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Suppression of the POUM and arrest of its top leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Spanish Church hierarchy releases its <em>Collective Letter</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Battle of Brunete begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>Republican offensive at Belchite in Aragón begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>Republican government transferred from Valencia to Barcelona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Republican offensive on Teruel front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1938</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 6</td>
<td>Republicans occupy Teruel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Formation of Franco’s first regular government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Franco’s counteroffensive retakes Teruel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Negrín’s second government formed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>New Nationalist offensive in Aragón reaches the Mediterranean, cutting the Republican zone in two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 25–November 16</td>
<td>Battle of the Ebro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 23</td>
<td>Beginning of Franco’s offensive in Catalonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1939</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Fall of Barcelona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>All of Catalonia occupied, Republican government flees to France, where Azaña resigns as president</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6–12</td>
<td>Revolt by new Republican National Defense Council in Madrid results in serious combat between Communists and anti-Communists. Negrín and Communist leaders flee. Negotiations with Franco attempted but fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Franco’s final offensive begins almost unopposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Franco’s communiqué states: “The war is over”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carlists</td>
<td>Traditionalist, not mainline, monarchist movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDA</td>
<td>Spanish Confederation of Autonomous Rightists (Catholic party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNT</td>
<td>National Confederation of Labor (Anarchosyndicalist trade union confederation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condor Legion</td>
<td>German air and combined arms unit in Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTV</td>
<td>Corps of Voluntary Troops (Italian expeditionary corps in Spain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquerra Catalana</td>
<td>Catalan left Republican party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAI</td>
<td>Iberian Anarchist Federation (core anarchist group)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falange Española</td>
<td>Spanish Phalanx (fascist party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FET</td>
<td>Spanish Traditionalist Phalanx (Franco’s state party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Izquierda Republicana</td>
<td>Republican Left party, largest of the left Republican parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCE</td>
<td>Communist Party of Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNV</td>
<td>Basque Nationalist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POUM</td>
<td>Worker Party of Marxist Unification (independent communist party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSOE</td>
<td>Spanish Socialist Workers Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSUC</td>
<td>Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (Catalan communist party)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radical Republican Party</td>
<td>Centrist, anti-Socialist liberal democratic party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovación Española</td>
<td>Mainline monarchist party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Union</td>
<td>Most moderate of the left Republican parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGT</td>
<td>General Union of Labor (Socialist trade union federation)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preface

The Spanish Civil War was the most important conflict in Europe in the decade prior to World War II and has generated an enormous literature. Even after the passage of three generations it continues to stimulate interest. The controversies ignited by the war still find partisans, well beyond Spain, while within the country the war continues to play a dominant role both in historiography and in partisan discourse.

The first objective history, published by Hugh Thomas in 1961, was expanded into a more thorough 1,100-page work sixteen years later. Though no single volume can capture completely and definitively a conflict that was as complex as the French Revolution, the revised edition of Thomas remains unsurpassed as a single-volume narrative. The present book does not offer an exhaustive description of the war, but tries to clarify the key issues, discussing the most salient themes within an analytical and comparative framework, while incorporating the results of the most recent research. It especially seeks to respond to the injunction of José Ortega y Gasset in 1938 that the most important thing to understand about the war is the nature of its origins.