



# The Spanish Holocaust: Inquisition and Extermination in Twentieth-Century Spain

By Paul Preston

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**Long neglected by European historians, the unspeakable atrocities of Franco's Spain are finally brought to tragic light in this definitive work.**

Evoking such classics as Anne Applebaum's *Gulag* and Robert Conquest's *The Great Terror*, *The Spanish Holocaust* sheds light on one of the darkest and most unexamined eras of modern European history. As Spain finally reclaims its historical memory, a full picture can now be drawn of the atrocities of Franco's Spain—from torture and judicial murders to the abuse of women and children. Paul Preston provides an unforgettable account of the systematic terror carried out by Spain's fascist government. 16 pages of illustrations

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From Bookforum

Each well-laid, impeccably researched sentence of *The Spanish Holocaust*, Paul Preston's latest book on the Spanish Civil War, stands as a reminder of how Spain's Fascist past remains an unassimilable muddle; the story is so bloody and horrifying that it's easy, on one level, to grasp why today's Spaniards would just as soon relegate it all to a vague memorial blur. — Jonathan Blitzer

Review

“Magisterial account... it is bound to be an essential reference for anything written on the subject for years to come.” (Adam Hochschild - New York Times Book Review)

“What Preston knows about the years of civil war, 1936-1939, is astounding... Preston’s work is a powerful intervention in a Spanish discussion. It’s significance transcends the events it brings to light, and suggests some basic re-evaluations of recent European history.” (Thomas Snyder - The New Republic)

“Paul Preston’s *The Spanish Holocaust*, is the most illuminating study I have seen of the complex, modern conflict that observers of Spain today still find difficult to understand. Anyone wanting to know modern Spain will read with great interest, this brilliant, well-informed analysis.” (John Brademas, author of *Anarcosindicalismo y revolución en España, 1930-37*)

“Fascinating... Unflinchingly, Preston sifts through the pillage, torture, and mass executions of this bleak chapter in Spanish history.” (New Yorker)

“Monumental study... [*The Spanish Holocaust*] directly links Spain’s Nationalists to the Nazi regime, stressing that Franco’s reign of terror, like that of Hitler and Goebbels, was carefully planned and systematically executed.... The Spanish Holocaust draws on Preston’s vast research, as well as scores of recent historical studies, to establish the most accurate possible estimates of numbers of Spanish victims—statistics that, ever since the outbreak of the war, have been notoriously subject to manipulation and distortion.... [Preston] has produced an indispensable, important book.” (Sebastiaan Faber - The Volunteer)

About the Author

Paul Preston, author of *The Spanish Civil War*, *Franco and Juan Carlos*, and *The Spanish Holocaust*, is the world's foremost historian on twentieth-century Spain. A professor at the London School of Economics, he lives in London.

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