



The Spanish Civil War: Revolution and Counterrevolution (Psychology Practitioner Guidebooks)

By Burnett Bolloten



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This monumental book offers a comprehensive history and analysis of Republican political life during the Spanish Civil War. Completed by Burnett Bolloten just before his death in 1987, *The Spanish Civil War* is the culmination of fifty years of dedicated and painstaking research. While Bolloten's earlier works -- *The Grand Camouflage* (1961) and *The Spanish Revolution* (1979) -- ended with the controversial events in May 1937, *The Spanish Civil War* covers the entire period from 1936 to 1939 and is the most exhaustive study on the subject in any language. It will be regarded as the authoritative political history of the war and an indispensable encyclopedic guide to Republican affairs during the Spanish conflict.

Using extensive documentation from a vast collection of primary sources that he accumulated over the years, Bolloten develops two general themes. First, he meticulously charts the depth and scope of the popular revolution unleashed by the July 1936 military rebellion, showing that -- despite elaborate attempts by some Republican groups to minimize its significance -- the revolution dramatically reshaped the architecture of politics in the Republican zone. Revolutionary committees sprang up in countless villages and towns, creating new structures of economic and political power, largely controlled and directed by workers' organizations.

Second, Bolloten argues that the fierce struggle for political hegemony on the left led to the rise in power and influence of the Spanish Communist party. He documents precisely how the Communists managed either to eliminate or absorb their opponents on the left, including Anarchosyndicalists, dissident Marxists, Socialists, and liberal Republicans. Backed by the prestige and material resources of the Soviet Union, the Communists gained decisive control over nearly every phase of public life. Underpinning Bolloten's analysis of the Communists' rise to prominence is his carefully researched discussion of international diplomacy during this period.

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Review

[A] monumental book. . . . [Bolloten's] style is chaste and his objectivity laudable."Los Angeles Times Book Review"

Review

There is no doubt whatsoever that this will stand as the definitive study of politics in republican Spain during the Spanish Civil War. The research is exhaustive, the treatment objective, and the interpretations and conclusions convincing.--Stanley G. Payne, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Burnett Bolloten's completed opus stands alone. . . . Scholars will welcome it as a work by an individual of great integrity who took the time and the effort to tell all the story.--Joan Connelly Ullman, University of Washington

Burnett Bolloten's *The Spanish Civil War: Revolution and Counterrevolution* is a monument of dedicated scholarship that is not likely to be replaced. The best study of the subject in any language, it merits a place beside Gerald Brenan's *The Spanish Labyrinth* and Raymond Carr's *Spain, 1808-1939* as a classic in the historiography of modern Spain.--Paul Avrich, Queens College, City University of New York

[A] monumental book. . . . [Bolloten's] style is chaste and his objectivity laudable.--Anthony Burgess, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

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