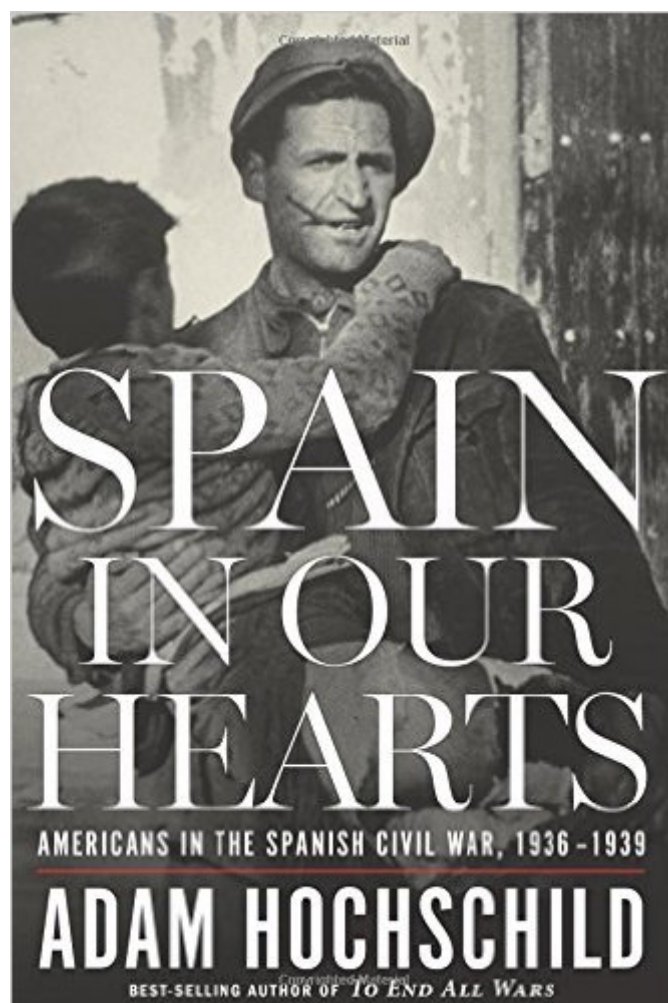


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Spain In Our Hearts: Americans In The Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939



Synopsis

From the acclaimed, best-selling author Adam Hochschild, a sweeping history of the Spanish Civil War, told through a dozen characters, including Ernest Hemingway and George Orwell: a tale of idealism, heartbreaking suffering, and a noble cause that failed. For three crucial years in the 1930s, the Spanish Civil War dominated headlines in America and around the world, as volunteers flooded to Spain to help its democratic government fight off a fascist uprising led by Francisco Franco and aided by Hitler and Mussolini. Today we're accustomed to remembering the war through Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and Robert Capa's photographs. But Adam Hochschild has discovered some less familiar yet far more compelling characters who reveal the full tragedy and importance of the war: a fiery nineteen-year-old Kentucky woman who went to wartime Spain on her honeymoon, a Swarthmore College senior who was the first American casualty in the battle for Madrid, a pair of fiercely partisan, rivalrous *New York Times* reporters who covered the war from opposite sides, and a swashbuckling Texas oilman with Nazi sympathies who sold Franco almost all his oil "at reduced prices, and on credit." It was in many ways the opening battle of World War II, and we still have much to learn from it. *Spain in Our Hearts* is Adam Hochschild at his very best.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Go behind the scenes of the Spanish Civil War with Adam Hochschild

Bob

and Marion Merriman Bob (right) and Marion (center) Merriman got married on the day they graduated from the University of Nevada in 1932. They then moved to Berkeley, where he was a graduate student. Bob later became commander of the first battalion of American volunteers in Spain. When he was wounded, Marion rushed there to help take care of him, then enlisted herself, doing clerical work at the International Brigades headquarters. Bob and Dave Doran (left) were last seen alive on April 2, 1938, leading a column of troops that was surrounded by Franco's Nationalists. Their bodies were never found. Credit: Harry Randall Fifteenth International Brigade Films and Photographs collection, courtesy of the Tamiment Library, New York University.

The Haircut Just before the last great battle of the Spanish Civil War, the Battle of the Ebro, an American volunteer gets his hair cut. Americans fought in almost all the major campaigns of the war, from this one, in scorching heat measured one day at 98° F in the shade and 134° in the sun, to the capture of Teruel, in blizzards where the temperature once dropped to -18° F. Some 2800 Americans went to Spain, and about 750 were killed there. They came from 46 states and included the grandchildren of slaves, coal miners, a vaudeville acrobat, a rabbi, longshoremen, factory workers, and the son of a former governor of Ohio. The first American combat casualty was a senior from Swarthmore College. Credit: Harry Randall Fifteenth International Brigade Films and Photographs collection, courtesy of the Tamiment Library, New York University.

George Orwell George Orwell (center, tall), and his wife Eileen, surrounded by members of his militia unit, on a day she visited the front. Orwell served four months in the trenches, until he was hit by a bullet that passed through his neck, barely missing his carotid artery. Although his unit was a mixture of Spaniards and Britons, an American volunteer, Harry Milton of New York (crouching, with rifle), was standing next to him when he was wounded and helped stop the bleeding. Eileen worked in Barcelona in the same office as another American, Charles Orr. He and a British comrade were with her on the day she visited her husband at the front. Credit: Hoover Institution Archives, Harry Milton Papers, Box 1.

Torkild Rieber We think of Franco's allies as being in Rome and Berlin. But one of the most important was in an office high in the Chrysler Building in New York City. Torkild Rieber was CEO of Texaco and a Fascist sympathizer. Rieber not only sold Franco's Nationalists most of their oil, but violated American neutrality law by selling it on credit and sending it to Spain in American ships. He also quietly gave Franco a huge discount, and supplied him with a secret stream of strategic intelligence. Spain in Our Hearts is the first time this full story has been told in English. Credit: DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University, Robert Yarnall Richie Photograph Collection.

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