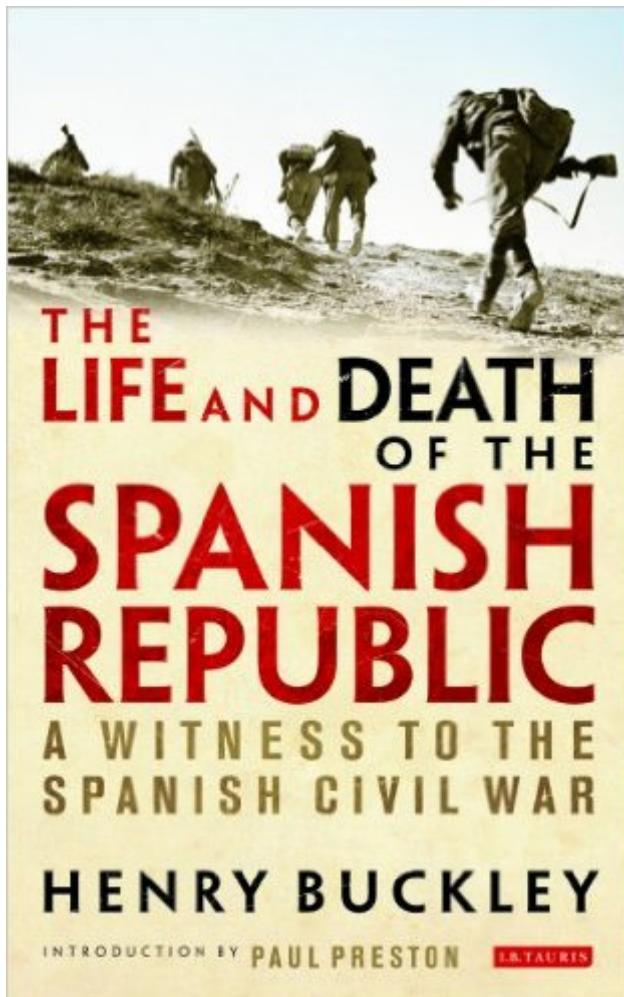


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The Life And Death Of The Spanish Republic: A Witness To The Spanish Civil War



Synopsis

In 1940, The Daily Telegraph correspondent Henry Buckley published his eyewitness account of his experiences reporting from the Spanish Civil War. The copies of the book, stored in a warehouse in London, were destroyed during the Blitz and only a handful of copies of his unique chronicle were saved. Now, 70 years after its first publication, this exceptional eyewitness account of the war is republished with a new introduction by Paul Preston. The Life and Death of the Spanish Republic is a unique account of Spanish politics throughout the entire life of the Second Republic, combining personal recollections of meetings with the great politicians of the day with eyewitness accounts of dramatic events. This important book is one of the most enduring records of the Spanish Republic and the civil war and a monumental testimony to Buckley's work as a correspondent.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I pre-ordered this for my spouse, who was born at the tail end of the Spanish Civil War. In Spain. He'd taught the subject several times and over the years he has read just about every available book on the topic. Nevertheless, this kept his interest and he finished the book in record time. He feels the writer hits the mark very well - in terms of his analyses, which is pretty amazing given that these were "reports" written "on the scene" - without benefit of historical perspective - such as historians of today might be privy to. Well worth the read! Take it from my "resident expert."

This was a very different read from what I expected. Instead of the well-worked commentary and deft analysis of an experienced British journalist who covered Spanish politics from the early 1930s

until the end of the Spanish Civil War, I discovered the deeply personal testament of an anguished man. Henry Buckley's attachment to the Republican cause was both an emotional and a highly principled one. He believed in democracy and the rights of free people to throw off the shackles of tyranny. The poverty of Spain appalled him. So much so that devout Catholic that he was, he gave up attending mass in Spain for what he saw as the deeply tainted role of the Church. Ever the self-deprecating Englishman, in his book he is as brutally honest about himself as about the events and personalities he describes. It is unlikely that he ever allowed this to colour his formal press reports, but in this angry and in turn somewhat disjointed account written in the white heat of reaction to what he saw as the tragic outcome of spineless betrayal by the great democracies, Buckley gives full vent to his private views. He left a country gutted by brutal civil strife, a gutted man fearful of what he saw as the triumph of fascism and what this meant for Europe. He finished his account just as the world war he predicted was starting. Almost immediately he suffered another loss - the warehouses where the copies of his newly published book were stored were bombed and gutted. Seventy years later and over 40 since his death, Buckley's book is once again available and has received wide public acclaim. And yet I feel he was done another disservice - his voice unstilled is as powerful as ever but his editors should have taken the trouble to provide a decent glossary and maps for its new generation of readers. This is not an easy read especially if the details of Spain in the twentieth century are new to you, but it is an unforgettable one.

The sad story of the Spanish Civil War by an honest, on-the-spot British reporter. Buckley is sympathetic to the loyalists but not oblivious to their many flaws. Has the charm of immediacy and as a primary source for historians.

Nothing can compare with a first-hand account of an important period of history, written by a skillful journalist who lived among the people he is writing about, with an eye for detail and anecdote. Henry Buckley's narrative may be a bit difficult to follow at this remove for those who know nothing about the war for Spain; it would be best to read it along with, or after, reading a modern history of the conflict, such as those by Paul Preston (The Spanish Holocaust), or Helen Graham (The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction). Buckley was the Daily Telegraph's correspondent during the war, and he wrote "Life and Death" during the interval between the Fascist victory and the beginning of the Second World War in 1939 for which the Spanish war was a rehearsal. The hopes and dreams of the people, the confusion of Spain's middle class and political class, the pointless and self-defeating divisions among the working classes, all the colorful personalities --

they are all here. Even a grainy, out-of focus picture of Hemingway, taken by the author. Again, not exactly an easy read, because Buckley assumes a lot of background that today's readers may not possess. But for those with a lively interest in the period, it is invaluable.

the author is obviously an american liberal his last name confused me into buying this book there is much more to say about the spanish republican government collaboration with stalin and his kgb criminals

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