



Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939

By Adam Hochschild

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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.

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Editorial Review

Review

New York Times best-seller

“Excellent and involving . . . What makes [Hochschild’s] book so intimate and moving is its human scale.”
—**Dwight Garner**, *New York Times*

"With all due respect to Orwell, *Spain in Our Hearts* should supplant *Homage to Catalonia* as the best introduction to the conflict written in English. A humane and moving book, it is well-paced and meant to be read rather than studied."
—*New Republic*

"Admirable . . . an unusually well-written narrative, full of telling detail and vignettes that capture great human drama."
—*Wall Street Journal*

"A commanding performance. Digging through archives, Hochschild finds characters whose lives . . . pull the war into tight, human-scale focus . . . After reading Hochschild’s book, it’s impossible to feel anything but admiration — and awe."
— *San Francisco Chronicle*

"The tragic story of the Americans in the doomed Lincoln Brigade . . . comes vividly to life in Adam Hochschild’s compelling ‘Spain in Our Hearts,’ a long-overdue book that explores this long-overlooked conflict."
—*Los Angeles Times*

"By assembling a well-chosen set of individual narratives, many about figures who are relatively unknown, [Hochschild] captures why so many people thought the fate of the world might be decided by who won the conflict . . . Consistently vivid . . . Captivating."
—*New York Times Book Review*

"A vivid and level-headed new history of American participation in the Spanish Civil War."
—*The New Yorker*

"Excellent . . . Hochschild captures both the passionate, partisan views of particular combatants and the larger political currents that shaped their experiences. It’s a moving and useful investigation into the dangers and promises of idealism."
— *Christian Science Monitor*

"Exemplary . . . Moving and powerful."
—*Seattle Times*

"The book’s narrative is driven by Hochschild’s deft handling of the personal stories, some heartbreaking, of a half dozen Americans . . . highly engaging . . . A book like Hochschild’s keeps their stories and spirit

alive."

—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"A sweeping, suspenseful, and somber chronicle of the Spanish Civil War ... Mak[es] superb use of diaries and letters."

— *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"Hochschild tells the story of this heady time with moving, well-paced prose exploring both international policy and intensely personal experiences ... Exceptional."

— *Los Angeles Review of Books*

"A fine new chronicle of Americans ... determined to do their part to fight fascism. One's heart breaks to read what awaited them."

— *Dallas Morning News*

"Brings history alive ... Hochschild is a writer capable of making any topic interesting, relevant, and accessible ... *Spain in Our Hearts* is a primer, a meditation, and a story of American adventure abroad."

— *Tampa Bay Times*

"Well-paced ... Closes on a poignant note of mourning and remembrance."

— *Boston Globe*

"Hochschild is an exceptional writer; his narrative is well-paced, delivered in clear prose, and focused on important and colorful details of the historical moment."

—*Publishers Weekly, starred review*

"A dramatically personal book . . . A vivid addition to twentieth-century European history collections."

—*Booklist, starred review*

"A nuanced look at the messy international allegiances forged during the Spanish Civil War . . . Hochschild ably explores subtle shades of the conflict that contemporary authors and participants did not want to consider."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"George Orwell once explained that going to Spain, in 1936, 'seemed the only conceivable thing to do.' As soon as he got there, the right thing to do got a lot less clear. And how to write about it was immediately difficult, too. The twenty-eight hundred Americans who fought in the Spanish Civil War felt the same way, as Adam Hochschild recounts in this rich and fascinating book. **Few writers grapple so powerfully with the painful moral and ethical choices of past actors as does Hochschild**, who brings to *Spain in Our Hearts* his exceptional talents — and his moral seriousness — as a reporter, as a historian, and as a writer."

—**JILL LEPORE, author of *The Secret History of Wonder Woman***

"In this beautifully written portrait of Americans caught up in the Spanish Civil War, Adam Hochschild brings to brilliant life the heroism and horror of that fratricidal conflict. His account of the David-and-Goliath fight between the ragtag army of idealistic, pro-democracy volunteers and the mechanized, murderous forces of Franco, Hitler, and Mussolini is **one of the most powerful narratives I have ever read.**"

—**LYNNE OLSON, author of *Citizens of London***

"Spain in Our Hearts is **narrative non-fiction at its very best**. Hochschild's achievement is to make this trial-by-combat story come alive, as if it were happening now. It is impossible for a reader not to identify and feel compassion for those sons and daughters of America who risked and often gave their lives for a cause that could not ultimately prevail against the darker forces of Franco, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin – and Texaco. **A seamlessly-woven, unputdownable tapestry of war in Europe; intensely, unforgettably moving.**"
—NIGEL HAMILTON, author of *The Mantle of Command*

"Beautifully written with a hawk-eye for the telling anecdote, *Spain in Our Hearts* constitutes an **endlessly fascinating and utterly unputdownable** survey of the war to defend democracy in Spain that was not only the first act of the Second World War but also, for many across the world, the last great cause."
PAUL PRESTON, author of *The Spanish Civil War: Reaction, Revolution, and Revenge*

From the Inside Flap

From the acclaimed, best-selling author Adam Hochschild, a sweeping history of the Spanish Civil War told through a dozen unforgettable characters: a tale of idealism, suffering, and a tragically doomed yet noble cause

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. It was the century's first modern, total war, but it was soon overshadowed by the world war that it helped introduce. Today it is mostly remembered through just a few classic accounts: Ernest Hemingway's novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, George Orwell's memoirs, Robert Capa's photographs. But in *Spain in Our Hearts*, Adam Hochschild presents equally compelling characters and weaves their stories together to reveal the full tragedy and importance of the war.

Through the eyes of Lois Orr, a fiery nineteen-year-old Kentucky woman whose honeymoon in wartime Spain turned into an extended stay, we experience the blossoming of Barcelona as a workers utopia, before its dark descent into Stalinist purges. We meet 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. At the center of Hochschild's account is an American couple, widely admired on the war's front lines, and their inspiring, heartbreaking love story.

The Spanish Civil War 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.

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From the Back Cover

Few writers grapple so powerfully with the painful moral and ethical choices of past actors as does Hochschild, who brings to *Spain in Our Hearts* his exceptional talents and his moral seriousness as a reporter, as a historian, and as a writer. Jill Lepore, author of *The Secret History of Wonder Woman*

Hochschild's account of the David-and-Goliath fight between the ragtag army of idealistic, pro-democracy volunteers and the mechanized, murderous forces of Franco, Hitler, and Mussolini is one of the most powerful narratives I have ever read. Lynne Olson, author of *Citizens of London*

Spain in Our Hearts is narrative nonfiction at its very best. Hochschild's achievement is to make this trial-by-combat story come alive as if it were happening now. It is impossible for a reader not to identify and feel compassion for those sons and daughters of America who risked and often gave their lives for a cause that could not ultimately prevail. Intensely, unforgettably moving. Nigel Hamilton, author of *The Mantle of*

Command

Hochschild's poignant narrative evokes E. L. Doctorow's great historical novel *Ragtime* but *Spain in Our Hearts* is no novel. It is a tragic, true story about a critical tipping point in the twentieth century's slide into total warfare. Passionate, evocative, and gracefully written. Kai Bird, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Good Spy*

Beautifully written with a hawk eye for the telling anecdote, *Spain in Our Hearts* constitutes an endlessly fascinating and utterly unputdownable survey of the war to defend democracy in Spain that was not only the first act of the Second World War but also, for many across the world, the last great cause. Paul Preston, author of *The Spanish Civil War: Reaction, Revolution, and Revenge*

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Users Review

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Debra Richardson:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939*, you could enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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