

The Spanish Revolution. By STANLEY G. PAYNE. New York, 1970. W. W. Norton & Company. Revolutions in the Modern World. Maps. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 398. Cloth. \$7.95. Paper. \$3.25.

Not only specialists in Spanish history but all persons interested in revolutions, in the Spanish Civil War, and in its antecedents, should be grateful to Stanley G. Payne. With perceptivity and stylistic clarity, he has set forth the record of Spain's revolutionary left with such success that an attempt to improve on even a few details may border on the gratuitous. A master of primary and secondary sources in Spanish and English alike, the author has a sure touch on nearly every page. Though young in years, he is mature in experience when it comes to documenting fugitive facts and testing debatable theories.

The very structure of *The Spanish Revolution* is indicative of Payne's resourcefulness and skill. Indeed, I see no way to improve that structure, which may safely be taken as a model by writers of similar books. Devoting the first 81 pages to the pre-1930 background, he sees to it that a chapter on Catalonia and another on "International Response" advance in step with the marching prose of his main account. Two concluding chapters immediately precede a first-rate albeit fairly brief bibliography. Pithiness and order are present throughout, contrasting with the prolixity and disorder evident in much of the leftist approach to Spanish problems.

Let it also be stated that this is not a work on Spain's radical right of the same period. In his *Falange* (1961) and *Politics and the Military in Modern Spain* (1967), Payne "dwelt at considerable length on rightist extremism." Hence he has "felt no need to re-write such material in composing a book on the left."

Delicate, scholarly nuances repeatedly underscore or shade the political efforts and effect of major Socialist leaders like Francisco Largo Caballero and Indalecio Prieto. There may be other readers who will join the reviewer in thinking that Manuel Azaña and politicians who shared Azaña's views get few breaks in the areas of emphasis and interpretation. My own opinion is that Azaña is treated too harshly and Alejandro Lerroux too gently. When José Giral is introduced, he is described merely as "a rather obscure middle-class left professor," whereas Giral's record as Minister of Marine no doubt had much to do with his becoming Prime Minister. But such criticisms are few and relatively minor. In sum, this is a valuable book.

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