

THE SPANISH SECOND REPUBLIC REVISITED

From Democratic Hopes
to Civil War (1931–1936)



Edited by MANUEL ÁLVAREZ TARDÍO
and FERNANDO DEL REY REGUILLO

"The raison d'être behind *The Spanish Second Republic Revisited* is not to defend a particular ideological or political standpoint but to elucidate and explain this dynamic, agitated period in Spanish history in all its complexity. Certainly, this does *not* mean that the authors of this volume share a common vision of the Second Republic, but it does signal their collective intent to escape the ideological certainties that have conditioned so much of the work on the regime."

*Nigel Townson, General
Series Editor of Sussex
Studies in Spanish History*

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The Spanish Civil War is one of the most studied events in modern European history. Its origins, that is to say the politics of the Second Republic (1931–1936), have been much debated. The republican period has been much idealized and in particular the myth of Spanish democracy beset by fascism, of which Franco was its leading figure, has been much cultivated. But was this really the case? Recently historians of the Republic have proposed a new and non-ideological perspective on the 1930s. Spain's path was at once different yet in many ways similar to that of Europe during the interwar period.

The Spanish Second Republic Revisited brings together leading and innovative specialists to analyse the main obstacles to the consolidation of democracy in Spain and to debate the principal stereotypes of the traditional historiography of both left and right. The issues addressed include: the breakdown of democracy; whether the CEDA was an opportunity or a threat; the centrist appeal under the Republic; how the elections were viewed and conducted; the transformation of fascism; new revelations about the Communist party; the politics of exclusion at the local level; the perceived necessity for repression; new perspectives on the Civil Guard; the role of intellectuals in the Republic; and revisionism and sectarian history.

The Spanish Second Republic Revisited offers new and stimulating interpretations as to why Spanish democracy failed to consolidate itself and why it finally fell into the terror of civil war. The book is essential reading for all those interested in modern European history.

Cover illustration: Portrait of a cheery and hopeful 'Miss Spain' in 1931, at the beginning of the Republic. From the Spanish magazine, Estampa, May 30th, 1931.

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