



Mexico

and the

Spanish Civil War

POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE REPUBLICAN CAUSE



MARIO OJEDA REVAH

“Largely ignored as a peripheral power, Mexico nevertheless did much in political, military, and diplomatic terms to abet the republican cause. Mario Ojeda Revah’s extensively researched *Mexico and the Spanish Civil War* does a great deal to rectify the historiographical balance. Not only does he reassess the nature and scale of Mexico’s assistance, but he also reexamines the motives that lay behind it. The result is a rounded and credible portrait of Mexico’s involvement in the Spanish Civil War that constitutes a notable contribution to our understanding of the conflict.”

From the Series Editor’s Preface by Nigel Townson



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Based on first-hand diplomatic, political and journalistic sources, most unpublished, *Mexico and the Spanish Civil War* investigates the backing of the Second Republic by Mexico during the Spanish Civil War. Significant military, material and financial aid was given by the government of Lázaro Cárdenas (1934–1940) to the Republic, which involved not only direct sales of arms, but also smuggling operations covertly undertaken by Mexican diplomatic agents in order to circumvent the embargo imposed by the London Committee of Non-Intervention.

This path-breaking account reveals the operations in Spain of Mexican workers, soldiers, artists and intellectuals — such as later Nobel Laureate Octavio Paz and the Muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros — as volunteers and propagandists for the Republican cause. Engagement with the Spanish Civil War also had a profound impact upon Mexico’s domestic politics as support for the Republic was equated by Cárdenas with his own revolutionary project. The defeat of the Republic in 1939 therefore had far-reaching repercussions for the post-1940 governments. Originally published to critical acclaim in Spanish, the work has been quoted and reviewed by many leading specialists on the Civil War, including Anthony Beevor, Ángel Viñas, Santos Juliá, and Pedro Pérez Herrero. This book is essential reading for students and scholars specializing in contemporary European history and politics, Latin American studies, and all those with an interest in the Spanish Civil War and the Mexican Revolution.

Mario Ojeda Revah is Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean of the National University of Mexico (CIALC–UNAM). He is also Professor at the School of Political Science of the National University of Mexico (UNAM), and has taught at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México and Universidad de las Américas. He was Associate Professor and Faculty member at the Saint Louis University, Madrid Campus (2006/2011). He is the author of *México y la Guerra Civil* (2005); *La Revolución Mexicana* (2006); and co-author of *Iconografía de Lázaro Cárdenas* (2007) and *México: Mirando hacia dentro, 1930/1960* (2012).

Cover illustrations are detailed within the book.

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