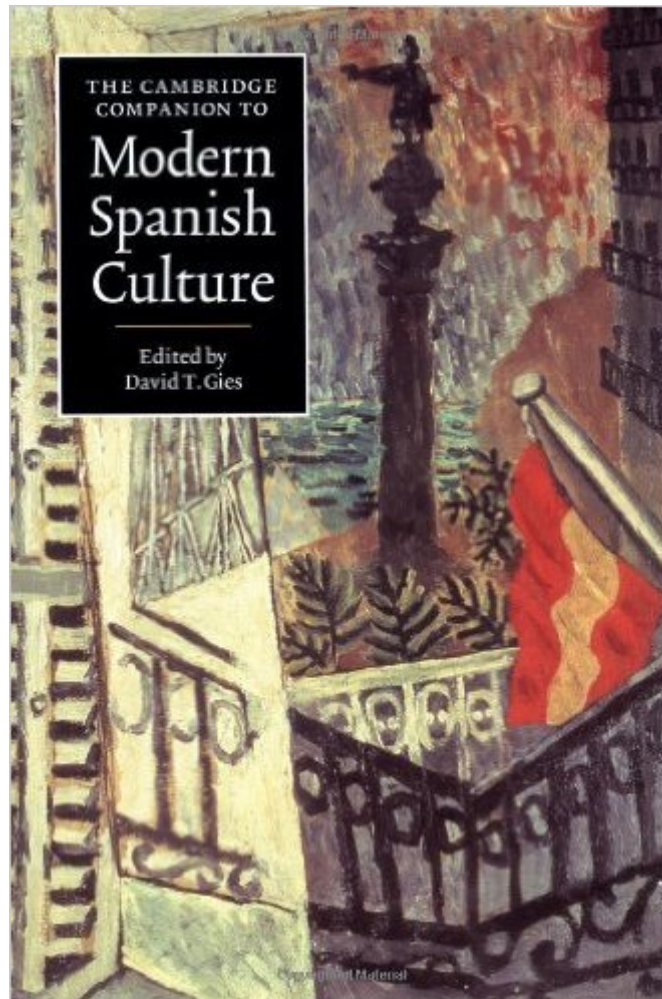


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The Cambridge Companion To Modern Spanish Culture (Cambridge Companions To Culture)



Synopsis

This book offers a comprehensive account of modern Spanish culture from its beginnings in the Revolution of 1868 to the present day. Specially-commissioned essays by leading experts analyze the historical and political background of modern Spain, the culture of major regions including Castile, Catalonia, and the Basque Country, and the country's literature. There are studies of painting, sculpture, architecture, cinema, dance, music, and the modern media. A chronology and guides to further reading assist in making the volume an invaluable introduction to the politics, literature and culture of modern Spain.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This work is a comprehensive volume, well written, that examines the various strata of recent Spanish Culture. Unlike a previous reviewer, who seemed shocked at the notion that this work should include literature, art and music as "culture", I find it provides an adequate cross-section of various genres and media. This is not a "travel guide" or a touchy-feely "insider's guide" to Spain, but a serious scholarly introduction to the men and women who have defined Spanish culture in the 20th century. If you are looking for information on tapas, look elsewhere; if you want to know how the Spanish civil war impacted the arts, this is for you.

I had to buy this book for class and it has been a very helpful tool. If you're interested in Spanish

history, this book is an easy read full of fun facts.

An excellent overview of Spanish culture. I feel better prepared for our upcoming travels in Andalusia.

For the purposes of this book, culture is defined as the arts, so the essays by various authors included in this book deal with literature, theater, dance, painting, etc., which could be very interesting, but not in this case. I got the impression that the essays were all examples of experts showing off how expert they are; very dry, lacking emotion, failing to inspire or excite. Too analytical, all head and no heart. For an excellent book on the modern life, living, arts, politics and all of Spain is "The New Spaniards" by John Hooper.

This well researched book gives readers a good overview of Spanish culture and Spanish history. One of the many fine things about Spanish culture is BULLFIGHTING! Bullfighting is highly regarded among many peoples of southern Europe (and beyond) because it represents masculine power, virility and danger. The matador often represents the bravery that most people would like to display in the face of deadly danger. The fine art of bullfighting is really a salute to bravery. Bullfighting also is a form of pageantry. The picador ("picker") sits on a large horse, spear in hand. His horse wears a padded cover so as to be protected from the raging bull. He impales the bull with his spear. The bandilleros then impale the bull with darts and sever the tendons in the bull's neck. The bull then runs with his head in a lower position. The matador is the last to enter the arena. He must demonstrate his bravery by a series of cape maneuvers prior to killing the bull with his sword. The more dangerously close to death the matador is, the braver he appears. The closer the bull gets to the matador and barely missing the cape, the better the bullfight. Bullfighting is really a ballet of bravery; it is a pageantry of masculine power. People opposed to bullfighting feel it is cruel to the bull and some "experts" have described this fine sport as being sado-masochistic. The bull's demise in the arena is far less cruel and gruesome than the death he would face in a slaughterhouse. Bullfighting adds pageantry and bravery into the mix. I love a good bullfight, myself. Matadors throughout history have been regarded as very brave men. Manolete, Joselito, Belmonte, Ordez...these are some of the men who have made the fine art of bullfighting even more so. Bullfighting is really a cultural art.

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