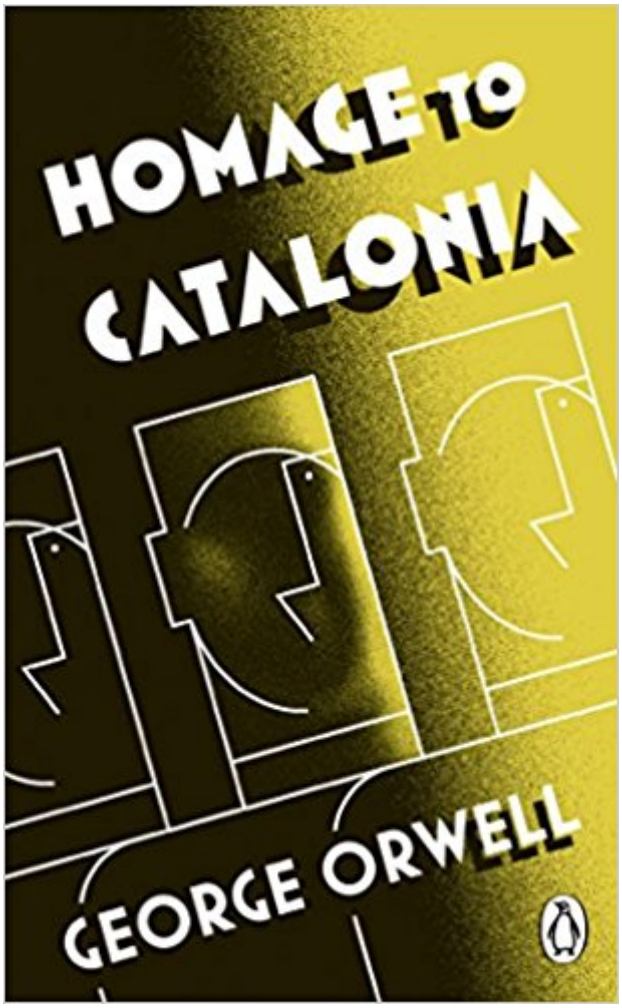
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Penguin Classics Homage To Catalonia (Penguin Modern Classics)



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Synopsis

Every line of serious work that I have written since 1936 has been written, directly or indirectly, against totalitarianism and for democratic Socialism as I understand it'. Thus wrote Orwell following his experiences as a militiaman in the Spanish Civil War, chronicled in Homage to Catalonia. Here he brings to bear all the force of his humanity, passion and clarity, describing with bitter intensity the bright hopes and cynical betrayals of that chaotic episode: the revolutionary euphoria of Barcelona, the courage of ordinary Spanish men and women he fought alongside, the terror and confusion of the front, his near-fatal bullet wound and the vicious treachery of his supposed allies. A firsthand account of the brutal conditions of the Spanish Civil War, George Orwell's Homage to Catalonia includes an introduction by Julian Symons in Penguin Modern Classics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I wonder what is the appropriate first action when you come from a country at war and set foot on peaceful soil. Mine was to rush to the tobacco-kiosk and buy as many cigars and cigarettes as I could stuff into my pockets." Most war correspondents observe wars and then tell stories about the battles, the soldiers and the civilians. George Orwell--novelist, journalist, sometime socialist--actually traded his press pass for a uniform and fought against Franco's Fascists in the Spanish Civil War during 1936 and 1937. He put his politics and his formidable conscience to the toughest tests during those days in the trenches in the Catalan section of Spain. Then, after nearly getting killed, he went back to England and wrote a gripping account of his experiences, as well as a

complex analysis of the political machinations that led to the defeat of the socialist Republicans and the victory of the Fascists. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An unrivalled picture of the rumours, suspicions and treachery of civil war -- Anthony Beevor A war story that is both brutally honest and lyrically beautiful * Daily Telegraph *

Orwell conveys perfectly the atmosphere of northeastern Spain during the brief civil war at the end of the thirties and the passion that drew men to fight what they hoped to be the battle which would end the spread of Fascism. He describes the boredom punctuated by brief ineffectual violence that characterized his time at the stationary front between Barcelona and Zaragosa, the lack of meaning of events when seen up close compared to the illusion of purposeful action explained from afar, based on rumor and propaganda. Most of all, he exposes the disregard for truth and military advantage in the manipulation of every opportunity by Moscow puppeteers and their followers to leave the Communist Party the last group standing, whatever the outcome of the struggle.Orwell is very repetitious and the book began to feel like a very large 171 pages. The ending evolves quickly and strangely, however, with Orwell and his English buddies finding they can best escape from ignominious imprisonment, possible death, by merely exchanging their tattered battle rags for the garb and manners of oblivious English tourists.

orwell’s descriptions of life as a volunteer on the side of the republic in the spanish civil war was an interesting treatise on how the right side lost the war by the very undisciplined behavior that marked their philosophy. it is little wonder that he became disillusioned with the communists and anarchists when he witnessed how things worked (or mostly didnt) in actual practice. and, given the temper of the times, it is not surprising that this work was badly received when it came out. viewed in retrospect it is an honest account of an important time in history, and orwell’s experiences probably affected his later classic works for which he is better known.

This book is well-written, and it really brings you into Orwell’s experience both on the front lines and in Barcelona where the politics got strange and ugly. What a crucial account of why Anarchy was an ideal worth fighting for, and how ordinary human imperfection ensured that Anarchy couldn’t be sustained over time. I especially enjoyed his description of the motley crew in his Barcelona hotel; I wish I could make a movie just to have that scene in it!

The book is a clear, detailed and imtimate account of a particular segment of the Spanish Civil War experienced by the author. This war is largely forgotten these days, but it is an important examination of the political thinking of those times and the consequences of it. Factions of communism, socialism, capitalism and dictatorship are all simultaneously at war and the real world application of socialism and its horrors are fully presented, versus the ideal dreamed about. The origins of Animal Farm are obvious here.

This book was an unexpected pleasure. Yes it is all about the author, but about him during a brief period of time when history was being made. He diarised atrocities and political manoeuvring in an easily assimilable way. He gave inside information that would not have been available to the wider general public and in an entertainingly informative way.For anyone interested in the Spanish revolution or who has spent time in Spain or, as I did, served in Gibraltar (RAF,1957-1959) whilst Franco was still in power and entry to Spain was still restricted, it is short enough to avoid overkill and interesting enough to fill in knowledge gaps about the beginning of a world shaking (and shaping) period of history.I had NO idea that George Orwell had put his life on the line to oppose Fascism. Possibly I was just not well informed, but then, how many others are similarly badly informed about the 'early times' in the Spanish Civil War. I would buy it and read it. It won't take long and I expect that you might wish that it had been longer.Yours sincerely,Ian Cameron

Very well written. I have always been fascinated by the Spanish Civil War. This book helps explain some of the motivation for the Red side, and encourages sympathy for those who were misled into fighting for the wrong side in that terrible war.

An engaging autobiographical telling of the Spanish Civil War, complete with an honest portrayal of the evil communist forces.

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