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Graciela Iglesias Rogers


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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. British Volunteers in Spanish Service During the Peninsular War By A. A. Nofi A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com: 'Rogers, a lecturer at Oxford, gives us a study of some 42 Britons, mostly Catholic Scots or Irish with military backgrounds, who served in the Spanish ranks during the Peninsular War, and, she argues, had an unusual influence on the course of events. Rogers opens with some background on the military service of Catholic Britons with foreign powers, mostly Catholic France or Spain, which was technically treason to Protestant Britain. When, in 1808, a nationalist uprising spread across Spain against Napoleon, it sparked surprising sympathy in Britain for the "Spanish Cause." So serving Catholic Spain was suddenly popular, and these men volunteered. Most of them quickly rose to substantial rank on the strength of battlefield prowess, several becoming generals. But they did more than just lend their martial talents to Spain, for they helped transmit innovative ideas about politics, social mobility, and culture. Thus they helped shape the reformist movement that emerged in Spain during the war. For shedding new light on a neglected aspect of the war makes Rogers' work important reading for those interested in the Napoleonic era. For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

This book unveils the role of a hitherto unrecognized group of men who, long before the International Brigades made its name in the Spanish Civil War, also found reasons to fight under the Spanish flag. Their enemy was not fascism, but what could be at times an equally overbearing ideology: Napoleon's imperialism. Although small in number, British volunteers played a surprisingly influential role in the conduct of war operations, in politics, gender and social equality, in cultural life both in Britain and Spain and even in relation to emancipation movements in Latin America. Some became prisoners of war while a few served with guerrilla forces. Many of the works published about the Peninsular War in the last two decades have adopted an Anglocentric narrative, writing the Spanish forces out of victories, or have tended to present the war, not as much won by the allies, but lost by the French. This book takes a radically different approach by drawing on previously untapped archival sources to argue that victory was the outcome of a truly transnational effort.

"By shedding new light on a neglected aspect of the war makes Rogers' work important reading for those interested in the Napoleonic era." ?A. A. Nofi, NYMAS About the Author Graciela Iglesias Rogers is Associate Tutor and Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Oxford, UK.