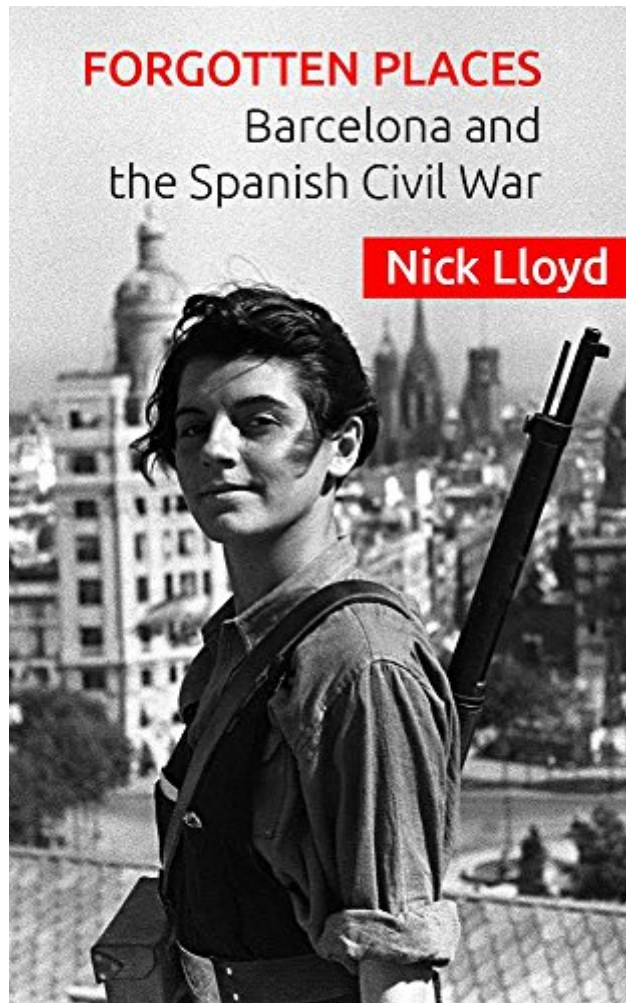


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# Forgotten Places: Barcelona And The Spanish Civil War



## Synopsis

A guide to Barcelona in the Spanish Civil War, beginning in the 19th century with the conditions and movements which led to the revolution of 1936, and ending with the fall of the city on 26th January 1939 when Franco's tanks drove down the Diagonal and set about destroying everything the Republic had built. Stories from the aftermath of the war, the exile and the Franco regime are also included. In addition with dealing with the more obvious themes such as anarchism, the Spanish Republic, Catalonia, George Orwell, the aerial bombing, and the May Days, etc, the book also looks at themes such as the Zoo during the Civil War, the American Sixth Fleet in the city, Barçà, urbanism, Nazis in Barcelona, Robert Capa, the Spanish in the Holocaust, poster art... Intertwined in the text are contemporary quotes and a few personal stories of people I have met who experienced the war or its aftermath. There are also biographies of characters such as Andreu Nin and Lluís Companys.

**REVIEW** The Volunteer: Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) "This is a wonderful hybrid of a book. The text tells much about Barcelona and the Spanish Civil War and much else mostly about the radical history of the city. But its other purpose is to be a companion while one is in Barcelona itself to provide information and illumination about the city's terrible, dramatic, and heroic Civil War history." Military History Book Review "Nick Lloyd has produced a brilliant account of a fascinating city and an even more fascinating period of political and social upheaval"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Trying to make sense of the Spanish Civil War can be a daunting task, but it is one I have pursued for well over a year. I have read everything I could find -- including Hemingway, Preston, Orwell, Beevor and a host of others. This book by Nick Lloyd is my favorite. An accomplished Barcelona tour guide, Lloyd has created a book that provides an understandable overview of the conflict in Barcelona, including descriptions of key participants that seem more personable than others I have read. The second half of the book is an in-depth tour of dozens of sites where infamous and little-known incidents occurred during the war. His descriptions, combined with easy-to-understand maps, create a "you-are-there" reading experience that is hard to surpass. In addition, his use of quotes from among the many writers who were in Barcelona at the time helps create a literary time machine for readers. The result is a book that provides a lively, entertaining and enlightening look at a city at war with external and internal enemies. The only thing better would be to participate in one of Lloyd's tours. As a result of this book, that tour has definitely been added to my bucket list.

I became acquainted with Nick Lloyd's book after my first stay in Barcelona. My wife and I had just discovered his tours of Spanish Civil War sites but unfortunately there was not a tour scheduled before we left Barcelona; we intend to take it on our next trip. But we did go to his website "highly recommended" and discovered that he had written a book, *Forgotten Places: Barcelona and the Spanish Civil War*. Before going to Barcelona I tried to read the Spanish Civil War Literature so I would have a more precise understanding of the situation than I got from Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*, But I found that reading the standard books, like Thomas's while clearly a major scholarly achievement were much too detailed for my purposes. But *Forgotten Places* proved to be by far the best introduction to the war. The political situation in Barcelona is probably of more interest to the general reader than the admittedly more important military battles in the rest of the country. Nick writes clearly and as my wife says, "Really tries to make the situation clear even to the naïve reader." I could not be more pleased with the book and my understanding of the war is solidified by identifying places in

Barcelona with the critical events. If I were to give a course on the Spanish Civil War and I am a scientist and not a liberal arts professor I would start with *Homage to Catalonia*, and follow this by *Forgotten Places* and a viewing of the film *Land and Freedom*. For visitors to Barcelona I would recommend the books of Robert Hughes and Michael Eade to understand the art and urban history of the city. Additional recommendations on the war would be the works of Paul Preston especially *The Spanish Holocaust*. I am not a fan of holocaust literature its not exactly the kind of thing you read for pleasure but Preston does not only document of the horrors of the war, but his work is essential to understanding the post-war Franco era. I am writing these recommendations from a somewhat ignorant point of view; I simply have not read enough to make definitive judgments on the best civil war literature. But at least start with the first two suggestions. Orwell and Nick Lloyd will take you a long way.

Nick Lloyd has dedicated a big part of his life to researching and documenting sites and stories of significance to preserve the memory of the Spanish Civil War as experienced in Barcelona. *"Forgotten Places"* is testimony to his passion for and years of dedication to his subject and it makes a fascinating read, especially if you are a history junkie and know the outline of events. I read half the book while on a recent visit to Barcelona and the balance once I had returned home and this really worked for me. The structure of the book is a little complicated and makes for some repetition, but Lloyd's choice to give the broad brush narrative and then detail key events, district by district brings the stories to life especially if you have a sense of how the city fits together. Civil wars always leave a difficult legacy for countries to memorialise and many commentators highlight the deep pain which lingers from defeat by Franco's forces in many families in Barcelona. Nick Lloyd's work ensures that citizens and visitors alike can find much to reflect on in their own personal ways from the stories he has preserved.

If you love books that focus on detailed history, then this is a book that you will love! The Spanish Civil War has always fascinated me and this book is a precise look at what led up to and occurred in Barcelona during these years of strife. I enjoyed it and would encourage travelers who like their history to read it before planning your next trip to Barcelona.

Great book. Well written for those interested in this slice of history. Nick also gives a guided tour that I thoroughly enjoyed in Barcelona that makes it all very real.

This is an excellent new book, which not only tells about Barcelona during the war, but also provides many details about people- the well-known & the obscure- that were affected by the war. There are also details from before & after the war... "cause & effect" as it was.

Not just a tour guide but but a primer on the Spanish Civil War, the violent rehearsal for WWII. Comprehensive and fascinating! Nick Lloyd's love for Barcelona and his voluminous knowledge of this nearly forgotten war shine through on every page.

History and place settings are tightly connected as Lloyd take the reader through neighborhoods and bullet-pocked walls. It's clear that Barcelona sets the scene for the Second World War in Europe. Important.

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