

Lessons of the Spanish Revolution

1936–1939

Vernon Richards • Introduction: David Goodway

It was the revolutionary movement in Spain which took up Franco's challenge in July 1936, not as supporters of the Popular Front Government but in the name of the Social Revolution, and this book soberly examines the many ways in which Spain's revolutionary movement contributed to its own defeat.

Was it too weak to carry through the Revolution? To what extent was the purchase of arms and raw materials from outside sources dependent upon the appearance of a constitutional government inside Republican Spain? What chances had an improvised army of guerrillas against a trained fighting force? These were some of the practical problems facing the revolutionary movement and its leaders.

But in seeking to solve these problems, the anarchists and revolutionary syndicalists were also confronted with other questions which were fundamental to the whole theoretical and moral bases of their organisation. Could they collaborate with political parties and reformist unions? Given the circumstances, was one form of government to be supported against another? Should the revolutionary impetus of the first days of resistance be halted in the interests of the armed struggle against Franco or be allowed to develop as far as the workers were able and prepared to take it? Was the situation such that the social revolution could triumph and, if not, what was to be the role of the revolutionary workers?

Originally written as a series of weekly articles in the 1950s and expanded, republished, and translated into many languages over the years, Vernon Richards's analysis remains essential reading for all those interested in revolutionary praxis.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

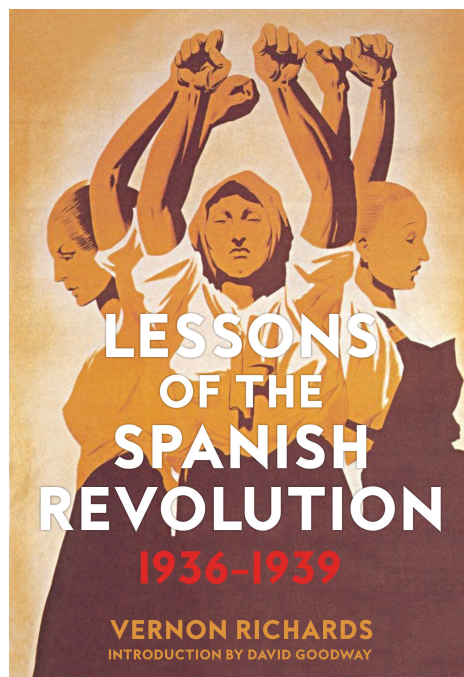
Across seven decades, **Vernon Richards** maintained an anarchist presence in British publishing. His chosen instrument was *Freedom Press*, based in Whitechapel, in London's East End. He edited the anarchist paper *Freedom*—and its prewar and wartime variations—into the 1960s. Earlier, he had been imprisoned in 1945, translated the Italian anarchist Errico Malatesta, and photographed George Orwell.

David Goodway is a British social and cultural historian who for thirty years has written principally on anarchism and libertarian socialism. He is the author of *Anarchist Seeds beneath the Snow: Left-Libertarian Thought and British Writers from William Morris to Colin Ward* and editor of *For Anarchism, Herbert Read Reassessed, The Letters of John Cowper Powys and Emma Goldman*, and collections of the writings of Alex Comfort, Herbert Read, Maurice Brinton, and Nicolas Walter.

ACCOLADES

"The revolution that accompanied the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War was a high point in the history of working-class creativity, internationalism and self-activity. If it is to be a resource for present and future struggles, we must assess the strengths and weaknesses of the movement that propelled it. In this regard, the early endeavours of Vernon Richards remain indispensable."

—Danny Evans, author of *Revolution and the State: Anarchism in the Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939*



SUBJECT CATEGORY
Politics-Anarchism/History-Spain

PRICE
\$21.95

ISBN
978-1-62963-647-4

PAGE COUNT
272

SIZE
5.5x8

FORMAT
Paperback

PUBLICATION DATE
07/19

DISTRIBUTED BY
Independent Publishers Group
(312) 337-0747
www.ipgbook.com

DISTRIBUTED IN THE UK/EUROPE BY
Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd
t: 020 8829 3000
orders@turnaround-uk.com

◆ **PM PRESS** ◆
P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623
www.pmpress.org
info@pmpress.org
(510) 658-3906

PM

PM Press was founded in 2007 as an independent publisher with a veteran staff boasting a wealth of experience in print and online publishing. We seek to create radical and stimulating fiction and nonfiction books, pamphlets, T-shirts, and visual and audio materials to entertain, educate, and inspire you.