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978-1-107-10627-7 - International Communism and the Spanish Civil War:

Solidarity and Suspicion

Lisa A. Kirschenbaum

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## International Communism and the Spanish Civil War

### *Solidarity and Suspicion*

*International Communism and the Spanish Civil War* provides an intimate picture of international communism in the Stalin era. Exploring the transnational exchanges that occurred in Soviet-structured spaces – from clandestine schools for training international revolutionaries in Moscow to the International Brigades in Spain – the book uncovers complex webs of interaction, at once personal and political, that linked international communists to one another and to the Soviet Union.

The Spanish civil war, which coincided with the great purges in the Soviet Union, stands at the center of this grassroots history. For many international communists, the war came to define both their life histories and political commitments. In telling their individual stories, the book calls attention to a central paradox of Stalinism – the simultaneous celebration and suspicion of transnational interactions – and illuminates the appeal of a cause that promised solidarity even as it practiced terror.

Lisa A. Kirschenbaum is a professor of history at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *The Legacy of the Siege of Leningrad, 1941–1995: Myth, Memories, and Monuments* (2006) and *Small Comrades: Revolutionizing Childhood in Soviet Russia, 1917–1932* (2001). She is the recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and grants from the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies of the Woodrow Wilson Center and the International Research and Exchanges Board. She has published articles in *Slavic Review*, *European History Quarterly*, and *Nationalities Papers*, and she has contributed to the *Women's Review of Books*.

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LISA A. KIRSCHENBAUM

*West Chester University, West Chester, PA*



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*For John*

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## A Note on Transliteration and Translation

In the text and notes, I use the Library of Congress system of transliteration, except in the case of well-known names, such as Ehrenburg. Where the sources transliterated Spanish or English names into Cyrillic, I tried to restore the original language's spelling conventions. Where I was unable to confirm the original spelling, I included a direct transliteration of the Cyrillic in the notes. All translations are my own, except where noted.