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# THE ORIGINS OF MODERN SPAIN

BY

J. B. TREND

*Professor of Spanish in the University of Cambridge*

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J. A. B. P.

ἡ μεγάλη χάρις  
δώρω σὺν ὀλίγω· πάντα δὲ τιματὰ τὰ παρ φίλων.

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## PREFACE

*The Origins of Modern Spain* takes up the thread of the earlier chapters of *A Picture of Modern Spain*, published in 1921. Since then more material has accumulated, and the discovery that those chapters were quoted as authoritative in a well-known History of Spanish Literature encouraged me to make a closer study of the whole cultural and intellectual movement which began in 1868. Two friends who were with me in Spain in January 1931 and made the acquaintance of some of the younger members of the group, insisted that I should procrastinate no longer, and by the April of that year five chapters had been written practically as they stand to-day. Then came the proclamation of the Second Republic; and the question arose whether to hurry on with the book for that autumn, or to wait and watch developments. I chose the path of procrastination; and putting my book aside, I went back to Spain to see what was happening.

For various reasons I could not take up the manuscript again until the autumn of 1932. By that time the new situation in Spain had produced a number of books in English; but none of them touched my subject, except *Towards the New Spain* by Dr Joseph A. Brandt (University of Chicago Press)—a study of Castelar and the First Republic, which, if it had been published earlier, might have helped me considerably in my own second chapter. Like all students of modern Spain, I acknowledge a debt of gratitude to His Excellency Don Salvador de Madariaga for his *Spain* (1930) and *The Genius of Spain* (1923).

\*            \*            \*

Though the form of the book is a collection of essays—intimate personal sketches of the reformers and educators of the generation of 1868—it deals with the whole movement, and in a more thorough manner than has been attempted before. Queen Isabella II is included as being what Spanish people call *contra-productente*, i.e. having the opposite effect to that intended. She was hardly a reformer, poor dear; but her matronly figure and

her persuasive voice are essential to the background of Spain in 1868.

\* \* \*

The book falls under four headings:

It begins with the intellectual and educational stagnation of Spain before the revolution of 1868, and the “traditional obstacles” which had previously buttressed that condition.

There had, however, been a dawn of intellectual liberty before 1868—on the political side, French; on the philosophical side, German; but on the cultural side, English.

The political movement led to the abortive revolution of 1868, the brief reign of Amadeo of Savoy, and the First Republic, which ended in the restoration of the Bourbons in 1875.

There remain the educational activities of those who had failed in the attempt to make a new Spain at one blow during the Interregnum, and the account of how they afterwards set about evolving a new Spain by new methods, inspired largely (though not exclusively) by English example. This forms the greater part of the book.

\* \* \*

Politics have been generally avoided, for my outlook is not political, but educational. Questions of the monarchical or republican forms of government, of clerical or lay teaching in schools, are measured by their practical results on education in Spain, not by their theoretical implications in an ideal State.

\* \* \*

The list of Spanish friends to whom I am indebted would be too long to print here. I can only mention Professor Antonio Pastor (King’s College, London) who paved my way with introductions, Dr Alberto Giménez (Presidente de la Residencia de Estudiantes), the Master of my College in Madrid, and Don Manuel B. Cossío, Director de la Institución Libre de Enseñanza.

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There is nothing, however senseless it may be, which may not be true in this country, especially if it is against justice and the peace of mankind.

Pérez Galdós, *Los Duendes de la Camarilla*, ch. xxix.

What? Miracles in my diocese, and without my permission? I forbid them, and if they continue they are of the devil.

A Bishop of Plasencia, quoted by Unamuno.