



Conquest of Granada

Washington Irving

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First published in 1850, this acclaimed classic describes the struggle of Castilian sovereigns Ferdinand and Isabella against the Moors of the Kingdom of Granada, leading to the Conquest in 1492. The story is based on the fragmentary remains of Fray Antonio Agapida's contemporary chronicles and other historical documents.

Conquest of Granada Details

Date : Published December 1st 2001 by Simon Publications (first published 1829)

ISBN : 9781931541800

Author : Washington Irving

Format : Paperback 564 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Cultural, Spain, War, Classics, Religion, Islam

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Robert Bovington says

Half a century ago, in my school history lessons, I received a very blinkered history of Spain. It consisted almost entirely of the Spanish Armada, Christopher Columbus' Discovery of America, the Inquisition, the Battle of Trafalgar, Catherine of Aragon and something about Francis Drake singeing the King of Spain's beard at Cádiz. So, most of it was around the time of Ferdinand and Isabella and, yet, we children learnt nothing of the Moors occupation of Spain, let alone the conquest of Granada. Over the years, I have read a number of history books and all appeared to give a one-sided view of the 'Reconquista'. Washington Irving's "Chronicle of the Conquest of Granada" is a welcome departure from the norm.

Not only, in my opinion, is the book a jolly good read, but it appears to be a comprehensive history of the series of events and military campaigns that led to the expulsion of the Moors after 700 years on the Iberian Peninsula.

Washington Irving was something of a hispanophile and yet this book provides the reader with a somewhat balanced account of events. At times, he shows sympathy for the Moors – so much so, that he calls attention to the barbarity of the Christians and the prejudices and ignorance of the Spanish Court. He does this in the guise of "Fray Antonio Agapida", a fictitious character who represents the monkish zealots of the period. This is no work of fiction, however, though it reads like one. Irving carried out much research during his time in Granada and Seville including visiting the towns and villages that formed the backdrop for the events of this delightful book.

Robert Bovington

March 2011

Santiago Vieto Rodríguez says

A really great book!

Calzean says

Written by Washington Irving, this is a detailed account of the various battles between the Spanish and the Moors, and between the Moors, which saw the Spanish triumph. There were so many battles, skirmishes, sieges, that I wondered whether anyone could have been left alive in Granada. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella were obviously well ahead of their times who honoured their enemies (if they fought well and honourably), rewarded the victors and were able to motivate, feed and sustain the various armies that went into the field.

Lavender says

It's usually pretty difficult for me to get through long historical texts about war, but this one held my interest far more than I would have expected. Recommended to fans of history.

T.P. Williams says

A bit on the long side, but very entertaining as a piece of historical fiction. Vivid depictions of the Moorish leaders and very evocative descriptions of locations in Andalucia. Descriptions of battles very well written. Justifiably known as a classic.

Mamdouh Abdullah says

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Mohamed Mousa says

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Mohammad Alfaikawy says

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Zahraa Waly says

Excellent book, though the writer warns the reader on the first page that it is a historical book, the style and events throw a fictional air over it.

Said says

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Jacqueline says

This was such an interesting book. Now I feel all prepared to visit Spain and understand the history of that area. Also to read Rushdie's "The Moor's Last Sigh"

Mustafa Soliman says

Khaled Alqatami says

Pedro Menchén says

Admiración. Eso es lo que siento al leer este libro. Y sorpresa, una gran sorpresa al descubrir que un norteamericano supiera tanto sobre la historia de España y, además, sobre unos hechos tan antiguos, anteriores incluso al descubrimiento de América, y más aún: que fuera capaz de resumirlos, interpretarlos y narrarlos con tanta eficacia, convirtiéndolos en materia argumental de una obra narrativa de primer orden. Gracias a algunos autores extranjeros como Irving, Borrow, Brenan, Gibson y tantos otros, empiezo a entender un poco este país llamado España.