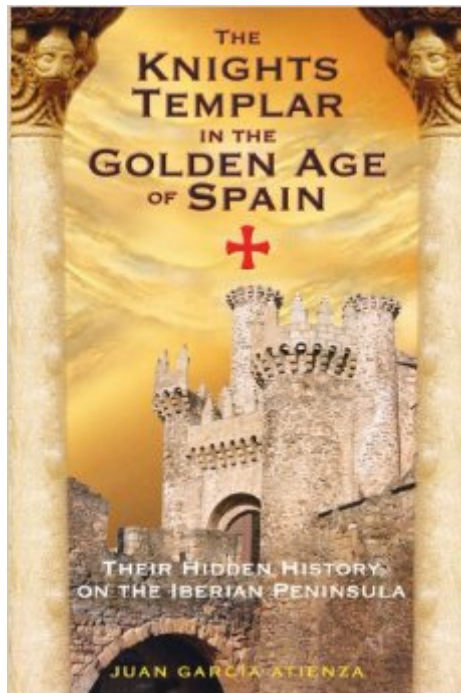


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The Knights Templar In The Golden Age Of Spain: Their Hidden History On The Iberian Peninsula



Synopsis

A thorough examination of the history of the Templars in Spain and Portugal • Explores the mysteries surrounding the location of Templar enclaves • Examines the Templar connections to the Cathars and to the troubadour culture • Looks at the Order's influence in the kingdoms of Aragon and Catalonia and the Spanish monarchy itself

The rise and fall of the Templar Order constitutes a fundamental and decisive episode in medieval history, and the destruction of the Order constitutes a pivotal point that fundamentally altered the direction of society. While much is known about the history of the Templar Order in France, home of its chief commandery in Paris, and in the Latin States of the Middle East, their contribution to events on the Iberian peninsula has until now remained obscure and unexplored. Renowned Templar scholar Juan Garc a-Arenas reveals here the important role the Templars played in the Reconquista that saw the Moors driven out of Spain and demonstrates the great influence they exerted in the kingdoms of Castille and Navarre and the territories of Catalonia and Aragon. He examines the mysterious connections between the Templars and the Cathars and troubadours as well as the mystery surrounding the location of all the Templar enclaves in the Iberian peninsula. He also unveils the important role the Templars had as teachers of the Spanish king James I, known as the Conqueror, whose attempt to establish a universal theocratic empire may have been a reflection of Templar ambitions, and explores the Order's suppression in Spain and how it survived in Portugal by simply changing its name.

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Customer Reviews

This is a very interesting account by an eminent author on this topic. However, the reader must be warned it is a confusing read if you are not in command of the historical time period of the mid-middle ages on the Iberian Peninsula. Besides this fact the read needs to understand this text was originally written in Spanish and recently, 2006, translated into English which modifies the sentence structure and understanding. To enhance understanding the book requires more maps aside from the two in figures 4.1 and 5.2 and genealogy diagrams to explain places and peoples in this confusing period. Finally, some diagrams are without keys, see Fig 4.4. Suffice it to say I purchased this book to obtain information on Portuguese Templar history and I was rewarded midway through the text with more information than I bargained for. The book sketches the life of Gaudim Pais and the importance of the Tomar Region in Portugal during this period. I will be participating in the reenactment of the siege of the Tomar Castle of 1190 in which Pais deterred the Almohads at the "Bloody Gate" of the castle's south wall. For the reader interested in the Templar participation or lack thereof in the Cathar Heresy, the author spends much text on this topic which was very informative to me. It appears the Order did not concern itself with this heresy crusade against fellow Christians and continued their attention against the Saracens in the south. Juan Garcia Atienza constantly throughout the book invokes the phrase Synarchic ideals of the Iberian Templars referring to the broad universal religious vision not shared by the Roman Catholic Church.

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