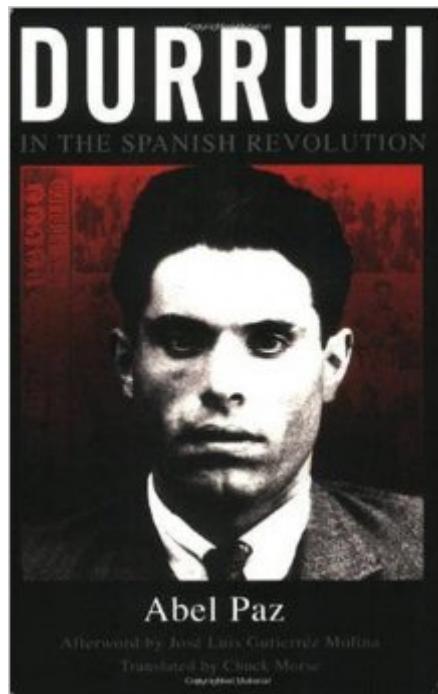


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Durruti In The Spanish Revolution



Synopsis

"Durruti was the ultimate working-class hero: carrying the future in his heart and a gun in each pocket. Abel Paz's magnificent biography resurrects the very soul of Spanish anarchism." Mike Davis, author of *Planet of Slums* AK Press has commissioned an elegant, new and unabridged translation of the definitive biography of Spanish revolutionary and military strategist, Buenaventura Durruti. But Abel Paz, who fought alongside Durruti in the Spanish Civil War, has given us much more than an account of a single man's life. Durruti in the Spanish Revolution is as much a biography of a nation and of a tumultuous historical era. Paz seamlessly weaves intimate biographical details of Durruti's life—his progression from factory worker and father to bank robber, political exile and, eventually, revolutionary leader—with extensive historical background, behind-the-scenes governmental intrigue, and blow-by-blow accounts of major battles and urban guerrilla warfare. An amazing and exhaustive study of an incredible man and his life-long fight against fascism in both its capitalist and Stalinist forms. Includes Jose Luis Gutierrez Molina's introduction about Abel Paz's life and the historiography of the Spanish Civil War. Abel Paz was born in 1921. At 15, he joined the Durruti Column and fought in the Spanish Revolution. After the revolution's defeat, he was active as a guerilla fighter against the Franco regime and spent eleven years in prison. He lives in Barcelona, Spain. Chuck Morse founded the Institute for Anarchist Studies, co-edited *Perspectives on Anarchist Theory*, and founded and edited *The New Formulation: An Anti-Authoritarian Review of Books*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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Customer Reviews

Abel Paz's biography of Buenaventura Durruti is probably the best work ever written about the life of the famous Spanish anarcho-syndicalist militant. And I say this because I have read a few. One possible problem will be for people who already have a good understanding of Spanish culture, history and politics and especially the Spanish Civil War period already. I say this because Paz diverts from Durruti's life story often with lengthy digressions about the politics and history of Spain and Europe during this period, (1880-1938), and which some might find tedious or overly detailed, especially if they already are familiar with them. However, the newbie reader will find these facts and insights invaluable for understanding the context of Durruti's life, actions, and politics, if they are not. It is very clear that Paz greatly admires Durruti and so he puts everything he does in the very best possible light, and which is okay, since there doesn't seem to be that many "bad" (as in evil) things that Durruti did. And even when Durruti did make errors in judgment or mistakes, unlike many of his contemporaries in the anti-Fascist movement, that's all they amounted to; errors and mistakes. Durruti never initiated purges, massacres, torture, or resorted to terrorism, as some others on the Republican side did. Durruti was a true militant however, (and a hard-core one at that), who committed robberies to obtain funds, attempted to assassinate the Spanish monarch Alfonso XIII, and was arrested and imprisoned both in Spain and France for possession of arms and explosives. Durruti's time in prison never broke him either, no matter how badly his conditions of confinement were.

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