



Dogs of God: Columbus, the Inquisition, and the Defeat of the Moors

By James Reston Jr.

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From the acclaimed author of *Warriors of God* comes a riveting account of the pivotal events of 1492, when towering political ambitions, horrific religious excesses, and a drive toward international conquest changed the world forever. James Reston, Jr., brings to life the epic story of Spain's effort to consolidate its own burgeoning power by throwing off the yoke of the Vatican. By waging war on the remaining Moors in Granada and unleashing the Inquisitor Torquemada on Spain's Jewish and *converso* population, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella attained enough power and wealth to fund Columbus' expedition to America and to chart a Spanish destiny separate from that of Italy. With rich characterizations of the central players, this engrossing narrative captures all the political and religious ferment of this crucial moment on the eve of the discovery of the New World.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Veteran journalist and author Reston brings to life three key elements of Spanish history that intertwined in 1492. Columbus takes a back seat to the Inquisition and the defeat of Islamic Granada, but plays a key role in demonstrating their relationship to the rise of empire and the modern state. Reston (*Warriors of God; Galileo*) has done tremendous research, though the shadows of his mostly older sources tend to show in stereotypes of the treasure-hungry, Machiavellian Ferdinand and the handsome adventurer Columbus charming Isabella. While he reduces the order of Dominicans to their role as inquisitors, he generally does justice to the complexities of his subject, examining the worlds of Christians, Muslims and Jews with sympathy and irony, and incorporating portraits of several lesser-known figures. The Inquisition emerges from political as much as religious circumstances, and the clerics presented run the gamut from saints to careerists, rabble-rousing preachers and prophets. Parallel civil wars in Christian and Muslim Spain and images of mobs on both sides suggest the interplay of popular feeling, government policy and theological debate. Despite minor disappointments in the details, this is a highly entertaining, thoughtful and complex narrative that both introduces and analyzes a greatly misunderstood era.

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From [Booklist](#)

Identifying the year 1492 as one of the most pivotal in American and Spanish history, in Jewish and Arab history, and in world and Catholic Church history, Reston proceeds to delineate the reasons why. During the course of one year, Columbus set sail for America, the final date was set for the expulsion of all Jews from the Iberian Peninsula, and the Moors suffered their final defeat at the hands of the Spaniards. Weaving these seemingly disparate events together, he is able to paint a portrait of an individual society and an entire world poised on the brink of monumental change. As all the major and some of the minor characters involved in the Columbian Expedition, the Inquisition, and the assault on the Moors are introduced, the reader gains a sense of the actions, personalities, politics, science, religious beliefs, and ambitions that converged and consequently were responsible for ushering in a seminal epoch in history. This scholarly subject is made less intimidating by the author's digestible narrative style. *Margaret Flanagan*

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Review

“Engaging and highly readable. . . . The events in *Dogs of God* may have taken place more than 500 years ago, but there are times when they seem chillingly, worryingly familiar.”—*The Washington Post Book World* “Thrilling, even cinematic. . . . Presents one relevant and ominous object lesson in showing a domino effect at work, the process by which one aggressive initiative led to another until people of God behaved like satanic beasts in God's name.”—*The Washington Times* “Engaging, richly detailed and well-researched. . . . An important book.”—*The Albany Times-Union* “Energetic... Reston brings alive the conflict between Catholic and Muslim and how the outcome still resonates today.”—*USA Today*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robin Curtin:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important usually. The book Dogs of God: Columbus, the Inquisition, and the Defeat of the Moors seemed to be making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The publication Dogs of God: Columbus, the Inquisition, and the Defeat of the Moors is not only giving you much more new information but also for being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with the book Dogs of God: Columbus, the Inquisition, and the Defeat of the Moors. You never truly feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

Donald Sams:

Exactly why? Because this Dogs of God: Columbus, the Inquisition, and the Defeat of the Moors is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will shock you with the secret that inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book include such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Susan Garrard:

Is it you who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Dogs of God: Columbus, the Inquisition, and the Defeat of the Moors can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your free time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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