

# Faber, Sebastiaan. Exhuming Franco: Spain's second transition.

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Faber, Sebastiaan. Exhuming Franco: Spain's second transition. Vanderbilt, 2021. 200p bibl index ISBN 9780826501738 pbk, \$14.95; ISBN 9780826501745 ebook, contact publisher for price

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This genial volume builds on the continuing engagement of an important scholar with the Spanish Civil War and Spain's global context. Faber (Oberlin College) captures varied discourses of the present surrounding the continuing impact of Francoism (loosely defined by conservatism, corruption, and Catholicism) in a Spain that celebrated its transition to democracy almost 50 years ago. In 2015 and 2019-20, Faber posed questions to figures of the Spanish intelligentsia, especially weighted toward leftist journalists, activists, and academics (with surprisingly scant participation by women or those who speak to LGBTQ+ issues). The dialogues transcribed here focus on elements such as the conservative judiciary, the power of the church, the media, and other structures to critically rethink and reteach history. To his credit, Faber provides both differing opinions and pushback to his own questions among these thoughtful responses. Still, the colloquy lacks active conservative voices who reinterpret and defend the Francoist legacy, and those disfranchised by class, region, or ethnicity--including Spain's many immigrants. American readers, however familiar with Spain, will also find disturbing resonances between Spain's apparently fragile memory and reconstructed democracy and global questions of history and democracy that have come home with terrifying consequences. Summing Up: \*\* Recommended. General readers through faculty.--G. W. McDonogh, Bryn Mawr College

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