Preface

This work has been prepared in an attempt to meet the need for a reasonably full and up-to-date comprehensive history of Spain and Portugal. It has been conceived both for use as a textbook in courses on Spanish history and as an interpretive account for other readers. It is based on the most recent scholarly literature in the field, and brief bibliographies for each chapter are appended. This account deals with political and institutional history and with social and economic history, but does not attempt to treat literary and art history in any detail, for these are the only aspects of Hispanic affairs that are intensively studied outside the peninsula, while it is to remedy deficiencies in the treatment of the ordinary areas of Spanish and Portuguese history that the work was undertaken. Similarly, it does not deal in detail with the rise of the Spanish and Portuguese empires overseas, about which there is an abundant literature, particularly with regard to Spanish America.

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