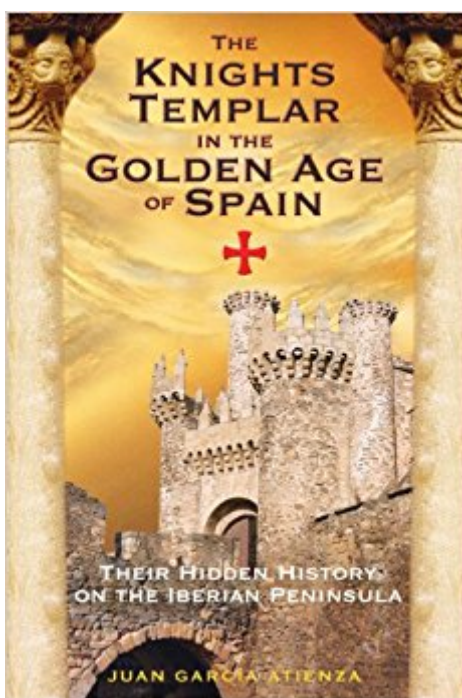


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# The Knights Templar In The Golden Age Of Spain: Their Hidden History On The Iberian Peninsula



## 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 Castile 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

"A must read for any serious Templar or Templar-Masonic scholar. Atienza is the author of over 30 books on the Middle Ages and one of the leading Spanish authorities on the Templars and related mystery traditions." (Mark Stavish, Institute for Hermetic Studies, June 2006)"[This book] is highly recommended to those who wish to understand more about the Knights Templar and their activities outside France and the Holy Land." (Templar History Magazine, Nov 2006)". . . a masterpiece of metahistory! . . . in this masterful account of a serious historian aware of the esoteric dimensions in history. Highly recommended!" (The Cauldron Brasil, Feb 2007)"Now, renowned Templar scholar and historian Juan Garcia Atienza has written the definitive book on the Templar's activities in the Iberian Peninsula, exploring the crucial role the Templars played in the Reconquista, the pivotal event that drove the Moors from Spain." (Michael Lohr, Mysteries Magazine, Issue 20, Spring 2008)" . . . one of the best Templar books available today. An excellent and erudite read, with a central focus on Templar history in Spain, you will not find a better tome than this one." (Michael Lohr, Renaissance Magazine, Vol. 12, No. 3, Issue 55)

**HISTORY / SECRET SOCIETIES**The rise and fall of the Templar order constitutes a 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, the Order's contribution to events on the Iberian Peninsula has until now remained obscure and unexplored. In *The Knights Templar in the Golden Age of Spain*, renowned Templar scholar Juan Garcia Atienza reveals 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 Castile 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 on the Iberian Peninsula. He also explores the Order's suppression in Spain and how it survived in Portugal by simply changing its name. Above all, Atienza unveils the important role of the Templars 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 the Templars' own ambitions. **JUAN GARCÍA ATIENZA** is the author of more than thirty books examining various enigmas of the Middle Ages and is considered one of the leading Spanish experts on the Templars and the mystery traditions. He lives in Spain.

I really wanted to like this book. A serious study of the Templars in Spain is much-needed. But unfortunately this book is a disaster in every way possible. Rarely have I read anything this chaotic and rambling and lifeless. Of the dozens of people mentioned in this catastrophe of a book, not a single one is brought to life in any manner. The book has no semblance of a structure. It reads like a sloppy rough draft of rambling thoughts on the subject by a confused and overwhelmed author who has not the slightest clue of how to structure a book of history. This is a disgrace. Waste of money and time. Great cover, great subject matter but a uniquely horrible author to make a mockery of himself and the subject at hand. I read over 130 pages of this incoherent, rambling, scatter-brained book and then flung it across the room in sheer frustration. It should receive zero stars. This book is DREADFUL.

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 reader 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. Midway through the text he spends a good deal on James I, a descendant of El Cid, and king of the Catalan-Aragonese and moves into the order created by him, Order of Mercy. From this point he describes the interesting history of the invasion of the Balearic Islands that took place by him explaining his statue prominently displayed in the center of

Palma de Mallorca. This book is full of material I have not been previously exposed to regarding the Knights Templar Iberian history. I very much enjoyed reading this book and recommend it to the student and scholar alike.

This was great and superbly researched, but man, it was dense with a thousand names of bishops and cardinals and abbeys and political intrigue.

I have read many books about the Knights Templar. Yet, I was surprised when I read this book about their history in Spain. Other books I have read focus on other countries with no mention of Spain. It expanded my knowledge of the Knights Templar, knowledge that had been repressed for centuries. To my surprise, I discovered links to some of my ancestors. I had suspected it for a while as some of my geneology research seemed to point to it. Very interesting. I give it 4 stars only because I have read others that are less tedious to read, but anyone truly interested in the Knights Templars needs to read it.

Templar lore is usually baloney. This is real history, closely reasoned and though speculative, it is credible. I wish I could read Spanish well enough to read the author's works in detail.

I'm not one to enjoy speculation or the strange theories authors come up with to explain things. So, if you're like me, this book wasn't worthy of note. However, because the book does go into Templar interests, castles, and activities in Spain, it's worth looking into.

A little europhobic for me with it's skewed somewhat historical retelling of the Templars. But sourced from historical Spanish records?, O.K.(lol). A history channel alumni wrote this bull.

There has never been another organization in history that has cast such a mysterious shadow over the human psyche than the Knights Templar. Now, renowned Templar scholar and historian Juan Garcia Atienza has written the definitive book on the Templar's activities in the Iberian Peninsula, exploring the crucial role the Templars played in the Reconquista, the pivotal event that drove the Moors from Spain. Atienza also discusses the dramatic influence the Templars had in the kingdoms of Castile and Navarre, as well as the territories of Catalonia and Aragon. "Atienza investigates the mysterious connection between the Templars and many aspects of the medieval world. Did the Templars learn great secrets while on the throne of Jerusalem? What connection did they have with

the Kings of Portugal and why did they associate themselves with the heretical Cathar order? What did the Templars have to do with the creation of the troubadour movement of Spain? Why were they really excommunicated from the Catholic Church and where did they hide their fabled treasure? The Knights Templar in the Golden Age of Spain attempts to answer all these puzzling questions."With the success of Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code, the market has been flooded with books about the Templars, some good, some terrible. Fortunately, The Knights Templar in the Golden Age of Spain is one of the best Templar books available today on Templar history in Spain.--Michael

LohrMysteries Magazine's issue #20

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