

• 域外风情丛书 •



# 西班牙 风情录

俞耀生 编著

英汉对照



东方出版中心

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## 说 明

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## 内 容 提 要

本书是《域外风情》丛书系列(第2辑)中的一种,采用英汉对照形式编著而成,可供具有中等英语程度的读者自学英语之用。全书由40多篇短文组成,较广泛地介绍了西班牙的地理、气候、自然风光、语言、民族、历史、政体、经济、教育、文学、艺术、体育、娱乐、生活习俗和日常生活等。全书内容丰富多采,文字生动流畅,既有知识性,又具趣味性,是较理想的自学英语辅助读物,从中也可领略西班牙风情的独特魅力。

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## **1. SPAIN—A Mountainous, Ancient Country In Southwestern Europe**

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Spain is one of the ancient countries in Europe and together with her close neighbour Portugal, occupies Iberian peninsula — a vast block of land in the extreme south-west corner of Europe. A high range of mountains separates Spain from the rest of Europe, but Spain is separated from Africa by a narrow channel of water only 13.5 kms wide. Including the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands, Spain covers 504,782 square kms.

Spain is a land of mountains and plateaus. It is one of the more mountainous countries of Europe. Most of its people are crowded into narrow strips of coastal lowland along the Bay of Biscay to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south and east.

Rising abruptly from the ribbons of lowlands are great ranges of mountains that encircle the country like a ring. Thrusting up within this ring is vast plateau, the Meseta, which averages about 2,200 feet in altitude, is ribbed with mountains and hills.

The chief mountains of Spain are the giant Pyrenees in the north, with their craggy line of summits towering to more than 10,000 feet, cutting Spain off from France and the rest of Europe. In the northwest rise the Cantabrian Mountains, where peaks reach more than 8,000 feet. Ranges ridging the Meseta are the Sierra de Guadarrama, the Sierra de Gredos, and Sierra Guadalupe. In Spanish *Sierra* means *saw*, and the name is frequently given to a mountain range because of its saw-toothed crest line. In the south the Sierra Nevada plunges from Mulhacen, at 11,417 feet, down to the coastal fringe of the Mediterranean. Between these various ranges loom abrupt hills, dusty brown highlands, and sharp valleys. Like Africa, Spain has a long coast line but it is too regular for many good harbours.

### **Only one river is suitable for shipping**

Spain has five principal rivers: the Ebro, Duero, Tagus, Guadiana, and Guadalquivir. Only the Ebro, in the north, and the Guadalquivir, in the south, are wholly inside Spain. The Duero, in the northwest, and the Tagus, in central Spain, flow through Portugal to empty into the Atlantic Ocean. The Guadiana sprawls over the southern part of the Meseta, then flows south to drain into the Gulf of Cadiz.

Many Spanish rivers have *Guad* in their name,

which means a stream that is dry for much of the year. In Spain that time of year is the summer.

Spanish rivers have little value for transportation. The mouths of the Tagus and Duero, which are in Portugal, provide good harbours; but of the wholly Spanish rivers only the Guadalquivir is navigable for a considerable distance from the sea. Ships sail the Guadalquivir as far as Seville. The twisting gorge of the Ebro makes it useless for navigation. The valleys of other rivers also wind in deep, rocky clefts as they cut across the Meseta.

Spain has only two really large lakes, and they are actually lagoons of the Mediterranean in the east coast provinces of Valencia and Murcia. Small alpine lakes dot the mountains, and little salt lakes break the brown monotony of the steppe regions of the Meseta.

### **Water is scarce in most parts**

In most parts of Spain water is very scarce, and because of this it is a precious commodity that people never waste. Door-to-door water-sellers are still a common sight in poor areas where there is no mains water, and boys on mules with racks of earthenware jugs full of drinking water often accompany agricultural workers to the fields at harvest time. In areas with irrigation schemes the distribution of water is very strictly controlled, and people are only allowed to water their land at cer-

tain times of the week.

It does sometimes rain on the Spanish Meseta, and the lyric 'The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain' is not completely incorrect. The problem is that on the Meseta the rain comes down in sudden downpours, and the water quickly evaporates, or rushes away along the rivers in torrents. Very little water is absorbed by the land, and over the centuries the land has gradually become poorer and poorer. The situation has not been helped by the fact that the forests that used to cover the Meseta have now almost completely disappeared, and the topsoil is easily washed away by the heavy winter rains.

In the 20th century people realized that it might be possible to interfere with the course of nature, and make parts of the Meseta into prosperous agricultural areas. The way to do this was by harnessing the water supply by building huge reservoirs, and by directing the water back onto the Meseta, instead of letting it flow away to the sea. Reservoirs have three very great advantages: they can store water until it is needed, they enable the water supply to be regulated so that water is never wasted, and they can supply hydro-electric power. Indeed, the many industries that have now grown up around Madrid could not exist were it not for the electricity generated by the water from the reservoirs on the upper part of the river Tagus.

Barcelona, too, depends largely on hydro-electric schemes in the Pyrenees for its power.

Water from the reservoirs has also been used for irrigation, and several new, fertile areas have been created on the Meseta; regions which were once nothing but bare, rocky wasteland are now bursting with vegetation and healthy crops. Whole new villages have had to be built to house the agricultural workers needed to farm the newly cultivated land. Several new crops have been grown on the Meseta for the first time, including cotton, rice, maize, soya beans and tobacco.

One of the most successful new schemes is the 'Badajoz Plan', which uses the water from the Cijara dam for extensive irrigation. Another ambitious scheme plans to pump water from the Bolarque reservoir on the upper part of the river Guadiana to the arid regions of southeast Spain.

### **In most parts climate is harsh**

Spain has a variety of climate; in most parts the climate is extremely harsh. Up on the Meseta in the centre of the country the winters are long and cold, with icy winds blowing down from the mountains, and occasional downpours or snowfalls. In the summer months the temperature shoots right up and the sun beats down from a blue, cloudless sky.

Northern and northwestern Spain have a ma-

rine west coast type of climate. The region has no dry season, and there are no extremes of temperature. The winds blow in from the Atlantic, bringing plenty of rain in both summer and winter. Sea breezes keep winter temperatures from becoming very cold and summer temperatures from growing very hot. Here the mountains are clothed in forests, and the vegetation is lush and green, and often thick mists swirl in from the sea.

In southern Spain and along the Mediterranean coast the winters are milder and shorter but the summers are equally scorching. These districts have a Mediterranean, or dry subtropical, climate. This climate is transitional between the marine west coast type to the north and the desert climate to the south. During the winter, when the westerly wind belt shifts toward the equator, moisture is carried in from the Atlantic to almost all parts of Spain. During the summer, when the rain-bearing winds shift farther to the north, little moisture is carried onshore to the southern and eastern parts of the country. This pronounced summer drought is typical of all the lands bordering the Mediterranean Sea, hence the name of the climate. Only the most drought-resistant plants grow in these regions, because of the absence of moisture in warmest season of the year.

The native vegetation over much of Spain consists of low, scrubby trees. Short, wiry steppe

grasses grow in the driest parts of the Meseta. The general lack of water during the summer is one of the major problems in all regions with Mediterranean climate.

## 2. The People of Spain

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### Origins

Spaniards of today are the descendants of a number of different peoples and the heirs of many different cultures. As early as 3000 B. C. much of Spain was inhabited by a people known as Iberians — a group from whom the entire peninsula takes its names. The Iberians appear to have been related to the Berbers of North Africa and may have come from the south across the Strait of Gibraltar. About 1000 B. C. the Phoenicians, a Mediterranean seafaring people, reached the shores of Spain from the east. It was they who founded Spain's earliest towns, among them Cadiz, Malaga, and Seville.

Within a century or two, Celtic people began moving into Spain from the north. They came across the Pyrenees, giving Spain its first European blood to add to its North African and Middle Eastern heritage. About the 6th century B. C. other seafaring people arrived from the east. This time it was the Greeks who planted colonies along



the Mediterranean coast. Almost at the same time, a new wave of people arrived from North Africa and established trading towns. They named their chief town, which has since become the city of Cartagena, for their original home in Carthage. Carthago Nova (New Carthage), as it was called, was the capital of their new dominion. It was the Carthaginians who first called the country Hispania (Spain).

Northward across the Mediterranean was Carthage's bitter rival, the city of Rome. Long wars were fought between the two cities all around the Mediterranean basin. Some of the fiercest struggles took place in Spain, which the Romans finally won from Carthage about 200 B. C. For the next 600 years Spain was a province of the Roman Empire. From Rome, Spain received not only the great aqueducts, bridges, roads, and fortresses that still can be seen in the countryside but also its language and its religion.

By the year A. D. 409 the power of Rome had been so greatly weakened that tribes of Germanic peoples were able to pour into Spain from the north. They swept across the country, and some of them continued right on into North Africa. The most powerful of these tribes were the Visigoths, who made their capital at Toledo about 456.

The final chapter in the story of the origins of the Spanish people began in 711. In that year the