

FREEMASONRY IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

Introduction

Although occupied by Roman, Visigoth and Muslim-Arab armies until the end of the 15th century, Spain rapidly grew to be the most powerful empire in the world with colonies throughout the Americas and the Pacific. The arts in Spain flourished under El Greco, Miguel de Cervantes, the author of “*Don Quixote de la Mancha*” and Spain's most prolific playwright, Lope de Vega.

Spain's decline under the Habsburgs and due to its ruinous ventures into Europe was as dramatic. The Napoleonic wars and problems with royal succession continued this decline and resulted in the Spanish Civil War and a dictatorship until recent times, when Royalty was re-established.

Spain's constant and brutal suppression of Muslims might be understood from its history of warfare with the Moors. Its intermittent and equally brutal suppression of Jews and Freemasons is less understandable except in terms of its fervent relationship with the Church in Rome and the way in which its long-lived feudal system developed.

History of Spain



Humans entered the Iberian Peninsula about 32,000 years ago. Different regimes occupied the area, including the Roman Empire, the Visigoths and the Arabs.

The Roman Empire controlled much of Spain between 181 BC and 415 AD. The peninsula's economy expanded under Roman tutelage. Hispania supplied Rome with food, olive oil, wine and metal. The emperors Trajan, Hadrian, Theodosius I, the philosopher Seneca and the poets Martial, Quintilian and Lucan were born in Spain. Rome also brought the kernel of today's Spanish legal system. The Romanized Visigoths entered Hispania in 415. After the conversion of their monarchy to Roman Catholicism, the

Visigothic Kingdom eventually encompassed a great part of the Iberian Peninsula.

The Arab Islamic conquest dominated most of North Africa by 640 AD. In 711 an Islamic Arab and Berber raiding party led by Tariq ibn-Ziyad, was sent to Iberia and by 718 the Muslims dominated most of the Iberian Peninsula. The Arabs introduced a civilization superior to anything Spain had ever known. Cordoba alone had seven hundred mosques, sixty thousand palaces and seventy libraries, including one with half a million manuscripts and a staff of researchers and bookbinders¹.

Meanwhile, a slow but steady migration of Christian subjects to the northern kingdoms in Christian Hispania was slowly increasing the latter's power and medieval Spain was the scene of almost constant warfare between Muslims and Christians. Small parts of the Iberian Peninsula were captured from the Moors at any one time. These small parts were formed into individual Christian kingdoms and principalities and the merchants in the towns of the interior of Spain, grew in wealth and position and this led to a tradition of independence from the Spanish throne.

Apart from the political unification and Christianizing of Spain, another lasting effect of this protracted process was the forging of a very close community of interest between the monarchy, the nobility and the Church.

¹ “*The Arabs – Journeys beyond the Mirage*” David Lamb ISBN 1-4000-3041-2

The feudal system that resulted created the social and political polarization which developed into the Spanish Civil War in which Freemasonry found itself embroiled. The biggest beneficiary was the Church, which moved in to the conquered lands to reap the harvest of souls, as well as conquered property so that it became one of the greatest landowners in Spain².

The Kingdom of Spain was created in 1492 with the unification of the Kingdom of Castile and the Kingdom of Aragon. The first voyage of Christopher Columbus to the New World took place that same year, beginning the development of the Spanish Empire. The Inquisition was established and Jews and Muslims who refused to convert were expelled from the country. For the next three centuries Spain was the most important colonial power in the world. It was the most powerful state in Europe and the foremost global power during the 16th century. Spanish literature and fine arts, scholarship and philosophy flourished during this time. Spain established a vast empire in the Americas, stretching from California to Patagonia, and colonies in the western Pacific.

Financed in part by the riches pouring in from its colonies, Spain became embroiled in the religiously charged wars and intrigues of Europe, including, for example, obtaining and losing possessions in today's Netherlands, Italy, France, and Germany, and engaging in wars with France, England, Sweden, and the Ottomans in the Mediterranean and northern Africa. Spain's European wars, however, led to economic damage, and the latter part of the 17th century saw a gradual decline of power under an increasingly neglectful and inept Habsburg regime and the loss of Portugal. The decline culminated in the War of Spanish Succession, which ended with the relegation of Spain from the position of a leading western power, to that of a secondary one, although it remained the leading colonial power. An indication of the decline of the Spanish Empire during mainly the 19th Century is shown in the following Table.

Possession	Year Lost	Possession	Year Lost
Portugal	1621	Guam	1898
Florida	1819	Puerto Rica	1898
Mexico	1821	Cuba	1898
Peru	1824	Pacific Islands	1899
Bolivia	1825	Guinea	1968
Chile	1826	Morocco	1969
Philippines	1898	Western Sahara	1975

With the onset of the religious reformation, Spain bolted the door shut to Protestantism at the Pyrenees and its armies became a bulwark of defence of the Catholic Church.

The 18th century saw a new dynasty, the Bourbons, which directed considerable efforts towards the renewal of state institutions, with some success, finishing in a successful involvement in the American War of Independence.

However, as the century ended, a reaction set in with the accession of a new monarch. The end of the eighteenth and the start of the 19th centuries saw turmoil unleashed throughout Europe by the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars, which finally led to a French occupation of much of the continent, including Spain. This triggered a successful but devastating war of independence that shattered the country and created an opening for what would ultimately be the successful independence of Spain's mainland American colonies, a brief war with the United States and the loss of the remaining old colonies by the end of the century. Following a period of growing political instability in the early 20th century, in 1936 Spain was plunged into a bloody civil war, ending in a nationalist dictatorship, led by Francisco Franco which controlled the Spanish government until 1975.

The Civil War was particularly bloody. Marxist and socialist militias were a law unto themselves and took revenge on those whom they saw to be the enemy.

²“The history and the persecutions of Spanish Freemasonry”.by V.W.Bro. Martin I.McGregor

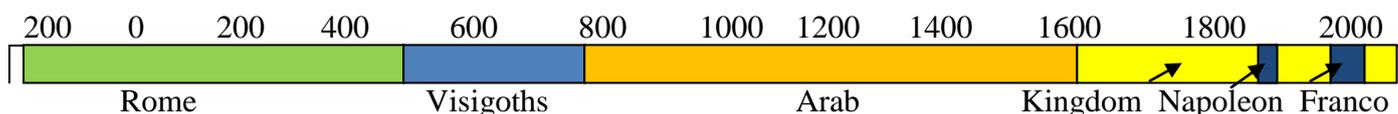
The Catholic Church was a conspicuous target with the murder of 13 bishops, 4,184 priests, 2,365 members of religious orders and 283 nuns, some burned to death in their churches with reports of crucifixions, rapes, castrations and disembowelment.

In the Nationalist zone the army imposed strict martial law and carried out a program of organized terror designed to cow the population into docility and to eliminate all communists, anarchists, socialists and Freemasons. In Spanish Morocco all Freemasons who were found were shot, likewise in Cordoba and in Cadiz Freemasons were tortured and killed. In Granada all those whose names were on Masonic records were forced to dig their own graves and then shot whilst standing in them. In Malaga 80 Freemasons were garrotted to death.

Spain was officially neutral during World War II, although many Spanish volunteers fought on both sides. The post-war decades were relatively stable and the country experienced rapid economic growth in the 1960s and early 1970s.

The death of Franco in 1975 resulted in the return of the Bourbon monarchy headed by Prince Juan Carlos. While tensions remain with Muslim immigrants and in the Basque region, modern Spain has seen the development of a robust, modern democracy as a constitutional monarchy with popular King Juan Carlos, one of the fastest-growing standards of living in Europe and entry into the European Community.

Timeline of Spanish Territorial Possession



History of Portugal

The history of Portugal, a European and an Atlantic nation, dates back to the Early Middle Ages. In the 15th and 16th centuries, it ascended to the status of a world power as it built up a vast empire including possessions in South America, Africa, Asia and Australasia.



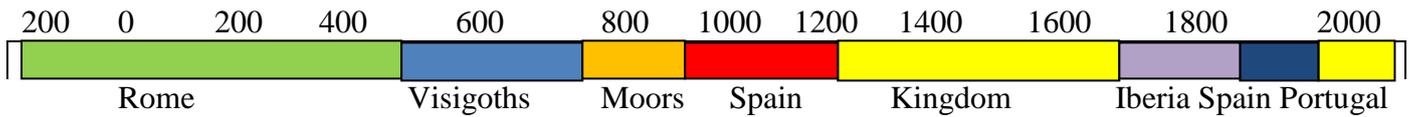
In the next two centuries, Portugal gradually lost much of its wealth and status as the Dutch, English and French took an increasing share of the spice and slave trades, by surrounding or conquering the widely-scattered Portuguese trading posts and territories, leaving it with ever fewer resources to defend its overseas interests. Signs of military decline began with two disastrous battles: the Battle of Alcácer Quibir in Morocco in 1578 and Spain's abortive attempt to conquer England in 1588 as Portugal was then in a dynastic union with Spain and contributed ships to the Spanish invasion fleet. By 1621 Portugal had gained its independence from Spain.

The country was further weakened by the destruction of much of its capital city in a 1755 earthquake, occupation during the Napoleonic Wars and the loss of its largest colony, Brazil, in 1822.

From the middle of the 19th century to the late 1950s, nearly two-million Portuguese left Europe to live in Brazil and the United States. In 1910, there was a revolution that deposed the monarchy; however, the subsequent republic was unable to solve the country's problems. Amid corruption, repression of the church, and the near bankruptcy of the state, a military coup in 1926 installed a dictatorship that remained until another coup took place in 1974. The new government instituted sweeping democratic reforms and granted independence to all of Portugal's African colonies in 1975.

Portugal is a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). It entered the European Union in 1986.

Timeline of Portugal's Territorial Possession



Freemasonry in Spain

Spain and Portugal are doubtless the two European countries whose history of Freemasonry was the most dramatic and suffered the most periods of brutal anti-Masonic repression. The omnipresence of the Roman Catholic Church, fierce adversary of Freemasonry until the end of the twentieth century, and its broad implication in political affairs in these countries, was certainly instrumental.

The first Spanish Lodge was founded in 1728 in Madrid, by the **Duke of Wharton**, past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, exiled because of his loyalty to the Stuart cause. It was highly successful and the first overseas Lodge to be warranted by GLE. Saint John of Jerusalem Lodge, Number 51, was chartered at Gibraltar in 1729, and two years later **Capt. James Cummerford** was appointed Provincial Grand Master GLE for Andalusia.

The Church first prohibited its members from being Freemasons since 1738. (It should be noted that the current position of the Catholic Church is that the philosophy of French Freemasonry - the Grand Orient of France - is antithetical to Christian doctrine and that it is at many times and places anti-clerical in intent).

In consequence in 1741 Philip V issued a Royal Ordinance against the Freemasons, and many were arrested and sent to the galleys. The members of the Lodge at Madrid were especially treated by the Inquisition with great severity. All the members were arrested, and eight of them sent to the galleys.

In 1751, Ferdinand VI, instigated by the Inquisitor Joseph Torrubia, published a Decree forbidding the assemblies of Freemasons, and declaring that all violators of it should be treated as persons guilty of high treason. In that year, Pope Benedict XIV had renewed the Bull of Clement XII. In 1793, the Cardinal Vicar caused a Decree of death to be promulgated against all Freemasons.

Notwithstanding these persecutions of the Church and the State, Freemasonry continued to be cultivated in Spain but the meetings of the Lodges were held with great caution and secrecy. In 1809 a Grand Orient of Spain was actually founded at Madrid in the dungeons of the Inquisition.

The reign of **Joseph Bonaparte** was, however, very beneficial for Spanish Freemasonry. **Joseph** himself had been Grand Master of the French Grand Orient since 1806 having been made a Freemason at the Tuilleries in 1805. The Church of Rome had less sway.

Freemasonry continued to be practiced openly in the country following the Revolution of 1868 and the deposition of Queen Isabella II. The first of the Grand Lodges to be established was the United Grand Orient of Andalusia with 83 lodges throughout Spain and including 3 in the Balearic Islands, 13 in Catalonia, 3 in Valencia, 1 in Murcia and 10 in Andalusia. Then the Grand Orient of Spain was created, having 496 lodges including 5 in the Balearic Islands, 47 in Catalonia, 42 in the Valencia region, 21 in Cartagena-Murcia and 39 in Andalusia Mediterranean.

This was short-lived however and the restoration of the Bourbons in 1874 brought about further suppression. The Unification of Italy, completed in 1861 and spearheaded by the Freemasons **Giuseppe Mazzini** and **Giuseppe Garibaldi**, which saw the loss to the Vatican of the Papal States, could not have endeared the Freemasons to the Roman Church.

Under the Spanish dictator, *Miguel Primo de Rivera*, Freemasonry was again prohibited. In 1928, one of the two Grand Lodges in Spain was closed and approximately two-hundred masons, most notably the Grand Master of the Grand Orient, were imprisoned for allegedly plotting against the government.

Francisco Franco outlawed and viciously prosecuted the Craft. Few towns escaped the carnage as Freemasons in Lugo, Zamora, Cadiz and Granada were brutally rounded up and shot, and in Seville, all members of several lodges were butchered. The slightest suspicion of being a Mason was often enough to earn a place in a firing squad, and the blood-letting was so fierce that, reportedly, some Masons were even hurled into working engines of steam trains. By 1937, according to the annual Masonic assembly held in Madrid, all Masons that had not escaped from the areas under nationalist control had been murdered. It is said that during Spain's *Civil War* some 10,000 Freemasons lost their lives.

The ban was lifted and Masonic activity was resumed once democracy returned to Spain with the death of *Francisco Franco*. The Law for the Repression of Freemasonry and Communism was not abrogated until 1963.

The Grand Lodge of Spain, which is recognized by UGLE, is one of several Masonic bodies claiming jurisdiction over lodges in Spain. It currently consists of 149 lodges located throughout that country. The Grand Lodge of Spain was created on November 6th, 1982, in Madrid. Its current headquarters are in Barcelona and it is organized in six Masonic Provinces, each one with its own Provincial Grand Lodge:-

- Provincial Grand Lodge of Andalucía
- Provincial Grand Lodge of Baleares
- Provincial Grand Lodge of Canarias
- Provincial Grand Lodge of Castilla
- Provincial Grand Lodge of Cataluña
- Provincial Grand Lodge of Valencia

Each has Lodges in different towns and work in a variety of languages. For instance, in the Illes Balears, there are a total of nine lodges, five of which in Mallorca, three in Ibiza and one in Menorca, counting some 400 members amongst them. Of the Mallorcan lodges, two work in English, one in Castellano and Catalan, one in Castellano and one in German. The two English speaking lodges in Mallorca are *Ramon Llull Lodge No 9* and *Logia Pythagoras No 70*

Nowadays there are several independent Masonic Bodies in Spain and it is almost impossible to trace their history and their present status. The Grand Orient of Spain split into 5 Grand Lodges for Northeastern Spain, the Levant, and North Western, Middle and Central Spain.

The Grand Orient of Spain also formed Grand Lodge of Porto Rico, and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines but these should not be confused with the properly authorized Bodies already at work in these countries. The Grand Orient of Spain has not respected jurisdictional boundaries and even before the above ambitious undertaking, had attempted a Regional Grand Lodge of North America, which was promptly denounced and vigorously condemned by the regular Grand Lodges of the United States.

Freemasonry in Portugal

The first known Portuguese Freemasons were **John Coustos** and two other members of his Lodge which had been established in 1735 from England. He was arrested by the Inquisition and questioned under torture in the 1740s. **Coustos** wrote a book detailing his sufferings under the inquisition. In 1811, Portugal there were 13 Lodges, often founded in the wake of the French or English forces headed by the Freemasons Generals **Junot**, **Soult** and **Wellington** but conditions deteriorated with the end of the Napoleonic era. In Portugal it was not until 1833, with the return of Queen Maria II that the situation improved somewhat.

Today there are several Masonic Jurisdictions in Portugal.

The "Grand Orient of Lusitania", founded in 1802, is the oldest Masonic Obedience in Portugal. It is recognized by the Grand Orient de France. It works the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and of the French Rite. Its headquarters are situated in Lisbon.

The "Regular Grand Lodge of Portugal" was created under a warrant from the Grande Loge Nationale Française in 1991.

The Legal Grand Lodge of Portugal was created in 1996 and is recognized by most Grand Lodges in the Anglo-American stream of Freemasonry as the only Regular Masonic obedience in Portugal.

The “National Grand Lodge of Portugal” is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Some Famous Spanish Freemasons^{3,4}

Philip Wharton, 1st Duke of Wharton (1698–1731), powerful Jacobite politician was one of the few people in English history, to have been raised to a Dukedom whilst still a minor and not closely related to the monarch. He met with James Francis Edward Stuart, the "Old Pretender" in 1688. When he was 19 years old he was created Duke of Wharton in 1718 by George I in the King's effort to solidify his support. He was a Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England and later a member of Lodge “la Matritense” No.7 in Madrid.



Diego Martínez y Barrio (1883–1962) was a Spanish politician during the Second Spanish Republic and Prime Minister of Spain between in late 1933 and was briefly appointed again by Manuel Azaña after the resignation of Santiago Casares Quiroga, in 1936 - three days after the beginning of the Spanish Civil War. From 1936 to 1939 he was President of the Cortes. In 1936, he was interim President of the Second Spanish Republic. He fled the country after Francisco Franco came to power in 1939. He was the Grand Master of the Grande Oriente Español from 1929 to 1934. After the fall of the Republic he went into exile, first to France and then to Mexico where in 1945 he was designated president of the Republic in exile until 1962.

Edmundo William Ros OBE (1910–2011) was a Trinidadian musician, vocalist, arranger and bandleader who made his career in Britain. He directed a highly popular Latin American orchestra, had an extensive recording career and owned one of London's leading nightclubs. He was a member of Sprig of Acacia Lodge in Javea, Spain.

Simón José Antonio de la Santísima Trinidad Bolívar y Palacios Ponte y Blanco (1783–1830), commonly known as **Simón Bolívar**, was a Venezuelan military and political leader. Together with José de San Martín, he played a key role in Hispanic-Spanish America's successful struggle for independence from the Spanish Empire, and is today considered one of the most influential politicians in Latin American history. Following the triumph over the Spanish Monarchy, Bolívar participated in the foundation of the first union of independent nations in Hispanic-America. Bolívar remains regarded in Hispanic-America as a hero, visionary, revolutionary, and liberator. During his lifetime, he led Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia to independence. He was initiated in Cádiz in Spain and was a founding brother of Lodge Order & Liberty No. 2 in Peru in 1824.



Práxedes Mariano Mateo Sagasta y Escolar (1825–1903) was a Spanish politician who served as Prime Minister on eight occasions between 1870 and 1902. A Freemason, he was known for possessing an excellent oratorical talent. He studied Engineering at Madrid in 1848 and served in the Spanish Cortes between 1854 and 1863. After exile in France, he returned to Spain in 1868 after the revolution to take part in the provisional government. As Prime Minister during the Spanish-American War, **Sagasta** agreed to a constitution for both Cuba and Puerto Rico. His political opponents saw this as a betrayal of Spain and blamed him for the country's defeat in the war and the loss of its territories after the Treaty of Paris of 1898.

³ Masonic Encyclopedia

⁴ Wikipedia

Manuel Azaña Díaz (1880–1940) was a Spanish politician. He was the first Prime Minister of the Second Spanish Republic (1931–1933), and later served again as Prime Minister (1936), and then as the second and last President of the Republic (1936–1939). The Spanish Civil War broke out while he was President. With the defeat of the Republic in 1939, he fled to France, resigned his office, and died in exile.



Emilio Mola y Vidal, 1st Duke of Mola, Grandee of Spain (1887–1937) was a Spanish Nationalist commander during the Spanish Civil War. He is best known for having coined the term "fifth column".

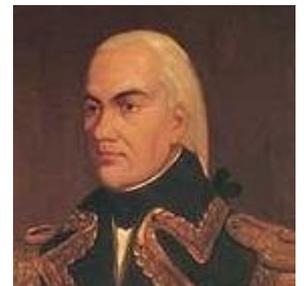
General Jose Miaja Menant (1878-1958) was a Spanish military officer, who played a decisive role in the defense of Madrid in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War. He fought until the end of the war, after which he was forced into exile.



Don Pedro Pablo Abarca de Bolea y Jiménez de Urrea, 10th Count of Aranda (1718–1798) was a Spanish statesman and diplomat. He was ambassador to Portugal and Director General of Artillery. He also served as ambassador to Poland and Captain General of Valencia and Castile. He enjoyed the personal confidence of the king and his power was similar to a prime minister's. He promoted many enlightened reforms. In 1792, he was appointed Prime minister.

General Miguel Cabanellas Ferrer (1872–1938) was also a Spanish Army officer during the Spanish Civil War. He was envoy to the island of Menorca as military governor. In 1936 he was head of 5th Organic division based in Zaragoza, where he declared his support for the Nationalists. Due to his seniority, he was president of the proclaimed Francisco Franco head of government and Generalissimo - though **Cabanellas** was the only one who dissented to this choice. He was later Chief inspector of the Army until his death.

Sebastián Francisco de Miranda Rodríguez (1750–1816), commonly known as **Francisco de Miranda**, was a Venezuelan revolutionary. Although his own plans for the independence of the Spanish American colonies failed, he is regarded as a forerunner of **Simón Bolívar**, who during the Spanish American wars of independence successfully liberated a vast portion of South America. An idealist, he developed a visionary plan to liberate and unify all of Spanish America but in 1816, died in a Spanish prison. Within fourteen years of his death, however, most of Spanish America was independent.



Teodoro Lopez Serrano, who had been the Grand Secretary of the Grand Orient of Spain, served 7 years imprisonment for his Masonic beliefs following Franco's ban on Spanish Freemasonry. He then had been proactive in the reintroduction of Freemasonry into Spain, joining the reincarnated Lodge Is Matritense, No.7, of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Casteille, which meets in Madrid⁵.



Alejandro Lerroux y García (1864- 1949) was a Spanish politician who was the leader of the Radical Republican Party during the Second Spanish Republic. He served as Prime Minister of Spain three times from 1933 to 1935 and held several cabinet posts as well.

José Giral y Pereira (1879–1962) was a Spanish politician during the Second Spanish Republic and Minister for the Navy. **Jaume Aiguader** (1882-1943) was a physician , politician and writer. He was a Spanish Republican who fought for Catalan nationalism.

Good Demófilo Lozano (1890-1946) was a Spanish jurist who held prestigious chairs of Civil Law at the Universities of Seville and Salamanca. He published several books on civil law and presided over the Supreme Court during the Second Spanish Republic.

⁵ Tom Forsyth, Secretary, Lodge Derwentwater Lodge, No.6375 (E.C.) MQ Magazine

José Victoriano (Carmelo Carlos) González-Pérez (1887–1927), better known as **Juan Gris**, was a Spanish painter and sculptor who lived and worked in France most of his life. His works, which are closely connected to the emergence of an innovative artistic genre—Cubism—are among the movement's most distinctive. He was initiated in Lodge Voltaire in Paris⁶.

Some Famous Portugese Freemasons

Wilhelm, Count of Schaumburg-Lippe-Bückeburg (1724–1777) was a ruler of the County of Schaumburg-Lippe-Bückeburg, and an important military commander in the Seven Years' War. In 1762 he led, at the request of the **Marquis of Pombal** the allied troops in Portugal against the Spanish invasion. William conducted a brilliant defensive campaign of marches and counter-marches, so that the enemy, although three-to-one superior in numbers, were always confronted by defenders in a good position and never dared to risk an all-out attack. At the request of **Pombal, Lippe** stayed on for a year after the peace agreement to rebuild and train the Portuguese Army to a more professional standard.



John Coustos (1703–1746) was an 18th-century Swiss businessman living in England. While traveling on business he founded a Masonic lodge in Lisbon and was arrested by the Portuguese Inquisition. After questioning he was sentenced to the galleys. Three Portuguese Masons were put to death. He was released in 1744 as a result of the intercession of George II of England. After his release and return to England, **Coustos** wrote a book detailing his experiences in the hands of the Inquisition.

Count of Oeiras was a Portuguese title of nobility created by a royal decree, dated from July 15, 1759, by King Joseph I of Portugal, and granted to **Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo**, Head of the Portuguese Government. Later, through another royal decree dated from September 16, 1769, the same king upgraded the title to **Marquess of Pombal**.



Dom **Pedro I** (English: Peter I, (1798–1834), nicknamed "the Liberator", was the founder and first ruler of the Empire of Brazil. As King Dom **Pedro IV**, he reigned briefly over Portugal, where he became known as "the Soldier King". When their country was invaded by French troops in 1808, Pedro I and his family fled to Portugal's largest and wealthiest colony, Brazil. Neglected by his parents, he grew up without restraints. He was elected Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Brazil in 1821⁷.

Don Hypolite Joseph da Costa was the representative of the Grand Lodge of Portugal to UGLE. He suffered persecution but survived to take an active part in the Union of the English Grand Lodges in 1813, holding the appointment of Prov. Grand Master for Rutland⁸

Conclusions

Spanish Freemasonry has been subjected to intermittent but savage persecution for almost 300 years, some of it as vicious as that from the Nazis in Germany in World War II. Part of the reason was that Freemasons has been in the forefront in breaking down Spain's feudal system, often despite being royalists, earning the animosity of the Church which was one of the largest land-owners.

⁶ "Freemasonry – A celebration of the Craft" ISBN 0 9516355 22

⁷ "Freemasonry – A celebration of the Craft" ISBN 0 9516355 22

⁸ "The Pocket History of Freemasonry" Pick and Knight

Some of this persecution was instigated by the Roman Church through the inquisition but after three centuries of hostility, the Catholic Church seems no longer to be opposed to Freemasonry in the Iberian Peninsula and its Cannon Law no longer explicitly excommunicates Freemasons.

In reality Spanish Masons were present in all sectors of politics and the armed forces. At least four of the Generals who supported Franco's rebellion were Masons, although many Lodges contained fervent but generally conservative Republicans. This is perhaps the best illustration that individuals, not Lodges or Grand Lodges, have involved themselves in Spain's turbulent politics.

However the enduring story is the survival of Freemasonry despite extremely harsh persecution.