



I Alone: Bernardo de Galvez and the Taking of Pensacola in 1781: A Spanish Contribution to the Independence of the United Stat

Carmen de Reparaz

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Carmen de Reparaz y Madinaveitia relates one of the most extraordinary events to be recorded throughout Spanish military history: the taking of Panzacola (Pensacola), an impregnable fortified town under British control located on the southern coast of Florida. This stronghold played a key role in the defense strategy employed by the English troops during the American War of Independence. The feat of arms which enabled the Spanish forces to prevail was carried out under the brilliant direction of Bernardo de Galvez, who organized the undertaking, overcame the obstacles which threatened its continuation, and personally led the siege which resulted in the surrender of this formidable bastion. Rather than merely citing the chronological succession of military events which took place on this occasion, the author provides an extremely accurate and original vision of the international context in which the events unfolded, including episodes such as the War of Independence waged by the thirteen American colonies against the British Crown, the military support which the French Court granted the rebels, and the sympathy and aid which the King of Spain gave to the cause defended by George Washington and his followers. This work explains the entire fascinating panorama as well as the evidence that Spain's naval and military power during the eighteenth century was far greater and more effective than many traditional manuals have given it credit for. The Spain of Carlos III was a world power, and in this work one can catch a glimpse of its unmistakable profile. Bernardo de Galvez is one of the least known and most outstanding figures of the eighteenth century. A soldier by vocation, this prudent statesman who bore the enlightened reforms in mind was one of the best viceroys to serve in New Spain. With clear, masterful brushwork, de Reparaz presents this figure within realistic human coordinates.

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