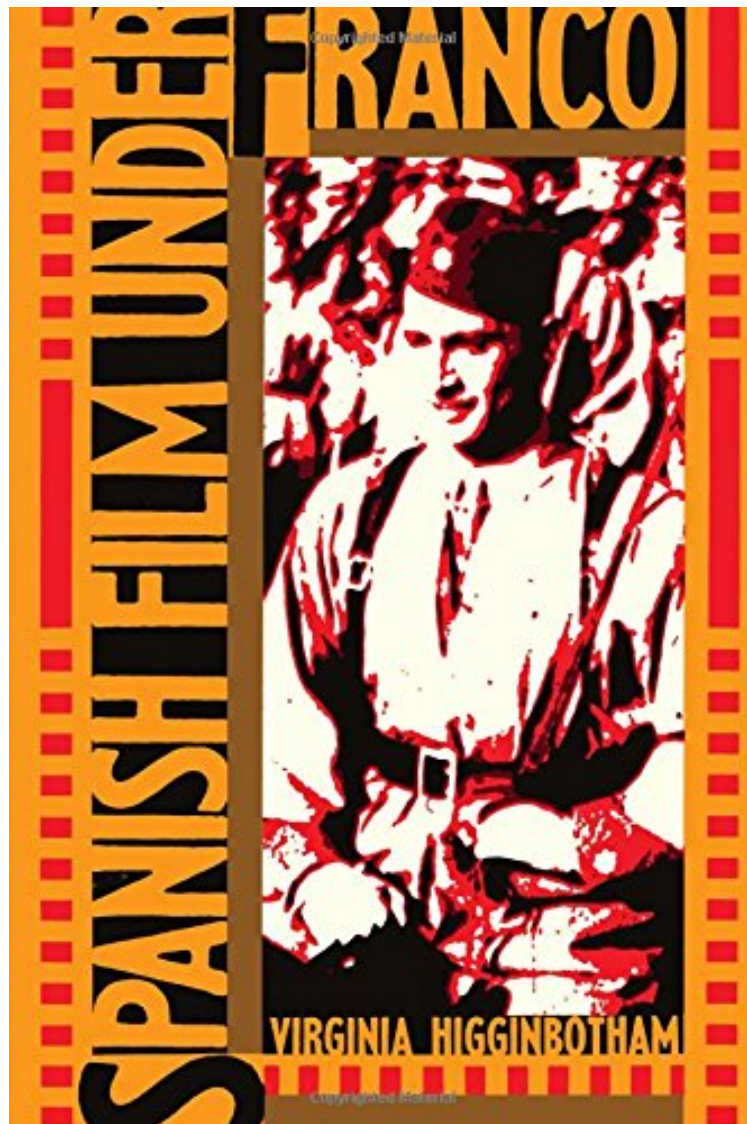


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## Spanish Film Under Franco

Virginia Higginbotham

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How does a totalitarian government influence the arts, and how do the arts respond? Spanish Film Under Franco raises these important questions, giving English speakers a starting point in their study of Spanish cinema.After a brief

overview of Spanish film before Franco, the author proceeds to a discussion of censorship as practiced by the Franco regime. The response of directors to censorshipthe franquista aesthetic, or aesthetic of repression, with its highly metaphorical, oblique styleis explored in the works of Luis Buuel, Carlos Saura, Juan Antonio Bardem, Luis Garca Berlanga, and other important directors. Virginia Higginbotham combines historical perspective with detailed critical analysis and interpretation of many famous Franco-era films. She shows how directors managed to evade the censors and raise public awareness of issues relating to the Spanish Civil War and the repressions of the Franco regime. Film has always performed an educational function in Spain, reaching masses of poor and uneducated citizens. And sometimes, as this study also reveals, Spanish film has been ignored when the questions it raised became too painful or demanding. The author concludes with a look at post-Franco cinema and the directions it has taken. For anyone interested in modern Spanish film, this book will be essential reading.

About the Author Virginia Higginbotham is Associate Professor Emeritus of Spanish at the University of Texas at Austin and the author of several books.