

Monica Jato, John Klapper. *Fractured Frontiers: The Exile Writing of Nazi Germany and Francoist Spain*. Rochester: Camden House, 2020. 304 pp. \$99.00, cloth, ISBN 978-1-64014-051-6.

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The twentieth-century memories of war and dictatorship in both Germany and Spain have gained critical attention in recent scholarship, in light of the initial postwar repressions and the failure to work through the impact of the Nazi and Francoist regimes on its citizens. One way scholars have addressed this issue is to look at the writing of exiles who left these respective countries. However, this viewpoint has not usually considered the work of those writers who remained during the dictatorships. In *Fractured Frontiers*, Monica Jato and John Klapper compare both inner and outer exile writing from Spain and Germany. They contend that examining these parallel sets of literature reveal that the unity of the objectives of both the inner and outer exile's writing contributes to maintaining the cultural and political heritage of the homeland (p. 5). The authors also expand the boundaries of what have typically been considered the bookends of the Nazi and Francoist regimes, arguing that the shift in writing style to reflect political changes within the nations occurred earlier than 1933 in Germany and after 1975 in Spain. This assertion of both inner and outer exile writing as preserving the cultural hegemony of a nation makes a critical intervention into the literary history of both Spain and Germany, urging the audience to reconsider matters of space, time, and place.

This well-organized book lays out the authors' arguments with clarity and precision. Beginning with part 1, the first and second chapters ("Cultural Contexts" and "Exile: The Temptation of the Trope") discuss necessary background information about the historical and cultural contexts of German and Spanish exile writing as well as the phenomenon of this type of literature itself. Jato and Klapper emphasize that although there are many different elements between the Nazi and Francoist dictatorships, the similarities of the inner and outer exile experience, including the censorship they had to write under and the concern with preserving national culture, provide many parallels to work with in their book. The authors provide a careful explanation of and desire to rehistoricize the term "inner exile," and unite its traditional meaning with (locational) exile in order to emphasize the shared feelings of isolation and separation from one's home country despite remaining or leaving (p. 78).

In part 2, consisting of chapters 3 ("German Historical Narratives in Inner and Territorial Exile") and 4 ("Historical Uses of Myth in 1940s Spanish Poetry"), Klapper and Jato analyze these two categories of writing on the basis of comparison, style, and cultural relevancy. Writers of German historical fiction such as Bertolt Brecht, Thomas Mann, and Stefan Andres—both inner and outer

exiles—were able to maintain “historical otherness” while remaining in the present through this literature, providing subtle commentary and critique. The authors also discovered other thematic and stylistic similarities in German exile writing, such as the use of biblical motifs, symbolism, and imagery (p. 111). In the Spanish context, the chapter considers the use of myth in poetry from the 1940s, shortly after the conclusion of the war. Poets like Emilio Prados, Carmen Conde, and María Benyeto utilized myth, especially with a religious theme, to construct an alternative space or reality in which readers could feel safe, as a way to escape “the nightmare of the Francoist present” (p. 146). Finally, in part 3, chapters 5 (“Blurring of the Lines: The Complexities of Return to Germany”) and 6 (“*Destiempo*: The Challenges of a Long Return in the Spanish Context”) look at the return of exiled writers and the challenges they faced. For the German writers profiled in this book who returned at varying points of time throughout the late 1930s and 1940s, they experienced disillusionment with the postwar government, resentment from fellow Germans who had stayed, and difficulty adjusting to new, postwar German attitudes. The Spanish writers who returned from exile at varying points of time during Franco’s dictatorship found themselves strangers in Spain’s new Francoist society, were met with a new public unwilling to read about longing for the past, and were apprehensive about the inevitable return to democracy.

Aside from organization and balance, *Fractured Frontiers* benefits from the successful positioning and argumentation of the authors on comparative subjects not typically paired together. Though there have been many similarities drawn between Hitler’s Germany and Franco’s Spain, the consideration of twentieth-century exile writing, especially of the inner exile who remained in-country during the dictatorships, is a new approach to the historical memory of the regimes. The book also provides useful literary context and material for those unfamiliar with the nature of

the Spanish and German dictatorships and how ordinary citizens reacted to the dramatic changes in their lives. An area of interest that could have been described more thoroughly in this book was the public reception of these authors. Though there is a thorough analysis of each of the literary pieces, knowing how they were received would have added a valuable perspective on the impact of exile writing at the time of publication. However, the authors clearly state that their intention is not to describe the nature of the dictatorships, which includes the public sentiment of those living under authoritarianism, so perhaps this information would be best found in alternative sources.

The authors present a unique, compelling, and balanced comparison of writing from these two countries in order to heal the “original fissure between inner and territorial exile and its legacies in the politics and culture of the respective societies” (p. 10). The authors challenge the frameworks not only of how we define exile writing, but also how we look at the bookended periods of time isolating the Nazi and Francoist regimes. This book touches areas of scholarship such as history, literature, exile, migration and politics, alongside Hispanic, German and European studies, and will be suited for a diverse audience, from those interested in the postwar impact of dictatorship to readers of exile writing. The work also opens up the possibilities of exile literature studies in other locations, by considering the merging of inner and outer exile writing in order to develop a richer, more complex understanding of this body of writing.

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