

Dear Mr. Frommer:

Taking a look at different pages devoted to the history of our Jewish past (I mean the history of Spanish Jewry), I found your beautiful article telling your travel to Spain. I confess that I felt touched by the quality of your prose and the noble feelings enclosed in your five-pages article. It is for this reason that I have decided to write this short message of gratitude to both your wife and you.

After reading you, I dare to add a reference, attached to this message, and an invitation to reconsider Francisco Franco's role on Jewish History. I am sure that you already know the Jewishness of such a name, a fact that does not mean that all Spaniards whose name is Franco are of Jewish descent. Anyway Franco's personality is amazing, since he used to speak about a Jewish conspiracy, due to the fact that Marx and many among his followers were Jews (as a matter of fact, a large number of the volunteers fighting against Franco in the Lincoln Brigade were Jews). But at the same time he always looked after the Spanish Jews, most of them concentrated in the Spanish Protectorate in Morocco and, during the most terrible moments of the Shoah, he did the best he could to protect the entire Jewish community.

It is for this reason that some Jewish scholars focus General Franco from this specific angle and remind us that, when he died, many synagogues celebrated services to his memory. The reason seems clear: he helped thousands of Jews to escape from the Nazi trap. Were there further reasons? Yes, according to some authorised voices as Professor Yakov Malkiel, first among all referees in Romance Linguistics. Careful as he was with this kind of statements, he always considered Franco as a Jew. In the Summer of 1986, while walking across the UC-Berkeley campus, he decided to convince me. Since he noticed some reluctant expression in my face, he asked me: Do you have any doubt on this issue? For Samuel Hoare, British ambassador in Spain during the II World War, Franco was a terrible foe and a *judiaz* (Big Jew). I stop since I do not want to bother you.

Thanks for your beautiful article.

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