

de Riotinto a la Roja: Un Viaje Por el Futbol Espanol 1887-2012

With its victory in the 2010 World Cup and the 2008 and 2012 European Championships, the Spanish national soccer team became the first in history to win three major trophies in a row. "De Riotinto a la Roja" explores the long and fraught development of soccer in Spain that began with a group of British engineers and sailors playing soccer in Bilbao's shipyards and ultimately led to an influx of South American and European stars whose engagement with homegrown players helped overcome political rivalries and resulted in some of the most exciting and technically sublime soccer ever seen. The book journeys through some of the most extraordinary characters and matches that have defined Spanish soccer while also serving as an invaluable study on Spain's recent history, during which regional tensions and sectarianism have played out on soccer pitches all over the country--especially in the rivalry between F. C. Barcelona and Real Madrid, two of the richest, most powerful, and successful teams in the sport's history. Above all, however, the book explores the journey of a national team that went largely unnoticed for most of its history until a succession of players and coaches, heirs of foreign and domestic talent that had taken root throughout the 20th century, led Spanish soccer to glory.

Review

"[A] vivid survey of Spanish football." --"Financial Times," on the English-language edition

"[Burns has] a fine eye for tragedy and irony both political and on the pitch. Spain's dominance is remarkable, especially because of the long odds that the country's history forced its players to overcome, and Burns rises to the challenge of telling this intertwined saga." "Kirkus Reviews," on the English-language edition"

""La Roja "shows in colorful detail how the traditions and loyalties of one country ended up by giving us the finest clubs and national team of the present moment." "Wall Street Journal, " on the English-language edition"

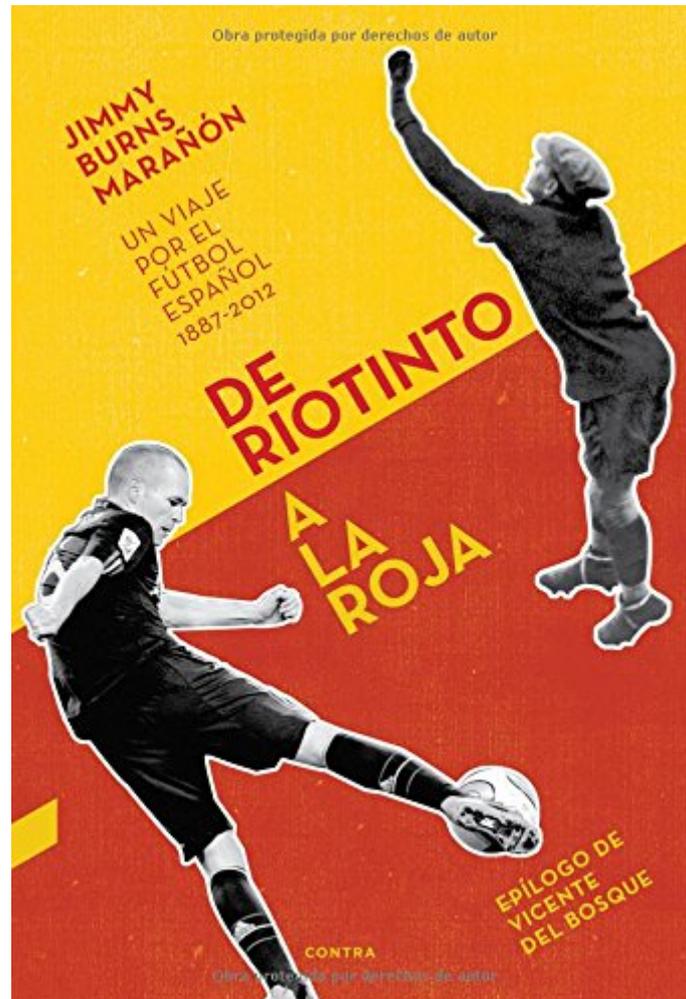
"[A] masterly exploration of Spanish football. . . . Burns has done a tremendous job of setting [the richness of Spanish football's myth and history] in the context of the country's wider history." "Independent," on the English-language edition"

"[A] vivid survey of Spanish football." "Financial Times," on the English-language edition"

Jimmy Burns Maranon is a freelance author and journalist with an expertise in security, espionage, Latin America, and Spanish football. He was formerly an award-winning senior reporter for the "Financial Times," for which he worked as a foreign correspondent and specialist in intelligence. Born in Madrid to Anglo-Spanish parents, he is the author of several books on Spain and Spanish football, including "Barca: A People s Passion," "Spain: A Literary Companion," and "When Beckham Went to Spain." Vicente del Bosque is the current manager of the Spanish national soccer team, which he has led to victories in the 2010 World Cup and 2012 European

Championships. As the manager of Real Madrid, he won two UEFA Champions' Leagues and two domestic La Liga titles."

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