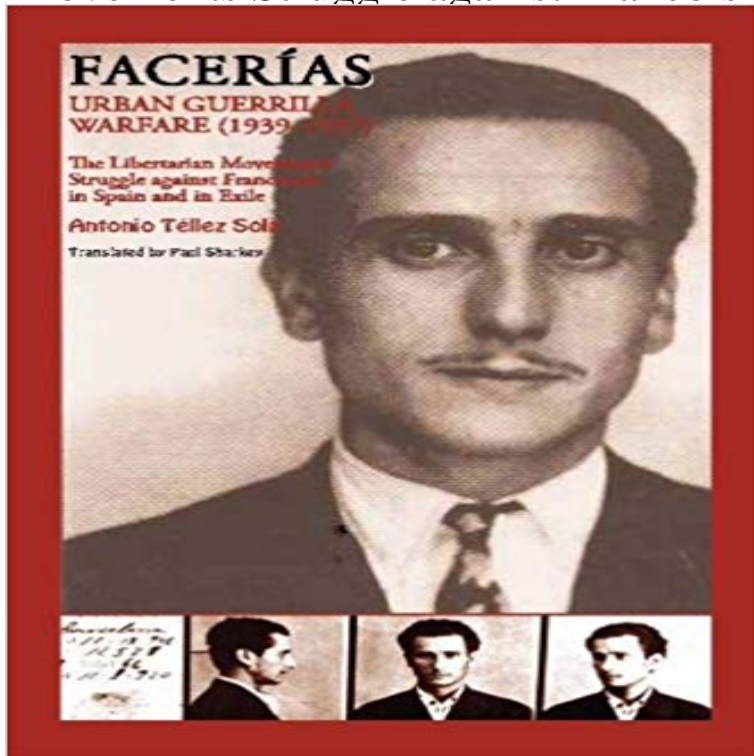


# FACERIAS Urban Guerrilla Warfare (1939-1957).: The Libertarian Movements Struggle against Francoism in Spain and in Exile



BARCELONA: Friday, 30 August 1957, 10:45 a.m. In the deserted Sant Andreu district of Barcelona, a burst of automatic gunfire crackles and, as if pushed by some mighty hand, a man on the corner of the Paseo Verdun and the Calle del Doctor Pi i Molist slumps against a low wall. A pistol appears in his hand. His eyes scan the tree-lined boulevard leading off to his right towards the Santa Cruz Mental Clinic, but he sees no sign of life. Suddenly, he realises he had been betrayed. Unseen assailants are shooting at him from windows overlooking the junction of the Paseo Urrutia and Calle del Doctor Pi i Molist. The first burst of gunfire shatter the mans ankle. Further rifle shots ring out and bullets ricochet all around him ... Facerias was born in Barcelona on 6 January 1920. When the Spanish army mutinied in July 1936, Face, a member of the Woodworkers Union of the Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo/CNT and of the Faros Libertarian Youth, promptly enlisted in the Ascaso Column (the Popular Fronts 28th Division) and joined the militia columns on the Aragon front. In the last stages of the fighting in Catalonia, Facerias was taken prisoner and passed through a number of concentration camps and labour battalions. On his release, in late 1945, Face re-joined the CNTs Printing Trades Union, and all his spare time and some of his working hours he devoted to clandestine activities. From March 1946 onwards Face became the driving force behind the Defence Groups in Barcelonas central district. In July 1947, after a brief period of imprisonment, he formed his urban guerrilla group and launched the first of many major actions: armed robberies at the Hispano-Olivetti factory and the Spanish Credit Bank in the Calle Mallorca, a robbery which netted the union over 400,000 pesetas. Facerias believed that armed struggle was the fastest way to obtain money to support the Union, the

unions prisoners and their families needs. Author Antonio Tellez (1921-2005) published and unpublished output was phenomenal, covering the period from Francos victory on 1 April 1939 to his death on 20 November 1975 and beyond. He had two main objectives: to record the lives of selfless men who refused to compromise their ideals nor treat with a system they found villainous and vile, men who devoted their adult lives to freeing Spain from the last of the Axis dictators. His work has been a major contribution to the movement for the recovery of historical memory which is now playing such an important part in contemporary Spanish politics.

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