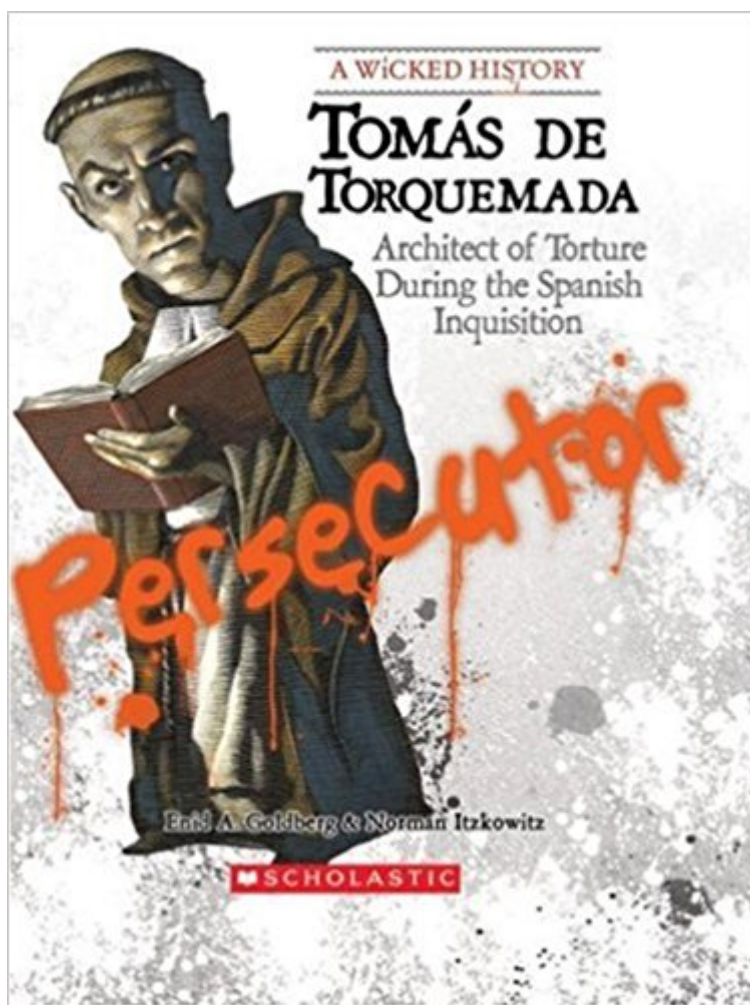


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# Tomas De Torquemada: Architect Of Torture During The Spanish Inquisition (Wicked: True Stories Of Villains Who Changed The Course Of W)





## Synopsis

Features: - Engaging biographies of famous and infamous figures in history- Sophisticated design will attract high-school and middle-school struggling readers, yet on-target reading level makes these books accessible to readers of all levels- Controlled vocabulary and sentence length make these books highly readable- Directly Correlated to Social Studies Standards for Middle and High School Students- Includes etchings, maps, photos, and primary source documents- Cool, digest-like trim size- Gripping, dynamic storytelling"

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670L (What's this?)

Series: Wicked: True Stories of Villains Who Changed the Course of W

Library Binding: 128 pages

Publisher: Children's Press(CT) (September 1, 2007)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 5.4 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #538,185 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Teens >

Biographies > Religious #59 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Europe

#182 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

## Customer Reviews

This is a quick and very elementary read on the character who was the soul of the Spanish Inquisition. It is at most a high school overview of a moment of true evil in the history of Europe, a precursor to the evils of slavery and the Holocaust. It is always truly evil to view another human being or group of human beings as not worthy of humanity and kindness.

This book is historically accurate about one of the most evil men in history. It has good descriptions about his life and his crimes. I recommend it for beginners.

"Tomas De Torquemada: Architect of Torture During the Spanish Inquisition" (Wicked History) is nothing more than Black Legend calumnies nicely packaged for children. I am shocked and disappointed that Scholastic would publish such a twisted, bigoted, and biased interpretation of the Inquisition in Spain (especially for young minds). This is nothing more than brainwashing and perpetuating the Black Legend and Anti-Catholic sentiment in our country by indoctrinating the young. Moreover, the Inquisition was not uniquely a Spanish event; any unbiased scholar of European history will confirm that inquisitions (called judicial hearings in contemporary times) occurred all over medieval Europe. The Black Legend against Spain is part of a vast movement started by the enemies of the Faith to destroy the Catholic religion. It is not an isolated case; other Catholic countries such as Italy, Ireland, Portugal, and Poland have had their reputations smeared for their adhesion to the Faith. The Black Legend seeks to throw discredit upon the Faith by building biases and prejudices against Catholicism. A current example of these attacks is Dan Brown's book "The Da Vinci Code", a malevolent cocktail of fake scholarship, lies and half-truths. It seeks to instill in Catholics a sense of embarrassment and shame about the way in which their ancestors lived and practiced their faith. The effect is subtle but too often ends by Catholics then doubting the truth of the Faith. I am sure that if Scholastic were to add to its "Wicked History" series a book such as "Menachem Begin: Annihilator of the Palestinians" (with an exaggerated evil caricature of Begin holding a bloody axe), most Zionists and Jews (including Enid A. Goldberg and Norman Itzkowitz) would chant Anti-Semitism. Not that Scholastic would ever have the fortitude to publish such a book, so why the blatant double standard? For adults, I suggest reading Philip Wayne Powell's "Tree of Hate". Tree of Hate: Propaganda and Prejudices Affecting United States Relations with the Hispanic World

I have one compliment for "Tomas de Torquemada". Specifically: Given that the book is intended for young readers, and at the low price of \$5.95, "Tomas de Torquemada" is handsomely put together. I was particularly impressed by the number and quality of artistic reproductions. I should add, in fairness, that the writing and the overall approach are anything but dumbed-down or condescending. That being said.... I had good reason to suspect that Enid A. Golberg and Norman Itzkowitz's assessment of the much-maligned Torquemada would be part and parcel of the Black Legend. My reading confirmed that which I had anticipated. On a micro level, I noted the number of risible and offensive statements. I'll provide a couple of examples, if I may. On page 14, the authors write: "A follower [of Christ] named Judas took a bribe from Jesus' Roman enemies." A ridiculous and futile attempt to whitewash the Jews; it was they, not the Romans, who paid Judas the 30

pieces of silver to commit the ultimate betrayal. And on page 25: "A friar named [Saint] Vincent Ferrer spread similar lies [regarding Jewish responsibility for Christ's cruel death]...." First, Jewish involvement in the crucifixion of the Lord is not a lie. Second, the way Goldberg and Itzkowitz refer to Saint Vincent is singularly disrespectful. Saint Vincent, the Angel of the Apocalypse, was a worker of true miracles. In addition, he converted thousands of Jews and Muslims. He's worthy of more -- infinitely more -- than the authors' childish and bitter disdain. On a macro level, the authors' understanding of the Spanish Inquisition and Torquemada appears to be based more on Mel Brooks' "History of the World: Part I" than on William Thomas Walsh's "Characters of the Inquisition". It's clearly beyond Goldberg and Itzkowitz's analytical capabilities (and prejudices) that, given the historical context, the Inquisition and the Dominican friar played an inevitable and essential role in protecting -- indeed, preserving -- the Catholic (yes, you read that word correctly) Spain of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. In addition, the supposed horrors of the Inquisition are just that -- supposed; thoroughly antithetical to historical fact. And the portrayal of Torquemada as fiend and monster (who's crudely described in the book's sensationalist subtitle as the "Architect of Torture During the Spanish Inquisition") is a calumny -- a hackneyed, unwarranted, and outrageous charge. This book seeks not to enlighten, but to brainwash. It's intended to ensure that Jewish boys and girls be self-righteous in their rejection of Christ and His Church, while their Catholic counterparts should be guilt-ridden regarding their Faith and history. What Jewish parents do is entirely their business. As a Catholic, however, I believe I'm within my rights to urge Catholic parents to keep this Christophobic and anti-Catholic book out of the hands of their children.

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