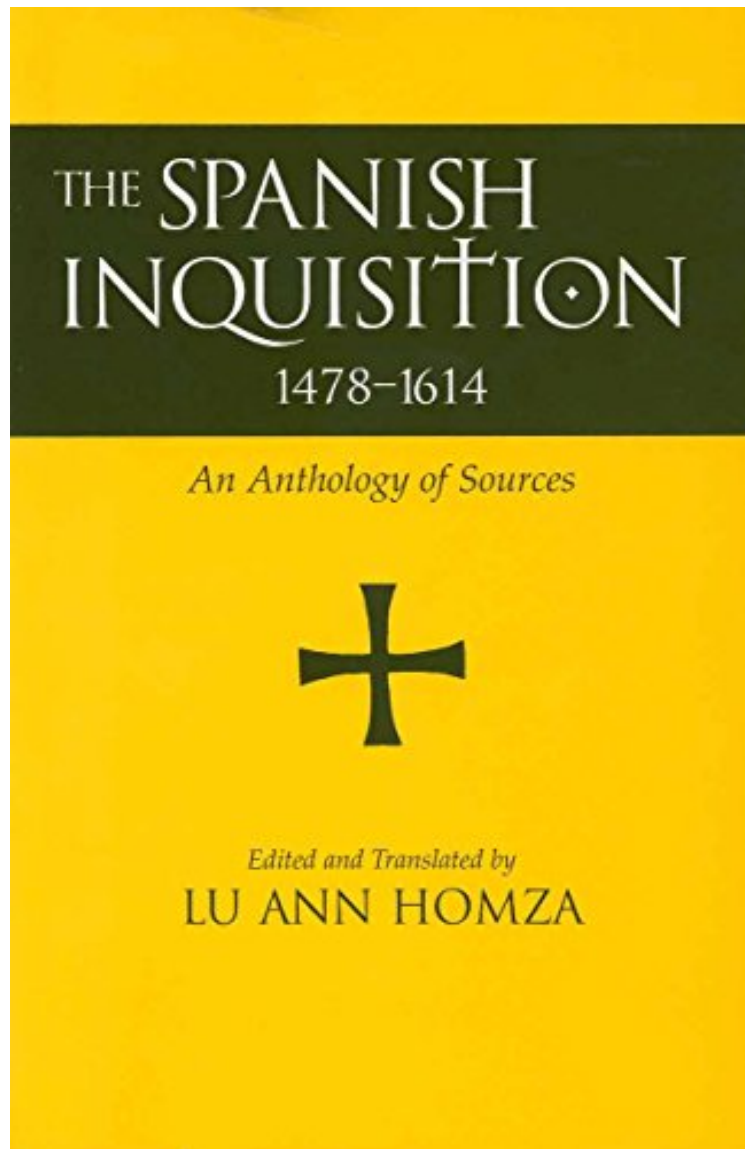


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1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent source of information on the Spanish Inquisition By Peter S. Bradley This book is composed of two parts. The first part is an introduction that constitutes a 37 page monograph on the antecedents and practices of the Spanish Inquisition. If the reader is looking for the titles of the officers of the

Inquisition or the kinds of torture inflicted or the locations of inquisition tribunals, then this is an excellent source. The introduction is also a useful corrective for the lurid images that capture the public imagination. This may be a disappointment for those who want their lurid imaginations. For example, the Introduction observes: // The forms of torture in the Spanish Inquisition - and there is no evidence they ever changed - were the *toca*, wherein large quantities of water were poured down the defendant's nose and mouth to simulate drowning; the *potro* or rack, on which the prisoner was bound with cords that could be tightened; and the *garrucha*, in which the prisoner was hung by his wrists tied from behind. Inquisitors explicitly warned defendants that any injuries they suffered would be their own fault. They also repeatedly asked the defendant to confess from the moment they all entered the torture room. If the defendant did confess during torture, whatever he had said had to be ratified on a subsequent day; if he later revoked what he had confessed, he could be tortured again for the same purposes. Though torture remains one of the most lurid features of the Spanish Inquisition, scholars now believe it was applied rarely. // (p. xxv.) It actually does sound like how America treated terrorist suspects, right down to "water-boarding." The second part of the book consists of original documents of the Spanish Inquisition, including actual cases and decrees and even an inquisitorial "Deliberation on the Reality and Heresy of Witchcraft." This book is not for the faint of heart or for scandal-seekers. The documents read like the legal documents they are. Nonetheless, it does provide both an interesting view as to how the Spanish Inquisition actually worked and a sense of the experience of a facet of history as it was lived. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A bit boring... By j64thnotes This book is a collection of documents during the period that weave together a very loose narrative around the workings of the Spanish Inquisition. It is brutally dry, I put it down, picked it up, repeatedly for two years before I finished it. If you're not absolutely obsessed with the Spanish Inquisition, you'll tire of it quickly. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Homza does a great job of acquainting the reader with what life may ... By Eli Originally ordered this book for class, but I ended up just reading it for pleasure. Homza does a great job of acquainting the reader with what life may have looked 500 years ago in the Iberian Peninsula. I would recommend this work for anyone who wants to learn more about the Spanish Inquisition and how it affected the lives of people during that period.

This collection of previously untranslated court documents, testimonials, and letters portrays the Spanish Inquisition in vivid detail, offering fresh perspectives on such topics as the Inquisition's persecution of Jews and Muslims, the role of women in Spanish religious culture, the Inquisition's construction and persecution of witchcraft, daily life inside an Inquisition prison, and the relationship between the Inquisition and the Spanish monarchy. Headnotes introduce the selections, and a general introduction provides historical, political, and legal context. A map and index are included.

q Those of us who teach the history of early modern Spain to undergraduates have long lamented the lack of primary sources in English translation. Lu Ann Homza has gone a long way toward filling that gap with this excellent anthology of sources. Homza provides a judicious selection of documents that chronicle the Spanish Inquisition from its establishment by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1478 to root out crypto-Jews to the expulsion of the Moriscos carried out under Philip III between 1611 and 1614. She recovers many voices from late fifteenth-, sixteenth-, and early seventeenth-century Spain, of defendants, witnesses, politicians, and the ecclesiastical judges whose zeal for religious orthodoxy and correct legal procedure rendered this one of the most famous, if often misunderstood, judicial institutions in European history. Homza begins the volume with a helpful, clearly written introduction that explains the inner workings of the Inquisition and traces its Roman and medieval antecedents. . . . [She] has succeeded in compiling an anthology that is both erudite and accessible, and available at a refreshingly low price. Thus, students as well as teachers and scholars will welcome this significant contribution to the religious and legal history of early modern Spain. --Jodi Bilinkoff, *The Catholic Historical*