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Paul Preston releases new book on Santiago Carillo

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RENOWNED British historian Paul Preston pulls no punches with his latest book on former Communist leader Santiago Carillo.

Preston, who is regarded as one of Spain's leading experts in 20th century Spain, paints a far from perfect portrait of the anti-Franco figurehead.

Following Carillo's death last September, Preston was approached by several publishers to write a biography of the former Spanish Communist Party (PCE) leader.

"What resulted was not what I expected," said Preston on his new book, *The red fox: the life of Santiago Carrillo*.

"It was clear that Carrillo possessed certain qualities in abundance: work ethic, energy and patience, skill in his writing and oratory, intelligence and guile.

"Unfortunately, it was equally clear that honesty and loyalty did not figure among them," added Preston, who compares Carrillo to Franco and Stalin in the book.

Preston adds that Carrillo's major downfall was that he never offered a 'sincere explanation' for the Paracuellos massacres in which 2,000-4,000 Nationalists and civilians were executed by Republicans.



• Former PCE leader Santiago Carillo

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