

El Cid and the Reconquista 1050-1492 (Men-At-Arms, No 200)

David Nicolle

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El Cid and the Reconquista 1050–1492



David Nicolle • Illustrated by Angus McBride

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accurate data shown in pictures and descriptions from the many battles that took place across the whole liberation of Spain from the Muslim power. Although it may become tedious at some points, the accuracy is above average when it comes to the narration of both sides, Christian and Muslim alike.

The very name El Cid sums up much of the special character of medieval Spanish warfare. It comes from the Arabic *al sayyid*, master or chieftain, and seems to have been given to Rodrigo de Vivar by his Muslim foes. But was it given in recognition of El Cid's victories against Islam in the 'Reconquista' – or because this Castilian nobleman was as content to serve beside the Muslims as to fight them? The story of the Christian conquest of the Iberian peninsula which gave rise to the legend of El Cid, is here examined by David Nicolle, who outlines the history, tactics, arms and armour of the period.

From the Publisher Packed with specially commissioned artwork, maps and diagrams, the Men-at-Arms series is an unrivalled illustrated reference on the history, organisation, uniforms and equipment of the world's military forces, past and present. About the Author David Nicolle PhD was born in 1944 and was educated at Highgate School. For eight years he worked in the BBC Arabic Service. In 1971 he went 'back to school', gaining an MA from the School of Oriental and African Studies and a PhD from Edinburgh University. For some years he taught art and architectural history at Yarmuk University, Jordan. David has written many Osprey titles, including MAA 140 Armies of the Ottoman Turks, MAA 320 Armies of the Caliphates 862–1098, and Campaign 43 Fornovo 1495.