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Titolo	Renegades : Canadians in the Spanish Civil War // Michael Petrou
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxii, 282 pages, 32 unnumbered pages of plates) : illustrations, maps, portraits
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [267]-271) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Who were the Canadian volunteers? Why did they fight? Going to war Protecting Madrid, February-July 1937 Aragon battles, August 1937- February 1938 Retreats, March-April 1938 Back to the Ebro, May- September 1938 Leaving Spain Crimes Punishments The photographer: Bill Williamson The idealist: William Krehm The doctor: Norman Bethune Undesirables
Sommario/riassunto	Renegades: Canadians in the Spanish Civil War, by veteran journalist Michael Petrou, tells the story of the 1,681 Canadians who, between 1936 and 1939, defied Canadian law to fight fascism in the Spanish Civil war. The war pitted a left leaning, democratically elected Spanish government against a military uprising led by Francisco Franco and supported, with weapons and tens of thousands of troops, by Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. By the time it was over, fascism had triumphed in Spain, and more than 400 Canadians were dead. Until now, little was known about these men and women, and about those who survived. Petrou has changed this. He has drawn on recently declassified material, interviewed veterans, and visited the battlefields of Spain to write the definitive history of Canadians in the war. Jack Granatstein,

one of Canada's leading military historians, concludes: "Based on massive research, this is the best and most complete account of Canadians in the Spanish Civil War we are ever likely to get." Renegades reveals that Spanish Civil War veterans were pressured to become police informers, with the cooperation of the federal government; that a 1970 application by a veterans' group for non-profit status was opposed by the federal government out of fear that approving the application might offend Spain's fascist dictator, Francisco Franco; and that the RCMP spied on Canadian veterans at least until 1980, when one police report noted that the veterans' "political motivations are more in keeping with the NDP philosophies." Other highlights include: Detailed and vivid descriptions of the battles the Canadians fought, and their lives in Spain between action. The stories of Canadian prisoners of war are also told as are accounts of Canadians who were imprisoned and otherwise punished, sometimes severely, by their own commanders. New and sensational information about Dr. Norman Bethune, whom Spanish authorities accused of espionage and of having a secretly fascist lover. The story of a young University Toronto student who was jailed as a suspected spy and was lucky to leave Spain alive. After reading recently declassified documents from Soviet archives about this man, Petrou tracked him down and interviewed him at the age of 90.
