

# Paisanos: The Forgotten Irish Who Changed the Face of Latin America - Tim Fanning - Gill & Macmillan Ltd, 2016 - 2016 - 9780717171828 - 304 pages

Tim Fanning. 'An important and necessary volume on the role played by Irish men and women in the emergence of the new, modern and independent republics of Latin America a welcome contribution to the literature on the history of our exiles and their descendants, this is an exciting and accessible book that is a pleasure to read.'. (From the foreword by Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland). The epic story of the forgotten Irish men and women who changed the face of Latin America forever. In the early nineteenth century, thousands of volunteers left Ireland behind to join the fight for South American independence. In this extract from his book Paisanos, Tim Fanning tells the story of army officer Alexander O'Reilly. IT'S NOT TALKED about often the fact that Irish men and women played a role in the emergence of the independent republics of Latin America. Tim Fanning has uncovered their tales from the 18th and 19th century in his book Paisanos, which was released this year. Among the stories he tells are those of Camila O'Gorman and Eliza Lynch, along with Ambrose O'Higgins, who became the Viceroy of Peru. In this extract from the book, he writes about Alexander O'Reilly, an army officer from Co Meath, who helped transform Spain's army. The epic story of the forgotten Irish men and women who changed the face of Latin America forever. In the early nineteenth century, thousands of volunteers left Ireland behind to join the fight for South American independence. But it was not just during wars of independence that the Irish helped transform Spanish America. Irish soldiers, engineers and politicians, who had fled Ireland to escape religious and political persecution in their homeland, were responsible for changing the face of the Spanish colonies in the Americas during the eighteenth century. They included a chief minister of Spain, Richard Wall, a chief inspector of the Spanish Army, Alexander O'Reilly, and the viceroy of Peru, Ambrose O'Higgins.