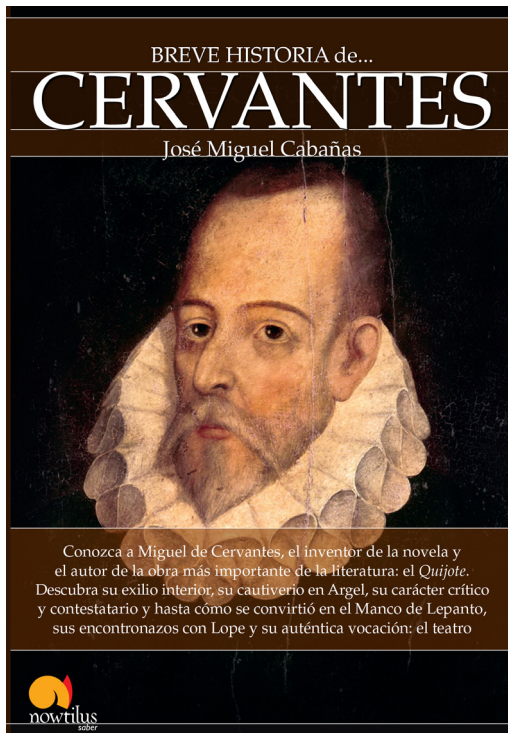


# BRIEF HISTORY OF CERVANTES

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Historical essay

José Miguel Cabañas



Learn about the hazardous life of the prince of wits, maximum figure of Spanish literature and inventor of the modern novel. Discover his exile, his captivity in Algiers, his critical and rebellious personality, how he became the one-armed man of Lepanto, his discussion with Lope and his true vocation: the theatre. A rigorous chronicle of the personal vicissitudes, a life full of adventures, the brilliant author of the Quixote, masterpiece of the universal literature and key figure of the Spanish Golden Age.

## Synopsis

Meet Miguel de Cervantes, author of the *Quixote* and inventor of the modern novel. Dare to approach a work that presents aspects of the life of the author which will undoubtedly surprise you; his captivity in Algiers, his clashes with Lope and his desire to become a great author of comedies, the accusations of murdering his family, his flight to Seville. A complex personality with human nobility which he managed to reflect in his most famous work.

José Miguel Cabañas, with a scrupulous historical accuracy and using the latest research, will permit the reader discover aspects of the life and personality of a man which are not yet completely clear, showing us a different Cervantes from the one who have been taught before. A man who could perfectly well be the protagonist of an adventure novel who looks like failed or did not want to adapt to the social and cultural conventions of his time.

## Biography

José Miguel Cabañas Agrela has a Masters Degree in Geography and History from the Complutense University of Madrid.

He is an expert on the second half of the 16th Spanish and European century, who has focused his work on the study of international and diplomatic relations between the Spain of Philip II and the England of Elizabeth I through the figure of the Spanish Ambassador in that Court, Don Bernardino de Mendoza (Ambassador, writer, soldier and spy), a very complete character and whose career centred him always in the crucial centres of power, and of the most important events of the reign Felipe II. Author of *Don Bernardino Mendoza, a writer and soldier to the service of the Catholic monarchy* (1541-1604) and *Sodomite Kings*, where we find the narration of the life and passions of a series of monarchs of the Europe during the Renaissance and Baroque, whose reputation for the same gender preference started already from the moment their reigns began. Versatile historian, he dares to narrate any event as if he had lived it, with great historical and intellectual rigour, but with a simple and direct language that engages the reader.

He is a regular contributor in the magazine *La Aventura de la Historia* and in the Spanish Biographical Dictionary (RAH), where he wrote the biographies of several key characters from the monarchy of Philip II.



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## Sales pitch

-This brief history shows an unknown to the general public Miguel de Cervantes: in addition to its literary aspect, Cervantes was a great soldier, a captive in Algiers and a man with a dark past that led him to prison on several occasions. A shocking story that ends with the recent discovery of his remains in the Church of the convent of the Trinitarias in Madrid.

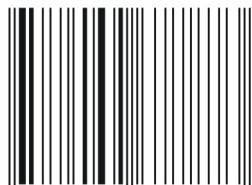
-The work explains the historical era the writer lived: the rise of the Spanish monarchy, the final years of the reign of Charles V, the reign of Philip III and Philip II. The Spanish Armada and the battle of Lepanto are some of the major milestones that the author described in this monograph.

- The historian José Miguel Cabañas uses the most current and varied literature and documentation on Cervantes: monographs, articles, presentations, discoveries... to achieve an essay which is one of the most complete on one of the big protagonists of Spanish history and World Literature.

-The reader will profoundly know, thanks to this Brief History, The Golden Age: its great figures, its ambient, and its main literary productions. Characters such as Gongora and Lope de Vega appear in front the eyes of the reader.

-The style used avoids the academicism of the more formal studies in order to apply historical accuracy to a pleasant journey through the history of the Spain during the 16th and 17th centuries.

-José Miguel Cabañas is a historian specialised in the second half of the 16th century Spanish, especially in political and international relations during the reign of Philip II. As the fruit of his study he has published two works, participated in a biographical dictionary and collaborates with several media.



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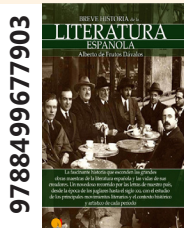
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