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MILITARY ENTREPRENEURS

& THE SPANISH CONTRACTOR STATE
IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Rafael Torres Sánchez



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RAFAEL TORRES SÁNCHEZ

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Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
<i>List of Maps</i>	x
<i>List of Tables</i>	xi
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xiii
<i>Glossary</i>	xv

I. INTRODUCTION

1. From the Fiscal-Military State to the Contractor State	3
2. Economic Policy and Military Supplies	13

II. VICTUALLING THE SPANISH ARMED FORCES

3. Public and Private Business: Soldiers' Bread Ration	43
4. National and State Capitalism	66
5. Monopolist Entrepreneurs at the State's Service	96

III. BUILDING THE KING'S SHIPS

6. The Fiscal-Naval State	115
7. The Paradigm of State Intervention	136
8. The Spanish Naval Contractor State and Entrepreneurs	166

IV. THE CONTRACTOR STATE IN ACTION

9. National Market versus International Market: The Limits of Mercantilism	189
10. Monopoly versus the Market: Urgency and Flexibility	210
11. Conclusions	230

<i>Notes</i>	235
<i>Bibliography</i>	275
<i>Index</i>	293

List of Figures

2.1. Concurrence and variation in some military supply methods: <i>administración</i> or <i>asiento</i>	18
2.2. The political price of military supplies: comparison between the final state-entrepreneur price and the general price trend in Spain	26
2.3. Form of payment and accounting control of <i>asientos</i>	27
3.1. The price of state-procured victuals (in <i>mrvs</i>)	52
3.2. Armed-forces victualling groups, 1759–88	55
3.3. The links between public finances and military provisioning. The businesses of the Goyeneche-Valdeolmos group, 1712–29	60
3.4. Victualling by direct <i>administración</i> , 1730–9	61
3.5. The business web of the entrepreneur Miguel Arizcun, 1725–41	64
4.1. The ordinary Spanish army victualling costs (in <i>rsv</i>)	71
5.1. The business trajectory of the company Cinco Gremios Mayores	97
5.2. The Cinco Gremios Mayores' regular supply sources for its military provisioning business (victuals and uniforms)	103
6.1. Total expenditure on Spain's home navy (millions of <i>rsv</i>)	117
6.2. Navy's economic system	119
6.3. Total consignments paid by the Tesorería General to the three navy departments of mainland Spain (millions of <i>rsv</i>)	132
7.1. Number of cannons in the ships brought into the Armada Real	139
7.2. Construction site: number of cannons in ships built for the Armada Real	146
7.3. Havana shipbuilding as compared with the three <i>arsenales</i> in Spain: number of cannons in constructed ships	155
7.4. <i>Astilleros</i> as compared with <i>arsenales</i> : number of cannons in the ships built as a percentage of the total <i>Astilleros</i> : Havana + Guarnizo	159

List of Maps

0.1. Administrative and political geography of eighteenth-century Spain	xix
0.2. Physical geography of eighteenth-century Spain (orography and rivers)	xx
0.3. The Spanish West Indies, Viceroyalty of New Spain, and Philippines	xxi
0.4. Spanish Atlantic Empire	xxii
2.1. The geography of eighteenth-century military supplies	21
4.1. Wheat yields 1750s	72
4.2. Geographical breakdown of army victualling, 1730–9	75
4.3. Geographical breakdown of army victualling, 1778–83	76
5.1. Royal factories run by the Cinco Gremios Mayores	106
6.1. Geographical jurisdictions of navy departments: navy commissioners of each department	123
6.2. Navy bases, naval construction, and money remittances in the Caribbean in the eighteenth century	127
7.1. Main navy <i>astilleros</i> (shipyards) in Spain	148
7.2. Navy bases, naval construction, and money remittances in the Pacific in the eighteenth century	153
8.1. Commerce, military supplies, and geographical integration: the businesses of the entrepreneur Tomás St Aulari, 1750s and 1760s	176
9.1. Production of rigging and canvas	195
10.1. Supply of the Minorca-occupying Spanish expeditionary army, 1781–2	227

List of Tables

3.1. Make-up of the navy's victuals ration, 1776	50
3.2. Products and amounts necessary for making 16 million rations for the fleet in Cadiz, 1781	51
3.3. Victualling variety, destination, and price, 1745	54
4.1. Cost of the monarchy's main <i>asientos</i> , 1756 (<i>reales de vellón</i>)	70
4.2. Sites where Spanish army victuals were bought and consumed, 1734	74
6.1. Cash inputs used by the Real Armada in Havana, February 1778 to May 1783	129
7.1. Guarnizo, the 'privileged Shipyard'	151
7.2. Ships of the line and frigates in Havana and in mainland Spanish <i>arsenales</i>	156
7.3. Shipbuilding in the Spanish monarchy (number of cannons in ships built for the navy)	161
7.4. Trend of the ships brought into the Spanish Royal Navy	162

List of Abbreviations

AFB	Archivo Foral Biskaia, Bilbao
AGS	Archivo General de Simancas, Simancas, Valladolid
AHN	Archivo Histórico Nacional, Madrid
AHPM	Archivo Histórico Protocolos de Madrid, Madrid
AMN	Archivo Museo Naval, Madrid
BN	Biblioteca Nacional
DGT	Dirección General del Tesoro (AGS)
FCH	Fondo Contemporáneo de Hacienda (AHN)
Inv.	<i>Inventario</i>
leg.	<i>legajo</i> (dossier)
lib.	<i>libra</i> (book)
<i>mrvs</i>	<i>maravedis</i>
MS	manuscript
PRO	Public Record Office, Kew, London
RO	Real Orden (royal order)
<i>rsv</i>	<i>reales de vellón</i>
SSH	Secretaría y Superintendencia de Hacienda (AGS)

Glossary

- administración* Military supply system run directly by the state
- apostaderos* Smaller naval bases of the Spanish Royal Navy
- Armada de Barlovento** Windward Fleet
- Armada del Mar del Sur** The Southern Fleet
- Armada Real** Spanish Royal Navy
- arroba* Unit of weight equivalent to 11.502 kg
- arsenal* Royal dockyard and shipyard. Fully fledged state-run shipyard for naval warships and armaments
- asentista* Military entrepreneur or contractor. A businessperson running a military provision *asiento*
- asiento* Military supply contract signed between the state and an entrepreneur. It is also the generic name for the supply system carried out primarily by military entrepreneurs, in opposition to the *administración*
- asignaciones* Money that the navy or army lower ranks and officers ordered to be discounted from their wage for subsistence of their family for as long as their service lasted
- astillero* General shipyard and merchant yard
- audiencia* Court of justice
- Banco de San Carlos** A private bank, founded in 1782 under royal protection. It participated in state loans, the financing of public works, and control of the American silver trade
- carta de pago* Letter of payment given by treasurers to certify payments
- Casa de Contratación** Institution to regulate trade and navigation with the colonies. From 1717 in Cadiz
- Cinco Gremios Mayores** A major finance and trading company operating in the eighteenth century on a worldwide level. It was originally formed by the five main guilds of Madrid: silk, canvas, jewellery, broadcloth, and spices
- contador general* General comptroller
- Contaduría General de la Provisión de Víveres de los Ejércitos** General Army Victualling Accounting Office
- Consejo de Hacienda** Exchequer Council
- Departamento Marítimo** Maritime Department
- Depositaría de Indias** Indies Depository. The treasury in Cadiz that received American revenue, run by Tesorería General
- ducados de plata* Silver ducats
- estancos* State-monopoly wholesale and retail outlets for goods such as tobacco, spirits, chocolate, sugar, or stamped paper
- excusado* Tax; ecclesiastical tithe

- factores* Distribution agents of *asentistas*
- fanega* Unit of weight for cereals or flour, similar to a bushel
- fondo vitalicio** Life annuity and public debt
- fuero militar* Military jurisdiction
- intendente* Top government official in a given area to deal with military and financial affairs
- intendente de marina* navy intendant
- Intendente General de la Armada** Navy Intendant General
- intendencia* Territorial jurisdiction of an *intendente*
- Intendencia de Marina** Navy Intendancy
- Junta de Estado** State Cabinet
- juntas departamentales* Navy Department Boards
- macuquina* Hammered silver coinage of lower value used in America
- maravedis (mrvs)* Fictitious account unit
- matrículas de mar* Navy officials' registration of sailors
- mayorazgo* Primogeniture and entail
- menestra* Ration of dried, stewed, or cooked pulses given to troops and prisoners, consisting mainly of rice, chickpeas, and beans
- mesadas* Monthly or yearly advanced payments from the state to military entrepreneurs against the final cost of the military provision contracted with the state
- pan de munición* Bread made from wholewheat flour: an ordinary military bread ration, consisting of 24 ounces, Castilian weight, of baked bread
- paja pelaza* Barley fodder
- patentes* Open permits for the military entrepreneur to appoint employees and *factores* for the arrangement of provisions
- peso de plata* Equivalent to 20 *reales de vellón*
- quintal* A hundredweight, equivalent in Castilla to c.46 kg
- quintas* Draft of one out every five youngsters of military age
- ración de dieta* Food ration for sick soldiers and sailors
- real cédula* Royal Charter
- real de vellón (rsv)* Half-silver currency used as a yardstick for all other currencies in circulation during the eighteenth century
- Real Giro** Royal Remittance Office
- Real Hacienda** Royal Exchequer
- Secretaría de Guerra, Hacienda, Marina** War, Finance, Navy Ministry
- Secretario de Guerra, Hacienda, Marina** War, Finance, Navy Minister
- situados* Money transfers made by the Royal Exchequer from one part of the empire to another: A subsidy creamed off from the surplus of colonial income
- Tesorería General** Maximum institution of the Secretaría de Hacienda for controlling payments and bookkeeping information of the Real Hacienda

Tribunal Mayor de Cuentas The supreme accounting office

vales reales Interest-bearing state bonds

vara unit of length approximately equivalent to 83 centimetres

vía reservada Reserved affairs, i.e. a form of direct government management independent of council scrutiny



Map 0.1 Administrative and political geography of eighteenth-century Spain

Source: Author's own.