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Between History, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. Some results of the ASRT / CNR Bilateral Project 'History of Peace-building: peaceful relations between Est and West (11th - 15th Centuries)'

Luciano Gallinari - Ali Ahmed El-Sayed - Heba Mahmoud Saad (eds.)

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Direzione e Segreteria │Management and Editorial Offices: via G.B. Tuveri, 128 - 09129 Cagliari - Italia. Telefono │Telephone: +39 070403635 / 70 -Fax: +39 070498118
E-mail: rime@isem.cnr.it (invio contributi │Submissions)

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Special Issue

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Editorial

Luciano Gallinari
(CNR - Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea)

This Issue of the Journal *RiMe* celebrates its (first) 10 years of existence. In fact, the first volume was published in December 2008. Since then a lot of things have changed in *RiMe*.

Looking at its various volumes in a diachronic manner, we note that, alongside several more typically historical topics, the Journal has hosted several *Special Issues* with a monographic nature concerning other Humanities, such as Literature, or Disciplines at the boundary between Human Sciences and Exact Sciences, such as Architecture, for example.

Not to mention several incursions into the wide and interesting world of Social Networks or, again, Gamification and Public History.

The Journal has always paid great attention to a reliable and accurate dissemination of the results of Research in the civil society and, of course, in the Schools of all types and levels.

All this also in order to raise in the contemporary society the level of the debate on History and other Humanities, in the face of an ever-increasing risk of "presentification", and to make as many readers as

Con il presente numero la rivista *RiMe* festeggia i suoi (primi) 10 anni di esistenza. Infatti il primo volume uscì nel dicembre del 2008. Da allora molte cose sono cambiate in *RiMe*.

Osservando diacronicamente i suoi diversi volumi, si nota che accanto a numerosi temi più tipicamente storici la Rivista ha ospitato diverse *Special Issues* con carattere monografico riguardanti altre Scienze umanistiche quali la Letteratura, o discipline al confine tra Scienze Umane e Scienze esatte quali l'Architettura per esempio.

Per non parlare poi di diverse incursioni effettuate nel vasto e interessante mondo dei *Social Networks* o, ancora, della *Gamification* e della *Public History*.

La Rivista ha prestato sempre una grande attenzione anche a un'attendibile e accurata disseminazione dei risultati delle ricerche nella società civile e, ovviamente, nelle Scuole di ogni ordine e grado.

Tutto ciò anche al fine di innalzare nella società contemporanea il livello del dibattito sulla Storia e le altre Scienze Umane, dinanzi a un

possible can reach every content of *RiMe*, now accessible totally free of charge.

Precisely in accordance with the aims pursued since the the creation of the Journal 10 years ago.

In order to celebrate this first important Journal's anniversary in an even more appropriate way, we decided to adopt the Content Management System (CMS) "OJS". This choice is due to two of our objectives: 1) to adapt *RiMe*'s contents to parameters now very common at international level with regard to scientific Journals, and 2) to further increase the indexing and visibility of the essays hosted in it.

Currently, the last three issues have been uploaded to the new CMS, those marked "n.s.", i.e. "New Series" published in the last year, starting from December 2017.

Progressively all the previous 18 Issues will be uploaded in the new CMS, thus reaching a total of 27 Booklets.

rischio sempre crescente di "presentificazione", e di far raggiungere al maggior numero possibile di lettori ogni contenuto di *RiMe*, ormai accessibile in maniera totalmente gratuita. Proprio in ottemperanza delle finalità perseguite dalla creazione di questa rivista ormai 10 anni fa.

Per festeggiare in maniera ancora più adeguata questa prima importante ricorrenza della rivista, abbiamo deciso di adottare il Content Management System (CMS) "OJS". Tale scelta è dovuta a due nostri obiettivi: 1) adeguare così i contenuti di *RiMe* a parametri ormai molto diffusi a livello internazionale in riviste di carattere scientifico e 2) incrementare ulteriormente l'indicizzazione e la visibilità dei saggi ospitati in essa.

Attualmente sono stati caricati nel nuovo CMS gli ultimi tre numeri, quelli caratterizzati dalla dicitura "n.s.", ossia "nuova serie" pubblicati nell'ultimo anno dal dicembre 2017.

Progressivamente saranno inseriti nel nuovo CMS tutti i precedenti 18 numeri, arrivando così a un totale di 27 fascicoli.

Ad Maiora
Cagliari, 31 Dicembre 2018

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Introduction

Luciano Gallinari
(CNR - Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea)
Ali Ahmed El-Sayed
(Damanhour University, Egypt)
Heba Mahmoud Saad
(Alexandria University, Egypt)

This issue of *RiMe*, with which the Journal celebrates its (first) 10 years of existence, is once again, a *Special Issue*. In this case, it is dedicated to the topic of relations between Italy and Egypt and, more generally, between the Western World and the Islamic one in a chronological span that goes from the High Middle Ages to the beginning of the Modern Age, a theme at the heart of the Bilateral Project ASRT (Egypt) / CNR (Italy) "*History of Peace-building: peaceful relations between East and West (11th - 15th Century)*", financed for the years 2016 - 2017, whose scientific managers were, for the Egyptian side, Prof. Ali Ahmed Mohamed El-Sayed, from the University of Damanhour, and Dr. Luciano Gallinari, from the CNR-Istituto di Storia dell'Europa Mediterranea, for the Italian one.

The same historical and historiographic themes were discussed by Egyptian and Italian researchers in the context of three other workshops, two of which were organized in Rome in February and December 2017 ("Historiographic reflections on the medieval relations between Muslims and Christians"), and the third and last one in Alexandria ("Egypt and Italy: Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Tourism and Peaceful Relations") always in December 2017.

The volume contains some articles by Italian and Egyptian researchers of the above mentioned Bilateral Project that fit in the wake of themes already examined at the International Conference *Peace Building between East and West (XI-XVI c.)*, held in Cairo on 27 October 2016.

Alongside an essay dedicated to the important theme of the profound change recorded in the settlement policies in the Late Ancient and Early Medieval Mediterranean, strongly affected by the rapid and large expansion of Islam, there is another text that examines the stimulating figure of the Priest John in relation to the Crusades, from the dual Christian and Muslim perspective.

The third essay is dedicated to a theme of great importance: the relationship between the Roman Curia and the Mamluk Sultanate at the time of Innocent

VIII (1484-1492). A pope who played an anything but a secondary role also in the setting up of Christopher Columbus' "discovery" enterprise, also aimed at breaking that sort of "encirclement" sensation on the part of the Islamic World that Christianity felt at the end of the Middle Ages.

This volume also includes six other scientific essays, three by Italian researchers and three by Egyptian researchers dedicated to the theme of Cultural Heritage and its management for cultural tourism purposes in Italy and Egypt. I will not talk about them because it will be done by Prof. Heba Mahmoud Saad in her pages of this Introduction, but I will just say that the idea of this booklet and other initiatives that will take place in the next two years of the aforementioned Bilateral Project (2019 - 2020) came to me during a stay in Alexandria, Egypt, in October 2016 after meeting the aforementioned Prof. Saad who very kindly accompanied me on a tour of that beautiful Egyptian city.

On that occasion, we talked for a long time about the rich cultural heritage of our two countries and the idea of increasing scientific collaboration between us was born. This volume is a first, small piece of this collaboration, which confirms how this Journal can be a forum for discussion and debate on the important issue of Dissemination of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage, which is one of the main aims of *RiMe* since its creation.

Finally, the volume contains an interesting archaeological essay dedicated to the medieval *villa* of Santa Gilla (or Santa Igia, in other sources) probably located within the lagoon of the same name a few kilometers from the Roman and Byzantine city of *Karales* located below a part of the centre of the current city of Cagliari. The author of this essay presents an interesting and stimulating proposal for the identification of this *villa*, attested in the sources from 1070 and seat of the judges of Calari, who were from an institutional point of view the most direct heirs of the previous Arconti / Giudici di Sardegna mentioned in the Byzantine and papal sources of the 9th and 10th centuries A.D.

The volume is closed by some Book Reviews of recent publications on Medieval and Modern History.

Luciano Gallinari

* * *

It is an honor to participate in the introduction of the special issue of *RiMe* journal which is dedicated to publish part of the results of the Egyptian-Italian (ASRT/CNR) research project entitled "History of Peace-Building: peaceful relations between East and West (XIth – XVth Century)"

The project focuses on the significance of the relations between Western Europe and the Islamic East and the efforts which were made towards peace-building from the eleventh to the fifteenth century, although that period was considered as the most serious stage in the conflict between the East and West, Islam and Christianity in the Middle Ages.

During the two-years of cooperation many activities and events were organized between the Egyptian and Italian partners: In October 2016, an international conference was organized by the Egyptian partners and was hosted by the Supreme Council of Culture aiming to compare the results of our research. It was followed by a workshop held in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in collaboration with the Italian Principal Investigator; Dr. Luciano Gallinari.

In February 2017, Prof. Aly El-Sayed and Dr. Abdallah Al-Naggar, two members of the Egyptian research team, visited Rome and participated in a workshop hosted by Istituto Storico Italiano per l'Età Moderna e Contemporanea. Another workshop was also organized by the Italian team headed by Dr. Luciano Gallinari between 10-15 December. During that workshop which was held in Rome, the Egyptian participation was represented by Prof. Aly Al-Sayed, Dr. Abdallah Al-Naggar and Mr. Ahmed Sheir.

Considering the international interest in heritage and the common heritage shared by Egypt and Italy; a special workshop was devoted for that topic in 17 December, 2017. During the workshop, which was held in Alexandria and organized by Prof. Heba Saad together with Dr. Luciano Gallinari, Egyptian and Italian researchers presented papers, focusing on heritage as an aspect of peace-building and potential for sustainable development.

The results of the Bilateral Project were disseminated by various publications. The first is a multilingual (English-Arabic-Italian-Hungarian) book, entitled *Relations between East and West - Various Studies: Medieval and Contemporary Ages*, which contains all papers compiled by both research teams. This volume contains 11 papers in addition to a preface. The papers were prepared by 6 Egyptian researchers, 4 Italians, and 1 Hungarian. The current issue of *RiMe* is the second publication containing 3 papers on history (2 Italian researchers and 1 Egyptian), 6 papers on heritage (3 Italian researchers and 3 Egyptians) in addition to 1 focus and 3 book reviews.

Within the next few weeks, the third publication will be issued in the form of a book which presents histories of peaceful coexistence between various people, empires, cultures and religions from the Middle Ages to the end of the 20th century. The authors examined the contact points of different cultures from the Byzantine Empire, through the Trebizond Empire period and into the Seljuk Sultanate. The book also presents insights into the peaceful coexistence between

Egyptian Copts and Muslims in the period from 1882 to 1952. Researchers from Egypt, Italy, Germany, and Hungary participated in this work.

Ali Ahmed El-Sayed

Peaceful relation between East and West is an important topic that attracted the attention of both Egyptian and Italian researchers to work on. Thus; a formal research project was established between CNR and ASRT entitled "History of Peace-building: peaceful relations between East and West (11th-15th Century). The current issue of *RiMe* is dedicated to publish some results of that project.

Leaving aside the first part of the Issue, already presented by Luciano Gallinari, I will focus on the second part of it which is dedicated to heritage since the Egyptian and Italian partners of the project believe that this wide and yet diverse aspect insures the deep relations between Egypt and Italy. The Italian contribution in the creation of the modern Egyptian heritage is unquestionable and the Egyptian heritage presented in Italy is irreplaceable; thus, heritage can provide a common ground for planning for the future. It ensures sustainable development of tourism and can strengthen the future relations between the two countries. Due to that importance of heritage a special seminar was organized in Alexandria in December 2017 to discuss Egyptian-Italian heritage and how it can be another aspect of peace-building between the two countries.

Many papers were presented in the seminar and 6 of them were chosen to be published in the current issue of *RiMe.* Sandra Leonardi's paper is entitled "*The cultural places' valorization through new models of tourism"* and it focuses on the sustainable tourism as one of the principles of economic development. The paper sheds light on new forms of tourism aiming at enhancing, integrating environmental sustainability of the landscape, cultural heritage and environmental resources by identifying their potential value and making them attractive.

Sara Carallo's paper which is about "*Digital Cultural Heritage and Tourism: Valle dell'Amaseno Web Portal"* presented a cultural heritage project executed in Valle dell' Amaseo to encourage the local community participate in the development of the cultural heritage. The project focuses on the census of cultural and environmental heritage and on the creation of tourist travel routes aiming at promoting sustainable mobility and improving accessibility through the proposal of alternative routes.

An innovative approach of using cultural heritage was presented by Luisa Spagnoli - Lucia Grazia Varasano in their paper "*Unused railways for a planning idea- A Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage".* They proposed the idea of the

transformation of two railways of Basilicata Region – the Lagonegro-Spezzano Albanese and the Matera-Montalbano Jonico, – which have a historical, cultural and environmental important value. The paper suggests that the reusing of these abandoned railways can have effects on the territory crossed, on the places, on the historical settlements, activating a special type of "experiential" tourism and other innovative forms of it. Such an experience can also represent an extraordinary Intangible and Tangible Cultural Heritage experience.

Another idea of using the tangible and intangible heritage for the benefit of tourism is proposed by Heba Saad in her paper "*Thematic walking tours in Alexandria as a way to discover its heritage: Case study of Italian heritage in Alexandria"*. The paper sheds light on the role of the Italian community in the creation of both the tangible and intangible heritage of the cosmopolitan city; Alexandria. The paper presented thematic walking tours as a way to discover the vivid Italian heritage of Alexandria; proposing a wide range of themes to present that heritage and the different routes of such tours.

Heba Said and Sherine Hamid in their paper "*Community participation in heritage sites tourism planning: Case study Dahshur mobilization plan"* explained the essential role of community participation in the planning, development and conservation of heritage sites. They applied their study on one of the sites in Egypt; "Dahshur World Heritage Site" to investigate the local community participation. The study proved that the residents had a positive perception of the participation experience which empowered them to influence the decision making process, enhanced their quality of life, created job opportunities and improved their skills.

In her paper "*Italian Egyptologists through the Ages*" Reham El-Shiwy looked at heritage from a different prospective focusing on how part of the Egyptian heritage was discovered in the past by Italian archaeologists, explorers and missionaries. The paper sheds light on the efforts of famous Italians such as Ippolito Rosellini, Giovanni Battista Caviglia, Belzoni, Ernesto Schiaparelli, Silvio Curto and others; highlighting their findings in Egypt and discussing their participation in the field of Egyptology.

Heba Mahmoud Saad

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Recensioni

Books reviews

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Recensioni / Book Reviews

Albareda, Joaquim - Herrero Sánchez, Manuel (eds.) (2018) *Political Representation in the Ancien Régime*. New York: Routledge (Routledge Studies in Renaissance and Early Modern Worlds of Knowledge), ISBN: 9781138335325

Antonio López Amores
(Universitat Jaume I, Castellón de la Plana)

The book offers a title that adjusts perfectly to the subject of its pages, showing since the very beginning, a high level of cohesion between chapters and authors. During its more than 300 pages the reader will find politic and, more specifically, representational information about different European estates in the early modern period. Due to the extension of the volume and the variety of its contents, as well as the obvious space limitations here, we assess very briefly every chapter, offering our apologies in advance for any generalisations made.

The beginning is an excellent example of a good blend between a traditional state of the art and a description of what representation itself is, at least for the European territory. Thus, in this first section the reader will find general information about precedent academic publications regarding this matter. At this early point of reading, it is already obvious that the several authors included come from a wide variety of international contexts, being all experts in their respective fields of research. Besides, the editors provide in these lines their main and secondary goals to achieve within the volume: to break the traditional «dualist model and claim that reality was much more complex», updating the information about representative system across Europe and discard, in this way, the old political interpretations that adhere to history still today.

Such a complex and ambitious enterprise would not be complete without the chapter written by Wim Blockmans, Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at Leiden University, which is an approach to the understanding of the following sections. The author states different rules and tendencies, factors and influences, all linked not only to representation, but also to economy, sociology and culture. The scholar explains the problem that justifies, in essence, the publication of the volume. This is based, unsurprisingly, by a limited vision of the traditional historiography and its basic and narrow perspective, as it is said as well in the introductory lines. In his analysis, he holds all of Europe and goes as early as the 12th century in the appropriate explanations but, above all, the readers will get here

a clearer vision on how political negotiation appeared near the early modern period, and why.

The section dedicated to France begins with a chapter written by Gilbert Larguier, also Emeritus Professor at the Perpignan UPVD University, focusing on the political representation in the region of Languedoc, where the consulate model becomes a very important one. The author goes back to the Middle Ages in order to explain the origin of this special system and, by doing so, he also shows the diversity of this French territory, where there were a myriad of regions with a high level of difference between them. The reader will find in this chapter the election processes of the representative and consular system of the region. Likewise, the evolution from the strengthening of the royal power in the 17th century until the political switch happened towards the end of the Ancien Régime, fulfilling not only the title of the chapter, but also the book's.

The next contribution offers, from the very first statement of the chapter a deep connection with what was written in the introduction: did the French monarchs rule freely, or did they need the support of "leser" political entities? In order to answer this question, Marie-Laure Legay focuses in the territorial French assemblies, how they began and how they were incorporated into the financial system of the Crown. The analysis reaches beyond the preliminary studies, and goes deeper into the Crown-assemblies relation in its search for general rules and conclusions. The reader can then understand how those organs worked and by whom were integrated, taking into account the wide view adopted in the text.

The last chapter dedicated to France places in its center of attention the «lowest level» of representation in the Ancien Régime: the villages. Before doing so, the author, Antoine Follain, starts by evaluating the previous historiography from the 19th century until today, and how the interest in studying the villages and its inhabitants has changed very noticeably with the passage of time, inducing ups and downs in the academic attention towards the early modern village administration. Historiography is, indeed, a key part in Follain's contribution, where the historical sources are also taken into account, as well as their meaning in past and future research. The nature of these sources are addressed in the final pages of the chapter, where the author also achieves some final and interesting conclusions about the organization and representation of France's villagers and about the rural areas that, still today, remain without a proper research in this matter.

The second section of the volume is formed by two chapters that focus into the "Italian Republics and Imperial Cities", respectively. The first of them is a study about the republican city-state of Genoa, and how it evolved from the Late Middle Ages and through the Ancien Régime. The author, Carlo Bitossi, begins by defining the main characteristics of the Genoese Republic. Hence, following a very

analytic approach, every aspect discussed about the city and government of Genoa is also compared with the two Italian more similar states: Lucca and Venice. In the following pages, then, it is shown a definition and explanation of some of the most distinctive Genoese traits –like the different political factions of the city or how Genoa was immersed into the political evolution along the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. In this way, the chapter fulfils what was promised in the book's introduction: great detail of the representative system during the Ancien Régime and new perspectives and grasps of the political evolution during this time.

The second chapter of the section focuses on political representation of the *Reichsstäte*, a group of imperial cities whose only superior authority was the Emperor himself. The lines are written in this case by Thomas Weller, Senior Researcher of the Leibniz Institute of European History in Mainz, and it is his goal to assess the role played by these cities in the Holy Roman Empire. In order to do so, first it is necessary to surpass the historiographic problem bound to the questions: were these points in the Empire "havens" of representation or, on the contrary belief, were they more a decadent system that struggled for notoriety? Until what point did the population of these cities exert their influence in the local politics and negotiations? How did they increase or lose their ability to press into the decisions made? These and many other questions are answered here, showing then, the development during the Ancien Régime of the representational weight these cities had and how they –in general– decreased in visibility and importance, according to the European arise of the absolutism.

Displacing the territorial scope to the north, there is a section of the book –and a chapter– about Scotland and its representation from the beginning of the 18th century to the 19th. John R. Young begins with a basic definition and description of Scotland's parliamentary system, along with the characteristics and evolution of its different estates –which were the clergy, the nobility, the barons or shire commissioners, the burghs and, lastly, the officers of state appointed by the crown. The detailed explanation of each one of them, accompanied by maps that enlighten their geographical distribution, will help the reader to better understand the complex yet unique representational system of Scotland. The last part of Young's contribution to the volume delves into the democratic movements of the late 18th century and how the changes in this years forced the government to introduce some alterations into the representative system, which led, in the end, to the 1832 Reform Act.

The last part of the book deepens into the Spanish Monarchy and its complex and varied aggregation of states, beginning with the Aragonese ones, the most connected to the Mediterranean environment of the Hispanic monarchs. Thus, the first chapter, by Tomàs de Montagut, boards the whole as a concept: the formation, characteristics, composition and evolution of the Crown of Aragon, with its

different territories. Again, it is necessary to go back to the medieval times, with a thorough revision of the first kings, and how their actions strengthened the royal power, and also, how they consolidated an unquestionable hereditary succession. The analysis continues until the last days of the War of the Spanish Succession in the first 1700s, when the Crown of Aragon was merged into the Castile one by the Bourbons, creating a «uniform monarchy of a single Spain».

After this initial approach, the next chapter deals –logically– with the representation in the realm that gives its name to the crown: Aragon. The first lines by Gregorio Colás Latorre –Emeritus Professor at the University of Zaragoza– assembly the basics of the old Hispanic kingdom: differences between the king and the realm and their respective attributions, as well as one of the distinctive characteristics of Aragon: four estates, or arms, instead of three, like the other members of the crown had. Hence, the reader will find here a full review of other Aragonese institutions, like de *Diputación*, the *Justicia*, the *Cortes* or even the town council. Colás includes the results of his own experiences in the archives and the *Cortes*' records to answer many questions related to the topic.

The objective of the following chapter is clearly stated at the beginning by the University of Valencia Emeritus Professor Carmen Pérez Aparicio: «to analyse the role played by Valencian representative institutions during the early modern period». In order to do so, a full review is made, from the very creation of the kingdom until 1707. Profound explanation of the inner workings and duties of the *Corts* and each one of the three estates is given, with acute comparisons between the other realms of the crown and even Castile. Once the previous notions are settled, Pérez Aparicio formulates an obvious –but not so easy to answer– question: how did the institutions of the Kingdom of Valencia evolved during the years of the absolutism? The next sections of her chapter thoroughly explain these changes, from the advent of the House of Habsburg to the throne until the beginning of the 18th century. The chapter's closing summarizes the highlights of the previous lines, leaving a full comprehension of the function of some of the most important Valencian institutions and their evolution along the strengthening of the absolutist regime.

The contribution, by Lluís Guia Marín, about the representation of the island and kingdom of Sardinia begins with an approach to the institutions and idiosyncrasy of this realm and the iconic events of its history. It is mostly adequate to find this chapter after the one about the Kingdom of Valencia, because in this way, the reader can follow more nimbly the comparisons between both realms made by the author. Thus, we find soon one of the main characteristics of the island: the *Corts* were presided by the viceroy, not the king, which led to some interesting variances, like the frequency of the summoning of the estates during the 16th and 17th centuries. The composition and traits of the three estates are

detailed, covering important factors like the political predominance of the military arm, or the never-ending rivalry between the island two major cities: Cagliari and Sassari. Above all, the author clearly notes the similarities with the Kingdom of Valencia and how it was, in both of them, the nobility arm the most involved in the assemblies and in the political representation in general. Finally, the changes and political events that took place from the arrival of the Savoyards occupy the last part of Guia's chapter. Above all, the author presents the opportunity to understand how the island changed and was unified with the continental lands or *Terraferma*, losing in this process their old Aragonese political and representational background.

The second part dedicated to the Crown of Aragon and, more concretely, to the «Catalan Case» is headed by one of the editors of the volume, Joaquim Albareda. Its beginning connects with the previous authors, linking the Catalan territory with its neighbours and establishing common points with them. At the same time, a basic historic path is made through the formation of the Catalan state, and how it was configured in the early modern period, alongside the other realms of the Crown of Aragon. It follows a clear explanation on how the representation in Catalonia was consolidated during the 17th century, with Barcelona at the head of this phenomenon. With the arrival of the dynastic conflict in the 18th century, the *Corts* found the opportunity to bolster their control against the royal power, thing that was achieved, as Albareda details, in the parliaments celebrated with both candidates to the throne in the first decade, although the reality of war frustrated many of these reforms. What follows is an exhaustive analysis on how representation changed during these years, in the *Corts*, the royal estate and, above all, the city of Barcelona. Consequently, the final section of this chapter follows the historically logic structure of the other ones also based in the Crown of Aragon territories: the end of their representative system by the *Nueva Planta* decrees by the new Bourbon dynasty.

Josep Capdeferro introduces a chapter which means another success in the organization of the book, as it focus into two institutions mentioned in the precedent contribution: the *Tribunal de Contrafaccions* and the *Corts*. It connects efficiently with the end of Albareda's section, as the core of the analysis is situated in the first years of the convulsed 18th century. Origin, composition, development, functions, workings, organization and the end itself of the *Tribunal* are specified, and the common interests against those of the king and the lords are shown. Towards the end of the chapter, there is a remarkable part that describes, in a day by day log format, the complex sequence of negotiations between the three estates and, later, with the king, that led to the official creation of the *Tribunal de Contrafaccions* in 1702.

The aim of the next chapter –and the last of the Catalan case, written by Eduard Martí– is centered in the *Conferència dels Comuns*, an assembly that clearly stood against the royal power since the middle of the 16th century and, because of that, suffered several attempts to dissolve it, until the already mentioned *Nueva Planta* decrees in 1714. The *Conferència* was not an official institution –rather advisory–, but gathered some of the most important representatives of the territory in the defence of the constitutions, and their opinions and advices had a substantial weight in the other assemblies and in the representative individuals as well. To back up these arguments, the reader will find additional information, tables and graphics, which show the growth in importance of the *Conferència*, as well as the broad variety of matters discussed in it. The author also deals with its social composition, and his last lines offer some general ideas, present during the whole text, that emphasize how the Conference served as a catalyst of constitutional claims.

The differences between the Crown of Aragon and the Crown of Castile become useful to identify what made each territory unique in its way of representation. According to this, the three chapters about Castile and the Basque Country arise some interesting information and become, at the same time, an excellent reading, especially after the contributions regarding its Mediterranean counterpart. Therefore, the next chapter, by José Ignacio Fortea Pérez, estates the early changes experimented by the Castilian *Cortes*, like the absence of the calling of the nobility and the clergy to them after 1539. The consequences of this fact, though legal –as the author points out–, changed the way some negotiations worked and meant a whole series of protests from the excluded estates or *brazos*. Hence, the final lines of Fortea's contribution give a clear answer to the question raised in previous chapters, about how did Castile actually favoured the royal power or, more accurately, how the monarchs used the legal gaps in order to gain control over several matters, like the collection of taxes.

Municipal representation takes the topic of the next chapter, once the evolution of the *Cortes* has been analysed. This distribution continues in the line of a logic and coherent one, due to the fact that one of the main political powers of this kingdom was that of the towns and cities, the «territorial power». Bernardo Ares analyses the city council dynamics, perfectly connected with the information of the previous pages. The social point of view is used at first, to describe the composition of the council representation. Additionally, a more specific study is done around the *jurados* figure, the responsible of the defence of «the common good». Thus, the reader will find a clear explanation of their origin, social extraction and requirements, as well as their functions and responsibilities. The last lines approach the role of this *jurados* in the city council and how, although not having the power to vote, they exerted their influence.

Moving the scope of the text, Susana Truchuelo focuses on the north of the Iberian Peninsula, concretely in the Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa regions, and their representational system, based in a territorial pattern. In order to do so, it becomes necessary a political approach to these two lands, which the author does in the first place. In this way, the reader will find out how these provinces evolved, from an unbalanced representational system to a more unified one, in the middle of the 17th century. Both from the local and provincial point of view the inner working of these systems are explained mentioning some key factors, like the existence of patronage networks that linked the families to the court, or the appearance or some level of oligarchisation.

Last but not least, it is the turn of the second editor of the book, Manuel Herrero Sánchez, which focuses on a series of arguments against some premises that assert the incompatibility of the dynastic and the republican states. At the centre of the author's analysis is the Spanish Monarchy, an ensemble of different territories, each one of them with its own legal code and traditions; besides, in some cases, high level of urbanisation too. The chapter shows a different reading about the relations between this monarchy and its respective kingdoms and states, where the king is the head of the whole, rather than the direct owner of every assembly, land or vassal. Nevertheless, the appearance during the early modern period of the absolutist ideas is not left without an explanation. Herrero's contribution summarizes the main reasons after this political swift, analysing the posterior evolution of this monarchy until the end of the Ancien Régime.

Before finishing this review there are some key aspects of the present volume that should be highlighted. One and foremost, the high level of cohesion and imbrication between each part, section and chapter makes the book a union of related content, rather than a compendium of different and miscellaneous contributions. There is a common topic in every text, but there is also a good level of interrelation between each one of the chapters, largely due to the logical and structured order of the different sections. Because of that, the reader can approach the book as a whole or focus in one of its parts or chapters, according to a concrete point of interest. Needless to say that the volume stands out as one that offers an excellent variety of options before reading it: both the neophyte and the expert would find in its pages useful information regarding representation, and every contribution is backed up by the correspondent bibliography and notes, that helps the reader to deepen in some specific topic if wanted. Then, *Political Representation in the Ancien Régime* covers a wide variety of territories and scopes and, through the lecture of the volume, it is clear that it reaches the goals set in its own introduction.

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