

Feeding the city. Agricultural production for the market and food supply in the Iberian Peninsula in the late Middle Ages

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Food for the city. Valencia's impact on the agrarian economy of its rural hinterland in the late Middle Ages

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The development of Valencia in the central centuries of the Middle Ages can be explained fundamentally by the existence of its huerta, an extensive irrigated plain around the city. Valencia continued to grow over the following centuries, becoming the most populous city on the Iberian Peninsula in the second half of the 15th century. To feed such a huge population, the huerta was no longer sufficient and the city had to resort both to the agricultural production of the whole kingdom and to the importation of grain from abroad. The aim of this paper is to measure the impact on its hinterland of the city's demand for food and other supplies at this early peak of its development. Wealth registers, tax revenues, notarial records and other sources will be used to define specialised agricultural zones and patterns of distributing the produce within a wide area around the capital. The study is expected to shed light on the growth of commercialised agriculture, on the dynamics of the late medieval economy, and on the capacity of early societies to maintain great cities.

food; urban demand; agrarian production; Middle Ages

Grain, Gain and the Common Good. The Supply of Portuguese Towns in 1385

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As recent events show, the regular grain supply remains a delicate issue for non-producing areas. In fourteenth-century Portuguese cities, this problem challenged municipal authorities. While managing the supply of the city, the municipal authorities understood and accepted the role of market mechanisms. As municipal authorities overlapped, if not emerged from, the land-owning elites, as shown by the historiography, it was in their self-interest to make the most of grain shortages. However, the self-representation of the municipality as the defender of the common good also meant that they were expected to harness these forces in order to ensure sufficiency. Which side did they choose? The response of the Portuguese cities, especially grain-producing Évora and grain-demanding Loulé, before the looming Castilian invasion of 1385 provides a window into how municipal authorities dealt with the markets, political pressures and the elusive but ever-present issue of the common good.

grain supply; cities; common good; Portugal; municipalities

From the countryside to the city: management and urban supply in Valladolid at the beginning of the 16th century

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This paper aims to explore, on the basis of local and other sources, the connection generated between the town of Valladolid and the surrounding villages and countryside to ensure the provision of basic products to supply the town. The work will examine institutional and economic aspects, which were key to the organisation and management of this system. Special attention will be paid to the generation of an interdependence between town and country, especially visible in the food crisis of 1502-1503.

Urban supply; Castile

El aprovisionamiento de cereales en Barcelona en la Baja Edad Media

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El pan, en la Baja Edad media, se había convertido en el centro de la alimentación de un sector mayoritario de las sociedades urbanas. Esta demanda rígida creaba problemas de abastecimiento de cereales en las grandes ciudades. En Barcelona, el aprovisionamiento corría a cargo, en buena parte, de mercaderes locales y extranjeros. El municipio, sin embargo, ejercía un control atento sobre el mercado local y había creado un circuito de abastecimiento paralelo al privado, para evitar las periódicas subidas de precios e incrementar la seguridad alimentaria. En los años normales, el grano llegaba a Barcelona procedente de Aragón, Cataluña y Sicilia. En las épocas de carestía, los mercaderes y los agentes municipales tenían que buscar mercados de aprovisionamiento mucho más lejanos. El comercio del grano estimuló la especialización en amplias regiones de la Corona de Aragón y favoreció la integración de los mercados regionales. Las políticas públicas de abastecimiento aseguraron, durante la crisis de subsistencia, una distribución social minimamente equilibrada de los contingentes disponibles y evitaron las revueltas de hambrientos, pero fueron muy caras y crearon problemas de financiación al municipio de Barcelona, que tuvo que recurrir al crédito. a la emisión de deuda pública

cereales; Barcelona; especialización productiva; integración de mercados; Endeudamiento municipal

Cereal insufficiency and livestock specialization. The case of the island of Mallorca (14th-15th centuries)

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In this communication we study how the agrarian economy of Mallorca was characterized, throughout the Middle Ages, by the insufficiency of cereal production. This was a consequence, in most cases, of the low productivity of the land, but also of the dedication of large areas of land to pastures for sheep farming. This forced recourse, almost every year, to the export of cereals. To do this, it was necessary to calculate, from the middle of the 15th century, what was the production of the different cereals of the whole island.

Cereal insufficiency; livestock specialization