

**Ideas about the Economic Advantages of Colonial
Maritime War and their Impact on British
Politics and Naval Policy, 1701-1729**

2 volumes: volume 1

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I certify that all material in this thesis which is not my own work has been identified and that no material has previously been submitted and approved for the award of a degree by this or any other University.

(signature)

Abstract

In early modern England (after 1707, Britain), there was an argument that war at sea, especially war in Spanish America, was an ideal means of warfare for England. This argument, whose origin can be traced back to the glorious memory of Elizabethan maritime war, revived at the beginning of the War of the Spanish Succession.

This thesis examines this pro-maritime war argument, by focusing on its connection with its supposed economic advantages, and investigates its impact on British politics and naval policy during the war, and changes after the war.

It reveals that this argument received support from politicians of different political stances because of its alleged economic advantages; colonial maritime war was expected to damage enemy financial resources while enriching Britain, and help to recover the Spanish American market where French merchants were making a rapid advance. At the same time, it makes clear that different political affiliations of the supporters created two types of pro-maritime arguments with different political functions.

The thesis also shows that the supporters of colonial maritime war in the government as well as in the opposition tried to implement pro-maritime war policy by naval operations such as capture of Spanish silver fleets and colonial expeditions, and by legislation such as the American Act of 1708. However, their attempts were frustrated by diplomatic considerations, incapacity of naval administration, and by conflicting interests between several groups concerned in the West Indian colonies and Spanish American trade.

After the South Sea expedition planned by the South Sea Company in 1712 did not materialise due to similar difficulties, the government focused on protection of the Spanish American trade, and refrained from taking aggressive action against Spanish colonies partly because of considerations for the interests of the company which started the Asiento trade. On the other hand, by the late 1720s the opposition, which championed the interests of private merchants, gradually came to advocate pro-maritime war policy, which eventually led up to propaganda campaigns against the Walpole ministry in the period of the War of Jenkins's Ear.

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Map

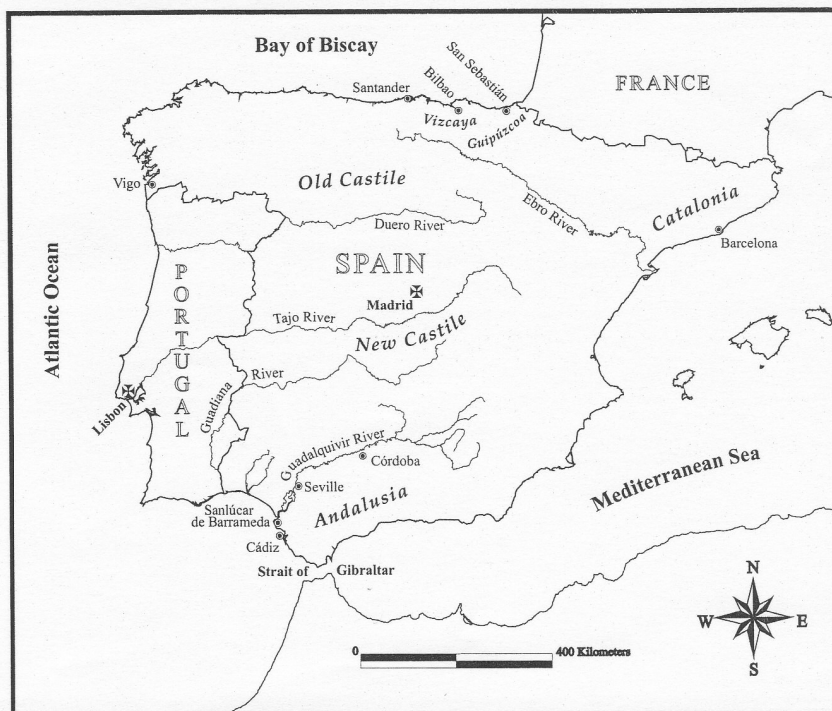


From the Gulf of Mexico to Peru, the main area of concern for Spanish viceroys in 1700.
Lawrence V. Mott

Carla R. Phillips, *The Treasure of the San Jose: Death at Sea in the War of the Spanish Succession* (Baltimore, 2007)



The oceanic connections between Spain and its American empire in 1700. Lawrence V. Mott



Spain and its neighbors in 1700. Lawrence V. Mott

Carla R. Phillips, *The Treasure of the San Jose: Death at Sea in the War of the Spanish Succession* (Baltimore, 2007)

Abbreviations

Add. MSS. Additional Manuscripts

ADM Records of the Admiralty

AHR American Historical Review

BIHR Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research

BL British Library

Bolingbroke Correspondence Viscount Bolingbroke, *Henry St. John, Letters and Correspondence, Public and Private, of the Right Honourable Henry St. John, Lord Visc. Bolingbroke; during the Time he was Secretary ...* (London, 1798)

Chandler Richard Chandler, *The History and Proceedings of the House of Commons from the Restoration to the Present time* (London, 1742-4)

Ch (H) MSS. *Cholmondeley (Houghton) Manuscripts*

C.J. Journals of the House of Commons

CO Records of the 'Colonial Office' [Colonial State Papers and records of the Old Board of Trade]

Cobbett Cobbett's Parliamentary History of England: from the Norman Conquest, in 1066, to the Year, 1803 (London, 1810)

ECCO *Eighteenth Century Collections Online* [online sources]

EEBO *Early English Books Online* [online sources]

EcHR Economic History Review

EHR English Historical Review

FH.MSS. Finch Hatton Manuscripts

HAHR *Hispanic American Historical Review*

HJ *Historical Journal*

History of Parliament, 1690-1715 David Hayton, Eveline Cruickshanks and Stuart Handley,
The House of Commons, 1690-1715 (History of Parliament) (London, 2002)

HLQ *Huntington Library Quarterly*

H.M.C. Carlisle *Manuscripts of the Earl of Carlisle, Preserved at Castle Howard* (London, 1897)

H.M.C. Egmont Diary *Manuscripts of the Earl of Egmont: Diary of the First Earl of Egmont (Viscount Percival)* (London, 1923)

H.M.C. Stuart F. H. Blackburne Daniell (ed.), *Calendar of the Stuart Papers belonging to His Majesty the King, Preserved at Windsor Castle* (London, 1902-23)

JEBH *Journal of Economic and Business History*

JICH *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*

JMH *Journal of Modern History*

Knatchbull Diary Aubrey Newman (ed.), *The Parliamentary Diary of Sir Edward Knatchbull, 1722-30* (London, 1963)

L.J. *Journals of the House of Lords*

MM *Mariner's Mirror*

MoME *Making of the Modern World: The Goldsmiths'-Kress Library of Economic Literature 1450-1850*. [online sources]

MSS. H. of L. C. Headlam and J.B. Hotham (eds.), *Manuscripts of the House of Lords* (London, 1912)

NMM National Maritime Museum

NLS National Library of Scotland

ODNB Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

PO Portland Papers

PS Prose Studies

Review Daniel Defoe, Defoe's Review: Reproduced from the Original Editions, with an Introduction and Bibliographical Notes by Arthur Wellesley Secord (New York, 1938)

SP State Papers

Statutes at Large John Raithby (ed.), The Statutes at Large of England and of Great Britain from Magna Carta to the Union of the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland (London, 1811)

T Treasury Papers

TNA The National Archives

TRHS Transactions of Royal Historical Society

Vernon-Wager MSS Vernon-Wager Manuscripts [microfilm]

WMQ William and Mary Quarterly

A Note on Dates

In this thesis, all dates are given in the Old style of the Julian Calendar except where the New Style is indicated or both dates are used. (e.g. 6/17 August) The new year is taken to have begun on 1 January, not 25 March.