WAR AND TAXATION. THE SOLDADAS FROM THE REIGN OF ALFONSO VIII OF CASTILE TO THE 13TH CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the issue of the soldadas (salaries or stipends) from the kingdom of Alfonso VIII onwards, focusing on the testimonies from chronicles, mainly the Crónica Latina de los Reyes de Castilla and De rebus Hispaniae by Rodrigo Jiménez de Rada. The soldadas (stipendia) as cash payments for the knights (milites) are the key element to notice the narrow link between war and taxation. The matter should be framed in the wider question of the growth of royal taxation, which is very important yet in the kingdom of Alfonso VIII. One century later, the Rents from Sancho IV (1290-1292) allow us to deduce the large expanse of the soldadas, for instance in Andalusian cities, as well as the large amounts given to the main nobles (ricos hombres) to be shared among their men.

KEYWORDS

Salaries, Chronicles, King, Knights, Higher Nobility.

CAPITALIA VERBA

Stipendia, Chronicae, Rex, Milites, Nobilitas Excellentior, Prima Nobilitas.
Without resorting to the almost stereotypical expression that medieval Spanish society was a society for war, it is no less certain that war in its various manifestations was an essential element in it. Taxation was undoubtedly heavily conditioned by war, given the necessities that this generated and that affected especially the warriors or *milites* who made up the backbone of an army.

The aim here is to tackle the subject of taxation and war, especially in the period coinciding with the long reign of Alfonso VIII of Castile (1158-1214), but also using later information to provide better knowledge of the interpenetration of war and taxation, while also applying a comparative analysis.

1. Royal taxation under Alfonso VIII

The reign of Alfonso VIII (1158-1214) was very important for the growth of royal taxation. This aspect and how the consolidation of certain tributes established the bases for the later development of taxation has been highlighted elsewhere. This is taken into consideration as the framework for this study. On the other hand, it seems timely to take the fact that war conditioned the development of royal taxation during this important reign as the starting point for this analysis.

There is a problem of sources when studying the theme of war and taxation. Information from this epoch on fiscal aspects is usually scant. For example, among the 1,824 royal diplomas published by the Capet monarch Phillip Augustus (1180-1223) only 101 contain details of economic value. Of the 957 valid diplomas from Alfonso VIII’s reign, there are 351, in other words slightly over a third, with some fiscal contents. This, which initially seems very important for this study, merits some comment.

Among these, diplomas the most abundant are those that contain more or less general exemptions. There is a total of 142 such documents. They are most frequently used to know what the tax payments were, as the different charges were named when establishing an exemption. There are also numerous charters that contain an exemption from the *portazgo* (toll) (67), the payment of some benefit or tax (56) and

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the granting of portazgos (46). Exemptions from military duty appear in 56 diplomas, but this, as we shall see in the case of the fonsadera, may not necessarily be linked to the theme under study here. There are concession of salt pans registered in 40 of the royal diplomas, general grants of royal income in 36 and concession on taxes in 32 of these documents.

Still, the most important evidence for us comes from the eight diplomas that contain assignments of royal incomes, especially the diploma from 1173 (July, 30) regarding the stipendia (or soldadas) to the fratres of the Order of Santiago.

However, the narrative sources offer us information about the stipendia or payments to warriors. We can mention the passages dedicated to these in the Crónica Latina de los Reyes de Castilla and the De rebus Hispaniae by Rodrigo Jiménez de Rada, both written during the reign of Ferdinand III, King of Castile from 1217 and King of León from 1230. Special mention must be made of a passage by Jiménez de Rada about what Alfonso VIII awarded to the foreign warriors who took part in the campaign that culminated in the battle of Las Navas de Tolosa on 16th July 1212. This is interesting but it contains enormous exaggerations and distortions, as the text implies that the Castilian king spent something like three and a half million gold maravedíes on this campaign, on only what was paid to the foreign crusaders. One should only take into consideration the qualitative aspects of evidence of this type, while it is also relevant to compare these with other cases of payments of large amounts.

Jiménez de Rada’s work also contains other passages where the term stipendia is used. On describing the actions of the Aragonese troops under Alfonso I (1104-1134) in León, contextualising their sacrilegious pillage, he tells us, “et licet incliti essent predis, tamen ceperunt deffecti pecunie stipendia minorari”. The term also appears when referring to the Abbot of Fitero who brought herds of cattle and flocks of sheep and many utensils to Calatrava “necnon et multitudinem bellatorum, quibus stipendia et uiatica ministrauit”. In both examples, stipendia is used in a technical sense for the payments to warriors, either by the king or another person who leads them. Moreover, in the second case, there is a distinction between this payment and the supply or granting of other goods necessary for the working of the army, here using the term viatico. On the other hand, there is a use of stipendia, in a general sense as a payment or salary, which has a wide meaning and that thus does

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6. The fonsadera was a tribute or loan granted to the king for the purpose of enabling him to defray the expenses of a war.
7. As it is obvious that a document can contain more than one of the items presented in the whole.
10. Rodericii Ximenii de Rada. Historia de rebus...: VII, chap. II.
11. Rodericii Ximenii de Rada. Historia de rebus...: VII, chap. XIII.
not necessarily always refer to military functions. Jiménez de Rada uses it for the masters from the nascent Estudio de Palencia:

...et magistros omnium facultatum Palencie congregauit, quibus et magna stipendia est largitus, ut omni studium cupienti quasi manna in os influeret sapiencia cuiuslibet facultatis.¹²

The evidence in Rodrigo Jiménez de Rada’s work denotes a use of the military *stipendia* in the epoch when he was writing, which would not necessarily have to apply to earlier epochs. However, in the mentioned cases it can be taken as fully valid in the sense that there really were such *stipendia* or cash payments in the times referred to. The news about a fall in these payments in the case of the Aragonese troops is very revealing, although it should be borne in mind that the emphasis is placed on explaining that that the great pillaging that the chronicler describes took place was due to the Aragonese.

For Sánchez-Albornoz, there were assignments *in stipendio datas*¹³ in the Visigoth epoch, but it is very unlikely that these were earlier than the credit concessions that were seen later in Castile and León. Moreover, in any case, the *stipendia* we mention were payments in cash, so they were only possible if cash was available. It seems plausible to think that the development of the system of *parias* in the 11th century facilitated the phenomenon of the stipendiary payments or *soldadas*.¹⁴ In any case, military service by royal vassals from the Astur period meant that they would have received payments or *soldadas*.

In Alfonso VIII’s charter to the Order of Santiago in 1173, the order was granted 5% of the stipends from the *militibus* and other vassals, so 2,5 by 50 auri, 5 by 100 auri.¹⁵ This not only shows an important grant to the privileged but also that, and this is what most interests us here, there was a system whereby the vassals of the nobility receiving *soldadas* in cash, registered here as *milites* and others.¹⁶ In my opinion, this system must already have been well consolidated to enable a precise figure to be set for the amount.

On the other hand, we can ask if there were any link between the *soldadas* and the *fonsadera*. As is well known, the *fonsadera* was the tribute that replaced the provision of going to the *fonsado*, this being understood as the general obligation of free men

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¹². Rodericii Ximenii de Rada. Historia de rebus...: VII, chap. XXXIII.
¹⁴. The *parias* are linked to the payments of *soldadas* in Grassotti, Hilda. Las instituciones feudovasalláticas en León y Castilla. Spoleto: Centro Italiano di Studi sull’Alto Medioevo, 1969: II, 738 and following.
¹⁵. *computationem de stipendiis quecumque militibus vel aliis vasallis meis eroquaeuro, scilicet, de quinquaginta aureis, duos et dimidium, et de centum, quinque, et deinceps secundum huius computationem.*
¹⁶. In reality, given that *milites* meant the whole nobility but especially its lower level, the others would be the highest level among the nobles.
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17. Sánchez-Albornoz considered that this switch took place in the second half of the 9th century given that for this distinguished historian such a tribute appeared in documents from the 920s.18 However, these are falsifications. The fonsadera does not appear in the Astur period and I am inclined to think that this change did not take place until the reign of Alfonso VI (1065-1109), it being then when we find the tribute known as fonsadera becoming generalised.19 With the appearance of the fonsadera, this would not be paid by the infanzones, the lesser nobility, and in general, those who were beginning to take the form of nobles, and these privileges would also extend to the caballería villana (non-noble cavalry). Regarding the military demands, we can say that while the nobles served the King as milites, other free men would pay the fonsadera. However, it should be noted that since the 12th century, there were abundant exemptions from paying the fonsadera for the men in non-royal lordships.

With the appearance of the so-called señoríos de behetría lordships, the situation could arise that the men from these were exempt from the fonsadera, as their possible military duties were fulfilled by their lords and their knights known as deviseros, who fulfilled the military functions. This was reflected in the Libro Becerro de las Behetrías from 1352 and, with the same justification, the same was also said about the lordships of the Military Orders.20

All this leads us to assert that there was no relation between the payments of the soldadas and the fonsadera that the payment of the soldadas came from the fonsadera. Some specific circumstances must only be taken in consideration in the case of the caballería villana in the Extremaduras.

Thus, the Crónica de la población de Avila, a text dating form the mid 13th century,21 contains a passage about the beginning of Alfonso X’s reign, in which it can be deduced that the knights of Ávila could receive part of the war tribute called fonsadera paid by those who did not join the host, part of which, in this case, was received by the monarch himself.22 We can note even more clearly that the privilege

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22. E llegaron todos a Ellón, assí que ovieron y una carta del rey que se tornasen los moros a Avila, e quel diesen dos mill maravedís. E los cavalleros entendieron que seríe gran deserviçio del rey si se tornasen los moros, e entendiendo que el rey avíe menester los dineros, ovieron su acuerdo e embiaron a Gómez Nuñós e a Gonçalo Matheos al rey, que era en Vitoria, quel pidiessen merçed, quel pidiessen que los moros fuesen en su serviçio; e ya que los dineros mucho menester los avíe, que embiase luego a Avila a cojer la fonsadera de los que non pudieron venir en la hueste, e que abríe él luego los sus dineros. E en razón de aquellos dos mill maravedís, que le quitavan los caballeros la meatad de...
granted by Alfonso X to the councils of Extremadura in 1263, under which the *caballeros villanos* became direct and exclusive vassals of the king or the crown prince and had to receive an annual salary of 500 shillings as a vassal.\(^2^3\)

### 2. The payment of salaries (*soldadas*) in the narrative sources

We now refer to the passages in the narrative sources that refer to the payment of salaries by Alfonso VIII, for the campaign of Las Navas. The most explicit text is the one transmitted by D. Rodrigo in chapter IV of book VIII of his *Historia*:

...Cum enim essent ultramontani plusquam decem milia equitum et centum milia peditum, unicuique militi dabantur omni die XX\(^e\) solidos usuales, pediti uero V e solidi; mulieres, paruuli, debiles et ceteri ad bellum inepti non erant ab hac gracia alieni. Hec erant que in comuni et publice donabantur, preter donaria priuata, que sui quantitate hunc numerum excedebant, que magnatibus non diurna distribucione, set pociori summa per nobilis regis nuncios mitebantur. Hiis munerebus cumulabatur equorum innumerosa generositas, pannorum iocunda varietas, que omnia tenacitatis curva seueritas uultu propicio non poterat intueri. Hiis autem omnibus si iungantur regibus oblata donaria, suis distribuita stipendia, plus modus dantis et ylaritas meruit quam hiis omnibus emi possit. Et ad hec omnia, ne gens alienigena expedicionis omnibus indigeret, omnibus tentoria et eorum vehicula est largitus. Addidit etiam graciam gracie et cibariorum vehicula cum ceteris necessariis, LX\(^e\) milia summas et ultra cum sumariis erogatu.\(^2^4\)

As mentioned above, the amount that can be deduced from this description, and that would only have been part of the amount paid out, would have been around three and a half million maravedies, a figure that which we can qualify, without any qualms, as impossible, as it would suppose a disproportionate numbers of fighters for a 13\(^{th}\)-century army. As a comparison, we can state that in the Crusade in 1195-1197, Emperor Henry VI (1190-1197) gave 30 ounces of gold (around 840 gr.) for each knight, as well as annual maintenance for this and two squires, and 10 ounces (280 gr.) for each foot-soldier, with annual maintenance. There were 1,500 knights...
and if we calculate some 4,000 foot-soldiers, more acceptable figures, the payments rose to a total of 2,380 kg. of gold, equivalent to around 600,000 gold maravedies.\textsuperscript{25} A similar amount was the 100,000 silver marks initially demanded as a ransom for Richard I after his imprisonment by the Leopold V, Duke of Austria, and the Emperor Henry VI (1193) that were equivalent to about 20,000 kg of silver. It was later agreed to pay 150,000 marks (30,000 kg) of silver.\textsuperscript{26}

The text I present from the \textit{Crónica Latina de los Reyes de Castilla} does not give the number of combatants or what each knight or foot-soldier received, but rather it gives a general description of the payments made and the soldadas received, as well as the payment of half the incomes of the clergy.\textsuperscript{27}

\begin{quote}
\textit{Dum conuenirent nobiles et populi regis Castelle et regis Aragonum, cunctis, qui uenerant de Pictauia et de Vasconia et de Pruvincia et de alitis partibus et ipsi regi Aragonum, expenses omnes nobilis rex Castelle sufficienter ministrabat. Ubi tanta copia aurii effundebatur cotidie quam uix et numeratores et ponderatores multitudinem denariorum qui necessarii erant ad expenses poterant numerare.}

\textit{Uniuersus clerus regni Castelle ad peticionem regni medietatem omnium redituum suorum in eodem anno concesserant domino regi.}

\textit{Preter stipendia cotidian a regi Aragonum multam sumam pecunie misit antequam ipse de regno suo exiret: pauper enim erat et multis debitibus obligatus nec sine adiutorio regis Castelle potuissest militibus suis, qui eum sequi debebant, stipendia necessaria largiri.}\textsuperscript{28}
\end{quote}

In these Crónicas, as well as the texts related to the Battle of Las Navas, we must also highlight some other points. Jiménez de Rada suggests that in 1217, on the death of Henry I and the crowning of Ferdinand III as king of Castile, royal income to pay soldadas was running out, so that Queen Berenguela had to resort to her wealth in precious metals and jewels:

\begin{quote}
\textit{Verum quia perturbatione huiusmodi obsistente regales redditus ad stipendia defecerunt, et regina nobilis quicquid habuerat in largicionibus dispensarat, ad argenti et aurii et gemmarum donaria misit manum et queque ex talibus reseruarat in auxilium filii liberaliter erogavit...}\textsuperscript{29}
\end{quote}

This passage that can be assessed as Jiménez de Rada wanting to extol the generosity of the queen, but it may not be very reliable regarding income and soldadas. However, it seems reasonable to suggest that it is proof that these were usually paid.

\textsuperscript{26} Jericke, Hartmut. \textit{Kaiser Heinrich VI...}: 59-62.
\textsuperscript{27} I have a different interpretation than Charlo Brea’s Spanish translation. I think that we must understand populi as people; stipendia as soldadas and milites as waprins rather soldiers.
\textsuperscript{28} Charlo, Luis. \textit{Crónica Latina de los Reyes...}: 28.
\textsuperscript{29} Roderici Ximenii de Rada. \textit{Historia de rebus...}: VIII, chap. VII.
On dealing with the clash between Alfonso VIII and Alfonso IX of León shortly after Las Navas, the Crónica Latina de los Reyes de Castilla refers to the payment of soldadas (stipendia) to the nobles and the granting of great gifts (munera magna) to the magnates:

Exinde uero dirigens iter suum in partes Castelle, cum unicum et sumum desiderium esset ei claudere diem extremum contra Sarracenos pro exultatione nominis Iesu Christi, uidens quod rex Legionis prestaret magnum impedimentum illi tam sancto proponito tamque laudabili, stipendia multa dedit nobilibus et munera magna magnatibus, conuocauitque multitudinem populorum innumerabilem ut saltem metu perterritus rex Legionis pacem firmaret cum rege glorioso et, si nollet iuuare ipsum, saltem non impediret.30

3. The extension of royal taxation and the soldadas

If the payment of the soldadas to the nobles was important during Alfonso VIII’s reign (1158-1214), some observations about the development of taxation during that period must also be made.

We can point out that the construction of royal taxation was feasible because in the 12th century saw a new economic base, an extension of the circulation of money, a monetisation that made it possible or facilitated not only commercial transactions but also the monarchy’s financial requirements being channelled through monetary paths. Until Alfonso VIII’s reign, the gold coins in circulation were the Almoravid dinars, which the Christians called morabetinos.31 These were imitated in the first minting of maravedies, precisely, during the 1170s, when the supply of this metal stopped because of the end of the parias paid by the so-called Wolf King of Murcia. A maravedi minted in 1185, according to the most recent research, has attracted a great deal of attention. On it the Castilian king is named Prince of the Catholics, an expression with clear Islamic influence.32

The privilege Alfonso VIII gave to the Order de Santiago in 1173 assigning 5% of the amount of the stipendia to the nobles is undoubtedly a clear symptom of this important monetisation, and there is also other evidence.

Along with the cities and towns granted to her, Alfonso VIII’s pledge to his wife Leonor in 1170 included at least 5,000 coins per year from the incomes from Toledo. Under the treaty of Seligenstadt, signed on 23rd April 1188, the marriage between Alfonso VIII’s then heir, his daughter Berenguela, and Duke Conrad of Rothenburg, son of Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa (1152-1190) was arranged. The dowry was set at 42,000 auri, in other words 42,000 gold maravedies. According to Alfonso VIII’s will, written in 1204, the Castilian monarch had very heavy debts. It is said that Queen Leonor owned a notebook listing the names of the creditors; the debt was 90,000 maravedies. It expressly mentions 18,000 maravedies that the executors had to pay to the almojarife Avomar. 6,000 had been paid and the other 12,000 was to be paid from the incomes from Toledo at a rate of 3,000 maravedies per year.

From an analysis of the fiscal liabilities from 1109 to 1230, we deduce that the two main axes in the construction of royal taxation were the pecho (pectum) and the pedido (petitum). We identify the former as the pecho de marzo or marzazga, the first attempt to extend a royal tribute beyond the royal domains as an ordinary demand. It is another thing that the numerous exemptions, especially in the ecclesiastic lordships, made such a generalisation impossible, which would later become more effective through the martiniega (a tax paid on Saint Martin’s Day —11th November). On the other hand, the pedido was an extraordinary tax, that with time tended to become an ordinary tax and generally disappeared when Alfonso X (1252-1284) established the extraordinary services granted in the Courts.

We have no data about the importance of the pecho and the pedido from the economic point of view. On the other hand, the many exemptions enables us to see how the vassals of ecclesiastic and lay lordships were not obliged to pay these tributes or that the tributes totally or partially passed to the lords. On this point, the idea that on occasions in the case of the pedido there was a dual distribution between the King and the lord seems acceptable. On the other hand, the tenants must also be taken into consideration as representatives of royal authority, receiving part of the rights generated in the tenures.

The most important taxes for the royal treasury from the economic point of view were probably those from the rights related to the traffic in merchandise and its sale, which generally we usually call portazgos (tolls), as well as the rights of this nature and the urban incomes in the kingdom of Toledo, especially in the city itself, that

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36. In the above-mentioned work by Estepa, Carlos. “La construcción de la fiscalidad...”.
were encompassed under the term of *almojarifazgos.* These must have grown in importance in the 12th and 13th centuries. They contributed very significantly to the increase in royal resources.

The money and services constituted in the mid-13th century as extraordinary contributions approved by the Court became the exclusive sources of royal taxation, demanded generally, both from those included in the royal domains and the vassals of the ecclesiastical and lay lordships and the señoríos de behetría. Logically, these would be vitally important for the assignment of *soldadas* and for what we can generally consider the financing of war through royal taxation.

However, we must not forget other rights and incomes of the Castilian monarchy. The Rentas de Sancho IV from 1290-1292, edited and studied in detail by Francisco J. Hernández, area a valuable source. In these, the so-called *rentas ciertas* are made up of the royal incomes from *martiniegas* and rights, the *tercias* from the ecclesiastical tithes, the rights from salt pans and forges, the tributes from the Moorish and Jewish *aljamas* and the *almojarifazgos.* The first section, the so-called Rentas Reales, was basically made up of *martiniegas* and rights, with 1,879,522 maravedies of war money, 40.02% (of 4,695,860.5 maravedies) of the total of the Rentas Ciertas. Of this amount, 1,159,170 maravedies were for the area of the Crown made up of Castile (Las Merindades), Castilian Extremadura, the Transierra and the Kingdom of Toledo. The royal *martiniega* made up 69.52% of the Rentas Reales in that area.

Indeed, the Rentas of 1290-1292 do not mention the extraordinary contributions, i.e. money and services, but do contain a section on the payment of salaries in Andalusia. Considering the characteristics of this source, we can make some observations on the subject in question. These Rentas enable us to deduce the level of organisation reached by royal taxation in the last decade of the 13th century, making it plausible to build a retrospective view of the situation during the preceding decades, including some items and clarification, although partial, about the times of Alfonso VIII.

The Rentas of 1290-1292 is not an accounting source, in other words, these are not really a register of incomes and expenses, but rather the incomes are also the expenses. The duties levied in one place for any reason were assigned to a specific person or institution, that could then pass it to others. Although the records and the detailed applications certainly denote a notable development in the administrative power of the Castilian monarchy, this does not serve so much to assess the level of organization as much as to perceive that the king’s vassals benefited through fiscal resources.

The so-called Rentas Reales were said to be held by land (*por tierra*) or by inheritance (*por heredamiento*). The latter referred to a hereditary assignment. This could be certain rights, for example the *martiniega* or part of this in a place, or

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the lordship over that place. What was held por tierra was the most habitual and indicated that for a particular constituency? For example in the documentation from a meridad menor, the names of the holders of money are stated after expressions like: tienen los por tierra desta guisa, or son puestos en esta guisa. In reality, receiving money por tierra was no more than the tenencias, if we look at a century before the reign of Alfonso VIII. Ultimately, these are incomes derived from the tenencia over a town, a place or any kind of district, that we now know were registered as having been assigned to certain lords, for example the queen, princes, ricosombres, knights, etc. This means that the information supplied by the Rentas is vital for knowing about the people who had vassalistic links to the King, and who received their pay, in what is most like what is technically known as fiefs, through the pheudo temporali that Rodrigo Jiménez de Rada talked about.41

As well as these rights by land (por tierra), there were the payments of salaries (soldadas). We can ask to what extent the soldadas came from the extraordinary resources of the royal treasury. This way it is tempting to establish a scheme or model of the resources and their application. On one hand, there was assignment of money por tierra or en tierra, as it was also called, and on the other, the soldadas, corresponding to the ordinary and extraordinary income respectively, in other words, on one hand, martiniegas and rights, on the other money and services, or if you prefer, what came from the pecho and what from the pedido.

This scheme could be attractive but I fear that it does not correspond to the reality, which was more complicated. In the Courts of Burgos, held in 1315, during Alfonso XI’s minority, the royal chronicle stated that quisieron los de la tierra saber quanto montaban las rentas del Rey; et desque lo sopieron, porque fallaron que eran menguadas, dieron al Rey los diezmos de los puertos que solian aver su padre et sus avuelos, et más tres ayudas, que fuese cada una tanto como una moneda forera, para pagar las soldadas.42 In the Courts of Carrión (1316-1317) the conclusion was reached that the Kings’s income (the concept of 1290-1292) was 1,600,000 maravedies without counting the income from the Frontier (Andalusia), which was another million.43 However, it was that occasion the amount necessary to pay the ricosombres and knights, maintain the castles and the King and officials in the Court44 was calculated at 9,600,000 maravedies.45 The resources from the extraordinary contributions possibly made up the lion’s share of the income from royal taxation, but the so-called royal rentas also continued to be a considerable part.

41. Roderici Ximenii de Rada. Historia rebus…: VII, chap. XV.
42. “Those of the land wished to know what the incomes of the King were; and once they knew these, because they found that they were limited, gave the King the tithes of the passes that his father and his grandfathers used to receive, and three grants, each one such as a moneda forera to pay the salaries”.
45. Like the data in the Rentas of 1290-1292 the “mrs.” in the cited Crónica were the so-called war maravedis.
On the other hand, in the part dedicated to Andalusia, the Rentas from 1290-1292 give us a partial insight into the payment of soldadas. The essence of this text is the so-called i. Nómina de la Frontera. This is a register of different assignments in various places that did not differ much from what we find in the royal income in other regions. However, there is a section with the soldadas for the knights of Seville, preceded by those of the ricoshombres on the Frontier, as well as assignments to knights in other towns like Carmona, Jerez de la Frontera, Arcos de la Frontera, Niebla, Écija, Córdoba, Jaén, Úbeda, Andújar, Arjona and Baeza. In the section of Resúmenes de gastos there is again reference, with the same information, about the ricoshombres and knights. As indicated in a point in the final instructions at the end of the section called “i”, there is differentiation between the soldadas and the things que non son soldadas, but what the latter received is also por que me ayan a servuir con caballeros e con armas por ello.

This may enable us to propose that the money from the assignments por tierra could also be used to pay soldadas. In an accounts book of tierras assigned to various nobles dating from 1288, a total 2,431,133 maravedies were shared out. It seems obvious that with the amounts received, the ricoshombres distributed soldadas, thus the variations in the amount we see for different people. For example, Prince John received 416,000 maravedies while the Leonese noble Diego Ramírez was given 66,000. These amounts were used to pay soldadas to varying numbers of men. Thus, in the summary of expenses in the part of the Rentas of 1290-1292 related to Andalusia, the number of troops is indicated alongside the global amount. For example, Fernán Pérez Ponce received 28,000 maravedies of soldada for 23 men in the troop, while Juan Alfonso, son of Prince Alfonso Fernández, received a soldada of 48,000 maravedies for 40 troops.

4. The cost of War

The nobles received payments from royal taxation, from money por tierra and individualised soldadas. It could be said that the nobles received these incomes massively, but given that these same nobles had needs that went beyond their military functions, we do not know, nor is it easy to appreciate, the percentage of the income from royal taxation that was spent on war, and ultimately the answer to the question of how much war cost is pending.

Here it should be noted that while salaries (soldadas) to ricoshombres, noblemen, knights and others would be a substantial element of what we could call in general terms the Costs of War, there are other aspects involved in the spending on war that

47. It is followed by paragraphs ii. Segunda copia de la Nómina; Hernández, Francisco Javier. Las Rentas del Rey...: I, 413; and iii. Resúmenes de gastos: Hernández, Francisco Javier. Las Rentas del Rey...: I, 414-418.
49. Ladero, Miguel Ángel. Fiscalidad y poder real...: 322-323.
should be taken into consideration. There was a need for a huge number of horses and beasts of burden with their corresponding provisions. Although these costs could also be paid for by the places an army passed through, the logistic requirements had to be attended to. These were not restricted to the varying needs of the people who participated in a campaign for animals, victuals, clothing and arms, as the above-mentioned passage from Jiménez de Rada suggests regarding the foreign troops and how they had been fully equipped by Alfonso VIII.50 Transporting men and animals for a longer or shorter time notably increased the costs of war. Machines had to be built, especially siege engines and mobile fortresses, and the costs of repairing castles and fortresses should also be added to all this. In the calculation of the costs of war, the payment of ransoms for prisoners should perhaps also be considered, although this went strictly beyond royal taxation. Furthermore, if everything mentioned was on the Debit side, we must take into account the contributions of booty to the Credit side. All this leads to the idea that the question of the costs of the war must be answered in all its complexity, naturally without questioning the solidity of the soldadas.

5. Conclusions

The soldadas were the essential element structuring the relation between taxation and war. They already were of great importance during Alfonso VIII’s reign. For this, the information from the Rentas del Rey under Sancho IV (1284-1295), a century later, enables us to value the phenomenon of assigning treasury resources to the nobility and in general to all those who performed military duties. Thanks to the late 13th-century testimonies, we can see that the soldadas also meant a redistribution of the resources from the royal treasury and created a wide client network with the King at its head.51 The nobility were rewarded and could take part in the war, thus strengthening ties with a reinforced royal power thanks to its own participation. This reciprocity should be viewed as inherent to the system or regime in which it developed.

The Rentas del Rey under Sancho IV presents a noble framework directed towards and from the monarch. What was the situation under Alfonso VIII? Beyond the importance and validity of the soldadas and the other resources of royal taxation, we enter rather hypothetical grounds. It is still necessary to focus on analysing the resources and their distribution from the tenencias, but we can start from the idea that, from the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries, the payment of soldadas generated a complex organisational structure that reflected a consolidated monarchy.

50. Ladero, Miguel Ángel. Fiscalidad y poder real...: 8.