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Review of Margarita Torremocha Hernández and Alberto Corada Alonso, coords. *El estupro. Delito, mujer y sociedad en el Antiguo Régimen*

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Readers who have followed the trends and arguments of world history in recent decades will recognize the book's central arguments: Europeans who ventured abroad in the early modern centuries, far from leading an inexorable march toward world domination, were outnumbered and vulnerable. Though Spaniards were able to defeat the existing empires in the Americas, elsewhere the picture was far different. In Africa and the various parts of Asia, Europeans survived and prospered by working with local rulers and elites and by tapping into pre-existing commercial and social networks. Similar patterns characterized North America. Linking the emerging world economy together was the silver mined in New Spain and Peru, spread widely over complex networks of trade by land and sea. One could argue that maritime technology was Europe's greatest contribution to the growth of world trade, though Ringrose does not emphasize that point.

In synthesizing a topic as vast as world history, an author cannot read everything or deal with every controversy marking its various sub-fields. Specialists will inevitably disagree with some of the author's emphases and conclusions and will find fault with specific bits of information. Nonetheless, this is an important book that deserves a wide readership.

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Torremocha Hernández, Margarita, and Alberto Corada Alonso, coords. *El estupro. Delito, mujer y sociedad en el Antiguo Régimen*. Valladolid: Ediciones Universidad de Valladolid, 2018. 311 pp.

El estupro is comprised of nine pieces, representative of different historical approaches to the subject. It encompasses the Iberian world, including a *coda* on a contemporary Italian case, which prompted legal changes that, not surprisingly, had already been in place during the twelfth century. Given its multidisciplinary subject, contributions have struck a balance between the quantitative, legal, economic, medical, social and emotional issues involving *stuprum*, whose definition is amply discussed on the first chapter, pointing to its late codification due to its perception as a moral or behavioral matter. This *interregno* between clerical and civil law fell mostly on the latter since the beginning of our era and was based on Roman law until the Germanic code introduced a vindictive aspect to it. The development of universities in Spain brought about the implication of religious, nobiliary, and economic aspects to an already complicated scope. The *Partidas* (ca. 1265) as the monumental work it still is for Western civilization, will weigh in the subject until the nineteenth-century reconsiderations, as laid out by Félix Javier Martínez

Llorente. Post-Tridentine Catholicism, as pointed out in Tomás A. Mantecón Movellán's study, acted as a catalyzing, behavioral force throughout the Mediterranean territories, where individuals twisted the moral system within the domains of clerical law. Social uses prevailing, the clash with justice and power struggles, even within families themselves, are highlighted through the sample cases presented, which are full of misinformation and information gaps leading to their inconsistent "patching up".

What is known as the "Old Regime" in Spain, roughly ranging from 1480 to 1840, is the time period isolated by Alberto Corada Alonso and Diego Quijada Álamo for a quantitative study on lawsuits housed in the Real Chancillería de Valladolid documenting *stuprum*. The Real Chancillería, a massive archival source for Castilian law practice, houses an invaluable wealth of documents representative of a very litigious, modern society keen on recordkeeping. The twenty-eight tables and thirty-five graphs included in this study are eloquent about the dimensions of this particular crime through the quantification of 2,035 lawsuits. Data shows, among other factors, the place, date, profession, and relationship between the accused and his victim, the relationship between the plaintiff and the accuser, the victim's marital status, as well as the length of the entire process. It will be interesting to draw a new set of relations through a further reading of the yielded data and drawing from the quantitative, as often assumptions are drawn out of inertia without any hard backup. Isabel Drumond Braga's study on modern Portugal rightfully focuses on class differences, a key aspect of *stuprum*, pointing out the gap between coded punishment in Alphonsine and Manueline laws, and its actual carrying out, stretching the thin line between justice and clemency. Her inclusion of an example by playwright Gil Vicente brings about one of the issues non-historians often neglect when reading the overwhelming number of fiction works on honor subjects, whether that be Tirso de Molina's, María de Zayas' or Fernández de Moratín's: that moral objections—as interesting human subjects as they might be—do not always pair up with issued ordinances; that these are changing by nature; and that the letter and spirit of the law are not always carried out in real life.

Two articles focus on Aragón, contrasting the situation before (Encarna Jarque Martínez) and after (Daniel Baldellou Monclús and José Antonio Salas Auséns) the monarchy shifted from the House of Austria to the Borbón. The legal situation in this kingdom was similar to Castile's previous to the Cervera capitulations between Isabella I and Ferdinand II, after which nuances in each case and laws particular to the kingdom tangled an already complicated legal space, incorporating new regulations, allegation process, and a newly designated position (the astrict procurer) to this particular transgression. After 1775 there seems to have been a stronger focus on the protection of families and family assets, as reflected by an increasing number of lawsuits, with about 30% ending up in agreements outside of the court. The "New Regime" also attempted at streamlining the entire

process, from the commission of the alleged crime to the gathering of circumstantial information and witnesses, though the actual, documented cases speak of a less than effective system tarnished by monetary interests, hard-to-prove events, and overall subjectivity leading to a “guilty until proven innocent” standard.

Margarita Torremocha Hernández takes a solely theoretical approach in her study of Meléndez Valdés’ *Informe jurídico* (1796). One of the most prominent thinkers of his time, Meléndez Valdés advanced such detailed reflections on *stuprum* as to propose its very suppression, pointing to the lack of innocence of women who act as instigators, female accomplices, and the exploitation of a seemingly weak position in order to force advantageous marriages that would have never taken place but through litigation (one cannot but help thinking about Francisco de Goya’s engravings on the subject). Beyond a purely theoretical exercise, the *Informe* led to a more lenient consideration of those awaiting trial, as well as a heightened awareness of the many ways the law could seamlessly be abused for personal gain. The so-called “matrimonial market” is further studied by José Pablo Blanco Carrasco, whose contribution focuses on the duplicity of *stuprum* as crime and breach of contract entailing wide repercussions beyond the individual sphere, as it affected a family’s social position and economic possibilities, allowing for uneven marriages against the will and plans of one of the parties.

The unique subject matter of this crime, its combination with other transgressions, diachronic recurrence and spilling into other legal, social and economic codes makes it very prone to speculation and digression. The purely historical approach of this book and its archival nature remains within the letter, explaining the difficulties and technicalities of regulating through general laws where a set of circumstances must be particularly considered, and does not renounce the exposition of lawsuits long recorded, allowing for a stronger consideration of widely defined honor matters.

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Hershenson, Daniel. *The Captive Sea: Slavery, Communication, and Commerce in Early Modern Spain and the Mediterranean*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018. 289 pp. + 1 fig. + 1 map.

The notion that a once-unified Mediterranean world disintegrated in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries has been influential since Braudel articulated it in 1949. In essence, this narrative suggests first that imperial struggles and later disengagement divided the region into separate, hostile Christian and Muslim