

RECONQUISTA POLICY

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Abstract This article briefly discusses the reconquest of the territories conquered by the Arabs on the Iberian Peninsula in the VIII century by the Spaniards and the Portuguese, that is, the policy of reconquista.

Keywords: *Reconquista, Prine Peninsula, Castile, Aragon, Navarre, Spain, Portugal, Granada, Gibraltar, Arabs, Moors, Spaniards, Portuguese.*

INTRODUCTION

The basis of the Arab army that invaded Spain in 711 was formed by the subjugated tribes of North Africa, that is, the Barbarians (Europeans called them Moors). Later, the Arab army led by Jabal-at-Tariq, who received the title of general, defeated the Visigoths, crossed the Strait of Gibraltar in boats and landed on the southern coast of the Pyrenees. In a few years, the Arabs will conquer all the territories, except for Asturias in the north of the peninsula. Initially, Spain was ruled by emirs appointed from Damascus. However, in 755, the Emirate of Cordoba gained independence, and from 929, its rulers were called caliphs.

Shortly after the Arab invasion, the reconquista ("recapture") movement began to return the conquered territories from them. The Reconquista movement lasted for 8 centuries and determined the future destiny of Spain. In the Battle of Córdoba (718) in the mountains of Asturias, the Spanish won their first victory over the Arabs.

Main part. The beginning of the Reconquista. The kingdom of Asturias spread its influence over the entire north and northwest of the peninsula in the 7th-9th centuries. At the beginning of the 10th century, the Asturians moved further south, and the city of León became their main center, and the entire kingdom of Asturias became known as the Kingdom of León after Leon. In the second half of the 10th century and the beginning of the 11th century, León expanded to the south, reaching the basin of the Duero River. A border region with many castles and fortresses is formed here. The new country was named Castile after these castles. The city of Burgos was considered the main city of Castile.

In 1037, the King of León began to be called the King of Castile as well. In the second half of the 11th century, the Castilians conquered the Tahoe River basin. In 1085 King Alfonso VI conquered the city of Toledo. This newly conquered area, the Tahoe Basin, became known as New Castile. However, in the 11th century, the situation of New Castile was still very unstable. In 1086, the year after the conquest of Toledo, Alfonso VI himself suffered a severe blow from the Arabs near the city of Zallac. The kingdom of Navarre, located in the northeast, was of great importance in the 9th century. It did not expand much in the following centuries. But a lot of political changes took place in its south.

At the end of the 9th century, a new independent estate, the County of Aragon, separated from the Spanish marque, and then became a kingdom in the 11th century. In 1118, the Aragonese took the city of Zaragoza from the Arabs and made it the capital of Aragon. In 1137, Aragon merged with the Spanish marque, which at this time had the new name of Catalonia or the County of Barcelona.

To the west of the Iberian Peninsula, Portugal stretched to the south. At first it was also a county (founded around 1095), and by 1116 it also became a kingdom. The capital of Portugal was originally the city of Oporto on the banks of the Duero River, then from 1147 Lisbon on the banks of the Tagus River became the capital. Freed from the power of the King of Leon, the King of Portugal became dependent on the Pope. Thus, by the beginning of the 12th century, there were four Christian states in the Iberian Peninsula that occupied about half of it: Castile, Navarre, Aragon and Portugal.

The end of the 11th century and the whole of the 12th century was the height of the Reconquista. The same period was reflected in the Castilian folk epic, the hero of the folk epic was the famous Cid Campeador. Like the Crusades in the East, the struggle against the Moors in the Iberian Peninsula was called a holy war. The Moors called upon North Africans, barbarians, and other Muslim tribes to help them. Knights came from France, England, Germany and Italy to help the Spanish. As in the East, several special religious-chivalric orders, the Orders of Santiago, Alcantara and Calatrava, were established in Spain to fight the Moors.

In the 12th century, the Castilians invaded Andalusia several times and conquered it. In 1212, a decisive battle took place between the two sides near Las Navas de Tolos. In this battle, the kings of Castile, Navarre and Aragon fought together as allies. The Barbarians and many other tribes of north-west Africa stood up and fought on the side of the Moors, and the Arabs were soundly defeated, leaving all their rich territories a prey to the victors. After that, Castile soon took over Andalusia and Murcia. In 1236, he captured Cordoba, and in 1248, Seville. In the 30s and 40s of the 13th century, Valencia and the Balearic Islands were conquered by the Kingdom of Aragon.

Portugal advanced as far south as the Guadiana River. Only the southern kingdom of Granada (or Emirate of Granada) remained in the hands of the Moors. The Kingdom of Granada existed as an independent state for a long time, until 1492.

The development of commodity-money relations in the XIV-XV centuries made the unification of Castile and Aragon, which were economically complementary, a particularly necessary task. In the second half of the 15th century, the social and political conditions of the Iberian Peninsula forced this unification. The intensified class struggle in Castile and Aragon, as well as the incomplete reconquest (the kingdom of Granada in the south of the peninsula), led the feudal lords of both countries to an agreement to unite the two kingdoms into a single Spanish state. The alliance between the two neighboring countries was made through marriage. Princess Isabella of Castile married Prince

Ferdinand of Aragon in 1469. In 1474, Isabella became the queen of Castile, and in 1479, Ferdinand ascended the throne of Aragon. Each of the two united countries retained their previous laws, customs and separate courts.

Conclusion. Thus, the management of the country remained in two hands. Even so, the foundations were laid for the creation of a unified Spain. In both Castile and Aragon, royal power began to strengthen. The union had a positive effect on the domestic and foreign policies of Ferdinand and Isabella.

The last Arab state, the Emirate of Granada, was captured by the Spanish in 1492, ending the reconquest. The country entered the 16th century as a single kingdom that liberated all its territories from the Arabs. With the liberation of the last territories in the hands of the Arabs, the church began to persecute Muslims and Jews. A large part of the peasants and artisans who made the wealth of the prosperous province of Granada would be driven out of the country.

In short, as a result of the Reconquista policy, most of the Iberian Peninsula, which was once occupied by the Arabs, was gradually taken over by the Spanish and a certain part by the Portuguese during the 9th-15th centuries.

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