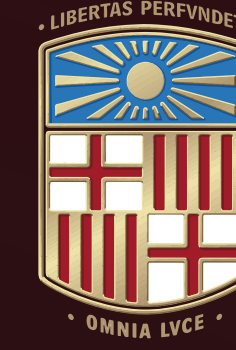


# The enlargement of the French government maps to the Spanish territory in the 19th century: from the *Carte de Capitaine* to the *Carte d'Etat Major*

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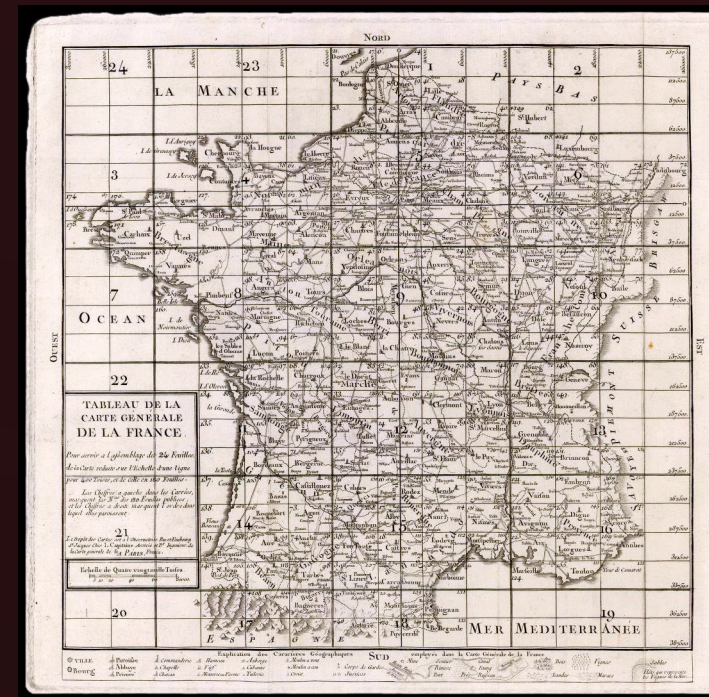


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During the nineteenth century there was an unequal cartographic development on each side of the Pyrenees border. While the French cartography was very developed, the Spanish one was far behind. For this reason, every time that France needed maps of Spain, especially for military purposes, they make an extension of their official maps to the South.

## La *Carte de Capitaine* (1823) elongated to the South

The *Carte de France* dressé par Louis Capitaine at 1:345 600 scale, published in Paris by the *Dépôt de la Guerre*, has an extension to Spain: *Carte de la partie Nord-Est de l'Espagne*. Composed by 12 sheets it covers this part of Spain and it was the best map published at that time.



Dépôt Général de la Guerre. — Partie nord-est de le Carte de l'Espagne, faisant suite a la Carte de la France par Capitaine. 1823. 1: 345,600. (ICGC/CEC.RC.6606)



Carte de France dressée au Dépôt des Fortifications. Feuille XIV Barcelone Perpignan. 1892. 1:500.000 (www.cartotecadigital.iegc/RM.228775)



Carte de France dressée au Dépôt des Fortifications: Feuille XIII [de Vitoria a Madrid, de Segovia a Huesca] 1892. 1:500.000 (www.cartotecadigital.iegc/RM.2884)

The map was made to support the French invasion and occupation of Spain carried out between 1823 and 1827, to consolidate the absolutist Bourbon regime of King Ferdinand VII. This cartographic investment of France into the Spanish territory clearly shows the interest of the French Bourbon government in erasing any attempt at a liberal government in Spain, which was questioning the European political order established by the Holy Alliance at the Congress of Verona in 1822.

## North Spain as part of *Carte de France* dressé au Dépôt des Fortifications

From the second half of the 19th century onwards, French military strategists considered that the true defense of the French border was to control the Spanish cross-border territory. As a result in the late XIX century, the Dépôt de Fortifications published the extension of the *Carte de France* at 1:500 000 scale to Spain. The peculiarity of this map is that due to the lack of topographic information of the south Pyrenees, the French army used data collected by hikers from the Club Alpine Français (CAF).

These maps are an example of the extension of official cartography beyond the strict state boundaries, constituting an exceptional document for the mapped territory.