

## Epidemic, Atlantic economy and social learning. Yellow fever in Spain *Epidemia, economía atlántica y aprendizaje social. La fiebre amarilla en España*

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### ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

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The world is now moved by the global pandemic episode that is the extension of COVID-19. In the history of epidemics we can find many issues that have appeared right now. Thus, historical experiences refer us back to the catalogue of questions that lie to us today: the factors behind the extent of an outbreak, the analysis of the response of public authorities and individuals to their development, and finally the assessment of their economic and social impact.

The relationship between epidemics and their consequences, especially demographic and economic ones, has been widely debated. However, most academic efforts have focused on the epidemics of 14th-century black plague and Spanish influenza in 1918. This work analyses the causes of the yellow fever epidemics that affected the eastern and southern coasts of the peninsula, as well as the Balearic and Canary Islands, in the second half of the 18th century and the first decades of the 19th century, studies how they spread and delves into their socio-economic consequences. Among the causes of these pests is Atlantic trade, which moved people, goods and pathogens between America and Europe since the 16th century and affected very intensely the ports that held the Spanish trade monopoly and its areas of influence. Among the consequences stands out, in addition to the demographic impact of the different waves on the Peninsula, which we have been able to quantify through the in-depth study of the contemporary and current literature available, the radical change that entailed in health and hygienic policies and strategies, both publicly and privately.

The results show, first, how the learning process involved in each wave, together with the dissemination of medical recommendations, made the population choose to reduce exposure to the virus as the best strategy. In this way, socio-economic inequalities, reflected in the different capacity to flee the affected area, would have been decisive in reducing the likelihood of contagion and death. Secondly, the study of the incidence of the different epidemic episodes, as measured by the number of deaths, suggests the importance of the effect of immunity to decrease the intensity in the repetition of outbreaks. Finally, the work underlines the importance of the institutional framework, beyond the epidemiological characteristics of each disease, in the analysis of a catastrophic mortality situation.

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