

Correlations between the Itineraries of James II and Exchange of Land under his Rule

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Introduction

Aragonese king James II ruled during the late 13th and early 14th century. During his reign he both gained and lost major territories, of which he either conquered, inherited or was forced to cede. We're interested in the itineraries of James II to see how his presence or absence may have affected the exchange of land in certain areas. By looking at his itineraries at specific times we can see how a monarch's presence can affect his sovereignty in certain areas. How is the presence of James II of Aragon affecting the loss or gain of land of the Aragonese Kingdom? How does the loss or gain of major territory effect James II decision to stay or relocate to another location?

Research and Objectives

The information gathered from this study can be applied to other monarchs in different regions and eras and their travels. Then, we can see if the travels of other monarchs had similar effects to that of James II and if there is a similar pattern between a monarch's presence in an area and the shift of land ownership. If we find a correlation between the itineraries of James II and land shifts then we can see if this correlation is unique to him, or if it is unique to that region, or that era. The study of medieval spanish history is a field that is understudied with few published works on the topic. Using ArcGIS to map itineraries of Jaime II allows for further visualization of his movements and time spent in certain locations which can grant a new perspective and allow for different connections that might of been unknown.

Abstract

By researching itineraries of James II, we attempted to make correlations between his location and any loss or gain of land. Primarily, we looked at the years 1295-1298 and mapped out where James II was during major land acquisitions and losses. We took notes on any specific events that might have influenced any land loss or gain during his reign. We mapped out the changes to the land he owned from the beginning of his reign, starting with his loss of Sicily, then his conquest of Murcia, afterwards acquisition of Corsica and Sardinia, and ending with his loss of Majorca in 1298.

Method

Using published itineraries with primary and secondary sources we are hoping to map out the location of James II during major land changes under his rule. Using the itineraries plus the primary and secondary sources we will create a spreadsheet showing location, time and important events. Using that data and ArcGIS we hope to create maps that would show any possible correlation between the location of James II and the shift of ownership of the places in question. This method allows for different perspective on Jaime II itineraries with land gain or loss when he was monarch during the span on 1294-1299.

Conclusion

Although mapping the itinerary of James II alongside major land changes under his rule did allow us to find some correlations between his location and sovereignty shifts (e.g. how his time in Rome may have affected his acquisition of Corsica and Sardinia or how his conquest of Murcia obliged him to stay in or near Murcia), we were unable to create any more solid correlations due to our lack of relevant primary and secondary sources. Our method could prove to be more effective if used on a subject with more readily available primary and secondary sources.

Results

Mapping the locations of Jaime II during the years of 1294-1299 shows where he was during the years specified. However, finding significant sources of more detailed events or events that were significant to the years that we studied proved to be much more difficult than we anticipated. However from our map we were able to make loose correlations between Jaime and land being exchanged.



