Garcia, Enric (University of  Barcelona), *Discipline and resistance in the Spanish merchant navy (1802-1909).*

Subordination and discipline in the workplace are some of the characteristics of industrial labour. Domestic laws ruled the factory schedule, the organization of production, the disciplinary system, etc. The discipline applies mainly to compel the compliance of the contractual agreement, and to assure the submission of the worker to the requirements of the company. But in some economic activities, such as the merchant marine, subordination and discipline are an intrinsic part of the organization of work.

The organization of work aboard has its own logic, almost invariably, and the maintenance of order and discipline is also indispensable, even for reasons of collective security. This discipline is imposed by a military inspired legal framework and also through direct physical coercion or criminal penalties, some of then economic. The role of the Master as the highest authority aboard is well known. Faced with this reality, discipline breaks through different ways of resistance, whose highest expression is desertion. In this form of job abandonment, desertion is characteristic in maritime labour, closely linked to the quasi-military hierarchy on ships, and to the strategic and military role, secondary but always present, of the merchant marine.

This paper analyzes some features of this topic in the Spanish mercantile marine from two different points of view. First, we will see the relationship between wage maritime labour and discipline on board. Second, we will draw in general terms the role of the State in the strict application of the discipline on board ships, in defence of the interests of the Crown.