



## "Por la autoridad de los ministros": observaciones sobre los letrados en una alegación de Juan Bautista Larrea (primera mitad del siglo XVII) [

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Analítica

In this work we examine some aspects of the political dynamic of the Spanish kingdom during the 17th century, as they are reflected in the activity and in the texts of Juan Bautista Larrea (1589-1645), jurist, judge and later counsellor during the reign of the Count-Duke of Olivares. The experience of Larrea reflects the function of letrados (spanish lawmen and judges) in this phase, the path that many of them followed and the ties of interest and collaboration that they kept with Olivares, who characterized his government by reformer and, at the same time, authoritarian policy. We will reflect on the way in which acted persons which, although had kept relevant power in the government and in the justice administration system, didn't reach up to the top. During the first part of the reign of Philip IV, the activity of these letrados was characterized, in a first phase, by an high adhesion to the objectives of reform and by an important pressure to introduce changes. Later, otherwise, due to a lot of unsucceses, it was characterized by a progressive neglect of the perspectives of reform. The relationship between the political activity of the letrados and the justice administration has been studied analysing an allegatio of Juan Bautista Larrea. This text was due to a case in which a judge was calumniated and arrived close to loose his professional position and even his life, before that he could demonstrate to be innocent. Two versions of this text are available. One, in spanish, is entitled Por la autoridad de los ministros a Su Magestad; the other, in latin, is inserted as a part of Allegaciones Fiscales, one of the most important juridical works of Larrea (Lugduni, 1642-1645, 2 vols.). Starting from the defense of the calumniated man, Larrea reflects about the function of letrados in the political system, basing his opinion on political and juridical tractises. The deep analysis of the text, in which the analysis of his references to the politica

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