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978-1-107-06236-8 - Imperial Ambition in the Early Modern Mediterranean:
Genoese Merchants and the Spanish Crown

Céline Dauverd

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IMPERIAL AMBITION IN THE EARLY MODERN
MEDITERRANEAN

Genoese Merchants and the Spanish Crown

This book examines the alliance between the Spanish Crown and Genoese merchant bankers in southern Italy throughout the early modern era, when Spain and Genoa developed a symbiotic economic relationship undergirded by a cultural and spiritual alliance. Analyzing early modern imperialism, migration, and trade, this book shows that the spiritual entente between the two nations was mainly informed by the religious division of the Mediterranean Sea. The Turkish threat in the Mediterranean reinforced the commitment of both the Spanish Crown and the Genoese merchants to Christianity. Spain's imperial strategy was reinforced by its willingness to acculturate to southern Italy through organized beneficence, representation at civic ceremonies, and spiritual guidance during religious holidays.

CÉLINE DAUVERD is Assistant Professor of History and a board member of the Mediterranean Studies Group at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her research focuses on sociocultural relations between Spain and Italy during the early modern era (1450–1650). She has published articles and reviews in the *Sixteenth Century Journal*, the *Journal of World History*, H-net, *The Mediterranean Studies Journal*, *Speculum*, I. B. Tauris Press, and the *Società Ligure di Storia Patria*.

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University of Colorado, Boulder



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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107062368

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First published 2015

Reprinted 2015

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books Inc.

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-107-06236-8 Hardback

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Acknowledgments

As this project began more than a decade ago, there are many institutions and people to thank for their contributions. At UCLA, the Department of History provided a generous multiyear recruitment package to pursue my studies. The UCLA's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies funded my research in Italy and Spain. The Lynn and Maude White Dissertation Fellowship, the Carlo Ginzburg Dissertation Writing Fellowship, the Fredi Chiappelli Research Fellowship, and the Graduate Summer Research Mentorship supported my research in European archives. I am thankful to the Ahmanson Foundation's fellowship in Renaissance Studies for sponsoring both my studies and my research in Europe. The Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies at UCLA supported my writing during its last stages. The University of California Humanities Research Institute at Irvine granted me a postdoctoral fellowship on the topic of the medieval Mediterranean, enabling me to think through the intricacies of this book's concepts. At the University of Colorado, Boulder, the Center for Humanities and Arts offered me a yearlong fellowship on the theme of migration. It also granted me a substantial manuscript subvention. The Graduate Committee of the Arts and Humanities financed various research trips to southern Italy, Sicily, and Spain. The Dean's Fund for Excellence provided two research grants for my archival research. The Innovative Seed Grant offered significant research funding to the five members of the Mediterranean Studies Group. The Kayden Research Grant awarded me generous subsidy toward the inclusion of copyrighted material from the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. Finally, the In-Residence Dean's Leave granted me valuable writing time.

Numerous archivists at the Archivio di Stato di Napoli (I have especially enjoyed the wit of Gaetano Damiano) and the Archivio di Stato di Genova facilitated my inquiries. Carmela Salomone and Padre Antonio Illibato at

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the Archivio Storico Diocesano di Napoli provided a studious environment. At the Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli, Angela Pinto and Vincenzo Bono showed me maps and invaluable unpublished manuscripts. The efficiency of the Archivo General de Simancas's staff was combined with wonderful tapas and humorous conversations after long days in the "castle." At the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, I value the staff's wisdom and their enthusiasm for my research. My editors at Cambridge, Beatrice Rehl and Isabella Vitti, displayed knowledge and alacrity in dealing with my manuscript. Devasena Vedamurthi guided me through the copy editing process, and Gerald van Ravenswaay indexed the whole manuscript. I am grateful for the two anonymous readers' acute comments and suggestions.

A great part of this research would not have been possible without the constant support of some of my Italianist colleagues who have read the entire book or part of it: Tommaso Astarita, Steven Epstein, Geoffrey Symcox, and Thomas Dandeleat read the entire manuscript and wrote endless letters of recommendation, for which I am immensely grateful. Francesca Trivellato, George Gorse, Antonio Calabria, and Gabriel Guarino saw this project take shape and were active in its completion. I want to thank another Italianist, known in his later years as a world historian, the late Jerry Bentley, for introducing me to the concept of trade diaspora and for pushing me to see beyond the first line of the horizon, the edge hock for the forest. Other scholars have shared thoughts on my work at various stages of its completion: Peregrine Horden, Eric Dursteler, David Abulafia, Giovanni Muto, and David Jacoby. For sources of inspiration, emulation, and personal support, I thank Anthony Pagden and Teofilo Ruiz, both academic "stars" but also personable advisors. John Marino, my outside supervisor, helped me concentrate on the history of Naples. While at UCLA, Patrick Geary, Lynn Hunt, Carlo Ginzburg, Robert Bonfil, Maurice Kriegel, Sanjay Subrahmanyam, and Betsy Perry, shared their knowledge and provided guidance. My mentors, old and new ones, Geoffrey Symcox, Tommaso Astarita, and Steven Epstein, my gratitude to you is endless.

I also would like to thank my many University of Colorado, Boulder, colleagues who read this book and assisted with the conceptualization of chapters: Robert Ferry, Marjorie McKintosh, Mithi Mukherjee, Sungyun Lim, Kwangmin Kim, John Willis, Myles Osborne, Miriam Kingsberg, and in particular Elissa Guralnick, who read every single chapter at every stage of revision. My editor, Nancy Mann, shaped a gem out of the chaos. Other University of Colorado colleagues are to be thanked: I am grateful to Susan

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Kent for her encouragement. Virginia Anderson and Thomas Zeiler provided solace in ways beyond the normal mentoring process. My colleagues Matthew Gerber, Lil Fenn, Lee Chambers, William Wei, and Marcia Yonemoto believed in me when I faced desperation, and Thomas Andrews edited many of my draft proposals. James Córdoba in Art History, Núria Silleras Fernández in Spanish and Portuguese, and Michael Zimmermann in Philosophy proved to be great critics and friends. The Mediterranean Studies Group at CU Boulder provides intellectual stimulation and true friendship: Claire Farago, Brian Catlos, Michela Ardizzoni, and Noel Lenski continue to inspire me. Our group's synergy is truly magical. At UC Irvine, Sharon Kinoshita, Daniel Shroeter, Karla Mallette, and Nina Ziri offered a congenial atmosphere and a fruitful platform to explore my interest in the Mediterranean.

In Italy, my surrogate Genoese family, Simone Villa, his wife Marzia, and his parents Gian and Ana, hosted me for the best Italian research of my life in the fall of 2003. They humored me with good conversation, strong coffee, delicious food, and endless laughter. The Tortia family, Charline, Alex, Victoria, and Amanda, made Turin a weekend destination while helping me get settled in Liguria. My brother Alexis, who took me on his notorious scooter rides through Paris whenever I needed to consult documents at the Bibliothèque Nationale, is to be thanked. My mother, Betty, and late stepfather, Paul, provided a nurturing environment and a cultured household. My late father, Francis, taught me that the best consolation to a bad day was to open a book.

I thank my best friends in Corsica who had to listen to me talk about the Genoese for more than a decade: Alexa Paoli, Desideriu Leandri, Laurence Lena, Régine Gautier, and Joséfa Morret, who most times could not understand why someone, anyone, would spend so much time writing a single book. My grad school friends kept me honest and amused while stimulating my thinking: Theodore Christov, Nickolas Rockwell, Matthew Vester, David Robyak, and especially Rainer Buschmann. My CU Boulder graduate students, Talia Di Manno, Aaron Stamper, Abby Lagemann, Lauren Romero, Katy Holmes, Nikolas Georgakarakos, Christina McClellan, Peter Evans, Julie Craig, Jacob Wipf, Dillon Webster, Christopher Conway, and Sheena Barnes, have shared with me lively discussions on Renaissance and early modern European history. Finally, my conference buddies, Alejandra Osorio, Carlo Taviani, Gabriel Guarino, Salvatore Bottari, Luca Zavagno, Rosa

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Maria delli Quadri, Corey Tazzara, and Mirella Mafri, make conferences so much more than a pure academic exercise.

In Italy, while on a train ride between the archives of Genoa and Naples, fate decided that my historical research would take a more anthropological turn. The search for historical treasures led me to meet the man who would become the father of my children, Giuseppe. The train ride was too short but its impact long lasting. After two years of text messaging across the Atlantic, we finally met again and never parted. Our children, Léa and Francis, both made the experience of writing this book frenetic but also so much livelier. They saw me write in adverse conditions such as delivery rooms, parking lots, (way too sandy) beaches, ferryboats, and mountain shacks. To my family, and to the many train rides that await us, I dedicate this book. May their lives be full of travels, wonders, and, above all, laughter.