

ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the socioeconomic behaviour of population in Albacete, during eighteenth century up to the early twenty years of nineteenth century.

On one hand, special attention was paid on natural processes (birth rate and mortality), as well as the way in which either adverse factors (epidemics and wars) or positive ones (improvements on hygiene and climatology) influence on these processes. On the other hand, the connection between these social behaviours and the occupation performed by the same population was highlighted.

Contemporary sources such as the census (1718), the Property Register of Ensenada (1753), the Floridablanca census (1786), the questionnaire of textile factories from Albacete (1803), and the municipal statistics (1818 and 1821) have been investigated.

In each of the above mentioned sources I have registered the inhabitants, who have placed in the most relevant streets of the city according to their respective jobs. All these stated data have been shown by means of diagrams (cyclograms and histograms) and have been dealt with Excel computer programme.

The comparative analysis between the different sources and their respective dates, allow to show the socioeconomic evolution in the late decades of the Ancien Régime.

The consequent results describe how the eighteenth century changed the essence of Albacete as far as politics and culture is concerned. However, at the same time as this fact happened, lacks of previous ages remained, particularly in the country. Population did not increase or improve its standard of living until the arrival of technological advances in the nineteenth century.

Keywords: jobs, statistics, graphics, census, property register, questionnaire.