

The Spanish Armed Forces and the COVID-19 pandemic

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The Spanish Armed Forces, which is currently one of the oldest in the world, has had an active role in Spain in the fight against COVID-19 since the breakout of the virus, in March of 2020. The pandemic, which currently hits Europe with the third wave, has caused more than 50,000 deaths during this timeframe. Similarly to other EU members, the Spanish government has intended to overcome the crisis by declaring a state of emergency, which has entailed the utilization of curfews and the most extensive domestic military operation in the nation's history. In the context of these facts and factors, on the one hand, the present study seeks to explore the circumstances of the deployment of the Spanish military in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic in 2020. On the other hand, the research also intends to highlight the main characteristics of the Spanish Armed Forces, such as chain of command, personnel –including gender perspective –as well as the possible development paths of the military as a direct consequence of the experiences gained from the fight against the pandemic.

Key words: Spain, Spanish armed forces, COVID-19 pandemic, Operation Balmis, Operation Baluarte

Abstract in Spanish or Hungarian (Presentation Language)

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