

GLOSSARY

- acostamiento*: Spanish noble who fought as a vassal in return for a fief or pay.
- adalid/adalide*: Scout (generally Muslim guide in al-Andalus mountains. Prescott associates [note 14 of chapter II] the term an old Spanish expression, *renegadoes*, for scouts used by Christians and perceived as Spanish Muslim deserters. Some chroniclers use *adalide* for leader of the medieval military force, or host.
- adelantado*: Spanish governor of a province; sometimes called ‘*mayor*’, had military authority.
- alcazaba*: Main fortress in a Spanish Muslim city, usually an integral part of the town's ramparts.
- al-Andalus*: The region of the Iberian Peninsula ruled by the Muslims.
- alcadie*: Military scout, sometimes leader of a minor raid or of a town militia.
- alcaide/alcaide*: Governor of a fortress, leader of a city militia.
- alcalde*: Mayor; leader.
- alcázar*: The citadel of Spanish Muslim cities; term remained under Spanish Christian rule. It was surrounded by walled fortification, within which were the alcazaba (the main fortress) and the residences of the senior officials and nobles of the city.
- alfaki/alfaquí*: In the late fifteenth century, a religious and civic leader in Muslim communities, revered for his prophecies and interpretation of omens.
- alferez/alferes*: Military leader of a Muslim or Christian Spanish army host; the figurative ‘standard-bearer’ of the host if a king or sultan were present.
- arquebus*: The term is used by many historians to refer to fifteenth-century handguns which had match-holding and trigger devices (*serpentes*). Contemporary fifteenth-century chroniclers identified such ‘matchlock’ firearms by various terms: *serpentina*, *escopeta* (Italian), *espingarda* (Spanish), and *arquebuse* (French) to name but a few. The *arquebus* of the fifteenth century should not be confused with the French ‘*arquebuse*’ developed late in the sixteenth century, which was a more advanced firing mechanism and was used by mounted troops.
- artillery*: Crew-operated and generally large weapons used in ancient and medieval eras mostly for sieges – both offensively and defensively. In the fifteenth century, the term still could include non-gunpowder siege engines as the *trébuchet*, *catapult*, etc. See *bombard*, *cannon*, *culverin*, *mortar*, *pasavolante* and *war machine*.
- arubdal/arrobda*: Entailed: siege, pitched battle, frontier guard, or garrison work.
- atalaya*: Watch-tower, many were scattered throughout the mountains of Andalusia.
- atalayero*: Militia auxiliary who performed as a scout.
- ballesta*: Hand-held crossbow. [French: *arbalest*; German: *Armbrust*]
- balletero*: Crossbowman. [French: *arbalétrier*]
- ballista*: Large crossbow [*balista* (Sp), *balliste* (Fr)], mounted on a stand and manned by a crew, that shot large darts or small rocks. As a direct-line shooting weapon, it was usually employed as a fixed-position anti-personnel weapon. It could usually be pivoted on its mount and angled slightly to fire against attackers advancing along confined approaches. An Arabic term for this weapon was *gaws al-ziyar*.
- battle*: The English term has two distinct meanings [which is shared with the Spanish and French: *batalla* (Sp), *bataille* (Fr)]. (1) Combat between armies. (2) Describes a tactical grouping of medieval armies. Generally there were three or more ‘battles’ on the battlefield, or when marching toward a possible engagement. The basic three ‘battles’ were: the ‘main battle’, ‘forward van’ (also: ‘van’, or ‘vanguard’), and ‘rear van’. The French terms (which are used in many English texts) are, respectively: *bataille*, *avant-garde*, *arriere-garde*. Spanish terms are: *batalla*, *vanguardia*, *rezaga*. Generally, when forming for combat, the three ‘battles’ deployed in line; the forward van and the rear van becoming ‘wings’ on either side of the main ‘battle’. See *khamis* and *routes*.

boca de fuego: Medieval Spanish expression for a gun tube, literally, ‘mouth of fire’ [*bouche à feu* (Fr)]. The term generally applied to a gunpowder artillery piece.

bombard: Early, large gunpowder artillery piece, employed primarily for siege operations. While some chroniclers and later writers use the term to apply to all the gunpowder artillery, ‘*bombard*’ came more specifically to describe the very large-bore guns. This would distinguish them from the smaller bore and longer tubes of the *culverin* or *pasavolante* categories, and the *mortar*, which had a very large bore and much shorter tube.

buckler: Small round shield [*rodela*s or *escudo* (Sp)], used in close infantry fighting to parry an opponent's thrusting weapon, and complementing the use of a short sword, dagger, or thrusting spear.

caballería: Cavalry, or cavalry troop; also newly ennobled knight.

caballero: Knight.

caballero hidalgo: Noble who was paid man-at-arms.

caballero villano: Non-noble (or ‘lesser noble’) man-at-arms, or ‘commoner knight’ who had privileges similar to those of a noble (particularly tax exemptions) by possessing a horse and body protection suitable for military service.

caballero armado: Mounted man-at-arms (*hombre de armas*).

cadi: State secretary in Muslim domains.

cannon: Gunpowder artillery weapon. Used generally to apply to all artillery guns. In the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the term identified categories of guns which were long barreled and had much smaller bore diameters than did either bombards or mortars.

capitanía: Military unit, a ‘company’, commanded by a *capitán* (captain); broadly applied to many types of units, as did ‘*capitán*’ in referring to military leaders. The terms began to be associated with more specifically defined unit structures as the *Hermandad* and the *guardas viejas* developed.

captain-general: It became an increasingly useful title for monarchs of the late medieval era to use in designating senior military commanders with the explicit understanding that the title and implied position were not hereditary, as what had become common in many cases for the titles of ‘constable’ and ‘marshal’.

caravel: The *caravel* [*carabela* (Sp)] appeared in mid thirteenth century as a Portuguese fishing vessel. Early configurations were rigged with two or three lateen sails, typical of the Mediterranean ships. It was used for Portuguese expeditions around the coasts of Africa. Some fifteenth century pictures show the caravel with a quarter-deck or castle in the stern and partial square sails, most likely for venturing further into the Atlantic Ocean. Columbus' *Niña* and *Pinta* were caravels.

carrack: The *carrack* [from Arabic *qaraqir*, meaning ‘merchant ship’] had bulging round hull and square-rigged masts. It was built in the beginning of the fifteenth century. Designs were first noted in the Low Countries of Europe [Flemish ‘*kraeck*’]. It was capable of being a well-armed merchant ship, with guns on both sides, on a quarter-deck in the aft section, and on a forecastle over the bow. Columbus' *Santa Maria* is believed to have been a carrack.

catapult: A war machine (engine). The term has been used by many writers to refer to all machines that hurled projectiles. Some writers limit its application to the medium-size machines that operate by a swinging beam under torsion, generally, more specifically referred to as a *mangonel*.

cavalgada: Raid, armed foray (similar to *chevauchée* of the Hundred Years' War); can refer either to the marauding party or the booty itself. [See Prescott's note 11 in Chapter 3.]

cerbatana: Category of fifteenth century Spanish cannon.

chevauchée: An expeditionary raid. Expression used often to describe large military forays of the Hundred Years' War. See *cavalgada*.

chorta: Militia formed to maintain internal order in the Umayyad Caliphate at Córdoba.

compagnie d'ordonnance: In the late medieval era, the standing army created by the French King, Charles VII, soon after the 1444 truce in the Hundred Years' War. Royal *ordonnances* described the company structures; the captains were appointed by the king; and the soldiers were paid on a regular basis from the royal treasury. The basic unit was the feudal *lance*, which eventually was formalized to be of 100 *lances* per *compagnie*. See *lance*. In 1471, the Duke of Burgundy, Charles 'the Rash', developed a more structured *compagnie d'ordonnance* and incorporated infantry spearmen into his formations.

company: In medieval times, the term described mercenary units. In 1351, a French chronicler, Philip Mouskés, used the term to describe a fraternity of warriors. The Flemish chronicler, Froissart, use the expression 'free companies' for the bands that prowled France and occasionally wandered into Spain during the Hundred Years' War. 'Grand, or great, companies' describe large (containing more than one mercenary company) bands of men-at-arms that operated mainly in Italy as *condottieri*, around the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. When these forces began to wear a noticeable portion of shiny plate metal for body protection, around the fifteenth century, they were also called 'white companies'.

condotta: Contract by an Italian city-state for services of mercenary companies, led by captains. See *condottiere*.

condottiere: Professional military leader (freely translated as 'captain') who contracted to lead fourteenth and fifteenth century mercenary armies in the service of various Italian states. [*condottieri* (pl)].

constable: Adopted early in the medieval era by France as a senior military command position directly under the king. Juan I introduced the office of constable into Castile. During the War of Granada, Ferdinand's presence in the field, effectively usurped the constable's role and it became a hereditary title without significant military command rank.

corregidor: Magistrate, royal official sent to oversee Castilian municipal councils.

cuadrilla: Various meanings: (1) Spanish for *route*, a grouping of about 50 men-at-arms under a knight in medieval cavalry. (2) Leader of an *escuadra* (squadron) which was a sub-unit of one of the *capitanías* (companies) formed by Ferdinand the Catholic.

culverin: Various meanings: (1) French term that became widely used for a category of late fifteenth century cannon which was different from the earlier gunpowder *bombards* in that it had a much smaller bore diameter, and was quite long. Many were relatively 'portable', in that they could be manhandled and positioned for aiming by several men. (2) The term was sometimes used by early chroniclers to refer to hand-held small cannon. However, the expression had wide and very imprecise use by contemporary fifteenth century chroniclers.

daraga: Small, leather, kidney-shaped shield used by Moorish and Spanish *jinete* cavalry.

dobla: Gold Spanish coin.

escaladore: Scaler (of fortress walls in siege operations).

escopeta: Early Italian hand-held gun, usually with a matchlock; an arquebuse.

escudo: Buckler (small, usually round, shield). The term was used to describe an infantry soldier so equipped [*lanza y escudo*, spear and buckler].

espada jinéta: Hispano-Moresque straight sword with a distinctive hilt.

espingarda: Spanish for the handgun used by Christian and Muslim forces in the fifteenth century. It corresponded to the contemporary French *arquebuse* or Italian *escopeta*. By the late fifteenth century, the Iberian Peninsula armies had a large number of *espingardas* with matchlock firing mechanisms.

espingardero: Christian or Muslim Spanish handgunner.

extranjero: Foreign auxiliary in Christian Spanish army.

falchion: In French, *fauchon*; a slightly curved, broad-bladed sword of the Middle Ages. The falchion used in the late fifteenth century appears to be of Eastern [Muslim] origin. It was too wide to be used other than as an infantry weapon, and related more to a 'cutlass' than a scimitar.

faris: Arabic term for a warrior with a horse and roughly equivalent to the European 'knight', suggesting aristocratic social status. See *ghazi*.

ghazi: An Arabic term roughly equivalent to the European 'man-at-arms' or 'knight', a professional (experienced) warrior. Plural is *ghuzat*. The term appears to have been used to emphasize a warrior who fought to defend the Faith, on *jihād*. Although broadly used by many Western authors to describe elite Muslim warriors, it is doubtful that it had meaning in the late fifteenth-century Hispano-Maghribi domains.

gomere/ghumarah: Member of the Gomara Berber tribe which had a reputation as fierce warriors.
guardas viejas: 'Old guard', the Royal Bodyguard that existed as a small cavalry of the Castilian kings before the reign of Isabella. It was not formally re-established until 1493. Later, under the command of Gonzalo de Ayora, the guard became a focus of military standardization in the Spanish army.

hagib: Prime minister, or chief, in Spanish Muslim government. Equivalent to Turkish vizier.

hermandad: 'Brotherhood' armed bands, originally formed by early medieval Christian communities to maintain civil order and to provide regional defence. The institution was revived by Ferdinand and Isabella as the *Santa Hermandad* ('Holy Brotherhood') in 1474. In the course of the War of Granada, the organization came under Royal direction and was used to impose some standardization on the large levies of manpower. It was disbanded after the war, but many of the organizational patterns adopted during the war formed the basis for Ferdinand's new standing army that followed.

hidalgo: Christian Spanish noble whose ancestor was enobled from 1464, or earlier.

hombre de armas: See man-at-arms.

jinete: Castilian for light cavalryman (*genete*) of a Maghribi tradition, originally armed with a small shield (*daraga*) and throwing spears or javelins. Later they employed short lances. Jinetes wore little or no body protection, relied on manoeuvrability and tactical speed for defence, and were accomplished in hit-and-run tactics. They were excellent for ambushes and mountain-pass skirmishes, but they were weak in open battle against heavily armed cavalry.

khamis: The term designated a battle formation of the Granadan-Maghrib armies. It was similar to the medieval European 'battle'. There were five 'khamis' formations (vanguard, centre, left-wing, right-wing, reserve/rear-guard/baggage-train) in the overall deployment of an army (called a 'tabiya').

lance: French and English term for the smallest medieval cavalry unit. German term was *gleve*. French and Burgundian *lances* were composed of a man-at-arms, accompanied by a squire, mounted archers, and light cavalrymen; the size of such contingents varied from four to eight in Central European armies, possibly as high as nine in the English. See *lanza*.

lancero: Spanish for pikeman, lancer, or infantry arm with pole weapons.

lanza: Various meanings: (1) Spanish for 'lance', described their smallest medieval cavalry unit. In the northeastern Spain, the cavalry generally followed the French custom. However, in Castile the *lanza* was normally one *hombre de armas*, or *jinete*, sometimes accompanied by an attendant. (2) A weapon such as a lance or spear. (3) An infantryman armed with a *lanza* weapon.

league: About three English statute miles. A marine length of three geographic miles or 1/20 of an equatorial degree. Land length varies at latitudes between 12,750 to 24,250 feet.

lombarda: Used by many Spanish writers for '*bombard*'.

maravedi: Originally coin money used by both Christians and Spanish Muslims until the early thirteenth century. Became the Castilian standard money of account.

marche: French frontier province, like the one established in the northeastern region of the Iberian Peninsula early in the Middle Ages.

marshal: A military supervisory role. If neither king nor constable were present, the senior marshal commanded the army.

man-at-arms: Originally vassal to a king or nobleman, who maintained himself (and possibly a small contingent under him) ready with armour, weapons, and horse to serve as a warrior in service of his feudal master. In instances where mounted combat was not practical (e.g., narrow mountain passes) or when forces did not have access to sufficient war-horses, the term was applied to well armed and trained warriors. If mounted, his horse usually had some body protection and he could be known as a *caballero armado*. Not all men-at-arms had the social status of a knight, even though some authors use the terms interchangeably. See *caballero*.

mexuar: Arab council of state

mitcales: Arab money of gold

mangonel: Some writers consider this to be a generic name, and synonymous with '*catapult*', for all medium-size war machines [engines] throwing large stones and darts. Others associate it more specifically with the machine that operated by a swinging arm under torsion, as an ancient Roman *onager*. Some suggest a further distinction that the *mangonel* has a sling at the throwing end, rather than a cup; the latter being used by the *catapult*. The Arabic for '*mangonel*' was '*arrada*', or the more generic *manjanik/manganiq*.

Morisco: Spanish Muslim living under Christian Spanish rule. Generally referring to one who professed acceptance of the Christian faith. Since most were forced to accept Christianity, their belief and loyalty to the Christian monarchy were suspect. The term was used by many chroniclers to connote disloyal Spanish subjects who had some Muslim background.

mortar: In medieval era, the mortar was an artillery weapon that shot heavy projectiles in a high trajectory, but over a shorter range than did cannon. They were especially used to lob large destructive loads over fortress walls at the defenders. Compared to cannon, the mortar had a much shorter tube and wider mouth. They were usually bell-shaped, or conical, and looked like a small bombard.

mozarab: Christian who did not convert to Islam while living in Islamic territories, but accepted Muslim ways and Arabic speech.

mudéjar: Muslim subject under Christian dominions.

moschetto: (1) Italian small cannon (similar to a small *culverin*) of the late fifteenth century. (2) The more powerful long-barrelled firearm (*mosquete*) developed by the Spanish in the sixteenth century.

musket: (1) Initially derived from the sixteenth-century Italian *moschetto*, and made into a heavy individual firearm (*mosquete*) by the Spanish in the sixteenth century. In French, *mousquet*. The long barrel and thick stock required a supporting 'rest'. Being more powerful, the heavy musket replaced the arquebus. (2) In the late seventeenth century, it became the generic English term for most infantry smooth-bore firearms that had become lighter and no longer required support rests.

muwallad: Muslim of Iberian Peninsula origin; or a convert to Islam who lived in al-Andalus. The term distinguished such persons from Spanish Muslims with North African (Berber), Persian, or Arabian ancestry. Sometimes spelled *muladí*, particularly referring to a Christian who converted.

naft: Arabic term for various flammable substances (in the modern world it is 'petroleum'). The term was used by very early Arabic chroniclers for 'Greek fire', or similar flame-throwing war engines. In the fifteenth century, Arabic writers were known to use it for 'cannon'.

pasavolante A category of *culverin*-type cannon, gunpowder artillery weapon.

pedone: Urban infantryman who fought for privileges. They were led by a *juez* who was appointed by the king. City sections were led by their own *alcadie*.

pedrero: (1) Spanish for stone worker, among the high-paid cutters of the stone balls for the bombards and cannons; as such, many cutters became part of the siege artillery train and assumed broader duties as gunner assistants. The term assumed, as did other expressions, the meaning of artilleryman in general. (2) The term also was used for an early artillery mortar.

peón: Infantryman, foot soldier.

petard: Explosive device placed upon a gate or wall in order to blast a hole.

pole-arm: A long-stave thrusting weapon [pole-, staff-, or shaft-weapon] which had many configurations derived from ancient times. Although the basic spear and lance were technically 'pole-arms', the term, in context of medieval warfare, referred to poles/shafts with metal points and blades of various designs to permit thrusting and/or slashing at an opponent. Such weapons were the easiest to acquire for rural or urban mobs and militias. Pole-arms were most effective in battle when used by a well disciplined infantry formation, as shown in the phalanxes of the ancient Greeks and, later, mid-medieval era Swiss.

route: French term for a contingent of mounted men-at-arms, a sub-group of a *battle*, loosely described as a 'squadron', generally numbered 50, who rallied about a knight permitted to fly a pennon. See *battles* and *cuadrillas*.

ribadoquine: Multi-barrelled gun (small calibre) on wheeled carriage. Sometimes referred to as an 'organ gun'. In the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries they were used as an anti-personnel weapon to defend gates and passageways, and (very rarely) in the field.

ribat: Arabic for frontier area where there was a struggle to defend the Muslim faith, or fortress area.

saif/sayf: Generic Arabic word for sword. Early Muslim swords generally had straight blades. The curved blades began in Eastern Muslim societies and were not common, especially in the Maghrib, until the sixteenth century.

serpentina: See *arquebus*.

serpentine: Various meanings associated with early gunpowder weapons: (1) a category of smaller French and Burgundian cannon, (2) loosely mixed dry components of gunpowder, (3) the Z- or S-shaped device which provided a lever (trigger) to ensure controlled joining of the lit match to the touchhole on early hand-held guns. See *arquebus*.

stradiot: Light cavalryman from Albania, introduced into the Italian Wars of the late fifteenth century as Venetian auxiliaries.

Tanto Monta: The motto of the Catholic Sovereigns. It appears on the *Pendon Real* (Royal Banner) of King Ferdinand V and Queen Isabella I of Castile. The banner is preserved at *Musée del Ejército*, Madrid. The motto roughly translates to mean 'as much to one as to the other', signifying their unusual dual monarchical authority. Often accompanying the motto were the individual symbols of the two sovereigns, shown as a double oxen-yoke and a sheaf of arrows. There are two versions as to which monarch each of the symbols represent. (1) the yoke is for Isabella, the Y (for *yugo*, meaning yoke) is the equivalent in Spanish for the letter I, in Isabella's name. The arrows (*feches*, meaning arrows) is the F in Ferdinand's name. (2) the other interpretation is that the symbols are matched opposite of the first version, and the cipher letters are to honor the other's partner. [See José Luis Calvo y Luis Grávalos

González, *Banderas de España* (Madrid, 1983), pp.42–43, and Calvert, *Musée del Ejército* (Madrid, 1907), p.61].

taifa: One of the ‘petty’ (small) states formed as Spanish Muslim kingdoms after the breakup of the Umayyad Iberian dynasty, and again after the domination of the Almoravides.

thughur: A military frontier zone of the Cordoban Caliphate. The concept continued throughout the course of the reduction of Muslim domains on the Iberian Peninsula.

trébuchet: Non-gunpowder war machine that lobbed various projectiles in high trajectory, over fortress walls. The early versions, originating in the orient, operated by traction: many men pulling on long cords to hoist the opposite, longer end of the pole. They were of medium to very large size. The late medieval *trébuchet* operated on a counter-weight [counterpoise] principal and was popular for siege and fortress defense until gunpowder artillery became fully established. Nations that were slow in developing their gunpowder artillery, had such weapons into the sixteenth century.

trueno: Spanish term for ‘thunderclap’ like early English ‘thunder’, to generally describe fourteenth and early fifteenth century gunpowder weapons.

vega: Spanish Muslim agricultural area. The ‘Vega of Granada’ was the fertile land to the immediate southwest of the city of Granada.

wali: Muslim governor.

war machine: Non-gunpowder artillery device, sometimes referred to as a ‘war-engine’. Used mostly in sieges – both in offense and defense of fortifications – and continued to be employed along with gunpowder weapons well past the fifteenth century. War machines generally hurled stones, naphtha, and various large objects; or they shot directly large arrows or medium sized stones. There is considerable difficulty in matching specific names to precise descriptions. The Arabic writers often used *manjanik* (*manganiq*) as a generic term for the the artillery machine. An early English term was ‘gyns’. See *ballista*, *catapult*, *mangonel*, *trébuchet*.

