

---

# THE WAR OF CATALONIA OR THE WAR OF THE REAPERS (1640-1652)

The last stage of the so-called Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) began in 1635 and brought along the struggle between France and Spain in the border region of Roussillon, which had been invaded by Louis XIII.

It is within this context that the War of Catalonia- also known as the War of the Reapers- took place. It was sparked off by the excesses, at the expense of the local population, of the troops stationed in northern Catalonia. The war started in 1640 with a popular uprising and the death of Viceroy Santa Coloma, killed by the Barcelonan reapers (*segadors* in Catalan language) in the course of the events known as "*Corpus de Sangre*" (Bloody Corpus Christy Day). During the war, the Catalan authorities even deposed King Philip IV and recognized Louis XIII as Count of Barcelona. The war came to an end twelve years later when Don Juan José of Austria (John of Austria the Younger) seized Barcelona. Nevertheless, a large part of Catalonia remained occupied by the French until the "Treaty of the Pyrenees", signed in 1659.

Yet, this was not the only war Spain waged against France throughout the seventeenth century. Soon afterwards, the War of Devolution (1667-1668) erupted- which coincided with an uprising against France in Roussillon-, and then the War of Luxemburg (1683-1684) and the War of the League of Augsburg, also known as the Nine Years' War (1688-1697). And during these conflicts Catalonia became one of the strongholds that kept the French war machine at bay.

---