



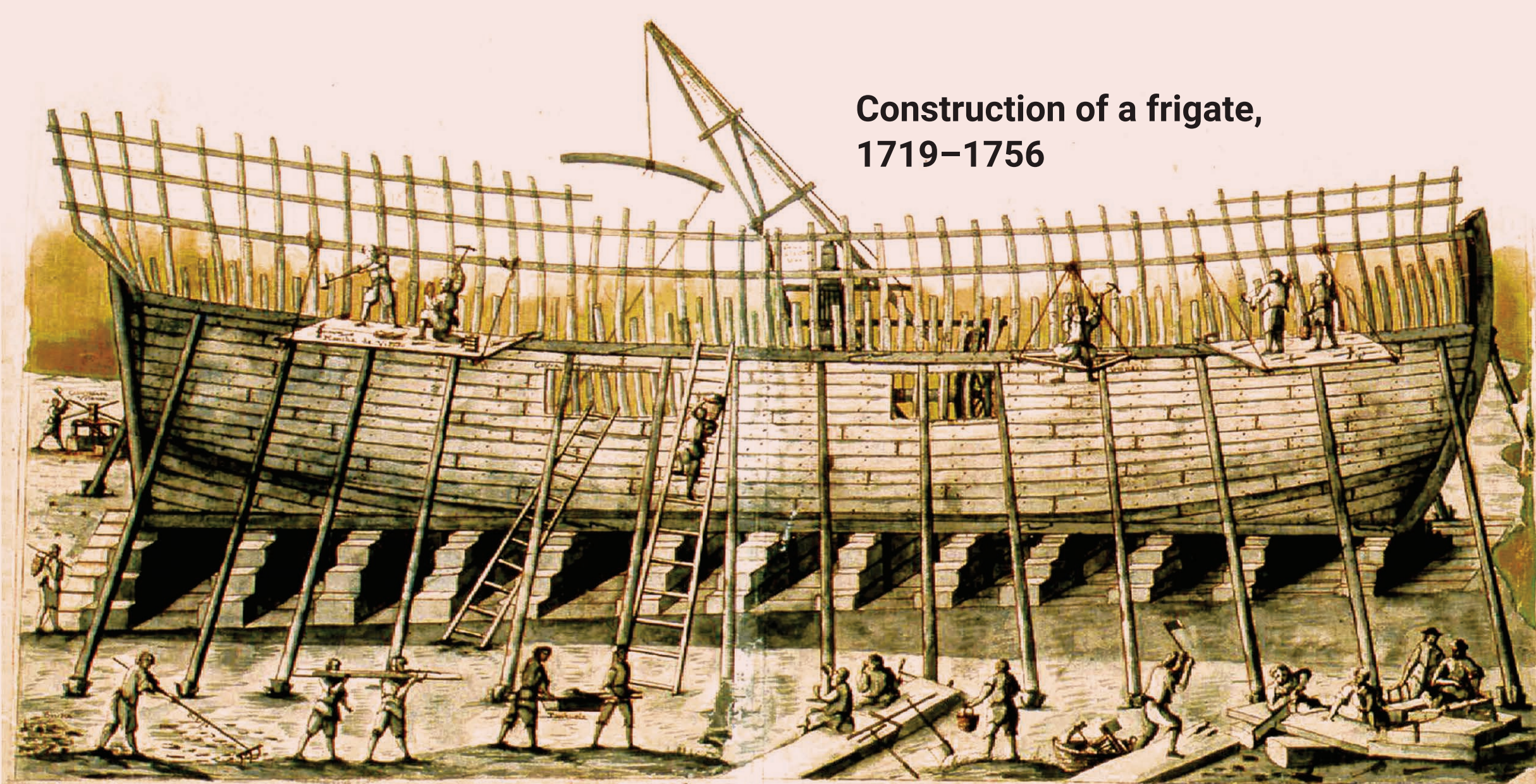
The Devesa Real of Santomé

In the 18th century, wood became strategically important to the Crown due to the need to build warships.

The royal family planned the planting of oak and pine forests along the entire coastline to supply wood to military arsenals.



In the 18th century, the Navy planned the demarcation of Reserves along the entire coastline of the Spanish Crown. These areas were mainly located within 25 leagues of the coast (about 104 km from the coast). As the current municipality of Mondariz is less than 15 km from the coast, its parishes were also forced to cede a large part of the best land in their communal mountains for the planting of oak trees and, to a lesser extent, pine trees. In order to supply wood to the Navy's arsenals, the King ordered the creation of several nurseries and the demarcation of Royal Plantations in all population centres. **In Galicia, these areas were popularly known as Fragas, Pinares and Devesas do Rei, and were marked out with granite markers such as those that dot this pastureland. Each one was engraved with the letter "R", identifying its new owner: the King.**



Construction of a frigate, 1719–1756

Demarcation

Boundary stines of 'O Rei', marking the limits of the royal reserve

This royal reserve was one of four that the King owned in the parish of Mouriscados in the mid-18th century. Thanks to the land registry compiled by the Marquis of Ensenada, we know that it was 'a prime-quality ploughing field' and that it was located in the area known as 'Santomé'. It had its own nursery and covered an area of around 2 hectares. It was also located next to a stream that divided it in half and guaranteed good irrigation conditions for the trees.

O Viveiro

You are here



Locate the boundary stones of 'O Rei'

100 m
50 m

The confiscations

At various times during the 19th century, the State put up for auction a large number of properties belonging to the Catholic Church, the State itself or the communal properties of parishes that were unused and known as "dead properties". The aim was to create a bourgeoisie that would put these lands to use. With the confiscations of Mendizabal (1836) and, mainly, Madoz (1855), ownership of pine forests, woods and royal pastures such as this one in Mouriscados, which had been expropriated from the neighbourhood by the King, passed definitively into private hands.

Oak and pine trees for the fleet

The loss of ships in successive wars and their transformation into the Royal Navy forced the reconstruction of its naval force. For this reason, in 1748, the King approved the Royal Ordinance for the conservation and increase of the Navy's forests. From then on, a commission of visitors was tasked with studying all the Crown's forests, analysing the number, quality and location of the trees. This inventory is the first snapshot of the forestry situation in the Kingdom of Galicia and the Crown of Spain in history.

Galicia, a strategic area

The need to rebuild its naval force forced the study of available timber, a task that led the Mariña to carry out the first inventory of trees in Galicia. This was done in the 18th century in the historic and very important province of Tui (despite occupying only 5.6% of the Kingdom of Galicia, it was home to more than 10% of its population), which at that time included the parish of San Cibrán de Mouriscados.



INDITEX



Comunidade de
Montes
de Mouriscados
Mondariz (Pontevedra)



AFG
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