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Title: “Rothschild investments in Spain, 1856-1930”.

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Brief CV:

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- Awarded in 1999 with the youth Scholar Prize of the European Association for Banking History for the work: “Rothschild in Rio Tinto: The influence of finance sector in the big mining industry”.
- Recent Publications:
 - López Morell, Miguel, A. (2005): La Casa Rothschild en España. Madrid: Marcial Pons Historia.
 - López Morell, Miguel, A. (2004): “El papel de los Rothschild en el desarrollo de las finanzas Públicas españolas durante el S. XIX”. Revista de Historia Económica, nº 3 del volumen XXII, diciembre de 2004, pp. 597-636
 - López Morell, Miguel, A. (2003): “Peñarroya: un modelo expansivo de corporación minero-industrial, 1881-1936”. Revista de Historia Industrial, nº 23 (2003), nº23. pp 95-135.

SUMMARY

This paper deals with the investments of the Rothschild House in Spain from 1855 to 1930. In this period, Rothschild French and British branches moved between 5 % and 15% of the total Spanish private investment and up to 55% of the whole foreign investment. Figures that gain more significance taking into account the concentration of these capitals in the most dynamic and strategic sectors of Spanish economy (railways, mining, metallurgical and chemical industries).

To sum up, this paper has four main objectives. Firstly, to define the period when the principal capital incomes were produced by the Rothschild initiatives, the intensity they had and the sectors they affected. Secondly, to quantify the importance of these investments and financial activities and the weight they had on Spanish enterprises and markets, and in the foreign investment in each period. Thirdly, to outline the steps followed and means used by the Rothschild’s House in order to achieve the success in each of their business. Finally, to analyse Rothschild contribution to Spanish contemporary economy, both at a general and at a sectorial scale.

Primary sources for this work have been recovered in the British and French branches of the Rothschild's archives, which valuable materials have been contrasted with the Spanish and French public administration documentation (Archivo Histórico Nacional, Archivo de la Administración Civil del Estado, Ministère Française des Affaires Etrangères, Ministère Française d'Economie et Finances and Ministère Française d'Industrie et Commerce), with financial institutions in this period, such as the Bank of Spain. Up top of them, archives of companies controlled by Rothschilds in Spain have also been analysed, such as the old Société Minière et Metallurgique Peñarroya (Metaleurop nowadays), the Rio Tinto Co's in London and in the mine, and those of the MZA railway company found in the Spanish Railway Foundation archives.