

• **Infrastructure Development**

The essential effect of infrastructure development is to cheapen the cost of production throughout all phases of the national economy, thus expanding the free energy available for further progress in living standards and the rate of technological development.

Under Philip V, a system of wagon roads was begun, radiating out from Madrid to the Basque region, the

Mediterranean ports, and Cadiz. Carlos III built highways during his reign in the Basque region and along the Mediterranean coast from Valencia to the French border. Stagecoaches were initiated, and a regular postal service was established.

For purposes of navigation, communication, and irrigation, Carlos's councillors proposed a series of canals that would tie central Spain to the sea. One, which had already been conceived by Carlos V, was to run beside the

## *Excerpts from Pedro Rodríguez de Campomanes, 'Treatise on the Promotion of Public Industry' (1774)*

### FOREWORD

... This treatise is directed to the praiseworthy end, that the people and the Magistrates come together with patriotic fervor to promote, in accordance with their abilities, general utility in Spain, and to destroy the injurious and vulgar opinion by which, without justification, Spaniards are labeled lazy, providing them the means not to be so. . . .

Charity toward one's fellow man, so commended in Christian morality, is surely the means by which to assist the state, whose true wealth resides in no one within the kingdom lacking a productive occupation, fitting his abilities, with which to support and raise his children. . . .

... It is impossible to love the public welfare, and praise the unruly passions of idleness. The activity of the common people is the true motor which can lead to prosperity, and toward that end this presentation is directed.

### I.

Agriculture without the arts [skilled crafts] is feeble. . . . What is to become of a large portion of the people, if the arts are ignored, and attention is placed only on agriculture and cattle-raising?

### V.

The means by which to engender both basic and more developed industries are very simple, but require effort and instructors to educate the people, as well as offering them any assistance necessary. . . .

3. . . . The establishment of economic and agricultural Academies, to examine the means of promoting these industries, translating the best works written in this field outside of Spain, can make accessible the most important discoveries. . . .

### VIII.

... Where public industry is well established, parents don't complain about having too many children, or that they lack daily employment and sustenance; rather, they rejoice in having a large number of children. . . .

If it is true that a nation's strength consists in having a large number of common people, it is axiomatically certain that public industry is the real nerve center by which this power is sustained.

### IX.

The quantity of manufactures is multiplied in proportion to the facility of producing them. . . .

### XVII.

If the sciences require well-endowed public schools in the absence of private institutions, then public industry is no less deserving of a free and adequate educational system.

### XVIII.

A sizeable population is the state's greatest good, and the foundation of its true power.

### XX.

We can conclude that, basing itself on the method of inspiring in these Societies the love of the common good, Spain will be able to gather unto itself the knowledge which has taken other nations centuries and immense expense to acquire, and through great effort on their part, eventually attaining the due state of perfection.

*—translated from the Spanish by Cynthia Rush*