

PhD Students Day 2018, University of Corsica Doctoral School - RETI

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*“Wartime propaganda and foreign policy:
Great Britain and the Canary Islands during the period of the World Wars”*

The First and the Second World War initiated a new concept of war, the concept of Total War, in which belligerents and neutrals were protagonists in the struggle for victory. Therefore, in the neutral countries, the diplomatic activity and the propaganda struggle found a favorable theater of operations, turning the war into a propaganda struggle with the objective of obtaining the support of the public opinion overseas. British propaganda in Spain was organized through the press sections established in the diplomatic premises and it operated accordingly to the specific objectives of British foreign policy in the country: maintain the neutrality of the country, encourage cooperation or discourage assistance to the enemy

Within this framework, the Canary Islands also became the target of international ambitions. The archipelago became the protagonist of important plans that intended the use, cession or occupation of the islands. However, in the scene of a total war, the conflict also reached the insular territory through propaganda and espionage instruments that sought to achieve the objectives established by the international foreign policies. Hence, the analysis of the dissemination of international propaganda in the islands reveals even more the risks and threats experienced by the Canary Islands, and the importance given by the propagandists to the preparation of the islands in case of their occupation, especially from 1941 to 1943. In some cases, the militaristic and propagandistic plans were never put into practice, but the design of a context full of assumptions and contingencies emphasize the dangerousness of the moment, the relationship between propaganda, diplomacy and espionage, and the relevance of the islands within the international wartime scenario.