PART THREE

THE IBERIAN FACE OF
THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR
“CUT OFF THEIR HEADS, OR I’LL CUT OFF YOURS”: CASTILIAN STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN THE WAR OF THE TWO PEDROS AND THE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FROM MURCIA

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I. Introduction

“There was no Hundred Years War in Spain!” This (mistaken) opinion is shared by not-a-few Hispanists who study the Middle Ages.1 In reality, the Hundred Years War did on various occasions spill over the Pyrenees and in at least one instance, had a significant impact on Spanish history. During the mid-1360s, the larger struggle merged with and decisively influenced a bloody Iberian episode known as the War of the Two Pedros, and led to a change of dynasties in the central Iberian state of Castile.

1 This article combines material from two papers on the War of the Two Pedros, presented at the 35th and 39th International Congresses on Medieval Studies meeting at Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, Michigan) in May, 2000 and May, 2004. I would like to thank the following archives, libraries, and individuals for the aid and/or comfort they extended to me during the process of researching and writing this essay: in the United States, the University of Cincinnati library system, in particular, the reference department, archives, interlibrary loan, and photoduplication services; in Spain, the Archivo Histórico Nacional and Real Academia de la Historia; and (in alphabetical order) Judith Daniels, Julian Deahl, Kelly DeVries, Dan Gottlieb, Janine Hartman, Donald Kagay, Mark Lause, Sally Moffatt, Paul Moran (both the elder and younger), Marcella Mulder, Norman Murdoch, Mark DuPuy, Clifford Rogers, Charles Seibert, Blasco Sobrinho, Ann Twinam, Theresa Vann, Thomas White, and the anonymous reader recruited by Brill. This article and the papers on which it is based were completed while I was still on the faculty at the University of Cincinnati. Despite a policy that did relatively little to encourage, promote, or reward research conducted by members of the two-year units operating under its aegis, I am nevertheless indebted to the university for its library facilities and for several grants that helped finance research in Spain on this and other projects. I am eternally grateful to members of UC’s Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, in particular the department head, Lowanne Jones, for the very kind welcome they afforded me during my last two years at the university. I must also thank Dean Karen Gould of the College of Arts and Sciences for facilitating my transfer into a department where I felt a true sense of belonging.