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New York City's Spanish Shipping Agents and the Practice of State Power in the Atlantic Borderlands of World War II FREE

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ON DECEMBER 15, 1941, LITTLE MORE than a week after the attack on Pearl Harbor, U.S. Treasury agents stormed a Spanish ship, the *Isla de Tenerife*, as it was set to leave New York Harbor. On board they discovered a large cache of radio receivers, armored cable, silk, and two hundred drums of lubricating oil, all claimed, obviously falsely, as “ship's stores” for the use of the crew during the return to Barcelona. Authorities arrested a handful of the vessel's crew, along with its local agents, Marcelino Garcia Rubiera and Manuel Diaz Riestra. The latter were among Manhattan's most prominent Spanish businessmen. Their shipping agency, Garcia & Diaz, employed representatives across the Western Hemisphere and handled most of the merchant traffic between the United States, Latin America, and Spain.¹

...

Since the mid-1930s, it had also been an open...

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