

## 2. The Guadalcanal – an American or a German Success Story?

The mines of Guadalcanal were probably the most important precious metal mining sector in Spain in early modern times. Historiography has already broadly covered the establishment and outline of these silver mines. Particularly Julio Sanchez has paid a lot of attention to this mining area.<sup>1</sup> A strong focus has been put on the administrative and technological genesis of the mining area. What's more, the impact of the mines of the Guadalcanal on the overall mining sector in Spain has been pointed out. This chapter will however attempt to see the mining sector of the Guadalcanal in the broader context of its time. Special focus will thus be paid to the question of what impact foreign pursuits had on the mines in the Guadalcanal and the overall mining sector in Spain. Of special attention to that end will be the investigation of influence from the mining sector in America as well as in Central Europe on the Guadalcanal. By studying foreign experts who migrated to Spain in order to engage in Spanish mines, this investigation will aim at uncovering the impact of foreign technologies in the setup of a mining sector. In addition, this investigation will also try to trace an administrative transfer into the Spanish mining sector.

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