

= List of battleships of Spain =

In the latter half of the 19th century , the Spanish Navy had built a series of ironclad warships that culminated in the barbette ship Pelayo in the 1880s . Following the destruction of much of the Spanish fleet in the Spanish ? American War in 1898 , Spain slowly began to rebuild its navy . In the early 20th century , the Spanish Navy built three battleships and planned several more ; the three ships that were completed were the vessels of the España class . These ships were the smallest dreadnought @-@ type battleships ever built . A further three ships of the Reina Victoria Eugenia class were authorized by the Navy Law of 1913 , but the outbreak of World War I prevented these ships from being built , as Spain was heavily dependent on Great Britain for material and technical expertise . The three completed battleships all served in the Rif War in North Africa , where the lead ship , España , ran aground and was wrecked .

Following the end of the First World War , occasional plans for the construction of new battleships were proposed , including a small design deriving from Britain 's powerful Nelson @-@ class battleships . However , nothing had come of these efforts by the time of the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War . Following the victory of Francisco Franco 's Nationalists in that conflict , in which both of the surviving Spanish battleships ? one serving on the side of the Nationalists , the other on that of the Republicans ? had been destroyed , proposals for the construction of four fast battleships to an Italian design , as well as the construction of " large cruisers " - the only battlecruiser designs proposed for or by Spain - were made . However , the outbreak of the Second World War resulted in these plans being disrupted .

= = España class = =

Authorized under the Navy Law of 1908 and assigned to the Primera Escuadra (First Squadron) , the España class were the first and only Spanish dreadnoughts , and also the smallest of that type of ship ever to be built . Considered by some to be more " Dreadnought @-@ type coast @-@ defense ships " than pure battleships , the three ships of the class were built in Ferrol by Sociedad Española de Construcción Naval (SECN) , the lead ship being completed in under four years , but the onset of World War I resulted in delays to the remaining two ships , and especially the third , as equipment and armament deliveries from England were disrupted due to the war .

Obsolete before completion due to the rapid progress of naval technology , the Españas saw combat service in the Rif Wars and the Spanish Civil War , España being wrecked on the Moroccan coast in 1923 , Alfonso XIII being renamed España following the establishment of the Second Spanish Republic in 1931 . In the mid @-@ 1930s , it was proposed that the two surviving ships of the class be rebuilt as " pocket battleships " , including a lengthening of the hull and rearranging of the turrets to a centreline alignment . By 1936 , a more modest rebuild was proposed , including conversion to oil firing , but the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War put this plan to rest .

The remaining two ships of the class , one operating on each side , were both lost in the Spanish Civil War . España (ex @-@ Alfonso XIII) , serving the Nationalist side , struck a mine in April 1937 and sunk , while Jaime I fighting as part of the Republican navy , suffered an internal explosion at Cartagena in June 1937 , being scuttled as a precautionary measure afterwards . The wreck was raised the following year before being scrapped in 1939 .

= = Reina Victoria Eugenia class = =

Authorized as the Plan de la Segunda Escuadra under the Navy Law of 1913 , the three ships of the Reina Victoria Eugenia @-@ class , named for King Alfonso 's queen consort and designated ships " A " , " B " and " C " (only " A " having a formally proposed name) , were designed by Vickers @-@ Armstrongs and were planned to displace 21 @, @ 000 long tons (21 @, @ 000 t) with a speed of 21 knots (39 km / h ; 24 mph) . Early plans for the type called for an armament of 15 @-@ inch (381 mm) guns , however financial difficulties resulted in the selection of an armament of eight 13 @. @ 5 in (343 mm) weapons instead . As significant technical assistance from Britain would

have been required for construction of the class , the outbreak of the First World War led to the cancellation of the project .

= = Postwar projects = =

Following the end of the First World War , Spain did not participate in the Washington Naval Conference which limited battleship construction for its signatories . Nevertheless , battleships of the 35 @, @ 000 @-@ long @-@ ton (36 @, @ 000 t) displacement class ? the limit under the Washington Naval Treaty ? were considered by the Spanish Navy in the early 1920s . By the early 1930s , the navy made proposals for a " reduced Nelson type " ship , although nothing came of either project .

After his victory in the Spanish Civil War , Francisco Franco 's plans for the Spanish Navy included the acquisition of four modern battleships , and a variation on the Italian Littorio @-@ class battleships was the favored candidate to fill the requirement . In late 1939 , a Spanish mission to Italy received assurances of technical support for the construction of ships of the class in Spanish yards , and a slipway of sufficient size to construct two ships at a time was built at Ferrol . However , Italy 's entry into the Second World War in 1940 , combined with the limited resources of Spain , led to the cancellation of the project .

A " super @-@ Treaty cruiser " type was also projected as part of Franco 's naval expansion plans , with some designs proposed for the type calling for an armament of six 12 @-@ inch (300 mm) guns ; alternatively , some have speculated that the Spanish desired to purchase the two triple 283 @-@ millimetre (11 @. @ 1 in) turrets that were available following the decision by the German Kriegsmarine to rebuild the damaged battleship Gneisenau with twin 381 @-@ millimetre (15 @. @ 0 in) turrets . The war situation meant that nothing was to come of this project either .