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*Cortes Gerais Extraordinárias da Nação Portuguesa.*- the role of a petition in political participation during Vintismo (1800-1823)

The aim of this contribution is to re-examine the role of the petition as a form of political participation between 1820 and 1823. This historical period corresponds to the first Portuguese liberal experiment, *Vintismo*, based on the principles of national sovereignty and its representation through the Cortes Gerais Extraordinárias da Nação Portuguesa.

With the proclamation of new principles of political law, expressed in the Bases of the Constitution approved on 9 March 1821, the liberal state established that any citizen could submit written complaints, grievances, or petitions to the Cortes for consideration. Later, in the Constitution of 1822, petitioning was enshrined as an individual right. Furthermore, the organisational model of parliamentary life stipulated that meetings were open to the public and that everything said in the plenary sessions of the Cortes or its committees had to be recorded in minutes, which were also made public. Although petitioning has a long history in Portugal dating back to the Middle Ages, it was during this period that the Cortes received an unprecedented wave of petitions, along with projects, legislative proposals, requests, and memoirs from ordinary citizens from all corners of the country and various parts of the Empire.

It is on this movement, this institutionalised channeling of political demands, that we will focus our contribution, by mapping and analysing the petitions received and forwarded to the Committee of Public Instruction, whose opinions were publicly debated in the plenary sessions of the Cortes. We want to identify the attributes that gave the members of the Cortes who discussed public instruction the status of an authorised voice, along with the themes that were taken up and elaborated in their discourses. We also aim to characterise the process of political deliberation, how it was conducted, and what results were achieved.