A fundamental element of the European institutional system of the ancien régime was the parliament. It is no exaggeration to say that in some countries it was equal in power, if not superior, to that of the monarchy.

A series of favourable conditions made the development of the parliament possible: the convergence between the Germanic tradition and part of Roman law in the idea of 'auxilium et consilium'; that the estates of feudal society found in the parliamentary system a channel with which to defend their interests and negotiate with the king, and in some cases - but not all - an important adaptive capacity.

The decline of the European parliamentary system that began in the 16th century had much to do with the centralization of power, the new forms of social organization and the conflicts these generated, and a change in political doctrine which recast the old virtues as irresolvable defects.

Despite its importance and the substantial number of studies that have been devoted to it, we do not have many works of synthesis and interpretation of the state parl iaments. In our presentation, we will talk about why this is, and what we can do in our present project.