

Antonio Cuestas

LA RESERVA MILITAR DE VOLUNTARIOS DE ESPAÑA



URDIMBRE Y RETROPROGRESIÓN



ARC
2014

**THE VOLUNTEER MILITARY
RESERVE FORCE
OF SPAIN**

WARP AND RETROPROGRESSION



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Antonio Cuestas

THE VOLUNTEER MILITARY
RESERVE FORCE
OF SPAIN

WARP AND RETROPROGRESSION



*To those who love Spain with sense and heart, and sacrifice
their personal lives and possessions to serve their country
as Voluntary Reservists.*

To Pilar, who was always proud of me for being a Reservist.

Presentation

The “dissemination of the defense culture” is undoubtedly a simple yet complex social concept.

Simple in that it basically entails giving the Civilian Society the necessary information so that it supports the Military Society in the accomplishment of its missions. This is a way of summarizing in a single sentence what can be expressed in many ways; what many people have said in a lot of different ways but is really that simple.

Complex in that every Spanish government, since the establishment of the Parliamentary Monarchy, has systematically failed in its planning and execution. Some of them have not even tried or included it in their election manifestos. Others, from all the political ideologies, have failed due to their incompetence and many complexes despite having wealthy budgets. And, finally, others have failed because their budgets are not that wealthy anymore, and they lack *defense consciousness*, which must be necessarily linked to the *defense culture* that ought to be disseminated.

Two key elements are required to introduce a suitable Armed Forces model: first, determination and second, a budget. Unfortunately, Spain lacks both.

Today, Spain has an adequate "Professional Armed Forces" model on paper, but not in practice. It lacks three of the four pillars required to support the construction of that model. And the only pillar in existence, the professional military, is not strong enough to bear the weight of the area and population it has to serve.

The Defense Industry suffers great hardship, and is sometimes even dismantled, due to, among other reasons, the thinness of the first pillar and its impact on the R&D factor, which is key to commercial success abroad.

In the majority of cases, the civilians who are at the service of the Armed Forces do not have the trust, consideration or remuneration necessary to feel involved in National Defense.

Additionally, the Military Reserve Force, an essential pillar in the Professional Armed Forces model, without which they would simply not exist, is still to be instituted. Spain does not have a sufficient, trained Military Reserve Force integrated into this four-pillar professional model, where each and every pillar is indispensable to ensure the Defense of the Nation.

Nevertheless, this Military Reserve Force in a perpetual embryonic stage, having been in gestation for 10 years and still far from birth, is made up of men and women who are eager to serve their country and contribute to National Defense, and who tirelessly take the initiative in pursuit of an active support. The Defense Culture field is a great opportunity to make that contribution, enabling the reservists to avoid the barriers, put up by the administration itself, against the Dissemination of the Defense Culture. That ease and opportunity comes from the reservists' condition, pendular citizens between the civilian and the military societies, with privileged access and their own resources, which they altruistically place at the service of these objectives.

José Antonio López is a good example of this remarkable movement which this Military Reserve Force embryo has become. Antonio altruistically offers his resources, his knowledge and his personal efforts for the Dissemination of the Defense Culture; undertaking work that has nothing to do with his job as a mining engineer with 25 years' experience in the Defense Industry and 15 years as a High School teacher, with a Master's Degree in History, a polyglot and a brilliant lecturer. He puts on his official Spanish Navy uniform and, being true to the military values to which he is committed, he publishes this excellent study we now have in our hands.

Our Royal Academy of the Spanish Language defines “warp” as “the threads on a loom over and under which other threads (the weft) are passed to make cloth”. This book explains that every thread is essential in the cloth of the Iberian Peninsula and it particularly focuses on the Military Reserve Force as one of those indispensable threads.

First, the author gives the reader a general idea of what the Military Reserve Force is and of the reservists' role; and then he proceeds to analyze them on the basis of the two concepts he has chosen: warp and retrogression. Finally, after providing the necessary references and comparisons with some allies, he centers on thoroughly studying the surveys used for this piece of work.

This is without a doubt an invaluable contribution to the dissemination, not only of the Defense Culture, but also of the participation of the Military Reserve Force in the Professional Armed Forces model.

Santiago Carrasco Díaz-Masa

Chairman of the ARES Spanish Reservists Association

Preface

NEW things are very appealing to me, especially if I can collaborate in their development: watch the idea grow, be part of the elements that are to shape a system and be able to leave my stamp in the procedures.

When I arrived at the Defense Office in the Principality of Asturias, I found a figure that was completely new to me: the volunteer reservist. The incomplete regulations we had then forced us to create many of the processes as new needs were discovered.

What we then saw as a drawback I see now, several years later, as something positive that forced us to interrelate with the group we were attending to in a very special way. The chance to know the problems beforehand and study proposals to solve the issues as they arose, as well as the process of generating, at our level, activities to supplement their training, enabled us to acquire a deep knowledge of this group and, most importantly, of the individuals who constituted it.

The reader may be expecting me to analyze the contents of this piece of work, to evaluate the system regulating the volunteer reservists in Spain or to provide the author's résumé. The work on which this book is based has already been analyzed by a committee. The volunteer reservist model is the one established by law, with room for improvement, of course. The author's résumé, extensive as it is, could overshadow the focus deserved by the personal aspect and the relationship established with the group.

I could talk about article 30.1 of section 2 of our Constitution “on the citizens' rights and duties”, which establishes that “Spanish citizens have the right and duty to defend Spain”. We could point out that the broad regulation of this article gives the idea of national defense not as something to be dealt with only by the army, but as a right and duty of every Spaniard. Law 17/1999, of May 18, on the Staff Regime of the Armed Forces, regulated the provision of human resources in accordance with the military obligations stated in article 30.2 of the Spanish Constitution. This ensured the participation of all the citizens, imposing only indispensable obligations. The volunteer reservist figure was very important in the development and application of that law, and it was kept and reinforced in the new law 39/2007 on the Military Career, which favored a greater involvement of society in the Armed Forces.

I could discourse on all this, by quoting, for example, the paper I had the honor to give on this subject at the symposium held by ARES (Asturias) celebrating the 10th anniversary of the creation of this figure. But, in this introduction, I would rather focus on the aspects that I have learned to appreciate in the years I have been working with them, trying to explain in a few paragraphs what the reservist figure means to me, and on offering the public recognition deserved by a group of people who several years back showed their will to exercise their right to defend Spain.

The volunteer reservist figure could be thought to be no more than a nice idea expressed on paper, but this is not so. These additional troops are very important, even in times of peace, as they are a necessary supplementary contribution to the national military defense. Allow me to cite article 123.4 of the said Military Career Law, which establishes that the Minister of Defense can decide to incorporate volunteer reservists who have stated their willingness to take part in missions abroad, in actions by the Armed Forces in collaboration with state institutions and public administrations to preserve the citizens' safety and well-being or to serve in the units, centers and bodies of the Ministry of Defense.

When anyone who knows about my job and my relationship with this group asks me who they are and what they do, I am tempted to give them the standard answer: that they are people who voluntarily decide to put their abilities, skills and knowledge temporarily at the service of the various missions carried out by our Armed Forces, in compliance with the role assigned to them by the Constitution and in answer to the commitment made by the government. But I usually choose to tell them that they are selfless persons who contribute with their time and experience because they feel Spain as an important part of themselves.

These volunteer reservists are a heterogeneous group, with different careers and qualifications; a heterogeneous group of personnel with different jobs and different postings attached to the different armies and to the common corps. A heterogeneous group, but strongly linked together by their common willingness to serve.

I have been able to watch them from a “privileged position” almost from the beginning, which has made it possible for me to see how they moved, how they earned their place and consolidated their prestige. The Armed Forces benefit from personnel of such category, because they bring vitality and new ways of approaching the issues we face. I may not agree with some of the opinions expressed in this book; however, I see those discrepancies as something enriching in that they make me want to analyze why I disagree, see things from a different perspective and reconsider questions which, had it not been for this reading, I may not have ever rethought.

All these years, the most recurrent aspect of the reports received after the various activations is the highlighting of the spirit of great self-sacrifice with which they have fulfilled their obligations and tasks within the units. It is gratifying to learn of their interest in doing things well. There is no better way to attain any set goals than to undertake the required tasks with that energy, which also brings them respect and admiration.

It is important to note that this publication is one of the first studies on volunteer reservists. In my opinion, this makes it very valuable, together with the fact that it has been written by a member of the group in question, who no doubt aims to achieve its improvement.

I cannot talk about the author without, first of all, acknowledging the work for which I initially got to know him. Antonio has disseminated the Defense Culture in a very significant way collaborating with the Defense Office in the Principality of Asturias. He has done this as a teacher, as an active member of associations that protect the Spanish military heritage and as a volunteer reservist.

He has been the “official spokesperson”, if I may use that expression, advertising, through his webpage, his blog and specific articles in publications such as Legio XXI, the activities in Asturias in which volunteer reservists have taken part, providing an entry door and a window to show what volunteer reservists do.

I must now refer to the great group to which Antonio belongs, the Asturian volunteer reservists, who, thanks to their enthusiasm, the exemplary nature of their acts and the pride with which they talk about their membership, have become a bridge between the professional military and the civilian population, and they have made the people and values of our institution known.

We must not forget that much remains to be done and there is still a long way to go. Volunteer reservists are still an unknown element for many –military and especially civilian– people; but books like this one, together with the good work and potential they have shown, are progressively making the civilian population aware of their existence and making them highly regarded by the military.

This is not the most propitious time to achieve the level of training and activation required, and yet it is necessary to work as wholeheartedly and hopefully as ever. There is no room for discouragement. We must remember the words of article 23 of the former Royal Ordinances: “... serving one's country with arms is a great honor and it is commendable for the sacrifices it entails”.

There are still things to be developed –we are working on it–, but we need everyone's collaboration to give shape to what we want the volunteer reserve force to be, to create a solid basis, so that, in words of the National Defense Directive, society identifies with the army as much as possible.

I do not want to end these lines without thanking Antonio and all the Asturian volunteer reservists for what they have done to give visibility to this group of people, who share with us the values and ideals that inspire the institution, and to make it known to society. Please, keep up the good work and persevere despite all the difficulties.

Enrique Corominas Rodríguez

Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry, graduate of the Staff College,
Manager of the Recruitment Area of the Defense Office in the Principality of Asturias

INDEX

	PAGE
PRESENTATION	IX
PREFACE	XI
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 PRIOR CONSIDERATIONS	3
2.1. What is a Volunteer Reservist?	5
2.2. What is the Volunteer Reserve Force?	6
2.3. Defense Culture and Nation versus State.....	8
3 OBJECTIVES AND JUSTIFICATION	11
3.1. Methodology. Sources and research structure.....	11
4 WARP AND RETROPROGRESSION	15
4.1. The punctuated equilibrium theory and Spain's structure.....	15
4.2. Spain's warp and the nation/state dichotomy.....	19
4.3. Spanish Volunteer Reservists: patriots and democrats.....	21
4.4. Postmodernism and relativism.....	22
4.5. "Retro-progress-ivism".....	23
4.6. An invisible Spanish Reserve Force?	23
5 THE SPANISH RESERVE FORCE COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES	25
5.1. Canadá.....	26
5.2. France.....	27
5.3. Sweden.....	29
5.4. Italy.....	30
5.5. Switzerland.....	32
5.6. United Kingdom.....	33
5.7. United States of America.....	35
5.8. Conclusions of the comparison between reserve forces.....	38
6 MATERIAL	41
6.1. Survey analysis.....	41
6.2. Personal interviews.....	77
6.3. Conclusions.....	83
7 GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS USED	87
8 ABSTRACT	89
9 BIBLIOGRAPHY	91
10 ANNEXES. Survey charts	95

1

INTRODUCTION

This type of study has a life of its own, just like books when you start to write them. Quite often, the initial idea is developed and altered, as has happened with this piece of work.

Umberto Eco, in his well-known book *How to Write a Thesis*, mentions the word "alchemy" only at the beginning and he recommends the book to those students who want to know how the alchemy of the thesis works, but he does not provide an explicit definition; you just become imbued with it as you read. During the process of writing this piece of work, the alchemy has somehow been there; alchemy that does not come from outside, but from the transformation experienced within. Maybe that is its ultimate purpose.

It has been a long journey since that initial idea, which I entitled: *From the Levy to the Volunteer Reserve Force: the Warrior's Honor*. The purpose was to study the historical process of the levy and the reasons which made the Volunteer Reservists¹ (VR) –civilians who temporarily provide their services in the army and are, therefore, military to all intents and purposes during that time– want to join the army to serve Spain; how they understand honor and sacrifice, and what motivates them to apply for peace mission assignments abroad.

Keeping the main goal of the research in mind, the study nonetheless ends up focusing on a specific group, the VRs, who have a particular orientation, a specific set of characteristics and can, therefore, be compared with the studies of the general population carried out every two years by the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE), in collaboration with the Center for Sociological Research (CIS), through the “National Defense and Armed Forces” surveys, referred herein as MUCIS².

1 A Volunteer Reservist is a person who voluntarily decides to put his/her abilities, skills and knowledge temporarily at the service of the various missions carried out by our Armed Forces, in compliance with the role assigned to him/her by the Constitution and in answer to the commitment made by the government: http://www.reclutamiento.defensa.gob.es/reservistas/ser_reservista/index.htm

2 The Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE) of the Directorate-General for Institutional Relations of Defense signs, every two years, an agreement with the Center for Sociological Research (CIS) to run a national survey called “National Defense and Armed Forces”. Since we will be referring to it often throughout this study, particularly in the analysis of the surveys and material, we will call this sample: MUCIS, in reference to the one of October 2011. I would like to thank all the staff at the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE) for their generous assistance giving me access to the said survey even before it was published.

INTRODUCTION

Along the way, I came across interesting concepts and terms coined by two Spanish thinkers: “warp”, adapted here to the Volunteer Reserve Force, the Nation and its history; and “retrogression”, which, in short, is evolution without losing what there was before, accumulating and going forward, seeking progress without obliterating the past.

When choosing a subject matter about which to write, there are a lot of factors to be considered. But if you like, if you are appealed by what you are writing about and researching into, the hundreds of hours invested will not be so tiresome.

Being myself a Volunteer Reservist (VR) made it easier for me to explore the subject in depth, as I was already quite familiar with it. Because of the fact that Spain was going through difficult, challenging times (fascinating from a historical perspective, I must say) while I carried out this study³, and considering that, as stated in the Spanish Constitution, it is the Army's duty to guarantee Spain's sovereignty and independence, and to defend the integrity of the state and the Constitution, I have found myself writing about a highly topical issue, which, due to unfortunate circumstances, has become very attractive.

On top of this, as I will explain in more detail later on, VRs have the important mission of disseminating the *defense culture*; and this piece of work –which I see as the basis of a future (more ambitious) doctoral thesis– is intended to humbly contribute to that dissemination.

All the aforementioned intrinsic and extrinsic motives have been key to achieving my goal. Those ideas and stimuli have been very important, and, as the saying goes, *where there is a will there is a way*.

Having stated my motivation, I now invite you to read this piece of work on the Spanish Volunteer Military Reserve Force: Warp and Retrogression.

3 Spring of 2013.

PRIOR CONSIDERATIONS

There are three key words in this piece of work: *reserve*, *warp* and *retrogression*. All of them are feminine in Spanish. Our rich language sometimes chooses the feminine to express affection. In the Spanish Navy, to which I am proud to belong as a VR, the usually masculine noun “mar” (sea) is used as a feminine noun (“la mar”) to express the feelings attached to it: we live the sea; we serve the sea, sacrificing our lives if needed, as many before us have done; we love the sea.

By analyzing a series of concepts behind these words, we will realize why our society lacks some values that are found in our reservists. We will do this by means of an ethnographic study, using both quantitative and qualitative techniques to decode the data, comparing the answers given by the population living in Spain –CIS (Center for Sociological Research) survey– with those given by the VRs for this study, in complementation with personal interviews and the observation of the Reservists in their civilian and military environments.

Reserve, warp and retrogression are three powerful, weighty words, worthy of some reflection.

“Reserve” is a word with a lot of different meanings and nuances. In Spanish, “reserva” can be used to refer to an aged wine as well as to express doubt (in the sense of “reservation”), among many other meanings. The verbs “reservar” in Spanish and “reserve” in English both mean: to retain for future use (sources: Dictionary of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language and Oxford English Dictionary).

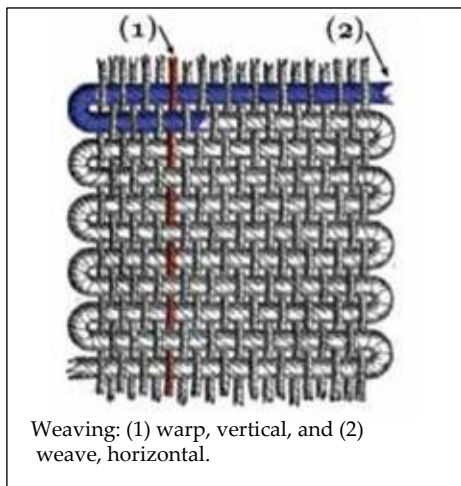
And, in a military context, it can refer to a body of troops withheld from action to reinforce or protect others, or additional to the regular forces and available in an emergency. This is the meaning that interests us here: a group of individuals who temporarily support the regular forces.⁴

⁴ National Defense Advanced Studies Center (CESEDEN), *De la milicia concejil al reservista. Una historia de generosidad*. Madrid, Ministry of Defense, 2008.

Nevertheless, we will use the term in a broad sense, since, obviously, the Reserve Force, like the armies, has evolved to adapt to the circumstances of each period.

“Retrogression” is a term coined by the Spanish PhD engineer, philosopher and writer Salvador Pániker. The term in Spanish (“retroprogresión”) has not been included in the Dictionary of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language yet. We could define it, in words of one of Pániker's followers⁵, as: to recover something forgotten or lost which deserves to be kept and passed on. However, after reading the works of the creator of the term, I think a better definition would be: to keep something which deserves to be saved. That is, evolution without losing what there was before, accumulating and going forward, seeking progress without obliterating the past.

It is, as this book will show, the crux of the matter. “Retroprogressivism” is similar to Derrida's⁶ “deconstruction”: to remove excess elements and leave only what is essential.⁷ Its about moving forward, while saving those values that are essential and genuine –valuable for society. It can also be understood as “classic”, in the sense of “worthy of being imitated”. Classic values in order to start again with good bricks.



“Warp”: We use the Oxford English Dictionary again as a source and we focus on its meaning related to weaving: “the threads on a loom over and under which other threads (the weft) are passed to make cloth”. These threads support⁸ other threads that are passed across them in the weaving of cloth.⁹

⁵ <http://buenamente.blogspot.com.es/2008/11/es-possible-la-retroprogresin.html> accessed on March 8, 2013.

⁶ French philosopher whose critique of Western philosophy and analyses of the nature of language, writing, and meaning were highly controversial yet immensely influential in much of the intellectual world in the late 20th century. (Source: Derrida, Jacques. (2011). Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica)

⁷ Oxford English Dictionary: A method of critical analysis of philosophical and literary language which emphasizes the internal workings of language and conceptual systems, the relational quality of meaning, and the assumptions implicit in forms of expression. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/deconstruction> - (2001).

Microsoft Encarta: Deconstruction is a method of textual analysis applied not only to literature and philosophy, but also to history, anthropology, psychoanalysis, linguistics and theology. “Deconstruction.” Microsoft® Student 2007 [DVD]. Microsoft Corporation, 2006.

⁸ http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0b/Kette_und_Schu%C3%9F_num_col.png accessed on March 12, 2013

⁹ Warp. (March 6, 2013). *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. Accessed: 15:12, March 9, 2013 from <http://es.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Urdimbre&oldid=64355696>.

The idea is taken from Rof Carballo¹⁰, who applied it to human structures¹¹. Based on this Spanish doctor and essayist's concept, in this case, as stated in the introduction, it would be used in reference to the history of the reserve force and, therefore, of the nation.

The warp is, then, the deep structure of organizations, institutions or any other structural elements. They all have a “warp”. In the case of the reservists, it dates from the tenth century with the popular militias¹². The cloth, which, as explained above, is weaved on a loom with the support of the warp, would in this case, *mutatis mutandis*, be history.

In short, we aim to study the warp in the persons who take part in the Volunteer Reserve Force (VRF). The warp, whether we like it or not, is something that, given the centuries of common history in our very old country, joins us all together. But we each have our own warp.

2.1. What is a Volunteer Reservist?

This term would not need to be explained in countries as geographically close to us as the United Kingdom or France; especially in the UK, with a long reservist tradition. Let me tell you about something that happened to me recently. I chose the VRF as a topic for a presentation at an English exam to acquire a bilingual teaching qualification. When the British examiner asked me what the topic of my presentation was, I said, in English, “TA”, which stands for *Territorial Army*, the well-known British Territorial Army created in 1908¹³.

She, of course, instantly knew what I was referring to.

But in a country like ours, with such a poor Defense Culture, it is not always easy to explain what a VR is. Just to give you an example, a recent report of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE)¹⁴ showed that 63.5% of the university students that were surveyed were not even aware of the VRs' existence. It would seem logical to think that, on the basis of that piece of data, among other, theoretically less informed, sectors of society there is even more ignorance regarding this figure. Oddly enough, studies of the Center for Sociological Research (CIS) show that the population in general is more informed about this issue.¹⁵ Only 12% of the persons over 28 years of age that were surveyed did not know about the VRs' existence.

10 Juan Rof Carballo. (September 14, 2012). *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. Accessed: 15:04, March 9, 2013 from http://es.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Juan_Rof_Carballo&oldid=59665591.

11 “Man, like every other biological being, is the result of a process called “genetic information” or heredity. This has the peculiar quality of preparing living beings for an ultimate finish, a *warp* enabling the assimilation, the incorporation of formal environmental structures to the structures organized by heredity, and provides them with the maximum ability to adapt to their peculiar worlds...” J. ROF CARBALLO, *El hombre como encuentro*, Ediciones Alfaguara, Madrid, 1973, p. 35.

12 Servicio Histórico Militar, *Historia del Ejército Español, tomo II*. Madrid, Ministerio de Defensa, 1984, p.55

13 <http://www.army.mod.uk/territorial/1650.aspx> accessed on March 18, 2013.

14 MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ, Miryam y otros: *La imagen de las Fuerzas Armadas por parte de los universitarios españoles*, Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos (Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies), Madrid, 2011, p. 168.

15 Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos (Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE)), *Estudio encuesta “Defensa Nacional y Fuerzas Armadas” de octubre 2011*. Madrid, Ministerio de Defensa, 2011, p. 125.

The concept of a civilian who collaborates with the Armed Forces (AF) of his/her country and is a part-time soldier is not always easy to grasp. This is understandable, considering that the Volunteer Reservist figure was created in 2003; and, in addition to its short history, the initial impulse has somewhat vanished lately with the economic crisis we have been enduring these last years and its great impact on our defense system¹⁶.

The information provided by our institutions on how to become a VR is virtually inexistent. It is true that not even during the first years did the governments conduct big advertising campaigns, but it was a bit publicized, at least. Nevertheless, a lot of the VRs heard through a friend or through other indirect means. I myself found out about the Volunteer Reserve Force through the newspaper. There was not much information then, and there is even less now.

To explain the *reserve force* and *reservist* concepts we must turn to Article 30.1 of the Spanish Constitution (CE). This article states that Spaniards have the right and duty to defend Spain¹⁷. Therefore, we could say that volunteer reservists are citizens that become part-time soldiers, who contribute with their knowledge, time and love for their country through the Armed Forces.

Churchill¹⁸ described the members of the volunteer reserve forces as *twice a citizen*, because they served the nation in both civilian and military capacities.

2.2. What is the Volunteer Reserve Force?

Having clarified the aforementioned issues, I shall now proceed to explain some basic questions regarding how the volunteer reserve force works. The model established in Spain is similar to that of the British Military Reserve Force.¹⁹

To become a reservist one must undergo a selection process²⁰ and a physical and psychological examination. Applicants must be of Spanish nationality; between the ages of 18 and 57 for the position of officer or noncommissioned officer, and between 18 and 54 for the troops and the navy; not have a criminal record; prove adequate fulfillment of their duties as citizens; not have been deprived of any civil rights; not have been subject to any disciplinary proceedings affecting their access to civil service; and not have been barred from holding public office.

16 Allocation of only 1.5% of the GDP, as against the average 3% of the Alliance. http://www.elperiodicodearagon.com/noticias/espana/espana-es-cuarto-pais-de-otan-que-menos-dona-a-defensa_370824.html, accessed on March 3, 2013.

17 Title I. On the basic rights and duties

Chapter two. Rights. Section 2. On the citizens' rights and duties.

<http://www.congreso.es/consti/constitucion/indice/titulos/articulos.jsp?ini=30&fin=38&tipo=2> accessed on March 9, 2013.

18 It was Sir Winston Churchill who once categorised members of the volunteer reserve forces as "twice a citizen" as a measure of the value of military reservists who serve the national interest in both civilian and military capacities. <http://www.number10.gov.uk/take-part/giving/volunteer-reserve-forces/> accessed on March 10, 2013.

19 <http://cimero.antoniocestas.com/otazuvirtual.pdf> accessed on 11-03-2013

20 <http://www.reclutamiento.defensa.gob.es/reservistas/index.htm> accessed on 11-03-2013

VOLUNTEER RESERVISTS OF THE COMMON CORPS FIGURES

VOLUNTEER RESERVISTS	JUR	DOC	NUR	PHA	VET	ODO	PSY	TOTAL
PUBLISHED ON BOD (VR)	52	118	188	29	21	14	70	492
SELECTED PENDING MILITARY TRAINING (RX+RS)	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	53	120	189	29	21	14	71	497

Source: MDEF

DATA OF FEBRUARY 2013

Then you become a member of the Army (ET), the Air Force (EA), the Spanish Navy (AE) or the Common Corps (CC)²¹, as best suits you.

At the end of January 2013 there were 5,361 volunteer reservists²² from different regions in Spain, from very different backgrounds and with wide-ranging jobs. Spanish men and women who sacrifice their free time to train and serve in the Army and the Navy. These reservists provide the Ministry of Defense²³ with access to a broad range of skills and specialized knowledge which it can make use of.

VOLUNTEER RESERVISTS								
SECTION	JOB	SELECTED (RX)	TRAINING (RS)	PUBLISHED (RV)	M	W	TOTAL	% WOMEN
ARMY	OFFIC.	2	26	1,220	1,063	185	1,248	
	N. OFF.	2	22	1,100	890	234	1,124	
	TROOP	0	14	636	470	180	650	
	TOTAL	4	62	2,956	2,423	599	3,022	19.8%
NAVY	OFFIC.	8	5	374	352	35	387	
	N. OFF.	8	1	344	311	42	353	
	TROOP	14	13	287	269	45	314	
	TOTAL	30	19	1,005	932	122	1,054	11.6%
AIR FORCE	OFFIC.	3	4	260	240	27	267	
	N. OFF.	1	4	265	230	40	270	
	TROOP	11	10	184	153	52	205	
	TOTAL	15	18	709	623	119	742	16.0%
C/C	OFFIC.	8	36	499	389	154	543	
	N. OFF.							
	TROOP							
	TOTAL	8	36	499	389	154	543	28.4%
TOTAL JANUARY 2013		57	135	5,169	4,367	994	5,361	18.5%

Source: MDEF

21 Military Legal Corps, Military Intervention Corps, Military Health Corps, Military Music Corps http://www.defensa.gob.es/FormacionMilitar/Oficiales/Opciones/con_titulo/Cuerpos_Comunes/ accessed on March 11, 2013.

22 See table below. All the figures in this section were provided by the Ministry of Defense (MDEF).

23 The Spanish Ministry of Defense - through the extraordinary staff of the Defense Office in Asturias, whom I would like to thank for their help - was kind enough to provide the data labelled here as MDEF.

They must be activated and join their units for a minimum period of time every year, ranging from one week to several months, depending on their availability and the needs of the units to which they are assigned. One of the weak points of the current VRF model is the reservists' insufficient labor protection. With the exception of government employees, the rest have to negotiate with their employers in order to be able to go on leave to complete their period of activation, which leaves them in a precarious and unprotected situation.

So far, volunteer reservists have not taken part in any direct actions going with the Spanish troops to missions abroad, except in the case of (very few) health and auxiliary workers.

Volunteer reservists only receive some compensation when they are activated, not permanently. The training compensation is double the official minimum wage for the troop, two and a half times for noncommissioned officers and three times the minimum wage for officers. In long activations –several months– for the provision of services, the reservists will receive a salary, which varies according to the job and the circumstances.

Military commanders in the reserve force²⁴ and those reservists with special availability – professional military of troops and navy who at the age of 45 end their long-term commitment and decide to become Special Availability Reservists– do receive compensation (7,200 euros per year)²⁵. As far as I know, despite this remuneration, they do not have a stated activation plan.

	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	COMMON C.	TOTAL
SPECIAL AVAILABILITY RESERVISTS	40	5	10	5	60

Source: MDEF

DATA OF FEBRUARY 2013

2.3. Defense Culture and Nation versus State

Volunteer reservists have a duty to foster the Defense Culture, which figures in all the laws and in the Basic Book of the Volunteer Reservist²⁶. The 2004 National Defense Directive, after analyzing the new risks and threats of the 21st century, mentions the Armed Forces' need for continuous transformation, paying special attention to the human resources that sustain them. Furthermore, it states²⁷:

²⁴ <http://www.veteranosfasygc.es/Noticias/GUIA%20ET.pdf> p.18 ff., accessed on March 28, 2013.

²⁵ http://www.reclutamiento.defensa.gob.es/que_ofrecemos/compromiso/index.htm

²⁶ *Libro Básico del Reservista Voluntario, Ministerio de Defensa*, revisión abril 2009, p. 18. At http://www.reclutamiento.defensa.gob.es/upload/libro_basico_reservistas_voluntarios.pdf accessed on March 2, 2013.

²⁷ Organic Law on National Defense (L. O. 5/2005, of November 17), article 31, at <http://www.defensa.gob.es/ladefensa/constitucion/> accessed on March 3, 2013.

“The Ministry of Defense shall foster the development of the defense culture so that the Spanish society knows, values and identifies with its history and with the solidarity and effectiveness of the Armed Forces' efforts to protect the interests of the nation. Likewise, the other public institutions shall contribute to achieve this purpose.”

Volunteer reservists play a very important role in this, as they are a *link* between the civilian population and the Armed Forces. It was thus explained by general Bernardo Echepare, former Director of the Reservists General Office of the Ministry of Defense, who sees this need as the origin, the driving force of the Volunteer Reserve Force: “This figure was created to strengthen the link between the civilian population and the Armed Forces.”²⁸

As I see it, Spain not only lacks a defense culture, but also basic concepts of what a nation is.

Thomas Paine wrote: “What is government more than the management of the affairs of a Nation? It is not, and from its nature cannot be, the property of any particular man or family, but of the whole community, at whose expense it is supported; and though by force and contrivance it has been usurped into an inheritance, the usurpation cannot alter the right of things. Sovereignty, as a matter of right, appertains to the Nation only, and not to any individual; and a Nation has at all times an inherent indefeasible right to abolish any form of Government it finds inconvenient, and to establish such as accords with its interest, disposition and happiness. The romantic and barbarous distinction of men into Kings and subjects, though it may suit the condition of courtiers, cannot that of citizens; and is exploded by the principle upon which Governments are now founded. Every citizen is a member of the Sovereignty, and, as such, can acknowledge no personal subjection; and his obedience can be only to the laws.”²⁹

The historical notion of civilian participation in the army is based on a very interesting conception: the right and duty to defend Spain, stated, as mentioned above, in article 30.1 of the Spanish Constitution. It is fully consistent with this concept of defending the nation.

The problem is the ignorance in this country regarding this matter. *Nation* is not the same as *State*. The concept of *nation* has to do with dominion, with a territory, with its people. The key point is that sovereignty resides in the people. The people rule over themselves: they rule over a territory, a culture and a set of institutions. Nation has nothing to do with power. The power is exercised by the State. That is probably one of the issues to be addressed in Spain: ignorance leads to mistaking power elements for objects under dominion. Dominion is not held by the King, the Government or the State. The dominion over the nation is held by the people. That is the crucial point.

28 http://elpais.com/diario/2006/11/12/eps/1163316417_850215.html accessed on March 3, 2013.

29 Thomas PAINE, *Rights of Man* (London, 1791-92.), p. 165, at <http://hipatia.uab.cat/bdh/fitxers/paine-1791-92.pdf> accessed on March 3, 2013.

PRIOR CONSIDERATIONS

The Military Reserve Force is a part of the defense of the nation, not the State. It is a part of the defense of the dominion, of the sovereignty of the people over the territory and everything else; because to defend the nation is to defend its people and its territory. That is what armies are for.

In short: the nation must be understood, in the laws of a country like Spain, where sovereignty resides in the people, as the subject of this whole process. *Nation* is a concept related to dominion. Nation has to do with sovereignty, and sovereignty has to do with the people. Therefore, we could say that the nation is the warp and the State is the power. Under our Constitution, the Army's duty is not to defend the State, but the nation. The State is to be defended only as a product of the nation, not as a product of power.

OBJECTIVES AND JUSTIFICATION

The volunteer military reserve force has not been the object of much study yet, probably because it is fairly new in Spain: it was instituted 10 years ago.

In addition, the political and economic instability of these last years has resulted in very few opportunities for the VRs to join the Army for their activation periods. Therefore, neither its growth –the initial forecasts predicted around 20,000 reservists, but at present there are only 5,500– nor its operational capacity are as expected.

The studies on the VRF, though few, are very interesting and provide a valuable general overview, but it is still a very unknown topic, even among the professional military. I have had the chance to be present during talks about the Armed Forces for high school students and I discovered that in 90% of those talks the military reserve force was not even mentioned. It –sometimes– merely appeared on a small box on the screen during the presentation.

The purpose of this study is to focus on the volunteer reservist figure to understand the circumstances and motivation that lead these people to undertake to serve their nation in such a way. We will compare the answers collected through the CIS (Center for Sociological Research) survey with those given by the general population and the people interviewed, in order to analyze the differences and similarities between the general population and the reservists. The objective of this study is, thus, to contribute to make the volunteer reservists and their circumstances better known through the analysis of two key concepts: *warp* and *retrogression* in connection with the volunteer reserve force and its relationship with the Spanish nation.

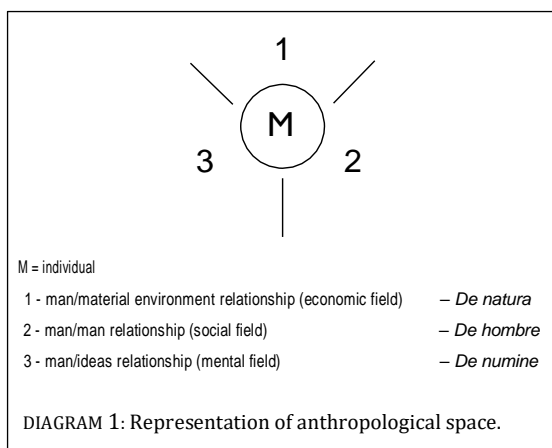
3.1. Methodology. Sources and research structure

The methodology used has been wide and varied: after explaining the terms and making the comparisons, the topic is addressed from an “anthropological perspective” using the interviews as an ethnographic tool to understand the reasons behind the answers.

The anthropological approach is based on a statistical comparative method³⁰, using the two aforementioned samples. The questions (60) are always the same and there are 673 possible answers.

But, as pointed out by Dolores Comas³¹, adopting an anthropological perspective entails combining empirical observation with the theoretical questions that arise from reflection in an appropriate way. Comparing the data received from the VRs and from the CIS survey is, most of all, a quantitative method. Therefore, it was deemed necessary to include a qualitative element in order to study certain answers in depth, using the techniques involved in an ethnographic process: interviews, observation, backgrounds and forums for discussion; that is, the typical field work used in anthropology. It could be described as an anthropological work method that combines *emic* and *etic*³² strategies, qualitative and quantitative criteria respectively³³.

In this context of qualitative work, the facts have been analyzed without passion or affection getting in the way of reason, which has not been an easy task given the researcher's relationship with the objects of study. I reckon a certain level of detachment is needed³⁴ in order to approach any topic –even the study of one's own social group– so as to feel the curiosity required to produce knowledge. Nevertheless, I do not think the researcher's proximity to the object of study is always a handicap. After all, a researcher must study, analyze, understand and finally transmit what she or he has learned. Therefore, the most important thing is to be a good observer. I truly believe my being a reservist has been an asset, more than anything else, for carrying out this study.



This study began with the surveys answered by reservists from all around Spain. After the laborious computer processing I proceeded to personally interview some of them. I have tried to use a holistic perspective³⁵, which, based on the opinions of anthropologist Adolfo García Martínez, is the only way to show the connection between the VRF and the economy, the political system, the social structure and the reservists' set of beliefs.

30 This method was created by anthropologist Edward Tylor. It was later explained by Murdock and in the Human Relations Area Files (HRAF) <http://www.yale.edu/hraf/> accessed on March 29, 2013.

31 COMAS D'ARGEMIR, D.: Trabajo, género, cultura. La construcción de las desigualdades entre hombres y mujeres. Icaria, Instituto Catalán de Antropología, 1995, p.15

32 For those readers not versed in anthropology: *emic* is the set of explanations considered valid by a community regarding their own acts and *etic* is the set of scientific explanations given for those same acts by a third-party observer. This definition is based on: M. HARRIS, Introducción a la antropología general, Alianza Editorial, Madrid, 2004, p. 153 ff.

33 Adolfo GARCÍA MARTÍNEZ, J.A. CONTRERAS, A. RIVAS, Tristes Institutos, Fundación Municipal de Cultura, Gijón, 2000, p.11.

34 DÍAZ de RADA, A. Etnografía y técnicas de investigación antropológica. Guía didáctica. UNED, Madrid, 2006, p.31.

35 A. GARCÍA MARTÍNEZ, J.A. CONTRERAS, A. RIVAS, Op. cit. Tristes..., p.19-20.

Anthropology, with its holistic view³⁶, is interested in both the details and the general interpretation³⁷ (see diagram above)³⁸. In any case, this piece of work is intended as a first –still limited– approach to be developed in the future in the form of a doctoral thesis.

Here is a short summary of the materials used for this study, with the purpose of gathering as many data as possible, which will be detailed at the end:

- Bibliographical sources: mostly related to the VRF, anthropology and the studies offered by the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE) and the Center for Sociological Research (CIS)
- Electronic sources: digital books, websites, blogs, articles and the wide-ranging material found on the Internet, much of it in other languages
- Audiovisual sources: videos, documentaries, interviews, etc. related to the VRF from different countries, especially Spain
- Oral sources: personal interviews. Both men and women were interviewed, and they were selected on the basis of their availability and their connection to different branches of service of the armed forces. Some had been surveyed, others had not. Some wish to remain anonymous, others don't. But the patriotic and democratic warp of them all is clear.

This piece of work has been divided into three main sections: 1) a first section offering a basic approach to the volunteer military reserve force, the defense culture and the *nation* and *State* concepts as used here; 2) a second section explaining those concepts in more detail, analyzing the material –surveys and interviews– and comparing different military reserve forces; 3) and, finally, a third section examining the trends and stating some conclusions.

36 “This broad perspective, sometimes called holistic, may be, in itself, the most surprising feature of anthropology. Whatever the definition of anthropology chosen, it must be noted that it is a discipline aimed at understanding humanity in its various facets, that is, holistically” J.L. PEACOCK, *La lente antropológica*, Alianza Editorial, Madrid, 2005, p.37.

37 J.L. PEACOCK, *Op. cit.* *La lente...*, p.12.

38 *Ibid.*, p.22 (diagram used by Dr. García Martínez to explain the concept)

WARP AND RETROPROGRESSION

We are now going to analyze these two concepts in depth, adding others for a better understanding and giving examples that help us narrow their meanings to fit our purpose.

As explained in the introduction, the word “warp” has its origin in the textile industry, as part of the structure of a loom. Metaphorically speaking, if we were weaving a rug for our venture, that rug would be History. We also saw that it can refer to the deep structure of an organization, institution or any structural element; and that, in the case of the VRs, their warp dates back to the 10th century. Rof Carballo applies this term to human structures, where the warp would be the precursor. In agriculture, it would be the sowing: you sow, you wait some time and you harvest. Therefore, *warp* is a concept that reflects the deep structure of things.

4.1. The punctuated equilibrium theory and Spain's structure

The history of humankind does not run smoothly. It tends to go by leaps. This is also an approach used in evolutionary thought, such as the recent punctuated leaps or punctuated equilibrium theory³⁹: long stable periods punctuated by sudden shifts in radical change. This theory does not deny the existence of transitional forms; it simply argues that their existence was short, as changes take place abruptly⁴⁰. We may or may not agree with these evolutionary theories, but it is evident that certain leaps take place. Taking the rug metaphor as an example: it is sometimes woven quickly, sometimes woven slowly; sometimes not woven at all.

All this is part of the process of building on the warp a complex structure that can be actually appreciated.

³⁹ The punctuated equilibrium theory was proposed by John Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould in the 1970s. This theory states that evolution proceeds by means of bursts (a few millennia) of change separated by long periods of relative stasis. In their opinion, this would fit better with the fossil record. Today, the debate between neo-Darwinian gradualism and Gould & Eldredge's punctuated equilibrium is still open. <http://www.unav.es/cryf/darwin.html> accessed on March 29, 2013.

⁴⁰ Although debatable, it can be taken as an example, as some authors believe that the lack of fossil records corroborates it and it evidences that a change can take place suddenly. <http://es.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20120728120241AAr6ZRf> accessed on March 29, 2013.

Here, as we will see, is where *retroprogressivism* comes in, because, in relation again to evolution, cultures, civilizations and species have all had a punctuated evolution in some measure: leaps. And in those leaps there are things that are kept because they are accepted, more valid, more correct. Just by way of example, not without certain reservations, let us remember that from Greece we have kept democracy, but a lot of other things have been forgotten. From Rome we have kept the rule of law, etc. They are quantitative and qualitative leaps that take place until a qualitative change occurs.

How does the Military Reserve Force evolve over time? It must be borne in mind that, even if it carries out the same functions through time, circumstances inevitably change. So what happens? What happens is that we must preserve elements from the past in order to move forward into the future: *retroprogression*.

Looking back at the history of the Spanish Volunteer Military Reserve Force, we can see that it originates from the levy, where there were volunteer and forced soldiers. Volunteers have been present throughout the history of Spain. Forced soldiers, on the other hand, existed in different periods until the compulsory military service was suspended.

In Spain there were 40 years of military dictatorship and we did not have the choices available in other countries⁴¹. Here, we have gone from the hypertrophy of these values during Franco's regime to a hypotrophy of values. Any sensible, unbiased person will agree that a democratic society does not necessarily have to abandon classic values.

This hypotrophy of classic values, very different from the situation in other close democracies, is the result of the behavior of both left-wing and right-wing parties; whereas, curiously enough, military values have become established in unions and other institutions like the Church⁴² and political parties. Just like, throughout history, some religions have taken the place of others, certain social codes have been superseded in the quest to transform our society, trying to shape Spain in a certain way; just like the military dictatorship of Franco intended to do.

My initial idea for this study was to prepare a set of questions and carry out my own survey, but, in the end, I decided that it would be more convenient to take the CIS survey as a basis in order to compare those answers with the ones given by the reservists I have interviewed. I considered it to be a better idea, given the transformational process stated above.

41 However, in Belgium, for example, voting is obligatory, whereas in Spain it is not. <http://www.rtve.es/noticias/20090606/cinco-paises-europeos-obligan-votar-to-das-las-elecciones/279904.shtml> accessed on March 29, 2013.

42 An example can be found in the way they handled the Liberation Theory, claiming that the Gospel is "liberating" as it is and there is no need for any new theories.

In the study of such a sample of population, with a set of defined ideals and characteristics, the key question I wanted them to answer was: Why are the values stated in this survey not present in our society?

Are the values found in the reservists –and not so much in society in general– the result of a certain background, honor, patriotism? It may not be clear why, but the survey *has* made clear that the reservists share certain values that are not currently found among the general population at the same level. Why is that? What is the influence of culture, education, society, the knowledge of heroic deeds...?

Why is the historical concept of the civilians' participation in the Army –the right and duty to defend Spain under art. 30.1 of the Spanish Constitution– not more developed? What is holding it back? Today, the presence of the reservists in the Spanish army is still merely symbolic: 47 million people in Spain and only 5,000 reservists (0.0001%).

It is very important to bear in mind the context in which we find ourselves; the circumstances right now do not favor the growth of the Volunteer Military Reserve Force. We may see in its rhythm a retrogressive pattern, in the sense that at first a large number of people decided to join the reserve force, now it has slowed down, but it can speed up again in the future; if we follow the international trends and do not remain isolated or stay behind. The process is defined by the context too, of course. The comparison of the Spanish Reserve Force with those of other countries suggests that it will tend to grow in the future, when the situation in Spain changes. Right now, an internal process of disintegration is believed to be having an impact on the military reserve force as well as on other things, such as bullfighting⁴³. All that the “debated and debatable”⁴⁴ nation concept achieved, in the end, was a distortion of the concept of *nation* and a negation of reality.

As discussed in section 2.2. “Nation versus State”, it is basic to understand that sovereignty resides in the people, and that we must not mistake nation for State, as often happens, because the nation is the subject of the whole process.

Ours is a liberal model, with sovereignty residing in the people, as against the Jacobin model, where popular sovereignty lies within the parliament.

43 Regardless of any person's opinion about bullfighting, it is no excuse for the vandalism of destroying icons declared heritage of cultural interest, which may be even interpreted as a political attack to the Spanish institutions. <http://www.libertaddigital.com/espana/2012-12-31/ataques-independentistas-contra-el-toro-de-osborne-en-mallorca-1276478120/> accessed on April 1, 2013.

44 Quoted from former president José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero; a comment he now regrets having made. <http://www.europapress.es/nacional/noticia-zapatero-no-repetiria-concepto-nacion-discutible-discutido-20111212104321.html> accessed on March 29, 2013.

In France, the parliament represents sovereignty⁴⁵. In Spain sovereignty remains in the people. Therefore, sovereignty can only be represented by the Spanish people themselves, who are the only ones with legal capacity to decide on national matters. The “sovereigntist challenge” in Catalonia cannot be decided upon by Mas⁴⁶, the government or anyone but the Spanish people as a body. That is what prevails; it is the structure of Spain, despite the efforts of some Jacobin parties to change it, saying that what matters is the people, that the people is the subject; but that is not so: the people is the subject of a nation. This reaffirms the idea of the nation being the subject of the whole process.

An element on which to base the constitution of a nation is the people that live in a territory; they too would be warp. They are the important or basic threads, those which support the structure. It is not that Spain does not have a warp. It does, but it has been concealed. The warp is trying to be hidden as a strategy to destroy a nation. The warp, when speaking of the VRF⁴⁷, is an element to state something obvious. The fact that there are volunteer reservists in the Basque Country, in Catalonia, in the Army, as government employees... means that there is an integrating warp; because the warp is, after all, a process of integration. And the warp is there despite the fact that in Spain there are a lot of disintegrating elements trying to cut the threads of the warp, so that this structure ceases to exist. The blowing-up starts in the education system, when it is used as a political weapon by not respecting our common language⁴⁸; reaching Kafkaesque situations such as controlling that students do not speak Spanish at recess⁴⁹, which is supported by some members of the Spanish⁵⁰ parliament, such as Mr. Durán⁵¹.

I heard on a radio program⁵² that second and third generations of Hispanics in the USA lose the Spanish language in favor of English⁵³. This reminded me of the American anthropologist

45 The people too; but the parliament has the legal authority to represent the sovereignty of the people. Not in Spain, where we have seen that the people represents itself. However, there is a lot of confusion with this matter. The current vice president herself, Ms. Cospedal, said on the radio that the Spanish parliament represents the sovereignty of the people, which could lead the hearers into error. It would have been logical to think that the vice president was aware of this when she reminded the Catalan secessionists of the fact that sovereignty resides in the people; but maybe she is not. <http://www.elconfidencial.com/ultima-hora-en-vivo/2013/01/cospedal-recuerda-soberania-reside-todos-espanoles-20130115-80632.html> accessed on March 29, 2013.

46 Arturo Más, in 2000. That year he decided to change his birth name Arturo to the “more Catalanian” Artur, <http://www.tiempodehoy.com/espana/la-historia-desconocida-de-artur-mas> and to become pro-independence. <http://www.periodistadigital.com/periodismo/tv/2012/10/22/jordi-evole-artur-mas-convergencia-unio-independencia-catalu-na-catalunya-generlaitat-elecciones-recortes-crisis-espana-madrid-salvados.shtml> accessed on April 1, 2013.

47 Centro Superior de Estudios de la Defensa, *Op. Cit. De la milicia concejil...* p.249

48 http://ciudadansesplugues.blogspot.com.es/2008_09_01_archive.html accessed on March 29, 2013.

49 <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2012/09/10/baleares/1347262747.html> accessed on March 29, 2013.

50 The second most spoken language in the world: <http://www.europapress.es/cultura/exposiciones-00131/noticia-espanol-segunda-lengua-mas-hablada-mundo-20130114171112.html> and by 2050, according to the Cervantes Institute, the country with more Spanish-speaking people in the world, beating México http://cvc.cervantes.es/lengua/anuario/anuario_12/i_cervantes/p01.htm accessed on March 29, 2013.

51 <http://tv.libertaddigital.com/videos/2012-12-12/duran-admite-que-la-mayoria-de-los-ninos-habla-castellano-en-el-recreo-LwDv4msuhHw.html> accessed on March 29, 2013.

52 <http://www.vaughanradio.com/> accessed on March 29, 2013.

53 Don't you think Castilian is emerging? A– Castilian isn't; but Spanish Americans are. Socially, the Spanish American culture is taking root in the United States. But, whereas the first generation of immigrants only spoke Spanish, the second generation speaks Spanglish and the third generation is like me. I'm pretty sure by the year 2050 there won't be more people speaking Spanish in my country than there are now. (Interview to R. Vaughan at <http://www.capital.es/2012/11/09/richard-vaughan-fundador-de-vaughan-systems-si-volviera-a-empezar-hoy-ovendria-a-espana/> accessed on March 29, 2013.

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Población > Onomástica > Apellidos de la población

Apellidos de la población [M](#) [ES](#)

En Excel

Apellidos de la población. 2012
Catalunya

Pos. ▲	Apellido	Como primer apellido		Como segundo apellido	
		frecuencia	%	frecuencia	%
00001	GARCIA	170.913	22,50	174.671	22,99
00002	MARTINEZ	119.341	15,71	120.789	15,90
00003	LOPEZ	114.606	15,09	117.826	15,51
00004	SANCHEZ	103.260	13,59	105.461	13,88
00005	RODRIGUEZ	100.237	13,20	101.165	13,32
00006	FERNANDEZ	97.699	12,86	99.538	13,10
00007	PEREZ	92.937	12,23	96.008	12,64
00008	GONZALEZ	91.684	12,07	92.613	12,19
00009	GOMEZ	56.624	7,45	57.412	7,56
00010	RUIZ	50.240	6,61	52.378	6,90
00011	MARTIN	45.985	6,05	45.465	5,99
00012	JIMENEZ	44.793	5,90	43.995	5,79
00013	MORENO	42.665	5,62	42.914	5,65
00014	HERNANDEZ	38.546	5,07	39.045	5,14
00015	MUÑOZ	38.371	5,05	38.806	5,11
00016	DIAZ	35.135	4,63	35.264	4,64
00017	ROMERO	28.923	3,81	28.789	3,79
00018	NAVARRO	28.415	3,74	28.678	3,78
00019	TORRES	26.922	3,54	26.849	3,53

James Fernández McClintock⁵⁴, with Asturian grandparents, who told me that he did not have access to it as a child, but learned it later as an adult. James Fernández is warp, even if the Spanish language was lost to him; his surname, Fernández, would not be lost, it would still be warp. Warp of Spain that goes through Latin America and even reaches the United States.

In Catalonia⁵⁵ and the Basque Country, surnames are mostly the same as in other regions of Spain, but they try to conceal them every chance they get.⁵⁷ They try to make the people which carry the most weight in the community invisible.⁵⁸

4.2. Spain's warp and the nation/state dichotomy

But what is Spain's warp? Well, part of its warp is the Iberians, Celts, Romans, Visigoths, Napoleon, the reactions of the Spanish people through time...

54 <http://home.uchicago.edu/~jwf1/> accessed on March 29, 2013.

55 <http://www.idescat.cat/cognoms/?lang=es> accessed on March 29, 2013.

56 <http://www.ine.es/daco/daco42/nombyapel/nombyapel.htm> accessed on March 29, 2013.

57 *Standardization* of surnames, article 19.1 of Law 1/1998, of January 7, on Linguistic Policy of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia: "the citizens of Catalonia have the right to use the standardized correct form of their names and surnames in Catalan, and to include the conjunction "i" between their first and second surname." www.scgenealogia.org/pdf/apellidos-catalanes.pdf accessed on March 30, 2013.

58 Some of them are even regarded as "traitors" for having common feelings as Spaniards <http://politica.e-noticies.es/catalanes-orgullosos-de-ser-espanoles-24504.html> accessed on March 30, 2013.

All those things would constitute its *historical warp*. The concept of warp is very useful to analyze the structure of a nation over time. A nation is not just made up of certain individuals who are in the position of making decisions or who live at certain times. It is a set of elements – in Spain, since 1812, when it became a political nation– that form a structure based on the sovereignty of the people; because it is a structure that has been accumulating, an aggregate of institutions, persons, territories, characteristics and elements created over the years. The nation question is diachronic, whereas the state question is always synchronic. In Spain there have been monarchies, republics, dictatorships. The State has evolved through time, it changes, governments change, people change; but the nation remains the same. Using a train as a metaphor: the State would be the engine, with a variable number of cars and different loads. The nation would be the track, and the permanent, defined path. It is not defined by a certain generation of people, it is defined through time. The nation is, in a certain way, an inheritance that goes from parents to their children and grandchildren. It is transferred and, at the same time, it is shared by everyone. A nation has two axes: one related to its evolution over time and the other one related to the present moment; as against the State, which only has the axis related to the time when it is created. This means that a nation has a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, whereas the State is always transverse, because it corresponds to a certain time, to certain characteristics.

To complete these definitions we could say that the nation would be the warp and the State would be the retroprogression. The State changes through time but the nation, the warp, remains the same. Therefore, the permanent, the basic structural factor, is the warp: the nation. And the dynamic, moving factor is the State, which is related to power. The nation would always be related to the people and its sovereignty. And the State would be related to power, the institutions and everything else.

Obviously, the State evolves too, but not harmonically: it can abruptly move forwards and backwards. In my opinion, the most important difference between the two concepts is that the nation is emergent and comes from the people. We have already talked about this in reference to T. Paine's text in "nation vs. state"⁵⁹, and, in this sense, it has a lot to do with the VRF, which is a means for the people to defend their nation; whereas the State comes from the power, as do all the professional armies in the world, even if their purpose is to defend their nations.

59 See the "Dichotomies" table below.

There is, therefore, a dichotomy⁶⁰. The Volunteer Military Reserve Force would be much more related –mainly related– to the *nation* concept. Professional armies would be related to the nation concept too, at a certain level, because their ultimate purpose is to defend it; but their structure is basically connected to the State. And at certain times they have been associated with the defense of power.

It is key to understand that the Volunteer Military Reserve Force is civic. *Civic* in this context means “related to the nation and the people”. It will never defend the State, the power; it defends its nation, it defends the place it belongs to, and that is why it is much more atavistic.

DICHOTOMIES: BINARY OPPOSITION STRUCTURES	
VRF PEOPLE NATION	MILITARY POWER STATE

4.3. Spanish Volunteer Reservists: patriots and democrats

The reservists' motivation and characteristics define today's warp. The differences between what the population and what the VRs say generate the characteristics of the VRF's warp as against the general population. This would be the hypothesis we are working with. The warp is found on certain concepts on which these people base their commitment, which is, ultimately, what matters. There is a part of the population that is passive and another part that is active. The difference between the concepts of the passive and the active population is what defines the warp of the VRF, which is very important as it is the warp of the whole nation. The purpose of this study is to understand what motivates people, which is really the key point. A nation is not a tangible entity: it is a belief, it is a construction, it is an essence. Its solidity depends on the people that believe in it.

Volunteer reservists have two basic characteristics: They are people who appreciate their nation – patriots– and who appreciate democracy –democrats–. When we analyze this matter in depth we find that it has very much to do with democracy. As mentioned above, its origin is in article 30.1 of the Spanish Constitution, on the right and duty of defending Spain, and in the concept of sovereignty residing in the people.

All the constitutions are based on the nation, which is the warp of everything else. The basis is a philosophical –not political– concept, because the warp is not political. States move forwards and backwards, governments change. It is what retroprogression is all about.

⁶⁰ “In France, under the leadership of Claude Lévi-Strauss, the point of view known as structuralism was widely accepted. Structuralism only cares about the psychological uniformity that underlies the apparent differences of thoughts and behaviors. According to Lévi-Strauss, this uniformity arises from the structure of the human brain and from the unconscious processes of thought. The most important structural feature of the human brain is its tendency to dichotomize, or think in terms of binary oppositions, and then try to transmit that opposition by means of a third concept, which can be the basis for yet another position. A recurrent opposition, which is present in many myths, is, for instance, that of culture against nature” M. HARRIS, *Introducción a la antropología general*, Alianza Editorial, Madrid, 2004, p. 145

Without a warp, it would not make sense to have a state or a government. The nation is a people with a territory, with a culture shared through time. That is what they want to do in Catalonia, but they cannot because it is part of a structure that already has; and they do not have the legal authority to do it. In order for Catalonia to be able to exist as a nation, Spain would have to cease to exist –because Catalonia is a part of that warp– or be mutilated, which would be the consequence of Catalonia abandoning Spain. They have no legal chance –at an international or national level– of achieving their purpose. What they want to do is to undermine authority, to use disintegrating forces to attack the warp, that is, the nation. Maybe we should remember Max Weber's words when he said that in order to be able to constitute a nation it is not enough to share the same language, the same culture or the same religion; those things are important, but it is historical experiences⁶¹ (warp) that are really significant. Or when he stated that “a nation is a result, never a purpose”.⁶²

4.4. Postmodernism and relativism

Let us enlarge on a different question that is also important to understand today's society. It highlights the retrogression concept and complements the points explained above.

Since the 1970s we have been living a postmodern⁶³ revolution, which questions all the values of the Western culture claiming that they are based on previous elements related to the structure of power, to bourgeois approaches, to Christianity, to traditional values, etc. It arose as a movement that intended to overthrow all the old values and replace them with new ones (some of which are false and some are valid). Certain political parties are using terms such as “social justice”. They say that justice must become social justice, that is, equity. That is a mistake. Justice is supposed to *come from* equity. Justice must not bring equity but (if you'll excuse the repetition) justice. It must make sure that the rule of law applies to everyone, no matter what laws we are talking about. Justice is not to be used as a political weapon to achieve a political goal, which is the purpose of the so-called *social justice*. They also claim that truth⁶⁴ is a matter of interpretation. We should then answer that also the truth of relativism, as relativism is an interpretation. Therefore, if it is not valid to accept the concept of truth for more dogmatic positions, neither can the dogmatism of relativism be accepted as the only ideology or prevailing theory. These are just fallacies that are put forward, just like a lot of others have been in the course of Western civilization.

61 M. WEBER *Economía y sociedad. Esbozo de sociología comprensiva*. Fondo de Cultura Económica, México, 1964, p. 662.

62 <http://www.lavanguardia.com/opinion/articulos/20121128/54356732606/paisaje-despues-de-la-batalla-joana-bo-net.html> accessed on April 8, 2013.

63 “In the most general sense, [it] describes the blurring and breakdown of established canons (rules, standards), categories, distinctions, and boundaries.” C.P. KOTTAK, *Antropología Cultural*, Ed. McGraw-Hill, Madrid, 2006, p.327.

64 It is based on the idea that objective truth cannot be obtained from human thoughts or actions. Quoted from M. HARRIS, Op. cit. *Introducción...*, p. 145.

Let us give an example⁶⁵, comparing the normal, natural evolution of civilization with what could be described as heresies, like many others that were put forward but did not succeed. What *has* prevailed is a thread from Cain and Abel until now. Why? For reasons related to power, to reason, to deceit... It does not really matter. There are things that are useful, valid, that make sense, that people see as their own, and others that are false despite the efforts of some people to try to make them seem valuable.

This is an important issue nowadays, related to evolution, relativism and postmodernism, and also connected to retroprogressivism.

4.5. “Retro-progress-ivism”

Based on the above, allow me to separate the word “retroprogressivism” into the parts that form it. There must be a balance between what we keep from the *retro* and what we introduce with the *progressivism*. The *retro* part must not annul the progress or vice versa. We must preserve everything that is valid and lets us move forward. We could say, quoting Ortega y Gasset⁶⁶, from an intellectual –not political⁶⁷– point of view, that being right-wing or left-wing is a moral hemiplegia. We must defend order, as do right-wing parties; and we must defend equity as well, as do left-wing parties. One step towards order, one step towards equity, and so on. Balance is crucial. Just like walking only with one leg would be hopping, aiming only at order would lead to a right-wing dictatorship, whereas aiming only at equity would eventually lead to a left-wing one.

4.6. An invisible Spanish Reserve Force?

We now return to our main object of study: the Volunteer Military Reserve Force. One of the purposes of this piece of work is to study the *warp* in its members, which is focused on the concepts of nation, mother country and defense of one's country. As explained in the introduction, the warp is something that unites us all; however, each person has its own warp. Why does someone decide to become a volunteer reservist? There are a lot of reasons, as we will see. Is it because of the belief that the Army is the guarantor of democracy and sovereignty? Is it because of the belief that their mother country needs them? Is it because they are aware of the current dangers threatening it? Let us analyze all these questions layer by layer, as if they were matryoshka dolls. In the end, it all comes down to the warps, to a megawarp (my reasons, the reasons of others...).

65 Comment taken from classes with Dr. Gregorio Alonso, during my master's degree studies on History and Sociocultural Analysis at the University of Oviedo.

66 “Intellectual work aims, quite often unsuccessfully, to make things clearer, whereas political work, on the contrary, entails making them even more confusing than they were before.” Quoted from ORTEGA Y GASSET, *La rebelión de las masas*, Editorial Andrés Bello, Santiago de Chile, 1996, p. 38

67 “Left-wing politics, just like right-wing politics, is one of the many ways man has of being an idiot: they are both, in fact, signs of moral hemiplegia” *Ibid.*, p.38

We have analyzed different aspects of the military, the State, the power, the nation... and we now have enough elements to answer the question: why has the Volunteer Military Reserve Force been so little promoted these 10 years? Adopting a critical point of view, we could say that maybe it is due to its warp. That maybe it is because it is a civic-minded defense of the nation at a time when the nation is not being properly defended, but abandoned by politicians: due to interests and to fragmentation. Perhaps, that is why it has been so underestimated: because it is the Spanish people defending their nation. And why is this not deemed desirable? Because there is an attempt to do without the nation, and, therefore, to do without its uniting, patriotic and democratic elements.

The Spanish Military Reserve Force is alive because there are thousands of people determined not to let it die. Could it be that the people in power find it inconvenient and, therefore, try to make it invisible, infringing some rights if necessary? My intention here is merely to defend the constitutional right of the Spanish people –not so much as citizens, but as Spaniards⁶⁸– to defend their nation as sovereign members of it. Our nation is not being preserved by the power of the State, but by the civilians who wish to preserve it. The Volunteer Military Reserve Force cannot be regarded as a nuisance by the State, no matter how many issues it must handle. And the fact that there are civilians making use of their right (and duty) to defend their nation cannot be regarded as an interference. On the contrary, an interference would be any acts by the State to prevent the sovereign people from exercising their rights.

The reduction in vacancies, activations and resources assigned to the Reserve Force is rendering it virtually invisible and “unfed”⁶⁹. Additionally, it dissuades other people from participating in these affairs. The successive governments cannot simply always blame the economic crisis.

Whether we like it or not, it is the nation that grants the power; and this is something that should not be forgotten: the power comes from the nation.

⁶⁸ It is impressive to see in a lot of American films people demanding their rights “because they are *Americans*”. It is a shame they often add “I pay my taxes” to support their demands. But, we do live in a materialistic world.

⁶⁹ Another problem is the inverted pyramid of the volunteer reservists: a lot of officers and a short number of soldiers (which is not, by definition, an army). And, most of all, the age issue: most of the reservists are over 45 years of age (see age table in Annex III). It results from the policy of awarding the vacancies on the basis of a merit system. Having served in the compulsory military service, speaking languages and PhDs are taken into account in the applications to become volunteer reservists.

THE SPANISH RESERVE FORCE COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES

Let us now see how the volunteer military reserve forces are structured and work in other countries, especially in Europe. This brief analysis of how they have evolved and how they are working will help us deduce potential future tendencies for the military reserve force in Spain, which, being a Western, democratic country, fully integrated with its neighbors in every sphere – and the military area should not be an exception– ,ought to have a similar evolution. We will compare each country with the Spanish model, where, as we will see, there is still room for improvement.

I have chosen those countries which I consider most significant or which I have got to know better, directly or through my foreign reservist colleagues.

The analysis includes countries, like Switzerland, where the military service is still compulsory; Sweden, where it was compulsory until very recently; and others, such as the United Kingdom, where it ceased to be obligatory in 1962, and was followed by others, such as the USA in the 1970s. The sources used are those countries' official websites, different NATO framework documents on volunteer reserve forces –such as the database⁷⁰ of the National Reserve Forces Committee (NRFC) – and some articles by César Pintado⁷¹ most of them published in the *XXI Legio* magazine⁷².

⁷⁰ <http://www.nato.int/nrfc/database.html> accessed on April 6, 2013.

⁷¹ A VR and creative writer, with published novels linked to the VRF, whom I would like to thank for this collaboration and his comradeship. http://www.multimediamilitar.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=122-&Itemid=216, accessed on April 6, 2013.

⁷² A magazine specialized in the reserve force, where I have had several articles published, mainly related to the VRF's activities in Asturias.

5.1. Canada

We will start with Canada. Whenever I have had the chance to meet Canadian reservists –mainly as teachers in the CLA-CIOR⁷³ language courses organized by the NATO– I have observed that they are excellent professionals, who proudly showed us their training and skills. Quoting my VR colleague, C. Pintado⁷⁴:

“The Canadian reserve force model is an example, even to its southern neighbors. It combines different reserve force models perfectly and is very flexible in the provision of services, which makes it a true ‘à la carte’ reserve force. It is obvious that the Canadian government sees its reservists as authentic part-time military men and women, because they are not only entrusted with usual tasks, such as the defense of the territory and the coast, but also high-level ones (intelligence services, command and communications). This, undoubtedly, denotes a deeply rooted defense culture, both among the civilian population –from which the reservists emanate– and in the government, which spares no means to keep their reserve force well trained and equipped.”

The Canadian AFs⁷⁵ had 90,000 regular members at the end of the Cold War, which have decreased –with the same tendency as in other Western countries– to the current 64,000. Nevertheless, their total number of members is 100,000⁷⁶, 26,000 of which are reservists. This tendency is the same in all the countries that are advanced in these matters: less regular forces supported by well-trained reservists. It is the Total Force concept, which we will discuss later on.

The Canadian reservists endure a very tough training schedule and the government spares no means to show it on videos, DVDs and other material, which help to reveal their capacity to recruit and to foster the aforementioned Defense Culture⁷⁷, of which that country shows a great capacity, and which is needed both for its internal and external cohesion. Quebec's separatism issues are not, in words of my Canadian reservist colleagues, affecting the development of the reserve force in that area. There are no significant linguistic or recruiting problems. On the contrary, it is an example of national cohesion.

The Canadian companies⁷⁸ actively collaborate with the reserve force. In fact, there are 5,000 of them taking part in a support program⁷⁹, and most of them (80%) will even pay the difference of their employees’ remuneration during their time of service in the reserve force when the remuneration paid by the government is less than their usual salary.

73 CLA= Cior Language Academy <http://www.cior.net/Projects-and-activities/CIOR-Language-Academy.aspx> accessed on April 6, 2013.

74 C. PINTADO “Fuerza de reserva de Canadá”, XXI Legio, nº28, 2009, at <http://biblioteca.culturadefensa.org/wp-content/uploads/group-documents/4/1354547153-13pintadoreservacanadiense.pdf> accessed on April 6, 2013.

75 <http://www.cflc.forces.gc.ca/ees-pae/rr/rus-pau/uges-guae-eng.asp> accessed on April 6, 2013.

76 <http://www.forces.gc.ca/site/pri/first-premier/defstra/rebuild-rebatir-eng.asp> accessed on April 6, 2013.

77 The tribute paid to the fallen is very moving (there are a lot of examples to be found on the Internet).

78 <http://www.cflc.forces.gc.ca/ees-pae/rr/rus-pau/doc/uges-guae-eng.pdf> accessed on April 6, 2013.

79 <http://www.nato.int/nrfc/database/canada.pdf> accessed on April 6, 2013.

They also have some advantages⁸⁰, such as a reserve force pension scheme and 50% of university expenses up to \$8,000⁸¹. Full-time reservists are provided with full medical⁸² and dental services by their AFs, and part-time reservists have 90% of their dental expenses covered.

In short, an excellent example.

5.2. France

In 1870, in the aftermath of their defeat at the hands of the Germans and the invasion of their territory, the French people became aware of their need for a large army. After several ups and downs, in 1905 they modernized their defense forces, with the conscripts becoming reservists when they completed their compulsory military service. Thus, at the beginning of World War I they had 25 reserve force divisions and over 8 million men were summoned to fight between 1914 and 1918. These men became a very important part of the history of France and have been paid homage to for years.⁸³

The military service was discontinued in 1996 and the last French conscripts completed their active service in November 2001. In October 1999, the government approved Law 99-894, with the main purpose of transforming “a mass reserve force”⁸⁴ into a more reduced and operational one.

The table below⁸⁵ shows its evolution from 1999. The last operational military reserve force evaluation report published corresponds to 2011, with 57,187 reservists –the 2012 report was still not available on the date when this comparison was made.

The objective set by the French authorities for 2011 was 64,360, and they only achieved 88.85%, which they regret, blaming the restructuring of the armies and the dissatisfaction linked to the administration and the employment situation.

There are two reservist modalities: civilian and operational. The first one is similar to the former Spanish prescriptors⁸⁶. It complements the second modality and it is a response to the need to maintain a link between the AFs and the civilian population; it is altruistic and

80 <http://www.cflc.forces.gc.ca/ees-pae/rr/rus-pau/doc/uges-guae-eng.pdf> accessed on April 6, 2013.

81 <http://www.army.gc.ca/iaol/143000440001925/143000440002248/index-Eng.html>

82 We must not forget that Canada has a prestigious social security system.

83 C. PINTADO “La reserva francesa”, *XXI Legio* at <http://biblioteca.cisde.es/wp-content/uploads/group-documents/5/1314609127-LARESERVAMILITARFRANCESA.pdf> p. 1, accessed on April 6, 2013.

84 <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=786> p.37-38, accessed on April 6, 2013.

85 http://www.defense.gouv.fr/content/download/188921/2082857/file/Rapport_d_évaluation_de_la_réserve_militaire_2011.zip p. 13, accessed on April 6, 2013.

86 http://www.reclutamiento.defensa.gob.es/actualidad/reportajes/reportaje_aula2005.htm accessed on April 6, 2013.



it has 2,660 members⁸⁷. The operational modality, more similar to the Spanish one, complements the AFs in domestic and foreign territories, with 2.42% of the aforementioned 57,187 reservists assigned to operations abroad.

In the conclusions to the report⁸⁸ it is stated that, despite not having reached the target number, the reservists' activities were intensified in 2011, and it is expressly acknowledged that without the reservists the armies and the gendarmerie would not be operational.

Even though some of their advantages⁸⁹, such as those related to the railway⁹⁰ services, are at risk⁹¹, the most important thing is that their basic and labor⁹² rights are guaranteed by law, so that their activation will not have adverse effects on their professional or social lives⁹³.

Considering that it is only 4 years older than our reserve force, the difference between the 60,000 French reservists and our 5,000 speaks for itself, especially if we reflect on the fact that, in a way, the French reserve force was the model on which the Spanish one was based.

In addition to France having 20 million more inhabitants and social advantages for reservists, there is another key difference: the positive attitude of its authorities, who obviously believe in the Reserve Force, and understand their warp and national construction.

87 C. PINTADO "La reserva...", quot.art., p. 4.

88 *Ibid.*, p. 32.

89 http://ciram.marseille.marine.defense.gouv.fr/la_solde_202.htm

90 <http://www.opex360.com/2012/12/11/une-nouvelle-carte-de-circulation-sncf-pour-les-militaires/> accessed on April 6, 2013.

91 <http://www.latribune.fr/entreprises-finance/services/transport-logistique/20110217trib000602335/le-tarif-sncf-tres-reduit-des-militaires-sur-la-sellette.html> accessed on April 6, 2013.

92 http://ciram.marseille.marine.defense.gouv.fr/la_solde_202.htm accessed on April 6, 2013.

93 C. PINTADO "La reserva...", quot. art., p. 3.

5.3. Sweden

It is one of the Western countries that were reluctant to suspend the military service. It finally did, for peace times, in 2010, after 109 years of history. With 10 million inhabitants and an area to protect similar to Spain, its Defense budget was a few years ago 2.26% of its GDP⁹⁴; nothing to do with the very small 0.59% in Spain⁹⁵.

Up to 2010, around 30,000 young men were drafted to the compulsory military service, and they were then assigned to the reserve force in combat units, participating in maneuvers later on as training. At the moment there is a transitional process that will end up, in 2019, with a wholly professional army. Today, there are 18,000 people employed at their AFs, 7,000 of whom are civilians⁹⁶; and, amazingly enough, there have not been any noncommissioned officers for more than 30 years. In the event of a war, a quarter of a million soldiers could be drafted, including around 73,000 volunteers from the National Militias.

In 1940 a powerful National Guard was created –there were 22,000 soldiers in 2012, having significantly decreased from 42,000 in 2001⁹⁷–, made up of physically fit men, not involved in their AFs, as they have jobs that are considered of strategic importance. Swedish reservists do not keep their weapons at home, as do Swiss reservists, but their activation is supported by an excellent military material deposit system throughout the country⁹⁸.

A very significant aspect to be highlighted is the institutions' involvement in the defense system, particularly town councils⁹⁹.

During this process of change in which the Swedish AFs are immersed, they are following their traditional policy of nonalignment. However, as their official websites show, they are increasing their collaboration with the NATO, the EU, etc., adapting their changes to a greater international collaboration, both by their professionals and by their reservists¹⁰⁰. Their collaboration with their Scandinavian neighbors through the Nordic Defense Cooperation System¹⁰¹ is worthy of mention.

I would like to add that I had the privilege of being invited in 2007 to see some of their military facilities and to get to know their powerful defense industry, which, to this day, maintains its independence and is an example of the strong Swedish industrial sector:

94 C. PINTADO "La reserva sueca. La base de la defensa total" en <http://observatorio.cisde.es/?p=2170> accessed on April 7, 2013.

95 <http://www.defensa.gob.es/Galerias/presupuestos/presupuesto-defensa-2012.pdf>, accessed on April 7, 2013.

96 <http://www.forsvarsmakten.se/en/About-the-Armed-Forces/Joining-the-Armed-Forces/> accessed on April 7, 2013.

97 <http://hemvarnet.se/?action=visaartikel&artikelid=71> accessed on April 7, 2013.

98 C. PINTADO "La reserva sueca..." quot. art, p. 3.

99 *Ibid.*, p. 8.

100 <http://www.forsvarsmakten.se/en/Forces-abroad/> accessed on April 7, 2013.

101 <http://www.forsvarsmakten.se/en/About-the-Armed-Forces/Nordic-defence-cooperation> accessed on April 7, 2013.

like their own SAAB combat airplane¹⁰² or the collaboration in defense matters, in all types of products, of their most famous brands: Escania, Volvo, Ericsson, etc.

5.4. Italy

The compulsory military service was abolished in Italy in 2005¹⁰³, but in 1999, based on a study stating the need for a volunteer reserve force, the Selected Reserve Force¹⁰⁴ was created in order to have temporary staff available to support the permanent forces when required. It is possibly the European volunteer reserve force system most similar to the Spanish one.¹⁰⁵

But there is also the *Forze di Completamento*. It is retired staff who have declared their availability to return to active service when needed.

The *Selezionata* can be made up of specialists, former military men or women, and civilians, who place their skills at the service of their AFs. There are some professions in great demand, such as translators, journalists, museum curators, engineers... The civilian reservists can start as lieutenant commanders / lieutenant colonels, but most of them –as I have observed in training courses where I have had the chance to meet some reservists– start as majors (*major*). First, they have to go through a training period of four weeks to acquire what they call the military mark¹⁰⁶.

But, despite that initial major rank –in Spain the initial rank for officers is second lieutenant–, the project is far from reaching its goals. It was expected to have 25,000 reservists¹⁰⁷, but almost 15 years later, as in Spain, not enough resources are allocated to it and there is a lack of culture – political mostly, but also in the professional military sphere– regarding the reservist figure. This, and other factors that we will discuss later, have caused the total number to be in 2012: 601 members¹⁰⁸.

Labor protection is almost inexistent except for government employees –again, as in Spain–, but, just like their Spanish colleagues, they are still willing to sacrifice their holidays or put their jobs at risk.¹⁰⁹

102 <http://www.saabgroup.com/en/Air/Gripen-Fighter-System/> accessed on April 7, 2013.

103 http://www.consmendoza.esteri.it/Consolato_Mendoza/Menu/I_Servizi/Per_i_cittadini/Leva/ accessed on April 7, 2013.

104 <http://www.esercito.difesa.it/Concorsi/Ufficiali/RiservaSelezionata/Pagine/default.aspx> accessed on April 7, 2013.

105 C. PINTADO “La reserva italiana” at <http://biblioteca.culturadefensa.org/wp-content/uploads/group-documents/4/1355419233-RESERVAITALIANA.pdf>, p.1, accessed on April 6, 2013.

106 C. G. DE ESCALADA “Informe inicial sobre acceso y promoción de oficiales reservistas en los principales países aliados” at <http://biblioteca.cisde.es/wp-content/uploads/group-documents/5/1314607717-SISTEMASDEACCESOYPROMOCIONENLASRESERVASMILITARESALIADAS.pdf>, p.13, accessed on April 6, 2013.

107 <http://www.unuci.org/sito/rivista/Rivista%202011/appo/010%20II%20RISERVISTA%20inserto.pdf>, p. 3, accessed on April 6, 2013.

108 L. ANTOCI “la Riserva Selezionata dell’Esercito Italiano” en *Rivista Militare*, nº 3, 2012 at

<http://www.architettiarez-zo.it/upload/Rivista%20Militare%20-%20RIS%20SEL.pdf>, p.62, accessed on April 6, 2013.

109 C. PINTADO “La reserva italiana”, quot. art. p.2.

IMPIEGHI DEGLI UFFICIALI DELLA RISERVA SELEZIONATA NEI **TEATRI OPERATIVI** - PERIODO 2008-2012

PROFESSIONALITÀ	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012(*)
ARCHITETTI / INGEGNERI	29	29	35	23	20
MEDICI	28	35	27	22	17
ESPERTI IN COMUNICAZIONI OPERATIVE	12	12	13	19	10
AGRONOMI	1	1	8	8	2
ESPERTI IN AFFARI GIURIDICI	3	4	3	2	4
ANALISTI D'AREA	5	7	5	3	3
INTERPRETI	4	3	4	4	5
ADDETTI IMPATTO AMBIENTALE	0	1	3	2	2
TOTALI	82	92	98	83	63

(*) dati relativi al 1° semestre

At least, Italians have a long tradition of deployment on international missions: Afghanistan, Lebanon and Kosovo are some of the destinations that can be seen in the table above, with data up to the first semester of 2012.¹¹⁰

I could not agree more with César Pintado when he says:

“As in the case of their Spanish colleagues, their commanders do not consider them crazy or fanatical people, but citizens with an elevated sense of the State.

As other countries have acknowledged, contrary to what many people who are indifferent or opposed to the military world think, commanding soldiers cools one's temper and creates mature, responsible leaders. Participating in missions abroad or in public order missions in the national territory entails a certain preparation and a psychological-physical balance that are developed through training and teamwork. Furthermore, the military medical requirements certify that reservists are healthy, well-balanced, fit people, much less likely to need sick leave.

It is worth mentioning that in the most advanced countries of Western Europe and in North America reservists and military men and women are admired and professionally valued by companies for their skills.”

¹¹⁰ L. ANTOCI “la Riserva...”, quot. art., p. 66.

Nevertheless, I believe that setting the age limit at 52 is a mistake, as qualified mature professionals have a lot to offer. In any case, once they obtain legislation more similar to that of other NATO countries their prospects will be more encouraging.

5.5. Switzerland

It is not going to be analyzed in depth, but I will point out some interesting aspects. It is a country where the compulsory military service still exists¹¹¹, even though its Constitution forbids a permanent military force, and it is organized more like a militia. Conscripts rarely do their military service in one go; they usually fractionate it through the years, which turns them into a sort of active reserve force. In Switzerland, the citizen-soldier figure is taken to extremes, so much that its reserve force was taken as a model by Israel at the beginning.

Austria and Sweden are, like Switzerland, neutral, but as members of the EU they are more and more committed to international missions. Finland, which still perceives a conventional threat, attaches a lot of importance to the defense of its territory; and, probably because of that perception of threat, the citizen-soldier figure is very successful (as in Israel).

Always careful to remain neutral, Switzerland is very reluctant to get involved in any international matters; a position which is often criticized, as it shares many global risks and threats with the other European countries.

Young Swiss people are more and more reticent about the compulsory military service. It would not be surprising if a referendum were held on the proposal of abolishing it –as happened in Austria at the beginning of this year (when it was approved that it should continue)¹¹². Switzerland, like Austria, uses this democratic means of consultation quite often.

As a matter of fact, they recently¹¹³ approved by referendum to keep their weapons at home, as they had always done. Plenty of pictures can be found of Swiss reservists going to firing ranges on weekends (quite often with their families) holding their automatic rifles.

Since 2007 they are not allowed to keep ammunition at home¹¹⁴. They were assigned 100 bullets for their regulation firearms: 50 for their rifles and another 50 for their guns. The ammunition was to be used during the trip to the barracks in the event of an invasion. The law prohibiting the storage of ammunition at home intended to reduce the number of suicides with regulation firearms.

In any case, Switzerland is a neutral country armed to the teeth.¹¹⁵

111 http://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/country_information/country_profile/Defensa.html?cid=5098834 accessed on 6/4/2013.

112 <http://www.europapress.es/internacional/noticia-austriacos-apoyan-referendum-continuidad-servicio-mili-tar-obligatorio-20130120210003.html> accessed on April 6, 2013.

113 <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2011/02/12/internacional/1297544826.html> accessed on April 6, 2013.

114 <http://www.meneame.net/story/reservistas-suizos-ya-no-podran-guardar-casa-municion-armas-militares> accessed on April 9, 2013.

115 http://sp.rian.ru/opinion_analysis/20110217/148385830.html accessed on April 9, 2013.

5.6. United Kingdom

This is undoubtedly one of the countries with a longer reservist tradition, with centuries of experience. The current British reserve forces are over one hundred years old.¹¹⁶ We will focus on its army, with short mentions to its great navy and air force.

The army's reserve force is made up of the regular reserve force and the volunteer reserve force. The army's traditional reserve force is formed by the staff retired from active service: the army's regular reserve force. The volunteer one, mainly included in the *Territorial Army* (TA), is made up of civilians and it is the major fraction of the active reserve force.

It is important to understand that they use the “total force” concept, that is, a single army –as in the US case– where the reservist units are included. We can find an example of the importance of the reserve force for the British army in the war of Iraq, in which more than 9,000 TA reservists took part between 2003 and 2004.

The table below, from the NATO website¹¹⁷, though not very recent, gives us an idea of its magnitude. The figures in bold type correspond to the volunteer reserves, but if we add up the number of all the reservists it gives us a total of 185,505.

UK ARMED FORCES STRENGTHS (INCLUDES TRAINED AND UNTRAINED) AS AT MAR 06				
NAVY		ARMY	AIR FORCE	TOTAL
Regular Armed Forces	40,160	111,910	49,280	201,350
Volunteer Reserves	3,150	32,090	1,825	37,065
Regular Reserves subject to call-out	10,520	31,690	8,090	50,300
Regular Reserves subject to recall	9,070	61,780	27,290	98,140

The army has lost 10% of its troops in the last 7 years¹¹⁸, and the TA had in 2008 (latest update) only 35,208 of the 42,000 expected members¹¹⁹.

The promotion system was criticized because it only took age into account. Regardless of the number of activations, they would become captains at 27, majors at 34 and lieutenant colonels at 38. The new system enables a faster promotion, subject to further training or missions abroad.¹²⁰

116 C. PINTADO “La reserva militar británica” at <http://biblioteca.cisde.es/wp-content/uploads/group-documents/5/1314608833-LARESERVAMILITARBRITANICA.pdf>, p.1, accessed on April 6, 2013.

117 <http://www.nato.int/nrfc/database/uk.pdf>, p.1, accessed on April 6, 2013.

118 <http://www.armedforces.co.uk/army/listings/10086.html> accessed on April 9, 2013.

119 *Ibid.*, *Strength of the Territorial Army (mid 2012)*.

120 C. GONZÁLEZ DE ESCALADA “Informe inicial sobre acceso y promoción...” *quot. art.*, p. 16.

The government is planning to reduce the army by 20% (from 102,000 to 82,000 professionals in 2020) and to increase the number of TA reservists to 30,000 (in fact, the Secretary of State for Defense wants to change its traditional name to *Army Reserve*¹²¹). This would be effective from an economic perspective, but some analysts point out that it could entail combat capacity problems¹²². It would, obviously, depend on their level of training and preparation.

There are several reservist categories: High Availability¹²³, Hired Reserve Force¹²⁴ and Full-Time Reserve Force¹²⁵; but most of the TA members sign a 40-day activation commitment that entails one night per week, one weekend per month and 14 consecutive days per year. The minimum age limit is 17 and, unless they have previous military experience, they initially train on weekends, midweek night practicals and 15 days at a military training center.

A special mention should be made of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), which is an interarmy cadet organization that exists in schools and faculties throughout the United Kingdom. The funds and the administration are military, and the officers wear uniforms although they are not part of the AFs. Its aim is to help young people develop powers of leadership, responsibility, self-confidence and a sense of duty. There are around 40,000 cadets; and around 25-30% of the future soldiers will have had experience in the CCF.¹²⁶

In order to have a powerful reserve force, it is very important to establish a program to reward those employers who commit themselves to the defense of their country through their reservist employees, such as the SABRE.¹²⁷

I would also like to highlight the excellent "link" (using a term applied to the Spanish volunteer reserve force in many documents) that the British reservists are for their people. They have become so important that the budget cuts that have affected the Regular Army have not affected the TA, which is the visible part of the British AFs in many places.¹²⁸

Surely, the Spanish reservists would feel much more motivated with messages as clear as this one: "promise us you will make the commitment; turn up regularly to train and be prepared to deploy. And in

121 H. COOKE "Former soldiers offered cash incentives to rejoin the forces as Territorial Army reservists" at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2229714/Former-soldiers-offered-cash-incentives-rejoin-forces-Territorial-Army-reservists.html> accessed on April 9, 2013.

122 COFIN, CON "It's war for the weekend warriors after Philip Hammond's Army cuts" at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/9378573/Its-war-for-the-weekend-warriors-after-Philip-Hammonds-Army-cuts.html> accessed on April 9, 2013.

123 They are usually specialists (languages, intelligence, press, etc.) who join the reserve or a mission abroad having been given 5 days' notice.

124 They keep their civilian jobs while being reservists.

125 They are part of an active component for a certain time.

126 C. PINTADO "La reserva...", *quot. art.*, p. 4.

127 <http://www.sabre.mod.uk/> (Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers) accessed on April 9, 2013.

128 R. WEITZ "The reserve policies of nations: a comparative analysis" at <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/download.cfm?q=786>, p.29, accessed on April 9, 2013.

return, we promise to equip you, train you, fund you and use you as an integral part of the British Army.”¹²⁹

5.7. United States of America

These brief analyses try to show how the different reserve forces started, how they work and how they are similar or different to the Spanish one. Each one has its own special characteristics, but the US reserve force is so big and so powerful that it is not easy to describe it in a few words, much less to make a comparison –as the differences with the Spanish reserve force are simply enormous.

According to an official document of the NATO¹³⁰, its origin dates back to the War of Independence and it has seven federal reserve components¹³¹: 1.- US Army Reserve (USAR), 2.- US Air Force Reserve (USAFR), 3.- US Navy Reserve (USNR), 4.- US Coast Guard 5.- US Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR); plus the militias

6.- the National Guard (ARNG) and 7.- Air National Guard (ANG), which are integrated into five branches of the AFs, the proportion of which, in the year 2010, is shown in the graph below¹³², which does not include one of them¹³³, that of the Ready Reserve. There are 3 reserve categories: the Ready Reserve, the Standby Reserve and the Retired Reserve; and they are each divided into groups, with their own mobilization articles, which we will not detail here.¹³⁴

In 2005, according to the aforementioned NATO document, there were 1,100,000 soldiers: 45% of the US army force.



SERVICE	REGULAR	RESERVE
Army	49%	51%
Navy	83%	17%
Marine	84%	16%
Air Force	65%	35%
Coast Guard	81%	19%

¹²⁹ H. COOKE "Former..." quot. art., p. 2.

¹³⁰ <http://www.nato.int/nrfc/database/usa.pdf> accessed on April 8, 2013.

¹³¹ <http://ra.defense.gov/documents/publications/The%20Reserve%20Components.pdf>, p.16, accessed on April 6, 2013.

¹³² *Ibid.*, p. 14.

¹³³ It does not include the Individual Ready Reserve.

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

The USA leads¹³⁵ the group of countries that have adopted the “total force” concept: the integration without distinction of the active component and the reserve force. The idea of the “weekend warriors”, as they used to be called before they became part of the total force, is now, therefore, dissolved.

If we compare the aforementioned NATO document with another document of 2010¹³⁶, we can see that the weight in percentage of the total military force went down from 45% to 43%. Nevertheless, it still has over one million soldiers¹³⁷ and a budget of 52,000 million dollars.

The fact that they still represent 43% of the military force with only 8% of the Defense Department's budget is very significant¹³⁸: “As a result, reservists help maintain a considerable military capacity at a lower cost than permanent military forces.”

The reservists have the same military training in each specialty as their professional colleagues, because the aim is for them to achieve the same level. They have around 40 days of training per year; but reality is tough, and most of those who have gone to combat in Iraq and Afghanistan have trained for about 9 weeks. During the Cold War –when, as happened with professional soldiers, there were 33% more reservists– their activations did not even total a million days. After September 11, they reached 63 million activations at some moments (there being only two thirds of the former amount of reservists). This shows that they are being used more as an operational force than as a strategic force.¹³⁹

The active role of the reservists has given rise to several debates. One of them came to the attention of the Spanish public through the media: Most of the members of the Louisiana National Guard had been sent to Iraq when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans. The fact that it was necessary to bring troops from other states –with the vast distances of the USA, which resulted in lamentable delays– generated a heated debate. The sensitive American taxpayers vigorously protested that they were not paying to have a National Guard that was not there to act when needed.

The great amount of activations for missions abroad shown in the table below¹⁴⁰ is proof of how much the reservists are relied on. For example, in 2004 the army turned to them for 60% of their combat structure, 54% of their combat support and 69% of their combat support services. The percentages are even bigger in those tasks traditionally carried out by reservists: - 97 % in the

135 C. PINTADO “La reserva norteamericana” at <http://biblioteca.culturadefensa.org/wp-content/uploads/group-documents/5/1314608068-LARESERVAMILITARNORTEAMERICANA.pdf>, p.9, accessed on April 6, 2013.

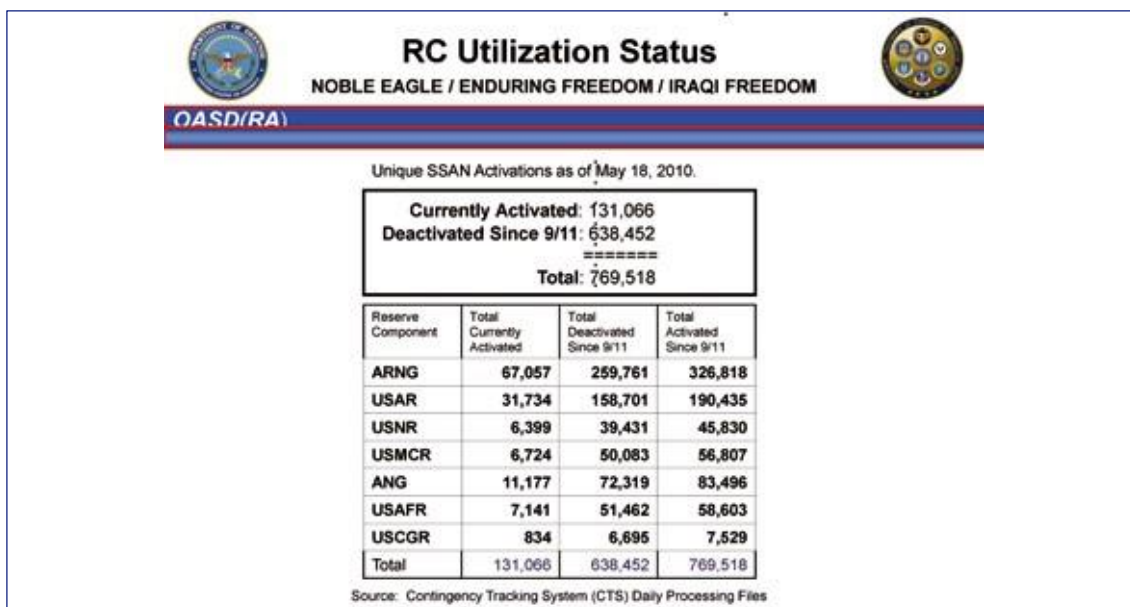
136 <http://ra.defense.gov/documents/publications/The%207%20Reserve%20Components.pdf>, p.5, accessed on April 6, 2013.

137 *Ibid.*, p. 8.

138 C. PINTADO “La reserva...”, *quot. art.*, p. 2.

139 *Ibid.*, p. 5.

140 <http://ra.defense.gov/documents/publications/The%207%20Reserve%20Components.pdf>, p. 23, accessed on April 6, 2013.



CIMIC¹⁴¹, 72% of psychological operations and 70% of medical staff. Quoting C. Pintado¹⁴²:

“These disparities reflect the so-called Abrams Doctrine, which intended to place certain essential military forces in the USAR and the ARNG to make it harder for the USA to enter into another large-scale war like Vietnam without using the reservists and, therefore, without needing popular support.”

Abrams Doctrine¹⁴³:

“The Abrams Doctrine is widely interpreted as an expression of General Creighton Abrams’s determination to maintain a clear linkage between the employment of the Army and the engagement of public support for military operations. Abrams, according to the doctrine, established this bond by creating a force structure that integrated Reserve and Active Components so closely as to make them inextricable, ensuring after Vietnam that Presidents would never again send the Army to war without the Reserves and the commitment of the American people.”

We can conclude by saying that the reserve force does not work thanks to the army; quite the contrary: the army works thanks to the reservists.

¹⁴¹ Civil-military cooperation

¹⁴² C. PINTADO “La reserva...”, quot. art, p. 7.

¹⁴³ http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2005/pdf/hl869.pdf accessed on April 6, 2013.

5.8. Conclusions of the comparison between reserve forces

COMPARED APPEAL OF THE VOLUNTEER RESERVE FORCES OF THE ALLIED COUNTRIES

RANKING	USA	UK	FRANCE	BELGIUM	HOLLAND	CANADA	SPAIN
Capacity of promotion in military employment	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Geographical proximity of the post	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Labor and social protection	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
Civilian salary compensation bonus	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Incentives for employers	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Open reservism modalities based on operational capacity	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Choice between types and duration of the activation periods	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Continuing training for reservists	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Operational training with professional units	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
Postings in operational units	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Campaigns to raise public awareness	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Campaigns to raise employers' awareness	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Employers' commitment to the reserve force	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
"Micro-activations" for one or a few days	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Specific pension for reservists	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
SCORE	14/15	14/15	7/15	10/15	11/15	10/15	3/15

The above comparison of the reserve forces in the different countries helps us see some trends.

They have a tendency to collaborate more at an international level, particularly between members of the same organizations (NATO, the Nordic countries, etc.). We have pointed out how even traditionally neutral countries are beginning to take part. A collaborative spirit is found in the countries of the European Union as well. A very good example would be the Belgian reserve force¹⁴⁴, which any citizen from the European Union can join. Nevertheless, as explained before in reference to the warp, the Spanish Reserve Force is rooted in a patriotic feeling that would make it hard for any Spanish reservist to sign up for a foreign reserve force.

144 For further information on the Belgian reserve force, I recommend: C. PINTADO "La reserva belga: siguiendo la tendencia europea" at <http://biblioteca.culturadefensa.org/wp-content/uploads/group-documents/4/1354547047-12pintadoreservabelga.pdf>, accessed on April 6, 2013.

We have also seen how the most advanced countries use the “total force” concept by fully integrating the volunteer reserve forces in their units –even combat units–, increasing the number of reservists and considering them more and more essential.

YEARS	VACANCIES	APPLICANTS	APPLICATIONS PER VACANCY	VACANCIES ASSIGNED
2003	340	1,817	5.35	340
2004*	3,821	3,723	0.97	1,749
2005*	4,084	4,337	1.06	2,123
2006*	3,800	4,050	1.06	2,102
2007	1,500	2,122	1.41	903
2008	1,500	3,220	2.15	1,162
2009	1,587	4,576	2.88	1,316
2010	110	3,007	27.37	107
2011	140	2,591	18.51	138
2012	100	2,207	22.00	98
				10,038

Source: MDEF

Data of November 2012

The Spanish Volunteer Reserve Force is not very flexible and its conditions are not particularly motivating. Nevertheless, the above table¹⁴⁵ shows that the vacancies are always filled, which, once again, evidences the Spanish reservists' generosity and commitment to democracy and to their nation.¹⁴⁶

I totally agree with G. de Escalada¹⁴⁷ when he says:

“Reservism modernizes. A flexible, mobilizable, trained reserve force strengthens a nation's operational capacity greatly and allows the civilian population to appreciate the acts of the military more, because they feel involved in the common duty of defending their country and its interests abroad. The promotion of voluntary reservism is one of the most novel concepts of our day, and it is synonymous with evolution and modernity in the allied countries.”

¹⁴⁵ Source: MDEF, November 2012

¹⁴⁶ Carlos GONZÁLEZ DE ESCALADA, “Comparativa del reservismo voluntario interaliado”. *Revista Ejército*, nº 786, 2006, p.80.

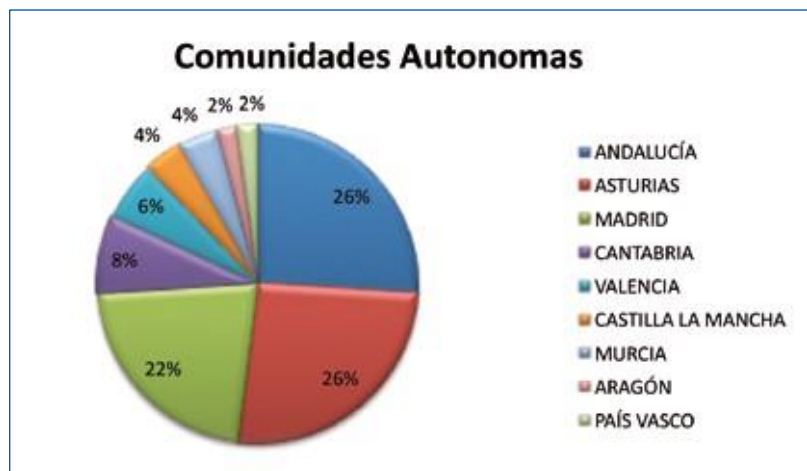
¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 77-85

6 MATERIAL

6.1. Survey analysis

This analysis will interpret the data obtained from the aforementioned CIS (Center for Sociological Research) study (MUCIS) on National Defense and the Armed Forces, and it will compare them with those obtained from our Volunteer Reservist sample (MURES). The sample includes 50 voluntary respondents –1% of the total number of reservists¹⁴⁸–, who were not forced to answer any questions relating to their personal lives or income, not being relevant for our study. And, unlike the CIS study, there were no survey takers present when the reservists answered the questions. Some of the questions made in the CIS survey were not made to the reservists¹⁴⁹, when they were not applicable or significant.

A few other questions from the CIS survey were made to them, and their answers will be commented for a better understanding of their opinions, but they will not be considered as valid comparable data as the age ranges do not match those established by the CIS.



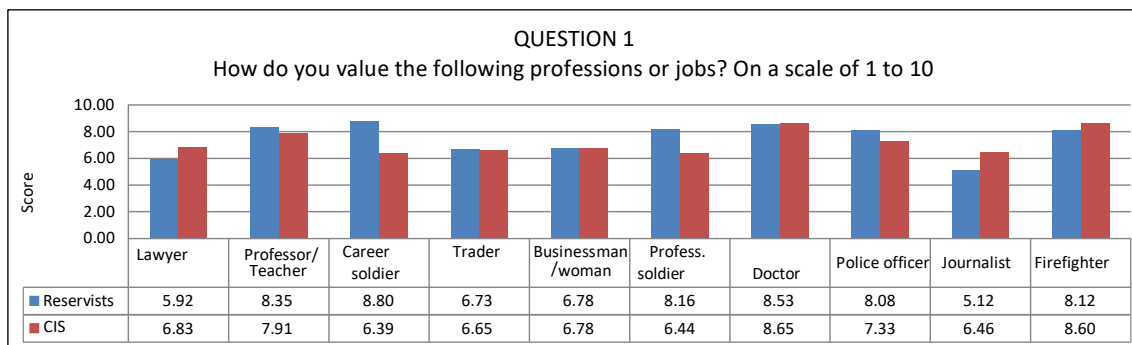
¹⁴⁸ The official number of 5,361 in January 2013, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Defense, may have descended in 2014 to less than 5,000, based on the data regarding non-renewals and resignations published in the BOD (Official Defense Bulletin).

¹⁴⁹ For example, the question "Would you become a reservist?" makes sense in a survey to the population in general, but it cannot be made to reservists.

The survey was emailed to the 550 members of the Association of Spanish Reservists (ARES), which is by far the largest association of reservists. There is a large number of Asturian respondents (13), many of them thanks to the collaboration asked by Lieutenant Coronel Corominas, from the DD (Office of the Defense Department in Asturias) at the last diploma-giving ceremony in February 2013¹⁵⁰. Other regions are represented, as shown in the chart above, by 13 respondents from Andalusia, 12 from Madrid, 4 from Cantabria, 3 from Valencia, 2 from Castilla-La Mancha, 2 from Murcia, one from Aragón and another one from the Basque Country.

The fact that there were no participants from some regions with a significant population and number of reservists is quite surprising and something to be analyzed in a potential future doctoral thesis on the Reserve Force, as some interesting data could be obtained.

From question 47 (q47) on, there are barely any specific comments. As general aspects, we could start by pointing out that the reservists' sample, compared to the CIS survey, is a bit more right-wing as regards political ideas (6.33 out of 10); with a lot more men than women as respondents (98%, q49); with a higher average age (q50); a larger percentage of graduates (q53a); with less Catholics (68% as against 75% of the population) (q54), but more practicing Catholics (q54a)¹⁵¹; with less unemployed people (6% as against 17.5%, q56); with more workers for the public administration than for the private sector (q58a); and with a greater income¹⁵².



The professions that were more valued by the group of reservists are: career soldier, doctor, teacher and professional soldier.

Quite near are doctor, firefighter, businessman/woman and trader. They have a higher opinion of the military (+2.41), teachers, professional soldiers and police officers; and a lower opinion of lawyers and, especially, of journalists (-1.34), with a mere pass mark (5.12), which is also – together with the military– the profession less valued by the population.

¹⁵⁰ Author's report on the said event: <http://observatorio.cisde.es/?p=5164>

¹⁵¹ Nevertheless, there is a greater percentage of "N.O." ("no opinion") answers, which might require the religion-related piece of data to be qualified.

¹⁵² Especially within the €3,001 to 4,500 range (q60).

It is strange that, with the Army being the institution most valued by the Spanish society by far¹⁵³ –in fact, it is the only institution favorably valued (5.65) in Spain¹⁵⁴–, the military professions are those which score less points. However, there appears to be an upward trend¹⁵⁵, as against, for instance, the journalist profession, the valuation of which has gone down over the last few decades, although it still obtains a pass with 6.46 (MUCIS) and 5.12 (MURES).

From this particular piece of data it may be inferred¹⁵⁶ that there are two very separate groups in relation to this matter: one that thinks very highly of the military professions and another group that sees things quite differently.¹⁵⁷ These two radically different ways of considering the military world correspond almost directly to right-wing versus left-wing political opinions.¹⁵⁸

The fact that the military professions are the most highly valued by the reservists is hardly surprising, as the liking for military life is characteristic of reservists. Particularly, career soldier scores more points than professional soldier or sailor (MPTM), as against the general population's valuation. This might have to do with the high percentage of graduates¹⁵⁹ among the reservists (66%) as against 29.8% of the MUCIS respondents. However, those respondents of the MUCIS survey with a lower level of studies where those who graded the military professions higher.

This leads to an interesting question: Why is it the highest valued institution but the lowest valued job? We will not be answering this here, as it is beyond the scope of this work, but it would be an interesting topic for a future doctoral dissertation.

In both surveys, those participants with relatives in the army graded military professions higher. In relation to this, it is worth mentioning that there are some reservists with a long family tradition, but that most reservists do not have any family links to the military world at all.¹⁶⁰

Is the assessment of the military professions related to the respondents' political ideas? No, as regards reservists, as they receive very high scores from all of them, regardless of their political

153 This quote from an article by the former Chief of Staff of the Army illustrates this point: *“But are there any reasons to explain why the military institution faces up to challenges where others fail? Are soldiers inherently different to other Spaniards? Of course, not. What makes them different, then? Probably the education received in the academies and military training centers. While, at all educational levels and in almost all the school centers, fundamental, superior values are no longer taught, they are indeed taught –together with scientific, humanistic and technological knowledge– in the Armed Forces, paying special attention to the spirit of service before self. Therefore, the Spanish people know that the Army will always be available and that it is completely reliable.”* http://www.larazon.es/detalle_hemeroteca/noticias/LA_RAZON_347518/2639-las-fuerzas-armadas-la-institucion-mejor-valorada-por-jo-se-a-garcia-gonzalez#.UVkriFeDmSo accessed on April 1, 2013.

154 Until 2011 the Monarchy was the most valued institution: http://politica.elpais.com/politica/2011/10/26/actualidad/1319626481_119745.html accessed on April 12, 2013.

155 Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos (IEEE), *Estudio encuesta “Defensa Nacional y Fuerzas Armadas” de octubre 2011* [Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE), *Study-Survey: “National Defense and Armed Forces” of October 2011*] Madrid, Ministerio de Defensa, 2008, p.55

156 By means of the Pearson correlation coefficient, which is 0.77 between them. The Pearson correlation coefficient is a measure of the linear correlation between two variables (between 0 and 1, where 1 is total positive linear correlation); that is, it measures whether high values of one variable correspond to high values of the other variable.

157 Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos (IEEE), *Op. Cit. Estudio encuesta...* p.48.

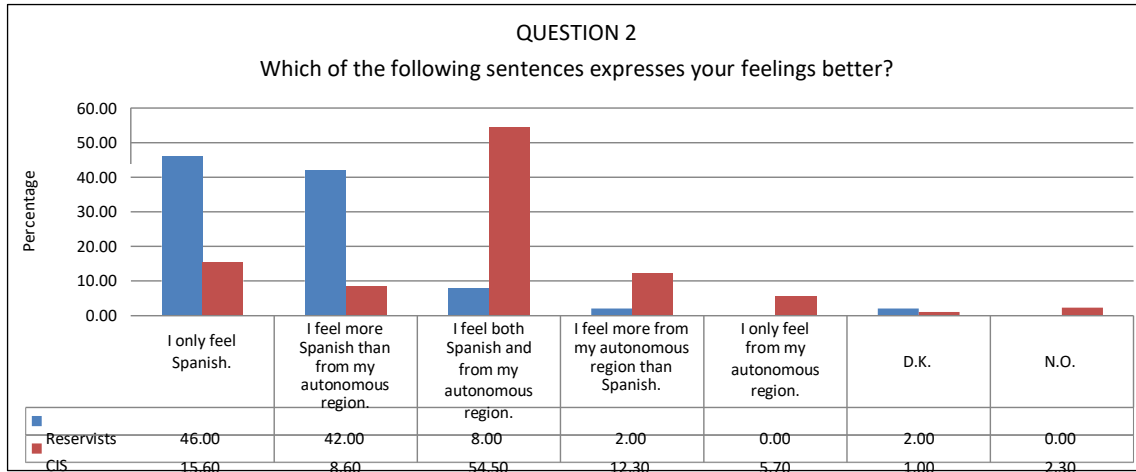
158 *Ibid.*, p.53

159 See Annex I to this study, question 53-a.

160 *Ibid.*, question 52.

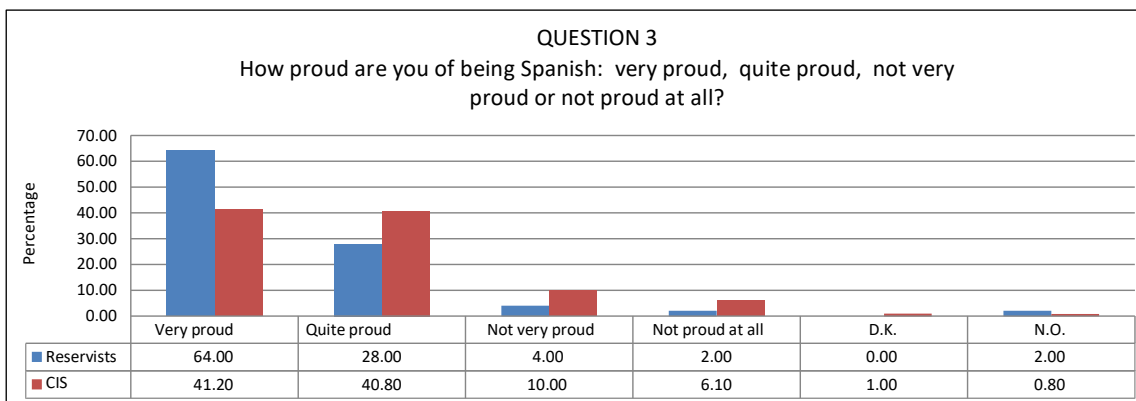
opinions. The MUCIS survey is quite a different case.

Does age have anything to do? The older the participants in the MUCIS survey were the more they valued them. But age was not a significant factor in the case of the reservists, as they all had a very high opinion of military professions. Almost half (48.65%) of the respondents were 45-54 years old (question 50).



MUCIS: most respondents, regardless of the region where they are from, feel both Spanish and from their autonomous regions. Furthermore, this feeling has increased by 3% since 2009, because the group that feels only Spanish has decreased.

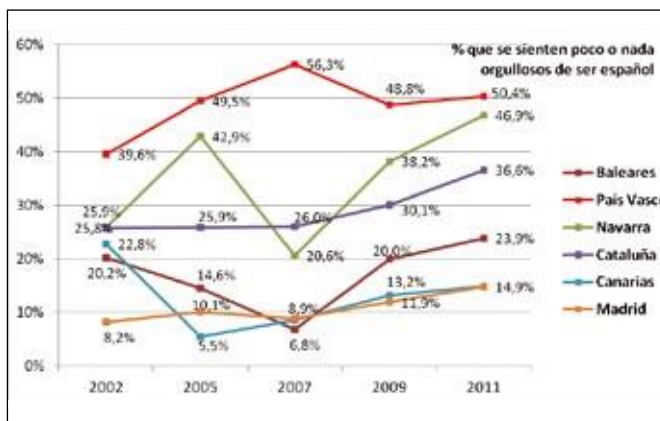
The great majority of MURES respondents feel Spanish (88%), as the charts clearly show. As we can see, most of the participants in the MUCIS survey feel both Spanish and from their autonomous regions.



92% of the volunteer reservists feel "very" (23% more than in the MUCIS survey) or "quite proud".

82% of the population in general feel "very" or "quite proud" of being Spanish. However, since 1997, there is a downward trend, particularly among the population between 50 and 64 years of age. The pride expressed was greater the older the persons and the closer their link to the Armed Forces¹⁶¹, as in the case of the reservists. Therefore, the Armed Forces will be losing a great opportunity if they do not increase that link through their VRs.

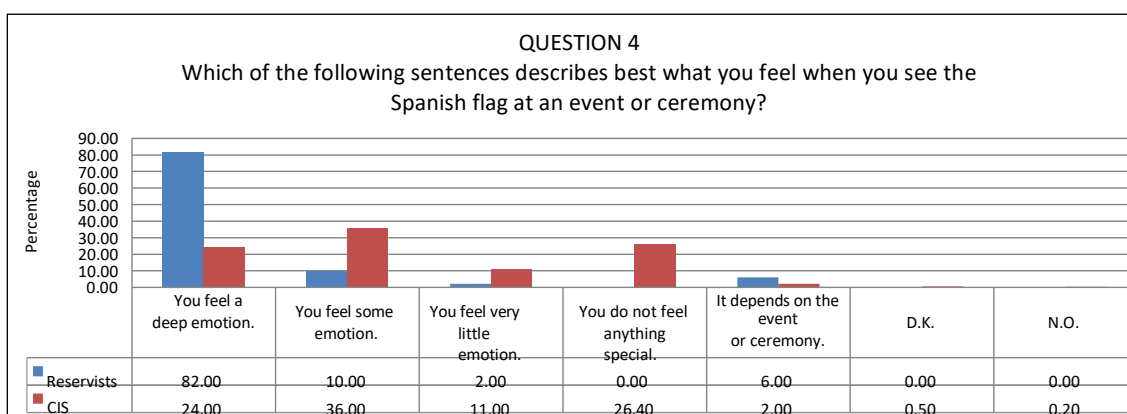
The following graph shows the six autonomous regions that feel "less proud" of being Spanish and how the percentages have changed over the last decade. In all of them, this trend has increased (in the Canary Islands since 2005).



Having any relatives in the army also promotes, though slightly, the feeling of Spanish pride.¹⁶²

In the opinion of many of the reservists that were interviewed, the public authorities are letting the warp disappear in some autonomous regions¹⁶³, and the average citizen thinks not only that nothing is being done to prevent it, but that their taxes are actually being used for that purpose.

They firmly believe that being in contact with the Armed Forces, especially for civilians who work or have worked for military organizations, increases the feeling of pride to be Spanish, and that the volunteer reserve force is the chance the Spanish population has of experiencing that contact.



161 Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos [Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies] (IEEE), *Op. Cit. Estudio encuesta... [Study-survey]* p.31.

162 Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos [Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies] (IEEE), *Op. Cit. Estudio encuesta... [Study-survey]* p.32.

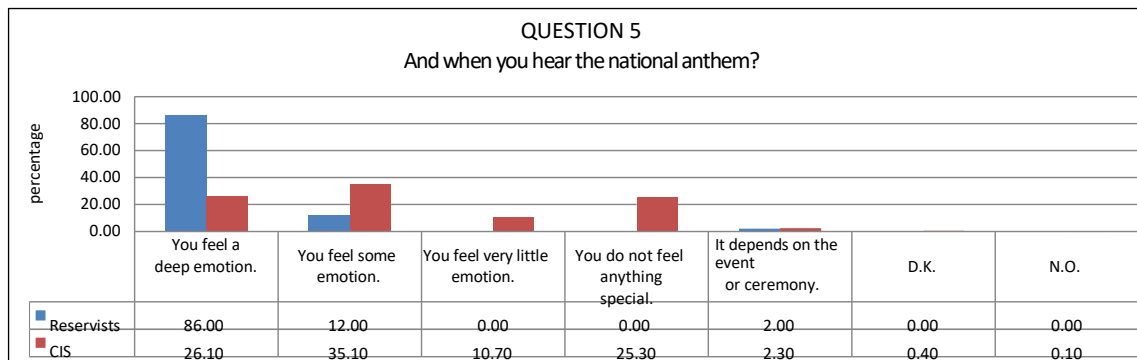
163 *Ibid.*, p.30

Around 60% of the Spaniards “feel a deep emotion” or “some emotion” when they see the flag. The trend has basically remained constant over the last decade. It is almost 100% in the case of the reservists: 87% deep emotion, 7% some emotion, and for 6% it depends on the event.

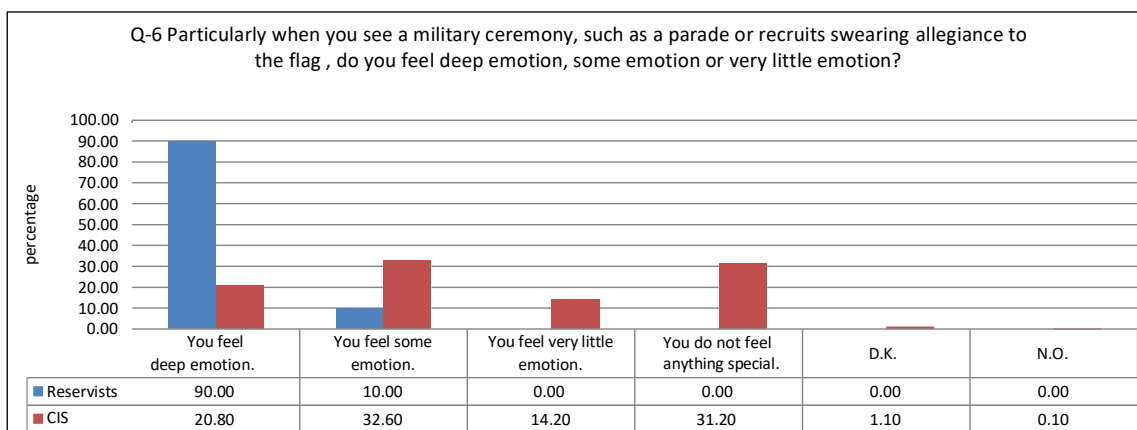
The emotion felt in the presence of national symbols, flag or anthem, and at military ceremonies changes from region to region. It is very low in the Basque Country and Navarra, where at least three out of four citizens are indifferent to these symbols and events; and also in Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, with one out of two.

At least one out of two citizens feels “very little” emotion or “none at all” in the presence of the Spanish flag in the Basque Country, Navarra, the Balearic Islands and Catalonia; at least one out of three citizens in the Canary Islands, Galicia, Madrid, Valencia and Aragón.

Nevertheless, the group who feels “deep emotion” has increased by 4% in respect of the results of 2009. This feeling grows as the persons are older¹⁶⁴.



In both samples, the answers are similar to those of the previous question. Almost 100% of the reservists and around 60% of the Spanish people are moved by the national anthem; the trend has basically remained constant over the last decade, and the emotion is deeper the older the persons are.¹⁶⁵

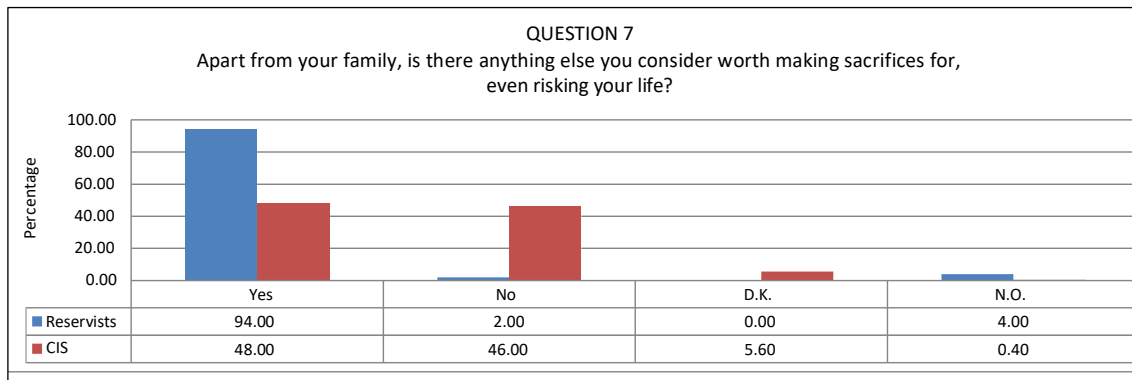


164 Ibid., p.33.

165 Ibid., p.33.

At military ceremonies, reservists "feel emotion" (90% "deep emotion"). They do not generate as much emotion for the population in general: around 53% of Spaniards are moved by a military ceremony. This feeling also grows as the persons are older.

People tend to be quite indifferent¹⁶⁶ to the national symbols and military ceremonies, especially in the most nationalist regions.



The data shows a greater sense of self-sacrifice for reservists (almost double percentage of affirmative answers than in the CIS survey, whereas the general population multiplied by 23 the negative answers in relation to those of the reservists).

As regards the general population, there was a greater sense of self-sacrifice among men than among women¹⁶⁷. Over the last decade, there has been a slight downward trend, more decreasing in the case of women.



Of those who declare that they would make sacrifices, nine out of ten would do it to save some other person's life in both surveys, but for their homeland it is more than double among the reservists than among the general population.

166 Ibid., p.34-37.

167 Ibid., p.38.

During the last decade, the most common answer has been “to save some other person's life”, which has remained stable above 90%. Only 11% answered “for their political ideas”.¹⁶⁸

Ideals such as peace, freedom or justice are –for society in general– more important than values such as their homeland, religious beliefs or political ideas. This is not so in the case of reservists, who put making sacrifices for another person *and* for their country at the top of the list.



92% of the reservists would voluntarily take part (five times more than the population in general). However, that 8% who are not sure is rather shocking. In my opinion, they do not deserve to be reservists. In fact, the other reservists interviewed agreed that they should reconsider their membership, as they undertook to defend their country when, at the end of their training periods, they swore allegiance to the flag.

Reservists themselves usually complain about the low level of requirements in the initial periods of training, of which reservists are not responsible. Having someone promise to defend their country and then not keep that promise, regardless of whether it is legally punishable, is an outright disgrace.

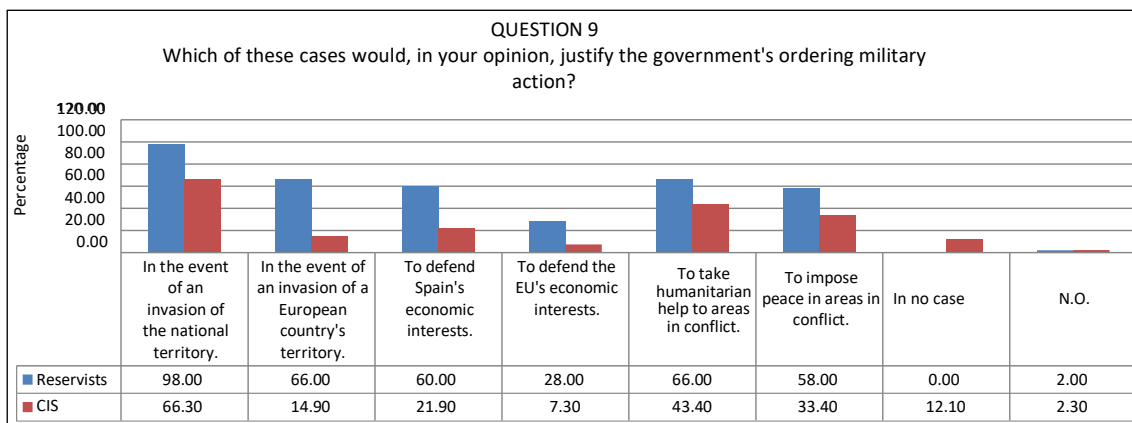
The data from the survey carried out among the general population reveals that 40% of the citizens, especially men –15% more than women¹⁶⁹– would be willing to take part in the defense of Spain in the event of a military attack. However, the rest would refuse. The largest number of refusals, by regions, is found in the Basque Country (71.9%) and Navarra (78.1%).

The number of people who would "absolutely not" be willing to defend Spain is rising, whereas the group of people who answer "probably" is decreasing¹⁷⁰. And this is an issue that is not being addressed by the government.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid., p.39.

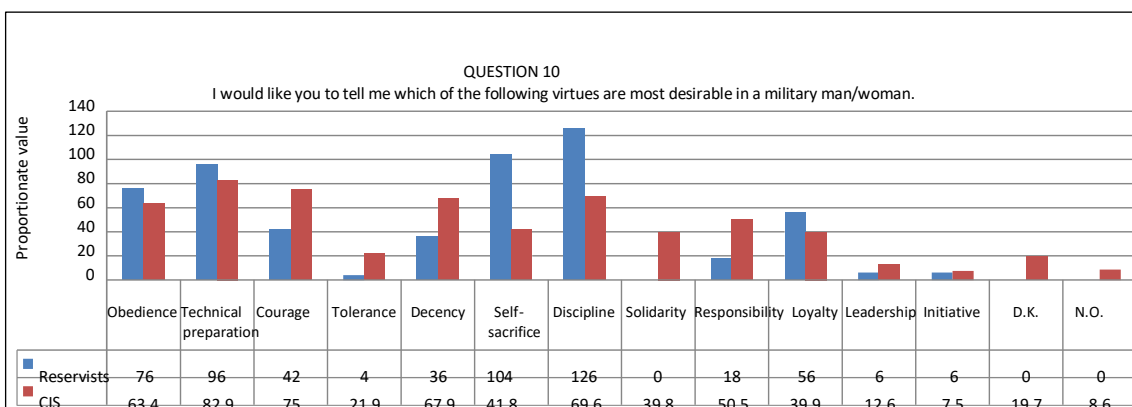
¹⁶⁹ Ibid., p. 40.

¹⁷⁰ Ibid., p.40.



98% of the reservists surveyed understand the importance of territorial defense and justify it.

As regards the general population, the grading of the reasons that would justify military action have not changed much over the years. Two out of three Spaniards justify military action in the event of an invasion of the Spanish territory, whereas reservists think any of these cases would justify it.



Only discipline has slightly increased through the years.

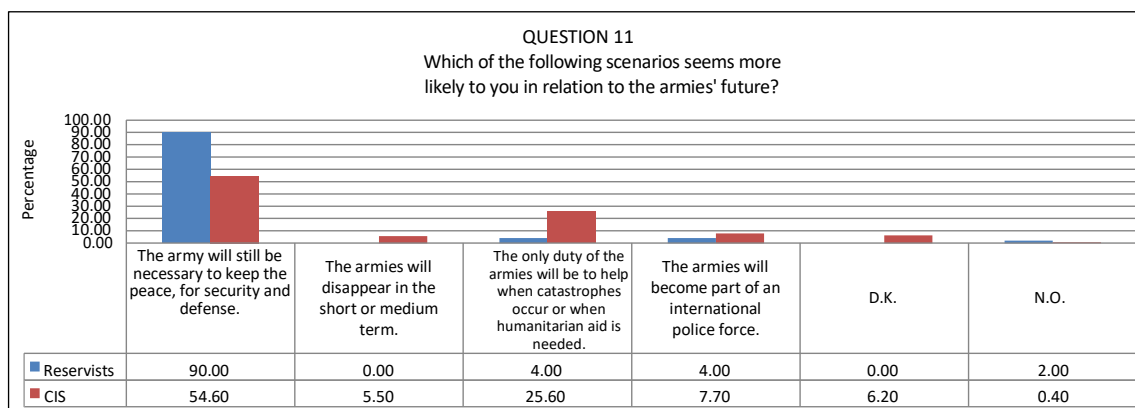
The concepts of order and discipline are currently seen as obsolete or old-fashioned. It is true that tyranny and despotism must certainly be eradicated, but that does not mean that lack of organization or anarchy should become the order of the day, or that bad behavior should be tolerated –in classrooms, for example, where unruly children or teenagers hinder their own and other students' progress. Order must be understood –in society– as organization and

discipline, in relation to the meaning of "self-control" of its Greek root¹⁷¹. Order and discipline are, in this sense, values to be fostered –*retrogressive*, to use one of the key terms of this piece of work.

In the military world, with its hierarchical structure, these words have, no doubt, different connotations. But, a lot of people regard the military institution as a guarantor of values, of the essence of the nation; which would explain why it is the most valued institution in Spain. According to Bauman¹⁷², we live in liquid societies¹⁷³. A modern liquid society is one where the conditions in which its members act change before the forms can become habits and an established routine. They are “dangerous” societies, as defined by the aforementioned anthropologist Dr. García Martínez. And as C. Barreno concludes¹⁷⁴:

“It is quite clear that in a liquid life there is no room for spiritual fulfillment, and that the values –if they can be called values at all– are extremely volatile and relative. This relativism, where nothing is absolute, where nothing is bad or good, and its endless tolerance give rise to pure indifference. The loss of clear, strong values leaves us without a guide. We are living in the twilight of human values, which is a real drama for every human being.”

Yes, we are indeed living in the twilight of human values; but, after dusk comes dawn, and things can begin anew. The regeneration of human values depends on us. We, the people, must make them shine and guide our lives once again.



None of the reservists surveyed consider the disappearance of the armies, in the short or medium term, likely. But among the answers given by the MUCIS respondents there is not so much agreement. 55% think that they will still be necessary to defend Spain –which is an opinion that has remained for the last ten years.

171 It comes from the words *discis*, to teach, and *pueripuella*, children.

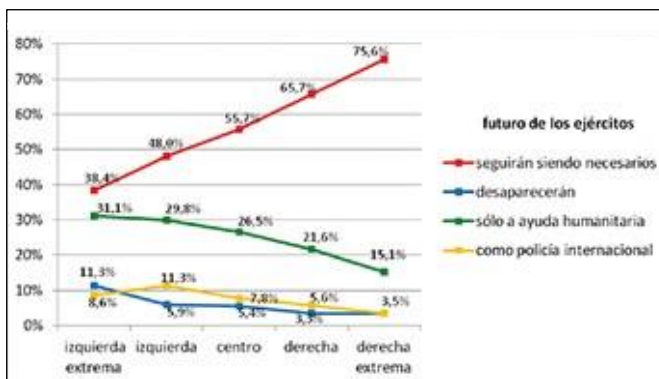
172 Zygmunt Bauman, winner of the 2010 Prince of Asturias award for Communication and Humanities (together with Alain Touraine)

173 Z. BAUMAN, *Vida líquida*. Paidós Ibérica, Barcelona, 2006, p.9.

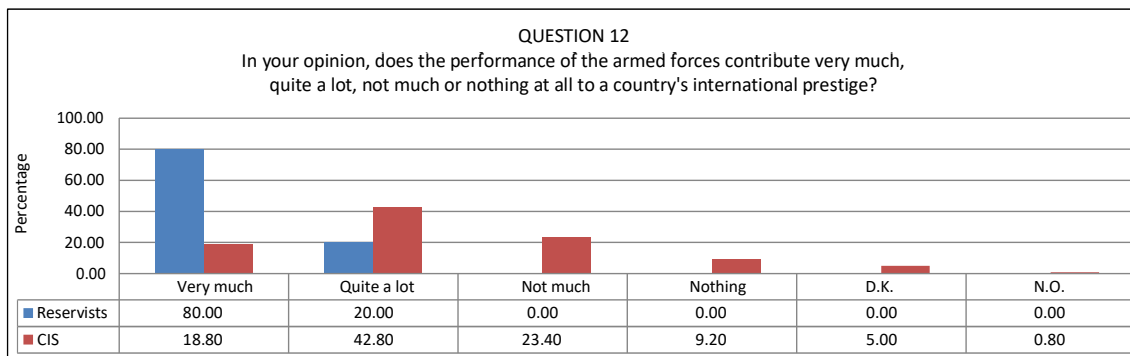
174 C.BARRENO “Zygmunt Bauman y la sociedad líquida” at <http://www.revistaesfinge.com/?p=1684>, p.1, accessed on April 6, 2013

And this opinion is mostly shared by respondents with right-wing political ideologies.

Most people believe that the armed forces will remain under the exclusive control of the Spanish government. However, among left-wing respondents, one out of three would prefer them to become part of a European army at the command of a European supranational authority.



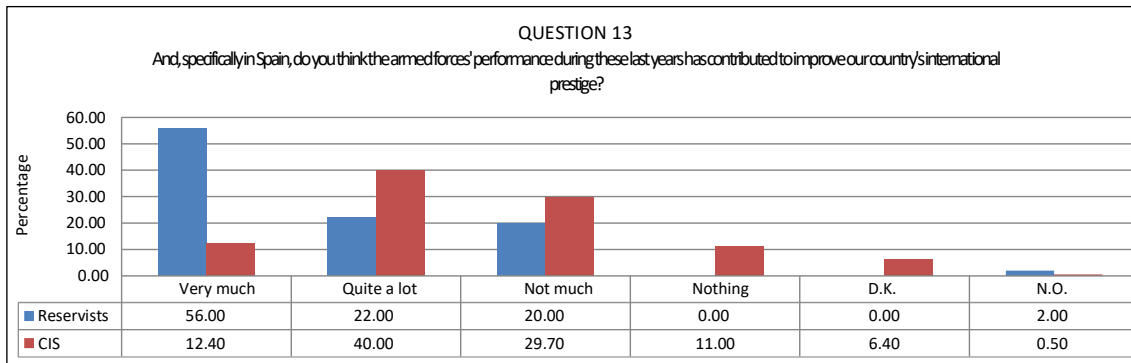
Since 2007, the percentage of people who think that Spain is free from any foreign military threats has increased, and it is currently at 60%, especially among left-wing citizens¹⁷⁵.



100% of the reservists consider that they indeed contribute to a country's prestige. The Spanish society is used to its armed forces taking part in peace missions and they have their support (85%), but only 61.6% consider that they contribute "very much" or "quite a lot" to improve the prestige of a country.

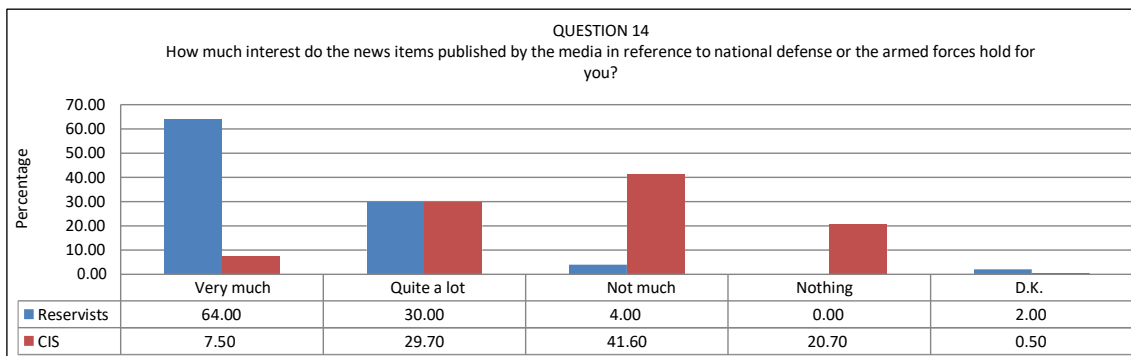
Most of the population believes that the armed forces' performance contributes positively to a country's prestige. The percentage of those who consider that it increases its prestige doubles that of the people who think that it does not, and this trend has not changed much over the years. The respondents' political ideas influence their opinion regarding the armed forces' contribution to international prestige. Only those respondents who defined themselves as extreme left-wing think that the armed forces' performance does not contribute to a country's international prestige¹⁷⁶.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid., p.17.
¹⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 80.



78% of the reservists place a high value on their performance. However, 20% think that it “has not contributed very much”. In the personal interviews they all agreed that the reason is the fact that they have not honored their obligations; for example, when they hurriedly left Iraq, which gave rise to fierce criticism from some of our allies.

As in the previous question, those respondents who defined themselves as extreme left-wing think that the armed forces' performance does not contribute to Spain's international prestige. The percentage is higher than in the previous question: 62% when referred to Spain as against 55% when referred to any other country¹⁷⁷.



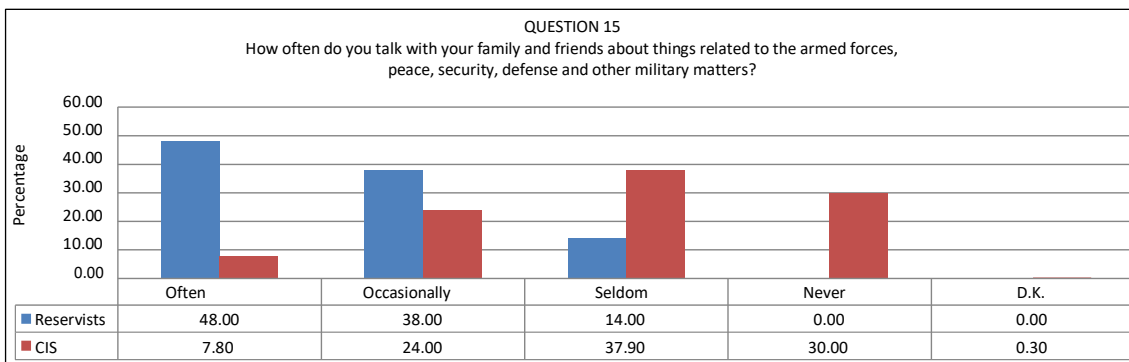
There is a great difference between how interested the members of the volunteer reserve force are as against the Spanish population in general, where questions related to the armed forces do not hold much interest (only 37% answered “very much” or “quite a lot”).

This topic is not frequently talked about with family or friends either, and even less as a topic of conversation between women¹⁷⁸. The group who is interested has remained constant over the last decade¹⁷⁹.

177 Ibid., p.82.

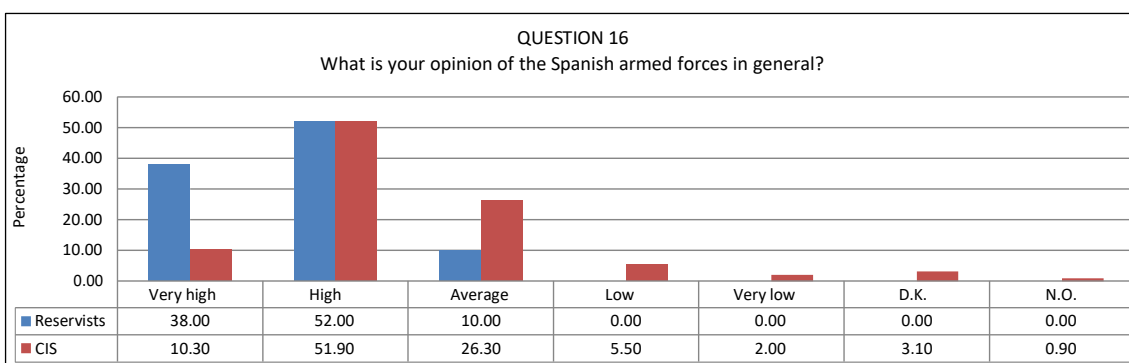
178 Ibid., p.17.

179 Ibid., p.88.



Again, the reservists' figures are very different from those of the CIS survey, which is logical.

The population in general does not choose the armed forces as a topic for their everyday conversations: two out of three “never” or “seldom” do. If we compare the answers by gender, we see that 33% of women never talk about Defense matters as against 26% of men¹⁸⁰.

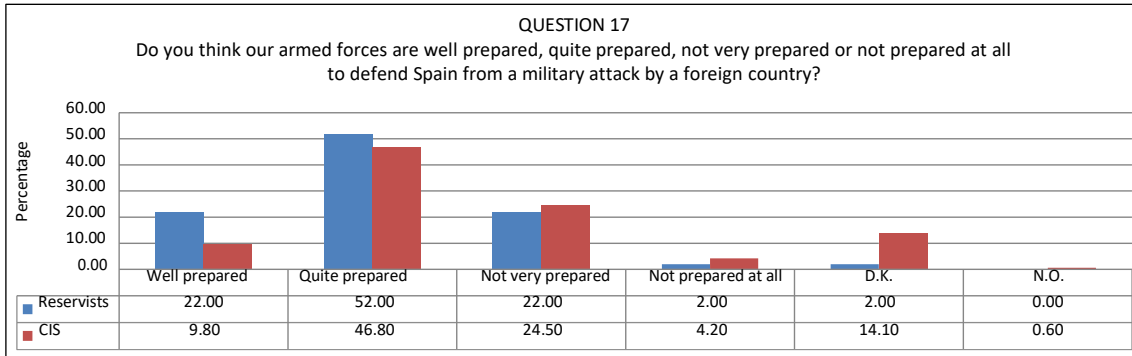


As an institution, most people (62%) have a high opinion of the armed forces –men and women– and the trend over the last decade is positive.

Furthermore, the percentage of people answering “very high” and “high” has increased¹⁸¹.

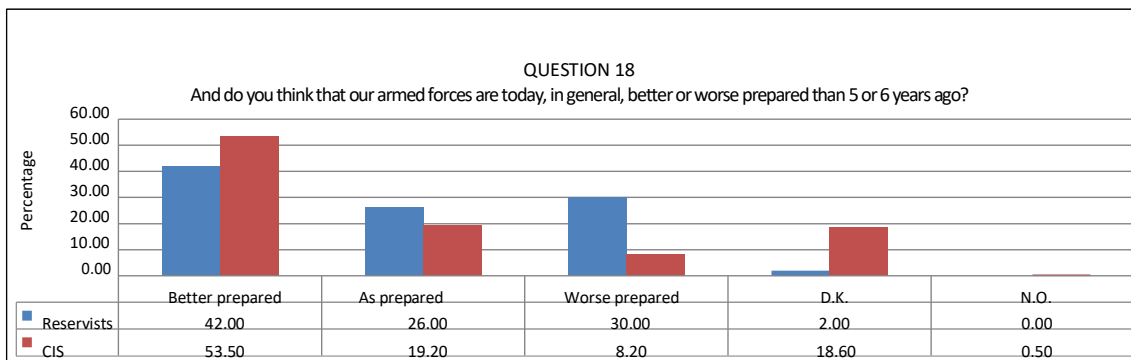
According to the CIS's barometer of October 2011¹⁸², it is the institution which the Spanish people think most highly of. In fact, it is the only institution whose performance they approve of, as we stated at the beginning of this section. No significant differences were found between the answers from men and women.¹⁸³

180 Ibid., p.90.
181 Ibid., p.73.
182 Ibid., p.9.
183 Ibid., p.73.



Among the reservists, the opinion of their being “well” o “quite” prepared is 17.4% higher. 56.6% of the population thinks that the armed forces are “well” o “quite” prepared to defend Spain, and the trend has been positive over the last decade.

The only groups of people who do not consider them to be well or quite prepared are those who define themselves as extreme left-wing.¹⁸⁶

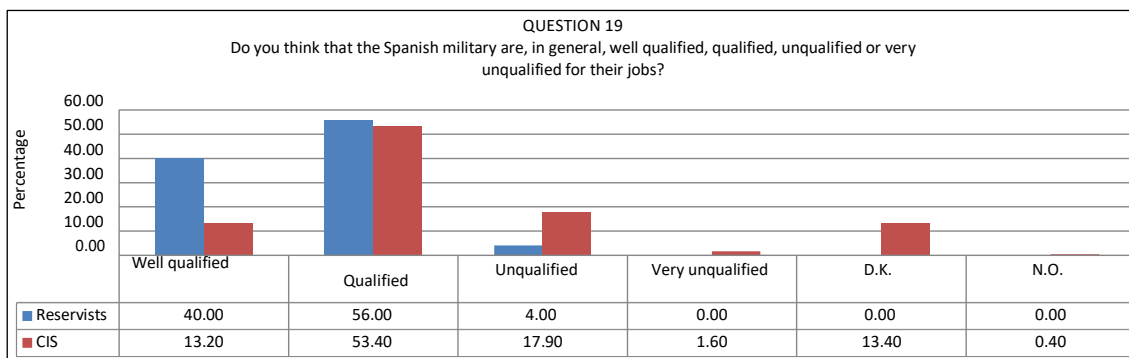


The survey and the interviews show that reservists are aware of the lack of financial resources suffered by the Spanish army, particularly over the past few years.

The opinions expressed by the general population in the MUCIS survey have not changed very much. Most of the respondents (53.5% in 2011) consider that the armed forces are better prepared today than five years ago. The critical group is estimated at around 8%. Right-wing respondents think that they are “well” or “quite” prepared. However, they also believe that they are worse prepared than five years ago.¹⁸⁵

184 Ibid., p.75.

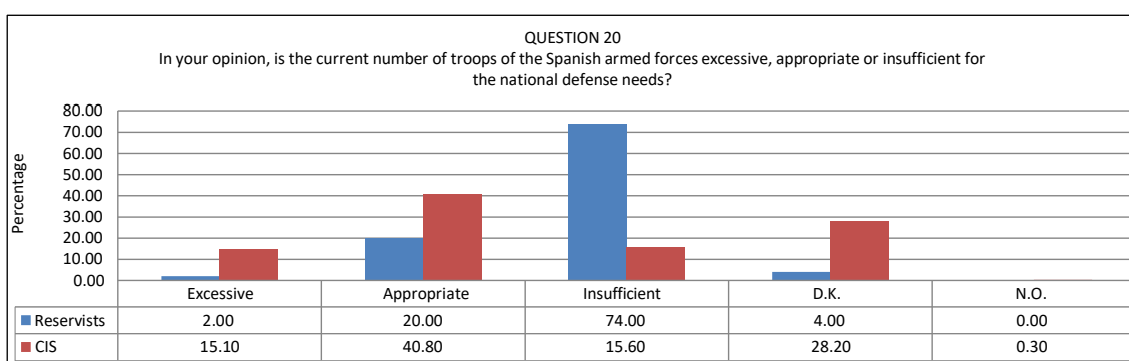
185 Ibid., p.78.



96% of the MURES survey respondents think that the Spanish military are qualified.

Two out of three consider that they are “well qualified” or “qualified” for their jobs, and there has been an upward trend over the last decade. On the other hand, 1.6% are skeptical and consider that they are “very unqualified”, and 18% are critical and think that they are “unqualified”¹⁸⁶. These opinions do not depend on the respondents' sex or on whether they have any relatives in the army or not, but they are slightly more critical among graduates.¹⁸⁷

At least 40% of the people who usually vote for CC, PNV and BNG are critical with the military's training. Left-wing respondents were more critical with the military's training (43.5%) than right-wing respondents (17.5%).¹⁸⁸



The better informed group of reservists consider that the number of troops is insufficient (74%). There will be 80,000¹⁸⁹ this year, far from the target number for the professional army of 100,000 to 130,000.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁶ Ibid., p.15.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid., p.68-69.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid., p.71.

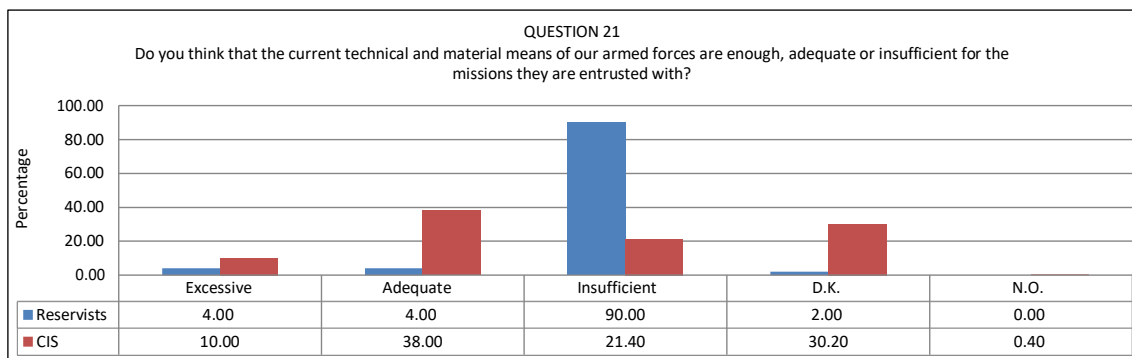
¹⁸⁹ <http://www.abc.es/20120930/espana/abci-presupuesto-defensa-para-pagar-201209291909.html> accessed on April 6, 2013.

¹⁹⁰ http://www.congreso.es/public_oficiales/L6/CORT/DS/CM/CM_067.PDF, pg. 66, accessed on April 6, 2013

Most of the MUCIS respondents consider that the number of troops is adequate, and since 2007 this percentage has remained constant around 40%. On the other hand, only 20% of the reservists think so. Nevertheless, over the last decade it has been stated that people in general do not support the allocation of resources to increase the number of troops of the armed forces.¹⁹¹

Allow me to highlight the magnificent role as ambassadors of the reservists, particularly in questions 20 to 26. C. Pintado expresses it thus¹⁹²:

“A reservist is, objectively, an asset to companies and armies. They are people who undergo regular medical examinations to guarantee their physical and mental health, who do not take drugs and who are disciplined. In addition, they show great self-sacrifice when they enter into service, having less free time and even sometimes putting their civilian jobs at risk. If we also add the skills (quite often, years' of specialization) with which they contribute to their units for free, we must acknowledge that they are quite an acquisition in either place.”



More or less one out of three Spaniards do not know what technical or material means the armed forces have. Nevertheless, over the last decade, the number of “don't know” answers has decreased.

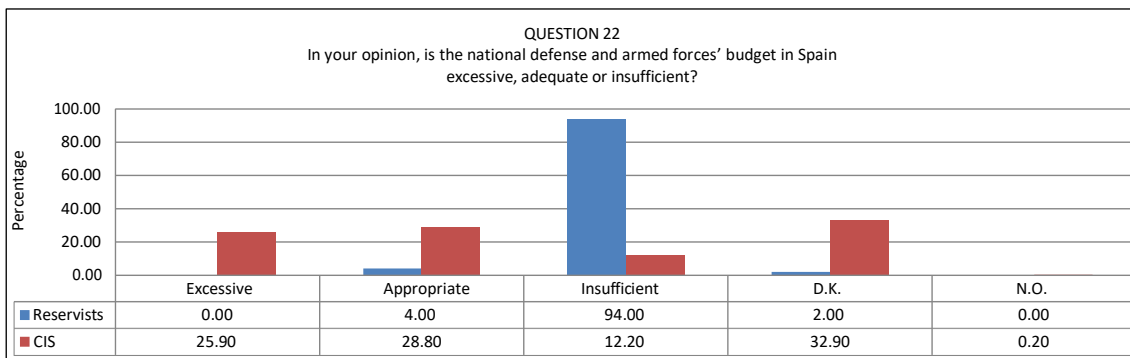
In 2011, popular support for the increase of the armed forces' technical and material means dropped.¹⁹³

On the other hand, 90% of the reservists think it is insufficient.

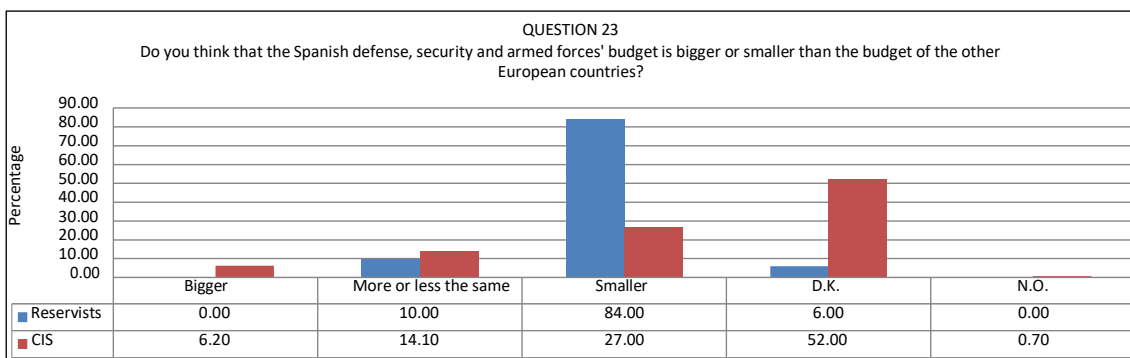
191 Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos [Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies] (IEEE), *Op. Cit., Estudio encuesta...* p.81.

192 C.PINTADO, “Ex militares directivos. Una receta de éxito”. *Atenea* magazine, number 42, December 2012, p. 58-61

193 *Ibid.*, p.86



An interesting piece of data: 60% considers that the financial resources allocated to Defense in Spain are less than in the neighboring countries. And yet, they consider the Spanish Defense budget to be excessive.¹⁹⁴ If we analyze the results by political ideology, we can see that the more to the left the more excessive it is considered.¹⁹⁵



The answers regarding the Defense budget (0.55% of the GDP)¹⁹⁶ in relation to that of the neighboring countries show that most people are aware that ours is lower.

Once again, the reservists prove to be particularly well informed, as expected, due to their participation in the National Defense. As we have already mentioned, our Defense budget is ridiculous when compared with that of our partners and allies: €137 per person, as against the EU average of €500.77¹⁹⁷ –aggravated by Morocco's rearmament.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid, p.16

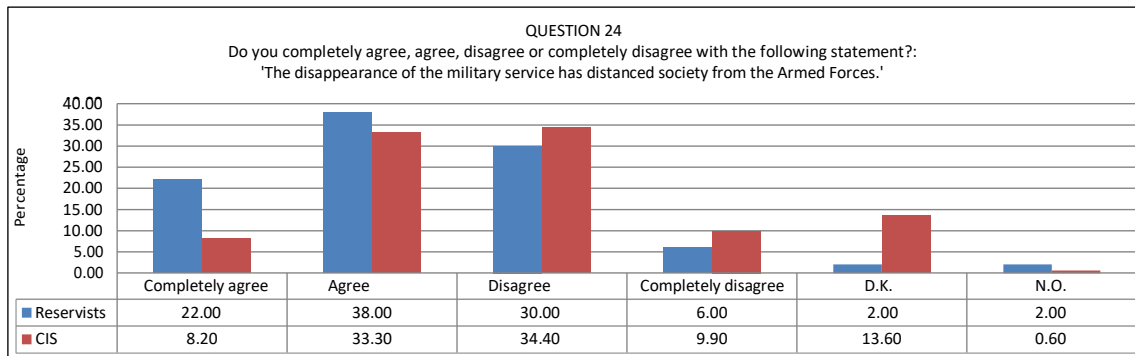
¹⁹⁵ Ibid, p.84

¹⁹⁶ Record of the Chamber of Deputies of October 8, 2012, (appearance of the Secretary of State for Defense, Mr. Pedro Argüelles; the Undersecretary for Defense, Ms. Irene Domínguez Alcahud; and the Chief of Staff for Defense, Admiral Fernando García Sánchez, before the Defense Commission of the Chamber of Deputies), at http://www.congreso.es/public_oficiales/L10/CONG/DS/CO/DSCD-10-CO-178.PDF, p.11, accessed on April 6, 2013

¹⁹⁷ Euro/inhabitant expenditure of our neighboring partners and allies: France 782.08 €, UK 640.41 €, EU average 500.77 €, Italy 490.10 €, Germany 453.95 €, Spain 137.32 €

Having worked for 25 years at Santa Bárbara de Industrias Militares¹⁹⁸, I have seen the dismantling of the national defense industry first-hand. Such dismantling not only results in the loss of our independence within this sector –a serious strategic problem–, but also of a lot of jobs, knowledge and industrial culture generated over the years, which cannot be just improvised when required.

These closures, restructuring and dismissals are, undoubtedly, linked to the very low Defense budget¹⁹⁹: If there are no orders, no workers are needed.



Those who agree with this statement can be considered nostalgic of the military service and implicitly asking for its reinstatement; so that it is not surprising that 60% of the surveyed reservists expressed agreement, as against 42.5% of the Spanish population.

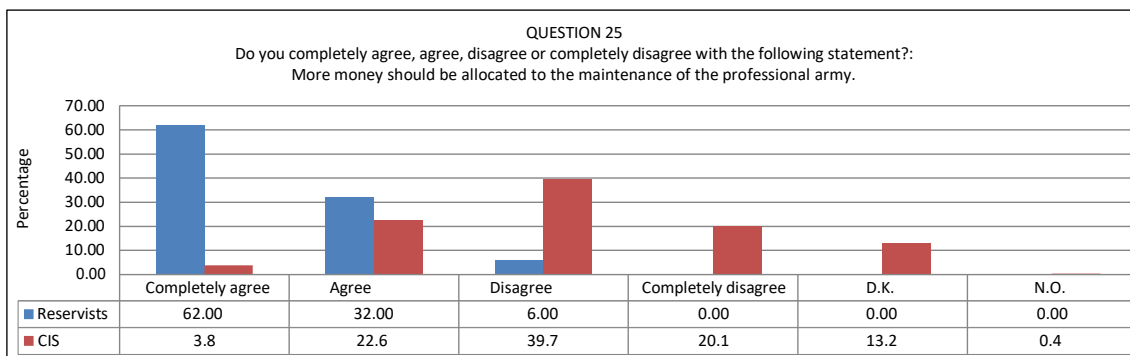
It is an interesting fact that the statistically more nationalist autonomous regions are those where more people agree that the disappearance of the military service has distanced society from the Armed Forces.²⁰⁰ Age is not a significant factor for the answer; and among those who define themselves as right-wing (but not "extreme" right-wing), the majority implicitly ask for the reinstatement of the military service.²⁰¹

198 For example, during the months of February, March and April of 2013 (when this piece of work is being written), the La Coruña factory has been closed, and the Oviedo factory is being moved to Trubia and reduced to a minimum. It is hard to understand how the Spanish government can decide to leave Spain without a defense industry.

199 The graph at this link shows the Defense expenditure compared to that of our allies: http://www.elespiadigital.com/images/stories/Noticias2/gasto_en_defensa.jpg accessed on April 6, 2013.

200 Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos [Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies] (IEEE), *Op. Cit., Estudio encuesta...* p.81

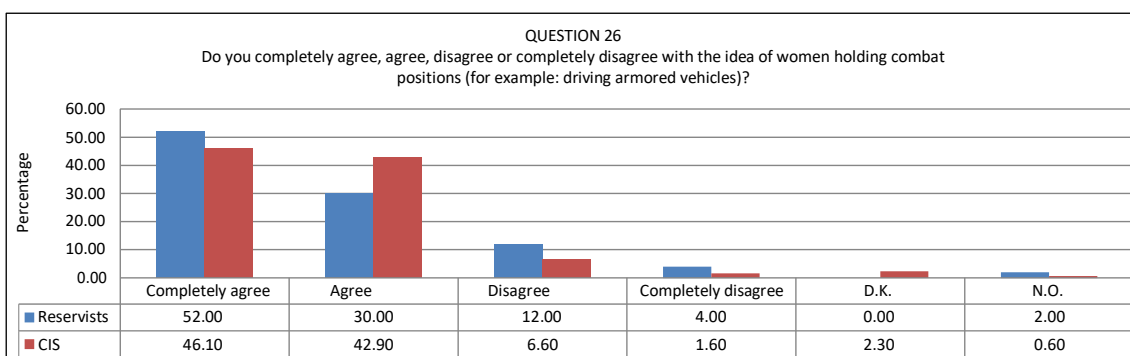
201 *Ibid.*, p.136



We talked before of the fact that one out of three Spaniards do not know how much money is allocated to the armed forces.

In 2011²⁰², the number of people who considered that too much money was being allocated to them increased, and there is now less popular support for the demand of more material and human resources.

Nevertheless, the reservists, who are aware of the needs of our armed forces, believe that a bigger budget is required (94%).



There are similar answers in both groups. Among the reservists, there is more disagreement, but also the percentage who “completely agrees” is 6% higher.

Since women joined the Armed Forces, the percentage of people who “agree” with the idea of them holding combat positions has increased, reaching 89% in 2011. By genders, the number of women who “completely agree” is 11% higher than the number of men. However, the number of those who “agree” is similar.²⁰³ These data of 2012²⁰⁴ show that the percentage of women is 12.1% and 50% more (18.5%) in the Reserve.²⁰⁵ The better conditions to find a balance between family and work could be one of the reasons for this increase.

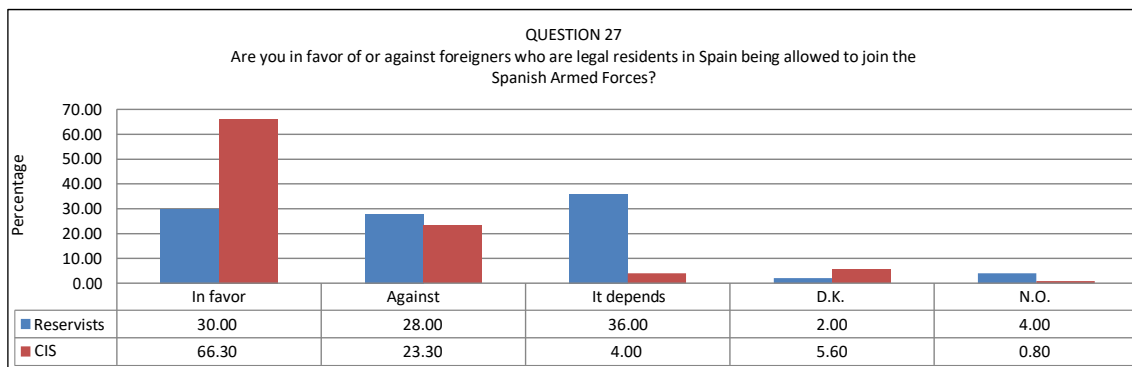
²⁰² *Ibid.*, p.16.

²⁰³ *Ibid.*, p.120.

²⁰⁴ Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos [Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies] (IEEE), *Op. Cit., El papel de la mujer...*, p. 165

²⁰⁵ See table on p. 13 for data on volunteer reservists.

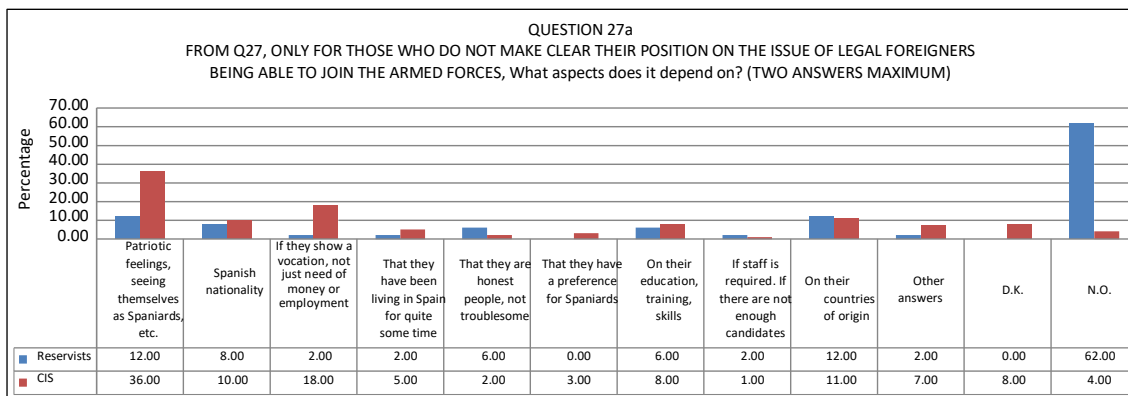
ARMY	MILITARY WOMEN			TOTAL	%
	OFFICERS	NCOs	SOLDIERS	MEN AND WOMEN	WOMEN
Army	252	449	8,776	80,928	11.71
Navy	94	119	2,395	21,547	12.10
Air force	220	252	2,452	21,537	13.57
Total	556	820	13,623	124,012	12.10
% 6.5	2.7	17	100		



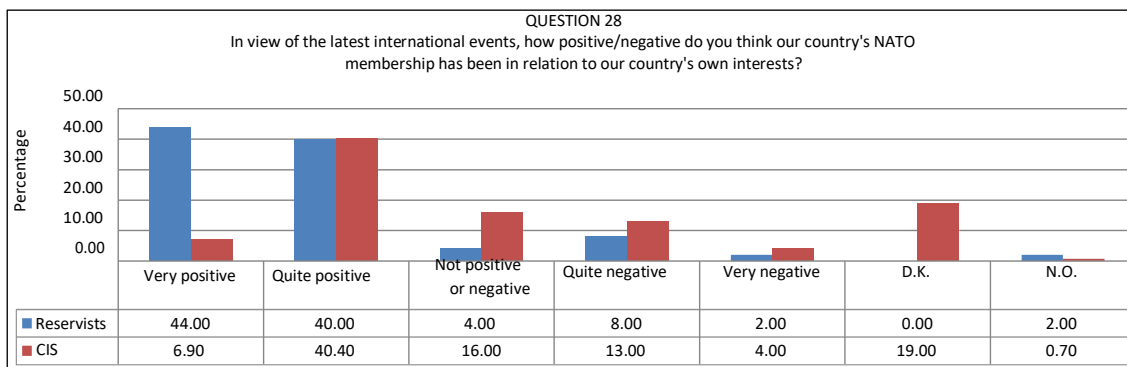
The 5% difference between those who are against in both groups is not very significant. However, the 32% and 36% difference in those who answered “it depends” and “in favor” is. This matter will be addressed in the personal interviews. Suffice it now to say that some reservists would consider them as mercenaries and not soldiers; that is, they claim that an Ecuadorean –to name one of the nationalities that is incorporated– could hardly *feel* the nation in the same way as a Spaniard would. It is deduced that those who answered “it depends” think that there may be Ecuadoreans (or South Americans) who have a deep-rooted concept of the Mother Country, in which case they would see no problem. In any other case, they object to foreigners joining the Spanish army. The authorities justified it arguing that there were not enough applications from Spaniards. But, in any case, it would be best to have “few but good soldiers” and, most of all, to have enough money allocated to the armed forces so that it is attractive for Spanish applicants. I would like to add that, throughout the years, all I have heard from military commanders are comments on the general good work of the foreigners who have joined the Spanish army.

By age, we see that those over 50 are less in favor of foreigners in the army.²⁰⁶

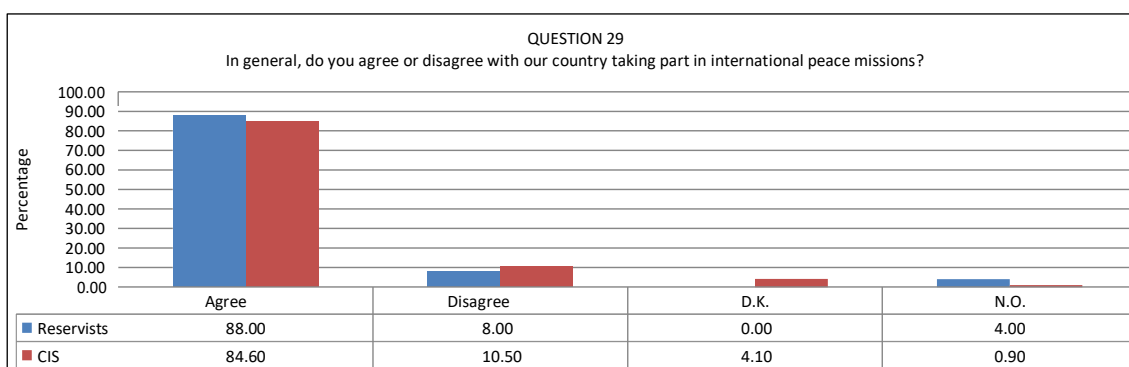
206 Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos [Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies] (IEEE), *Op. Cit., Estudio encuesta...*, p.43.



It is quite shocking to see that only 4% of the MUCIS respondents chose the “it depends” answer, as against 36% reservists. The factors are those stated in the comparison. And the most surprising pieces of data are the percentage of reservists who do not answer and the fact that patriotic feelings are much (three times) more important for the population in general than for the reservists.

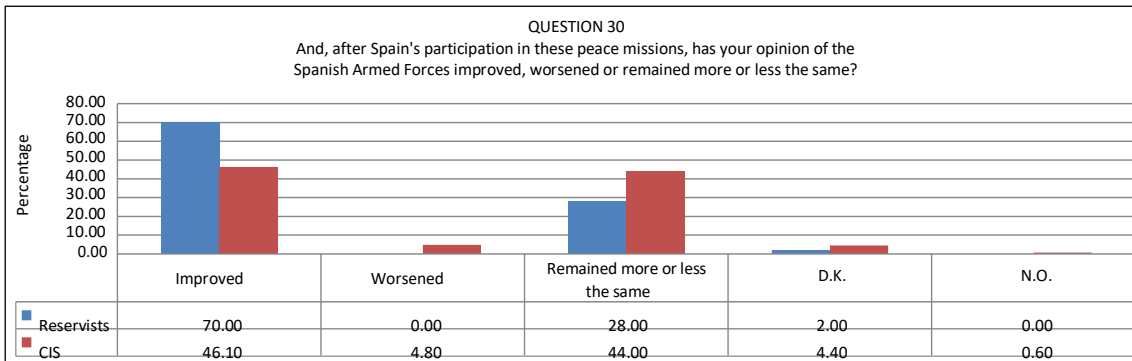


Most reservists think that it has been positive (84%), as does the Spanish population, who have got used to Spain being a member of the NATO. The opinion remains the same since 2005. Those more critical of Spain being a member of the NATO are the respondents who define themselves as extreme left-wing.²⁰⁹



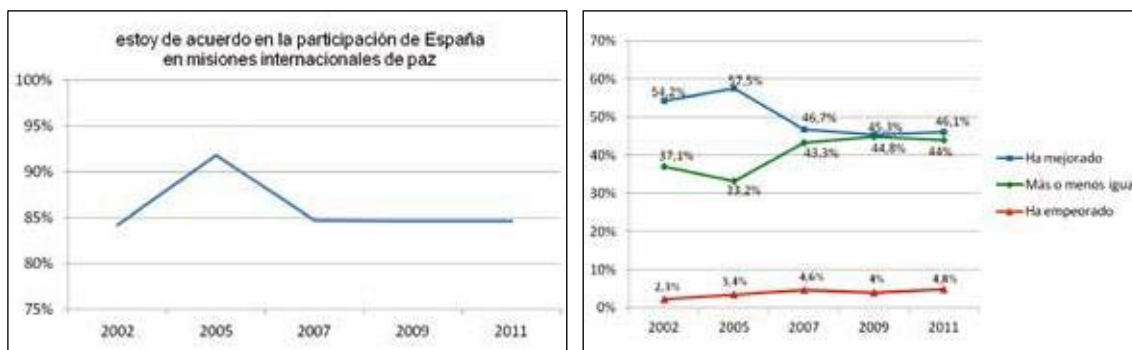
209 *Ibid.*, p.16.

The answers were similar in both surveys. The Spanish population is used to having their Armed Forces take part in peace missions and most people support them (85% –and 88% of reservists). Nevertheless, only 52% of the MUCIS respondents (as against 100% of the MURES participants) think that this contributes to improve Spain's international prestige, as stated in the comment to question 12.

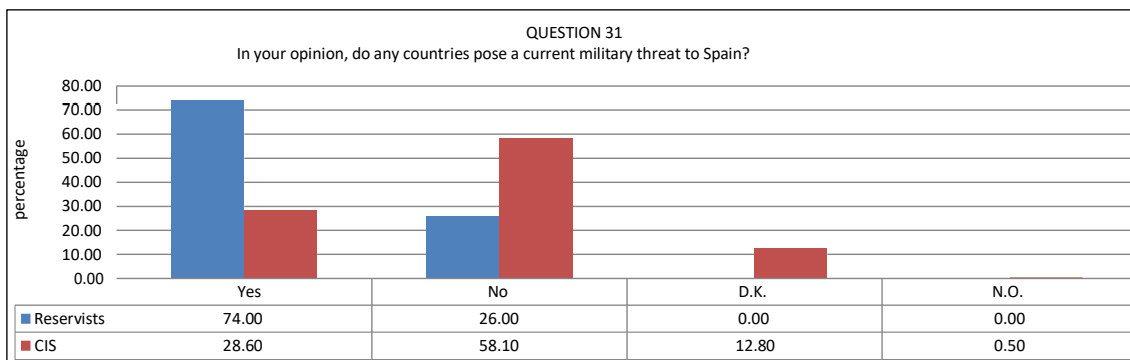


70% of the reservists –who already had a very high opinion of the Armed Forces–answered that they have formed an even better opinion of the military after their participation in peace missions.

The support to Spain's participation in international peace missions remains at around 85%. However, after their participation, more people say they have formed a lower opinion (increasing from 2.3% to 4.8%) and less people say they have formed a better opinion (decreasing from 54% to 46%).²⁰⁸



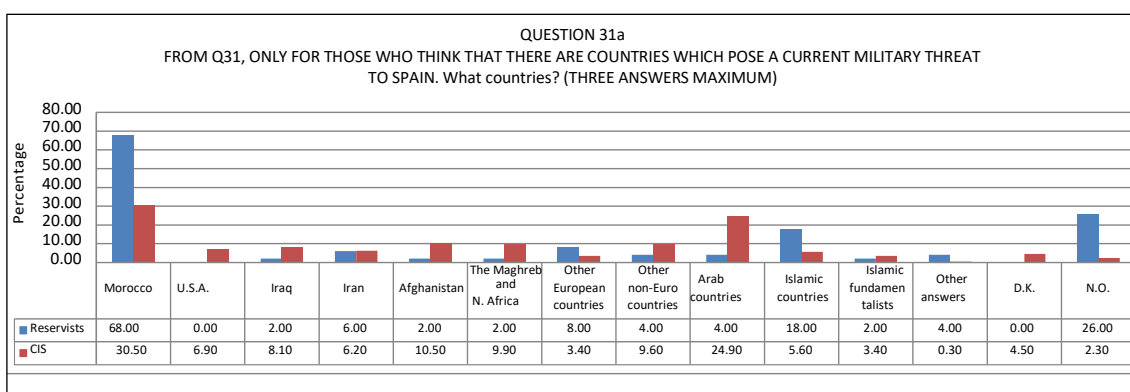
²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, p.79.



Three out of four reservists think so, particularly in relation to Ceuta, Melilla and the Canary Islands.

Since 2007, the percentage of people who think that Spain is free from any foreign military threats has increased, and it is currently at 60%, especially among left-wing citizens. It became a majority opinion in 2009, when it reached 55.1%. Ideologically, most of the people who do think there are current threats defined themselves as right-wing.

By age, the perception of current threats is more spread among people under 40 years of age.²⁰⁹



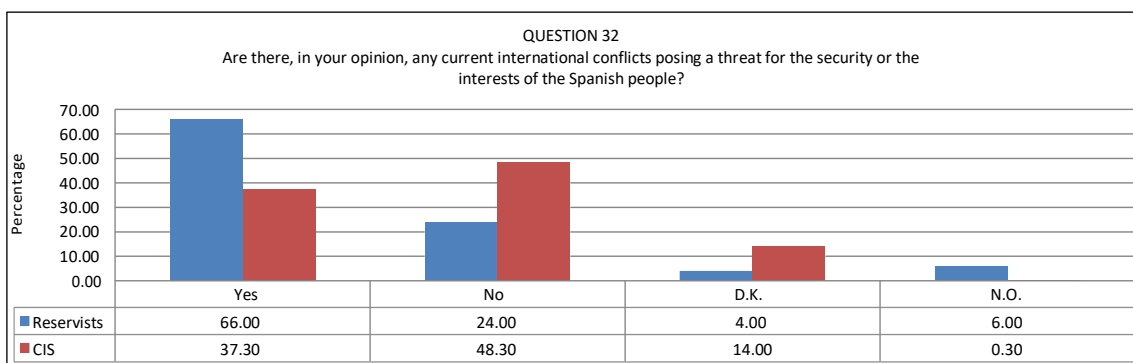
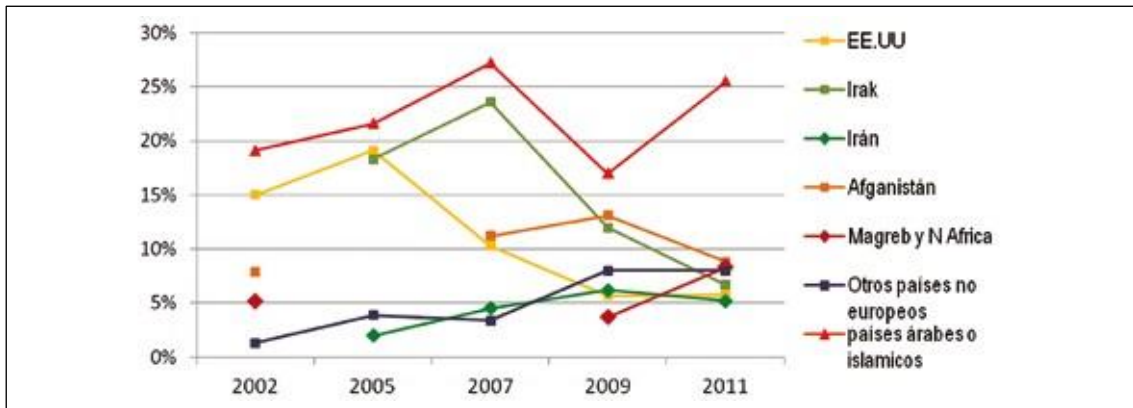
Morocco is seen as the main threat in both surveys, and especially among the reservists (72.5%).

Since 2002, the most important threat is considered to be posed by Arab or Islamic countries. The countries with an upward trend are the Maghreb and the countries in Northern Africa, other non-European countries and Iran. In 2011, one out of four respondents considered that Arab or Islamic countries posed a military threat, whereas the rest of the countries reach 5% to 10%.²¹⁰

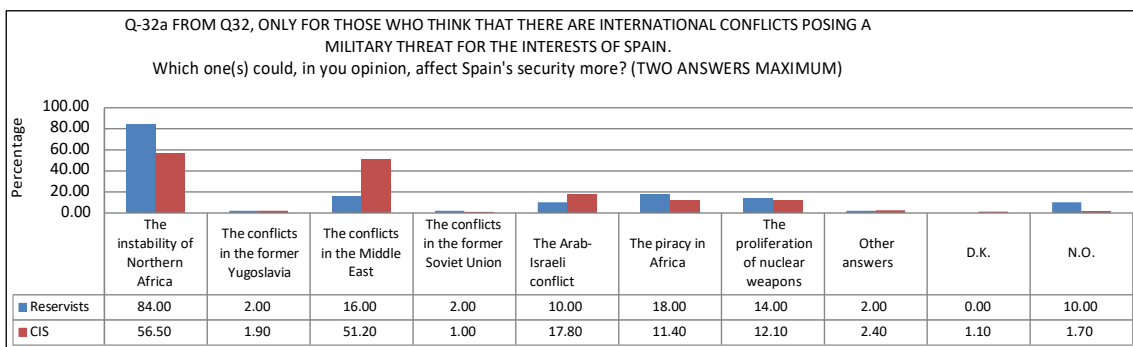
²⁰⁹ Ibid., p.91-92.

²¹⁰ Ibid., p.93.

The chart shows what countries have been considered as a threat for Spain over the past ten years.



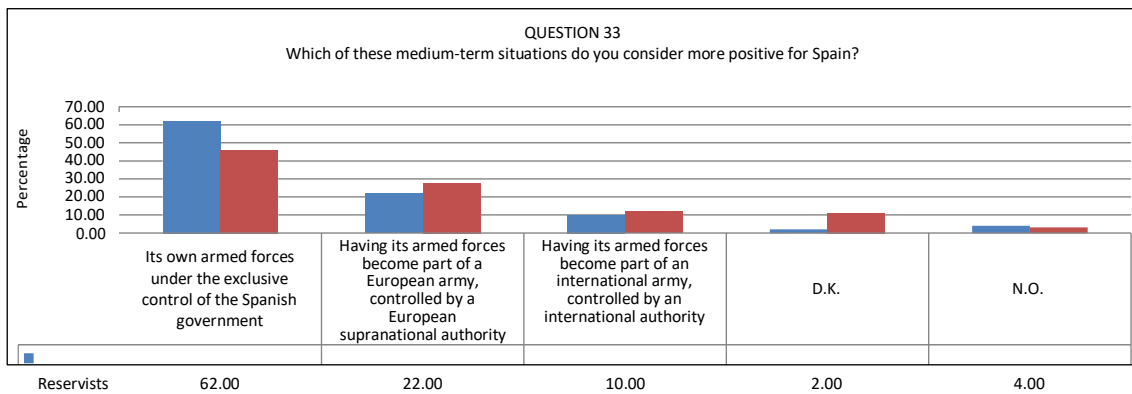
The percentage of reservists who think there are threats doubles that of the general population, almost half of which believe that there are no international conflicts posing a current military threat for Spain. No significant differences were found between women's and men's answers to the question "Are there any conflicts affecting Spain?" despite the fact that the percentage of women who are not informed about this matter doubles that of men. Those who define themselves as left-wing are those less inclined to think that Spain is militarily threatened in any way.²¹¹



211 Ibid., p.94-95

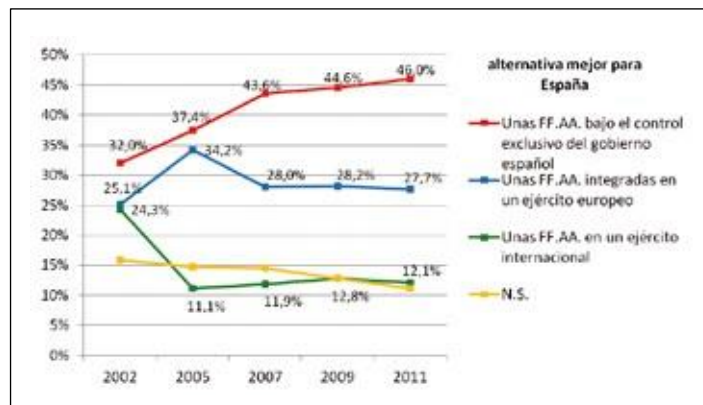
The instability of Northern Africa is what worries Spaniards, particularly reservists, more.

The fact that the Spanish troops took part in international missions in the Middle East and Central Asia had an influence on the answers for this question from 2002 on. The conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, which were important at the beginning of this century, have been solved, in the Spaniards' opinion. However, in 2011, the percentage of people who saw Northern Africa as a potential international conflict area increased, and the percentage of people who chose the conflicts in the Middle East and Central Asia fell.²¹²



Most respondents in both surveys see the current situation of Spain having its own armed forces under the exclusive control of the Spanish army as the best possible scenario. And there is an upward trend.

The other two options: its armed forces joining a European army or its armed forces joining an international army –28% and 12% respectively– have not had any significant changes over the last five years.



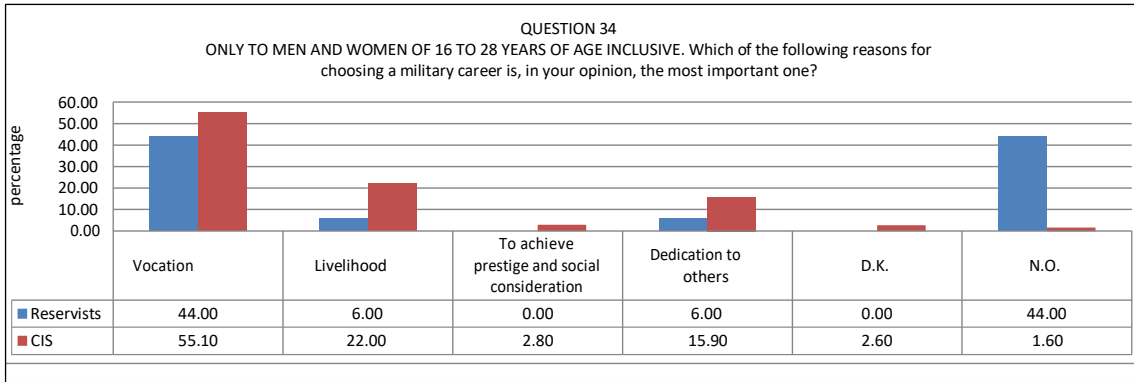
By political ideology, the answer chosen by most people (that of the armed forces controlled exclusively by the Spanish government) is also the answer chosen by most right-wing respondents. Whereas one out of three of the participants who defined themselves as left-wing would prefer the armed forces to become part of a European army controlled by a European supranational authority.²¹³

²¹² Ibid., p.96.
²¹³ Ibid., p.99-100.

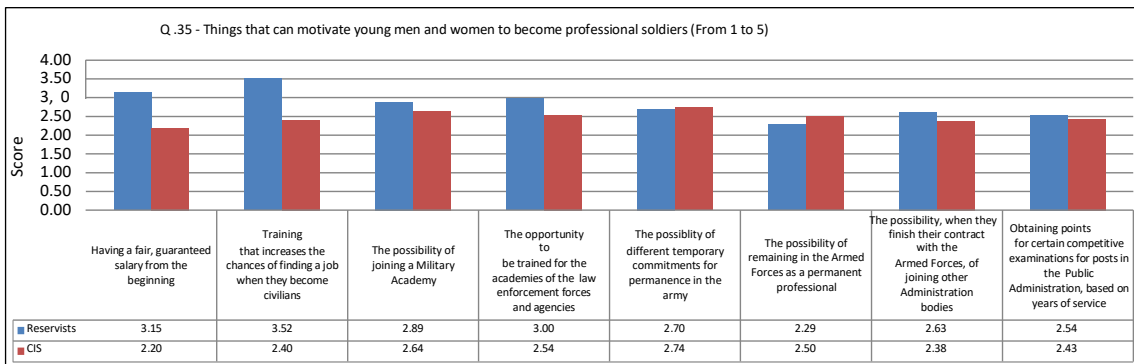
The heading for questions 34 to 39 is as follows:

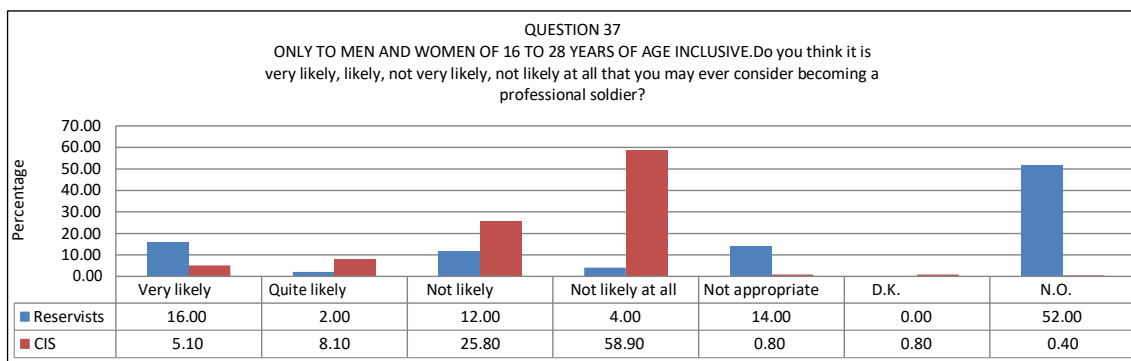
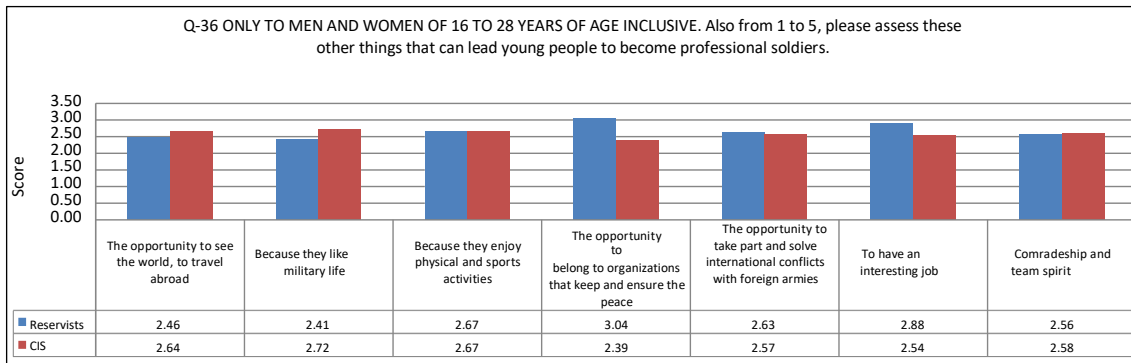
INTERVIEWER: MAKE QUESTIONS 34 TO 39 ONLY TO MEN AND WOMEN OF 16 TO 28 YEARS OF AGE INCLUSIVE. CONFIRM THAT THE INTERVIEWEE IS IN THAT AGE BRACKET. IF OVER 29, GO TO Q. 42.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In questions 34 to 39, the details of the reservists are provided only as a mere illustration of their way of thinking, with no statistical validity whatsoever. Most reservists are not in that age bracket. Nevertheless, they were asked these questions in case their answers, as against those of the general population, could have any interest for our study. Given their statistical non-validity, they are offered but not analysed in depth. Those cases where the high number of D.K. (don't answer) would not have made possible any comparisons are not shown here (they are included in Annex D).

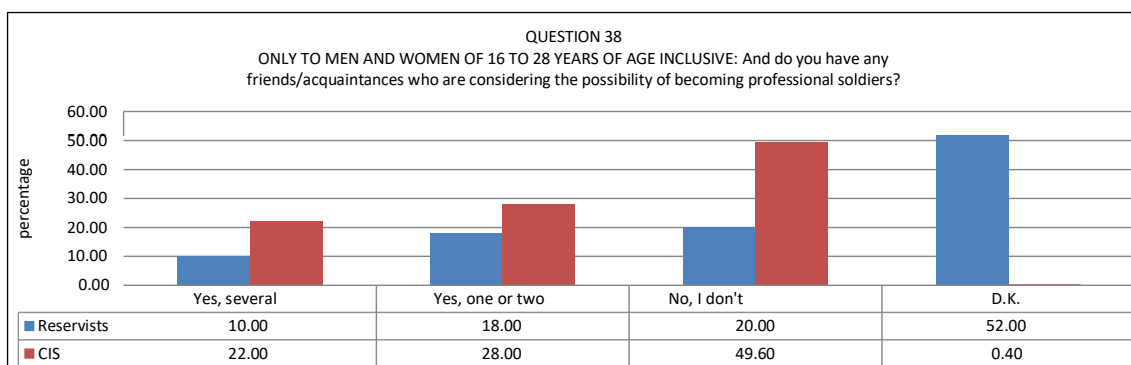
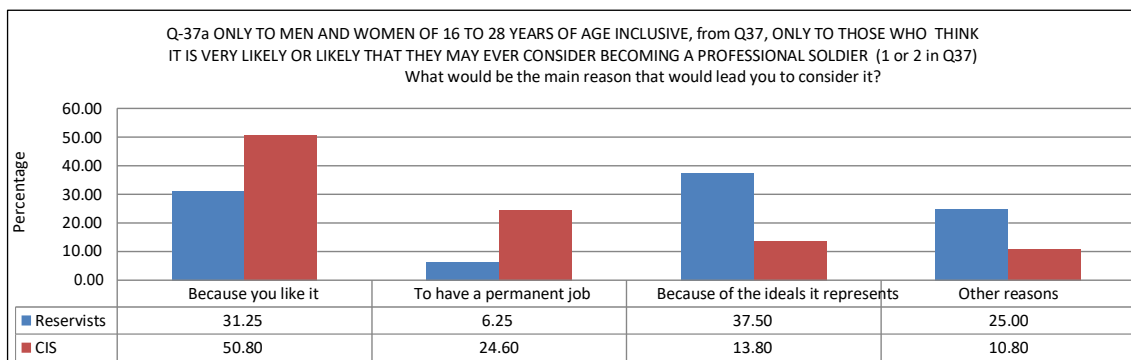


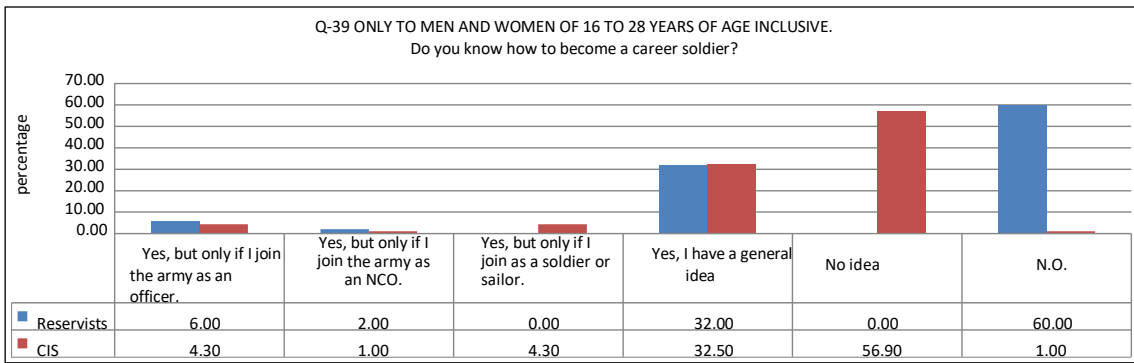
The high number of D.K. makes it impossible to compare both surveys. Among those who do answer, the majority response, as in the case of the MUCIS participants, is that it must be vocational.





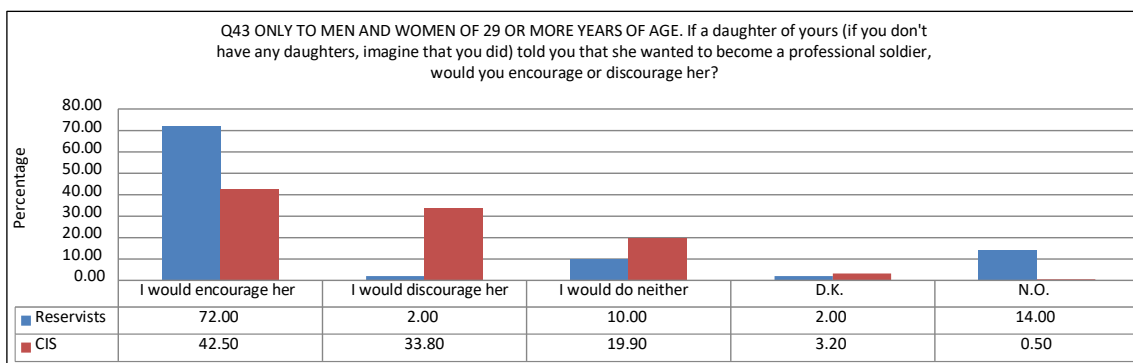
Age is a determining factor to be able to become a professional soldier. Therefore, this question is not made, as it would have no validity.





It should be highlighted that all the reservists (except for those who chose N.O.) answered YES. And none of them answered “No idea”.

They are excellent links for society, as sources of information about recruitment and other activities related to the Armed Forces, as we have mentioned in other sections of this study.

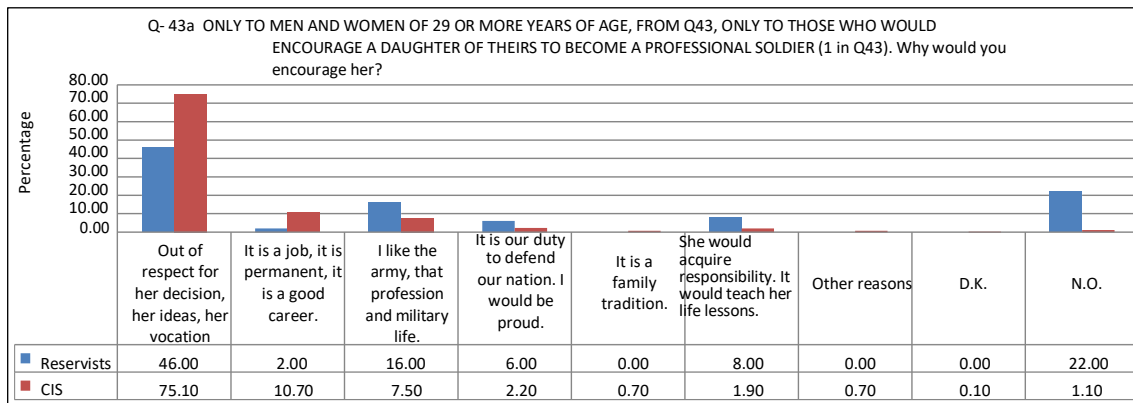


The integration of Spanish women into the Armed Forces is a fact and not much difference is made between sons and daughters who choose to become soldiers.

We can see that most people would encourage their sons/daughters to become professional soldiers, and the percentage is even bigger (30% more) among the reservists.

Among the people who would discourage their sons/daughters from becoming professional soldiers, it is usually due to “anti-military” convictions (39% in the case of sons and 34% in the case of daughters). 34% would discourage their children –sons or daughters– because of the risks this career entails.²¹⁴

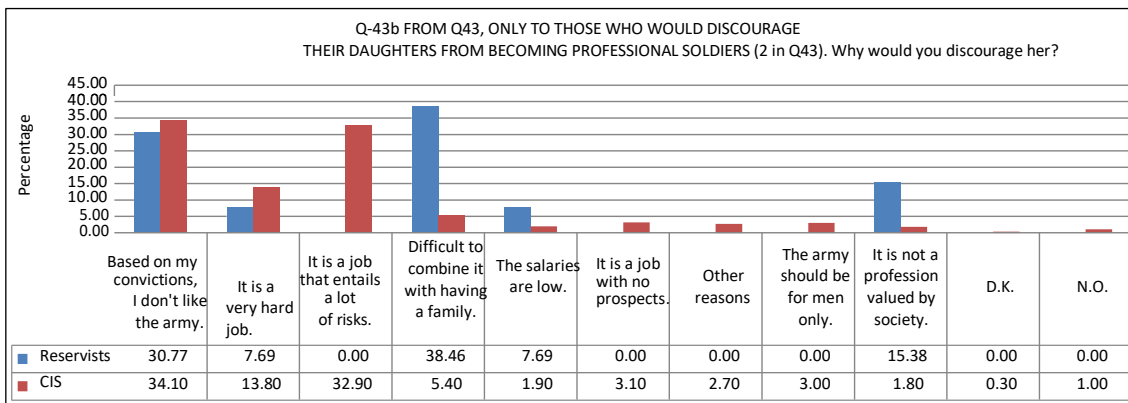
²¹⁴ Ibid., p.18-19.



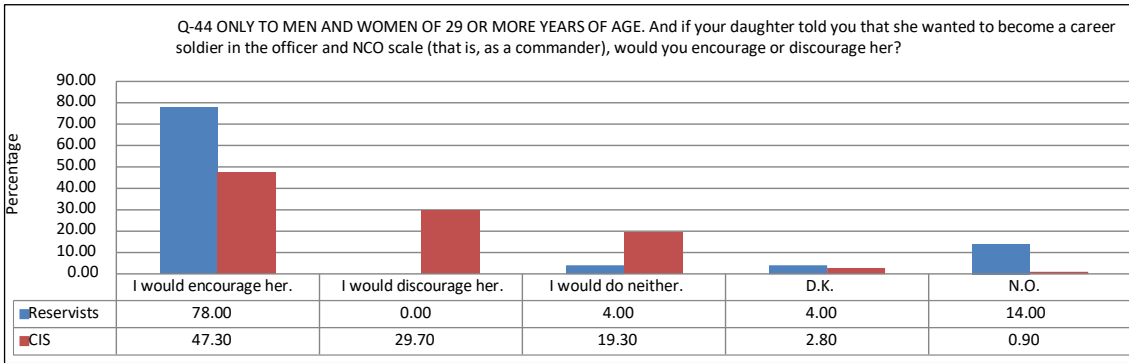
Most reservists chose the “I like the army”, “must defend our nation” and “would become more responsible” answers.

In general, around 47% would encourage their sons to become professional soldiers and 43% would encourage their daughters.

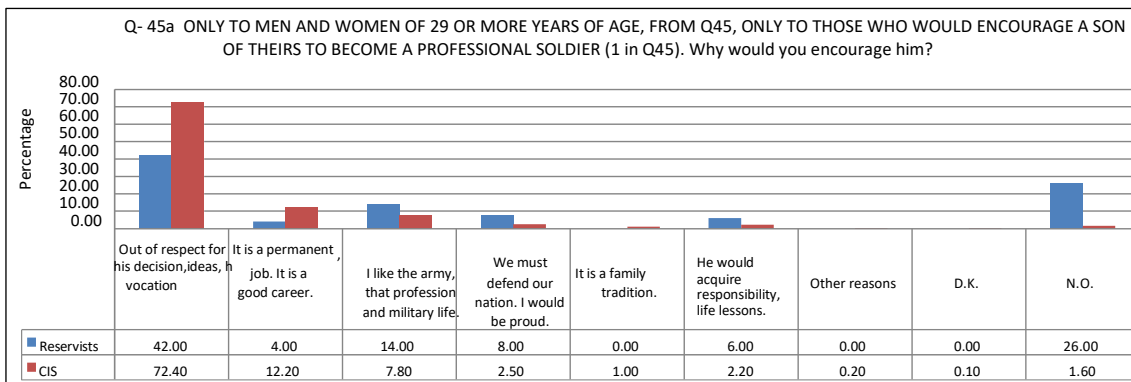
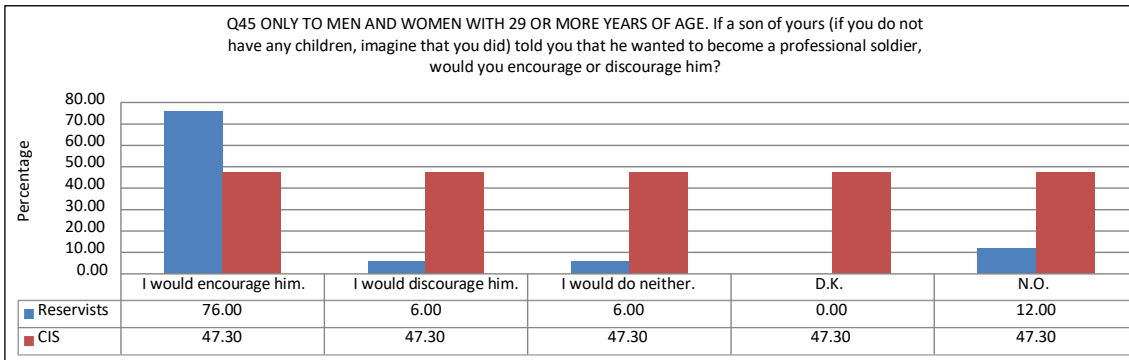
In both the case of daughters and sons, 70% chose as the reason to encourage them: “out of respect for their decision”. The next most chosen reason (11%) was “because it is a permanent job”.²¹⁵

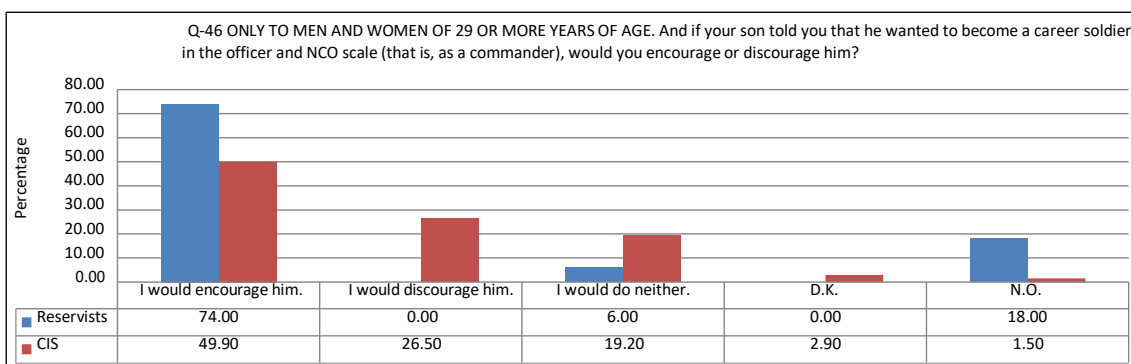
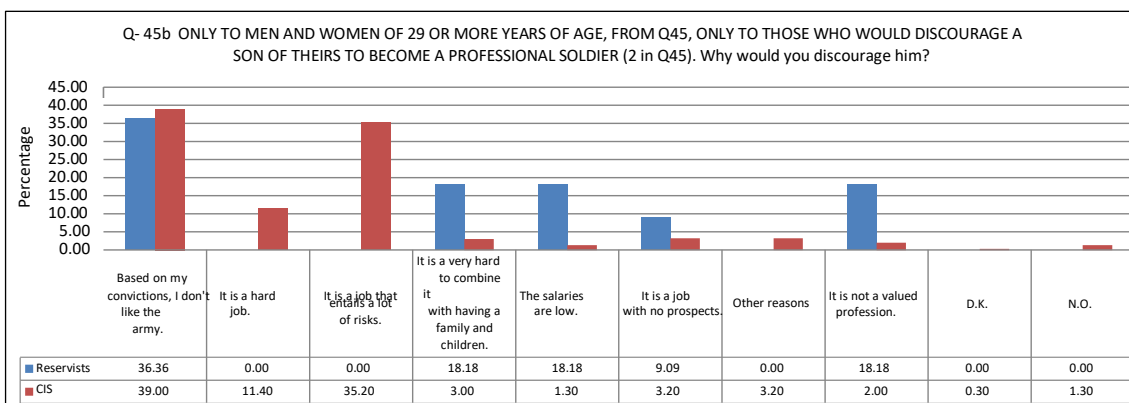


²¹⁵ Ibid., p.117.



There are 6% more people who would encourage their daughters to become career soldiers than in question 43 (becoming professional soldiers), both among reservists and among the population in general.

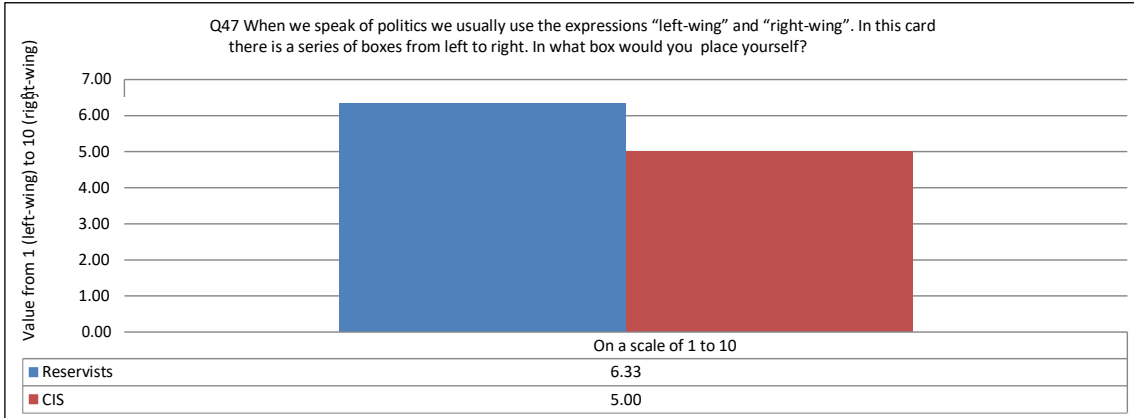




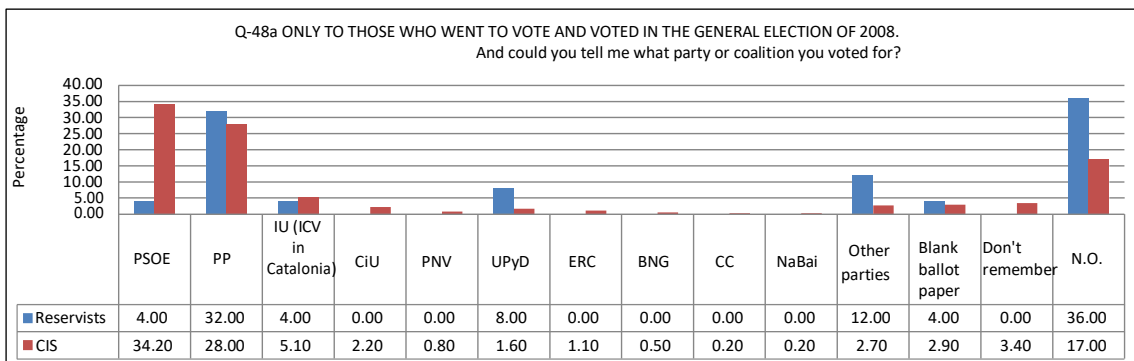
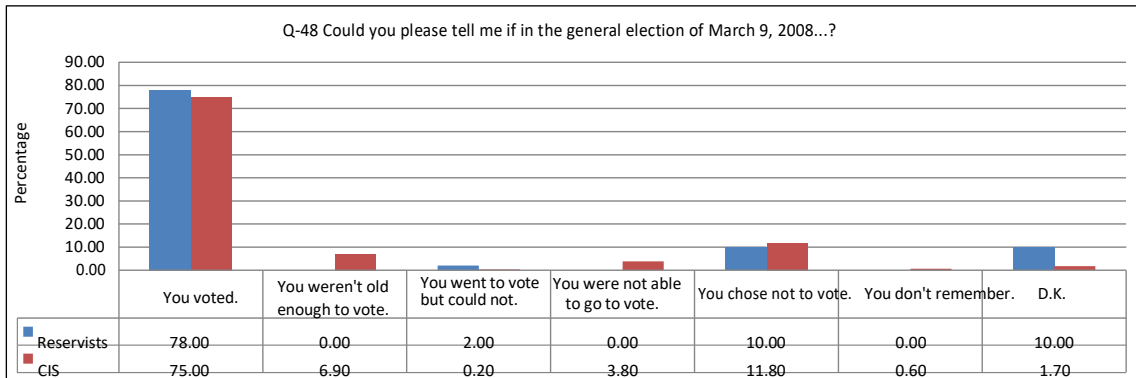
As explained above, from question 47 on there are no detailed analyses, but we can highlight as general aspects that the reservists sample is a bit more right-wing, politically speaking (6.33 on a scale of 1 to 10) than the CIS one (5 on a scale of 1 to 10); by sex, it is completely unbalanced (98% of men, q49), as against the CIS survey; the age average is higher, especially in the 45 to 54 bracket (q50); there are a lot more graduates (q53a); less catholics (68% as against 75%) (q54) but more practicing Catholics (21%, q54a)²¹⁶; with less unemployed people (6% as against 17.5%, q56); with more workers for the public administration than for the private sector (q58a); and with a greater income (q60)²¹⁷.

216 Nevertheless, there is a greater percentage of "N.O." ("no opinion") answers that might need the religion-related piece of data to be qualified.

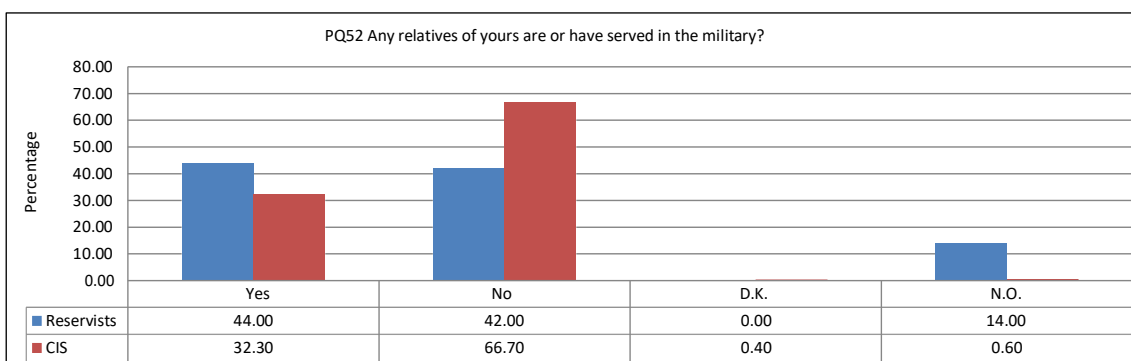
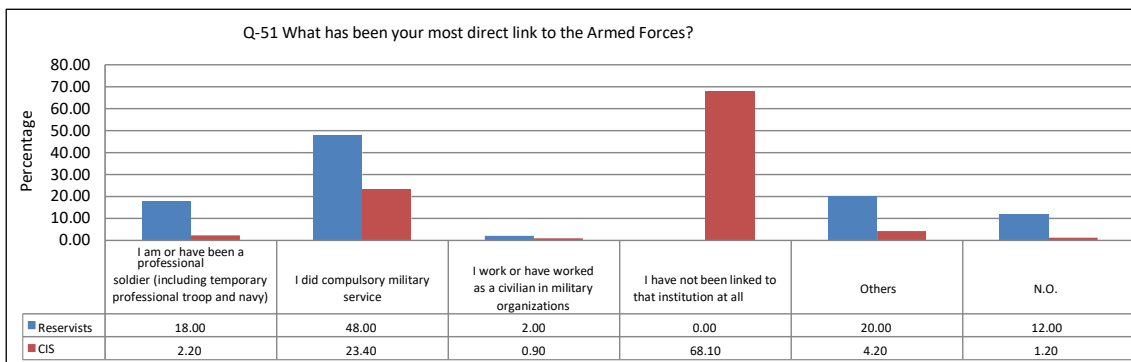
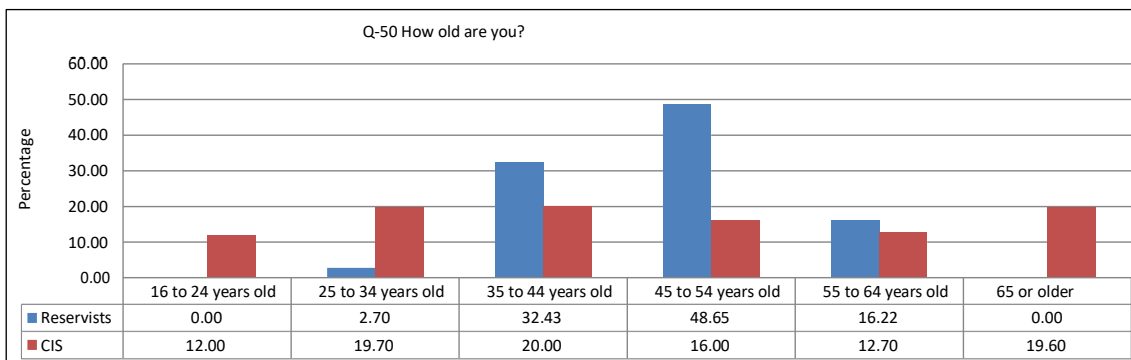
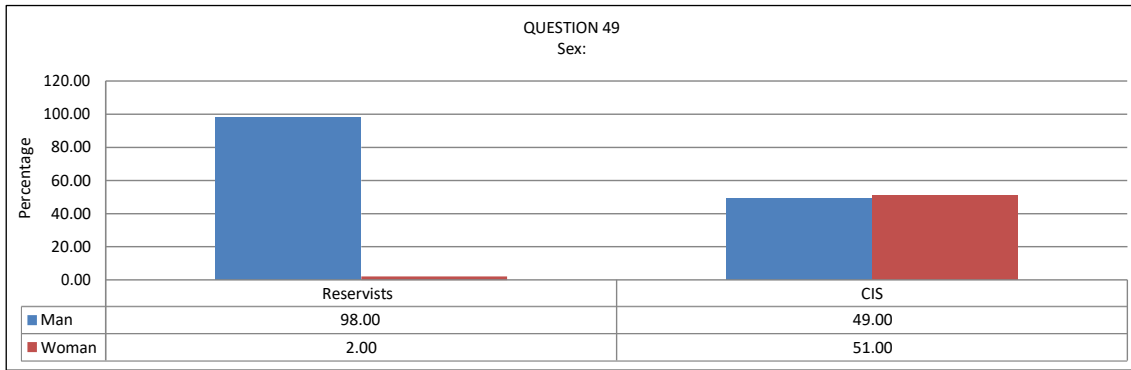
217 Especially in the 3,001 to 4,500€ bracket (q60).

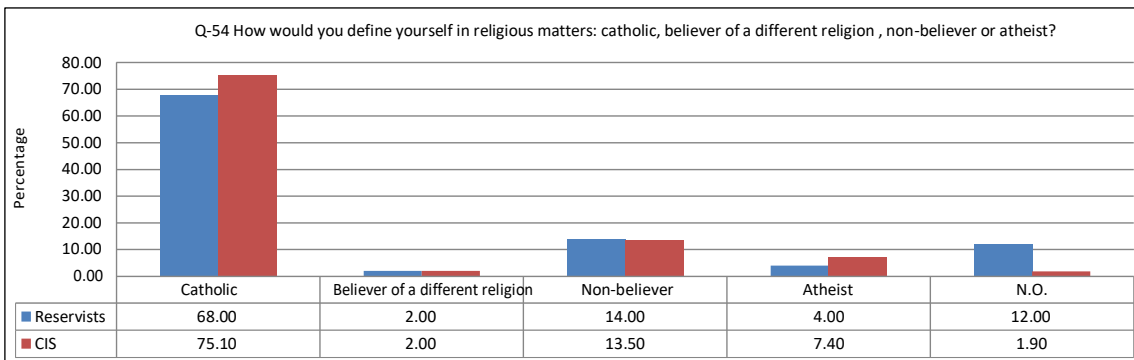
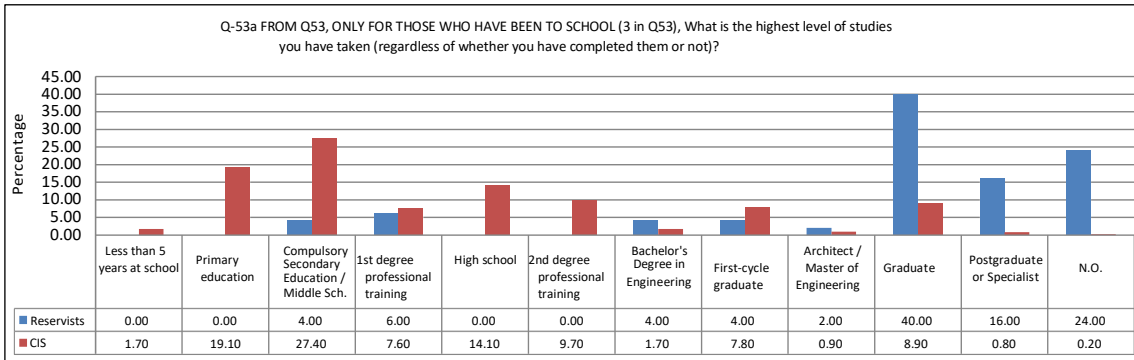
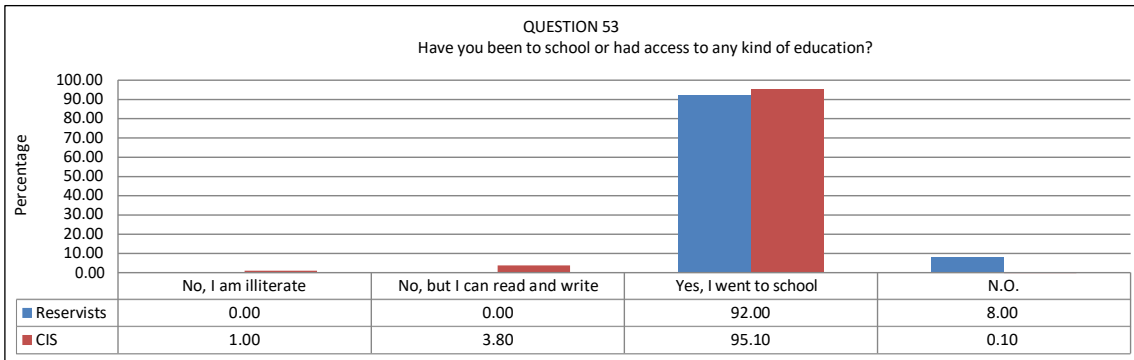
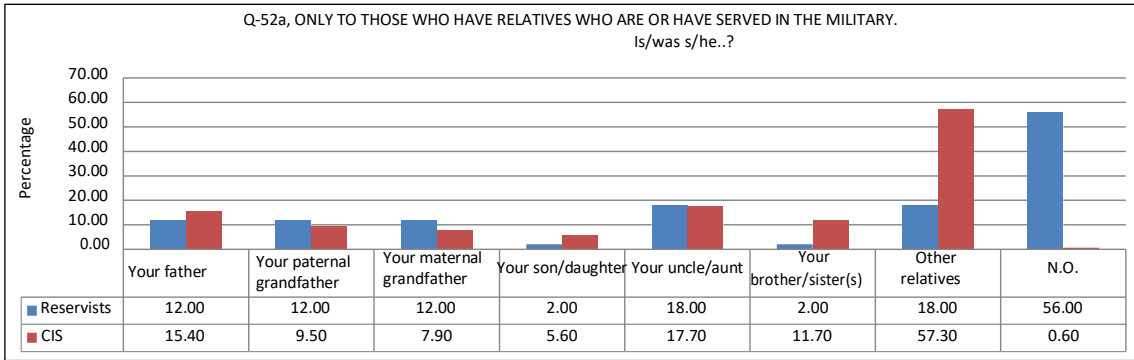


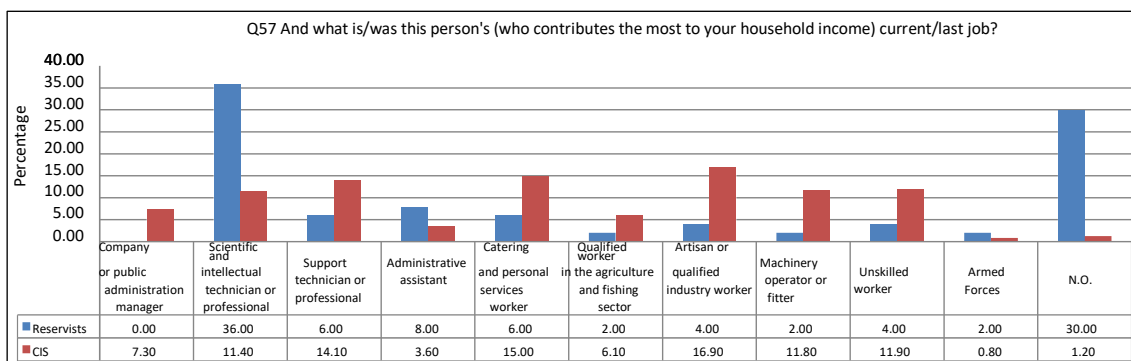
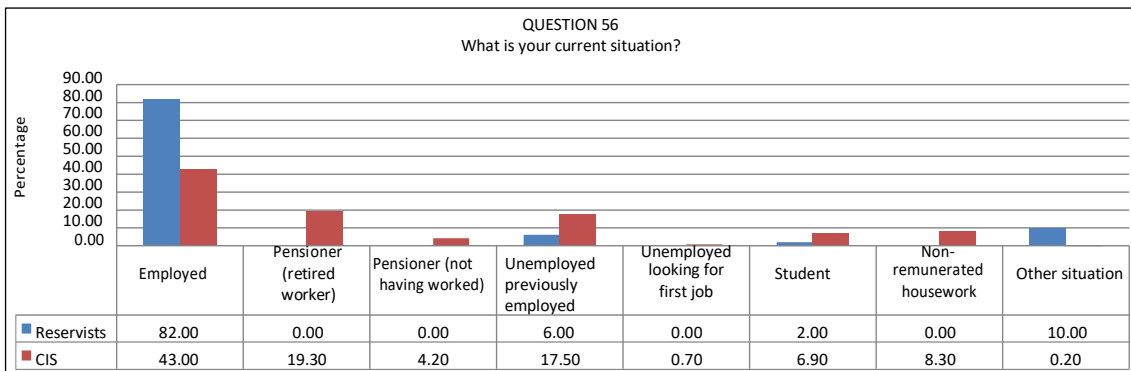
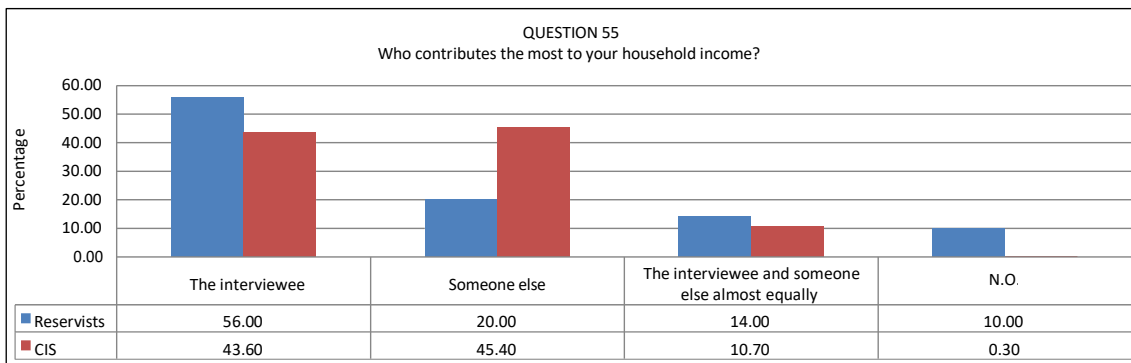
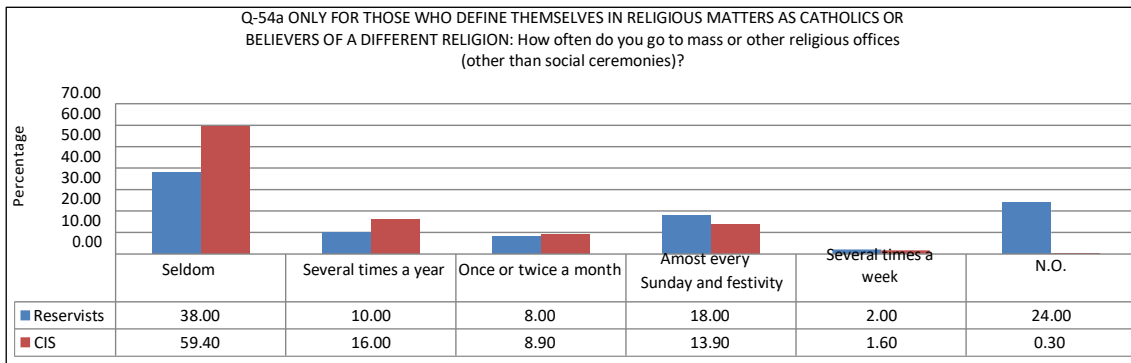
The reservists are 1.33 points more to the right than the MUCIS respondents, whose average is 5. I would, once again, like to highlight their patriotism and defense of democracy, as evidenced throughout this study.

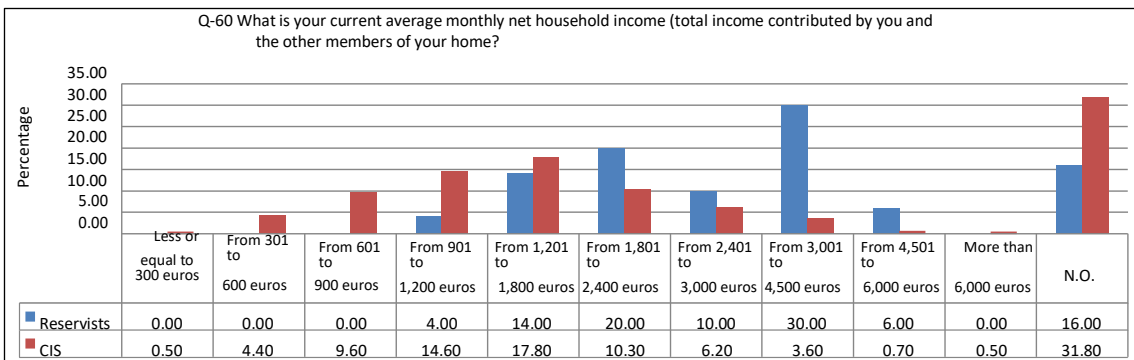
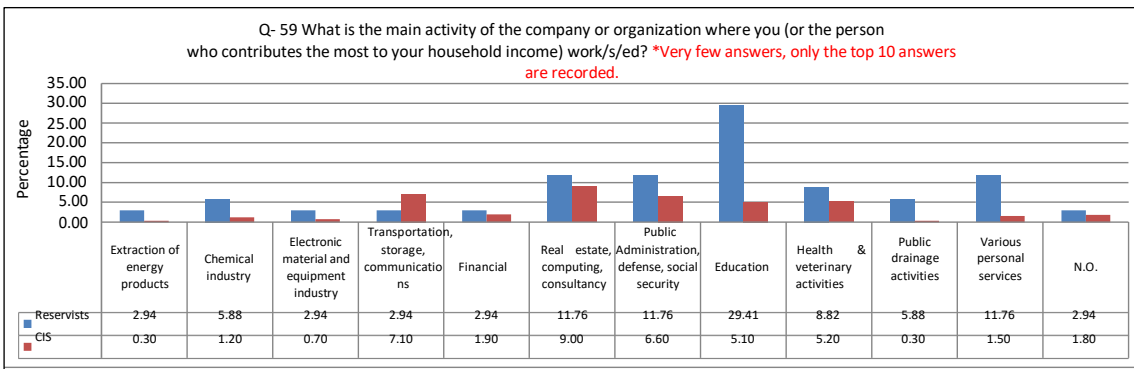
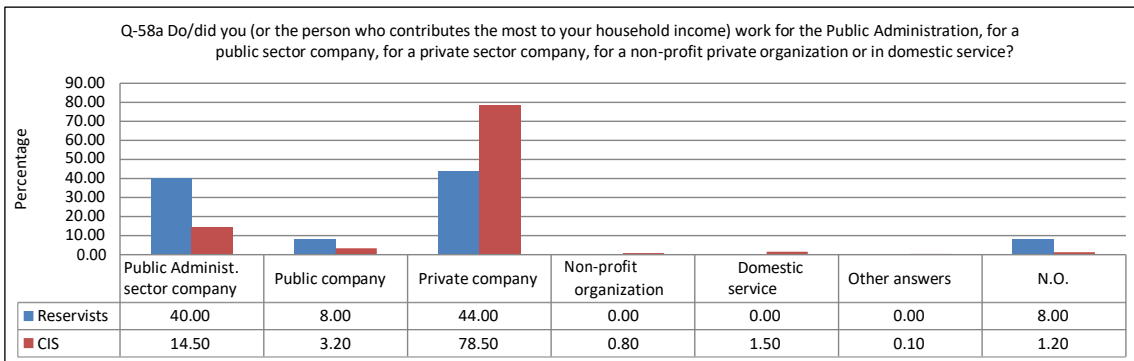
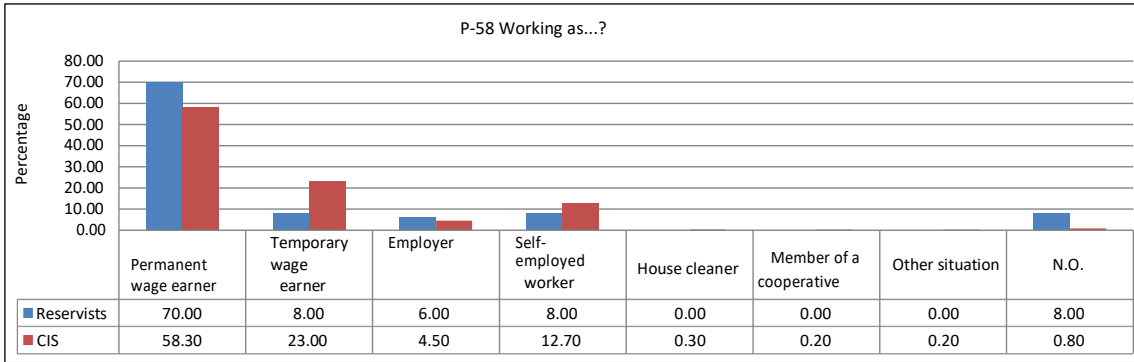


This information is not significant due to the large number of D.K. and other factors such as the years that have gone by since that election (2008).









6.2. Personal interviews to volunteer reservists

The purpose of this piece of work is to compare the Spanish Volunteer Reservists with the Spanish society at large: their opinion regarding matters affecting Spain, their motivation to enlist and serve Spain as part of the Army, or to request to be sent abroad in peace missions, etc. The research carried out includes quantitative and qualitative ethnographic techniques for data management. It is a mistake to think that ethnography is only “qualitative”, as stated by Dr. Rada²¹⁸, Professor of Ethnography at the UNED:

“Ethnography is generally included in the qualitative studies tradition, particularly by specialists outside the sphere of Social and Cultural Anthropology. This is a mistake. Ethnographic research can be carried out using both qualitative and quantitative techniques to code and analyze the data.”

The interviews included in this piece of work are limited in number and extension, for several reasons: I already carried out a study of this same topic in 2008 called “De la leva a la Reserva Voluntaria: el honor del guerrero” (From the Levy to the Volunteer Military Reserve Force: the Warrior's Honor)²¹⁹ and, most importantly, I have been observing and giving speeches²²⁰ about this group for several years, as well as writing articles for different magazines and media, reports on the activities carried out by the volunteer reservists, summaries of courses in different European countries with reservists from the five continents, etc. Everything that has been published²²¹ has been focused on promoting the aforementioned Defense Culture.

In fact, these interviews might not be strictly necessary to achieve a better understanding of the Spanish Volunteer Reservists. But, for a study to have a scientific character it is necessary to check the facts somehow, in order to confirm or refute the hypotheses. Thus, for the interviews, I chose Reservists with different profiles but common general characteristics: one from the Navy, one from the Air Force, one from the Army and one from the Common Corps (Health). Four were considered to be enough, given the scope of this study. The comparative study, these interviews and the observation of the group²²² –performed out of personal curiosity and for its anthropological interest for this piece of work– have confirmed the initial premises to a large extent.

218 DÍAZ de RADA, A. *Etnografía y técnicas de investigación antropológica*. Guía didáctica. UNED, Madrid, 2006, p.29

219 Viable ethnographic research project, required to pass the “Ethnography and Anthropological Research Techniques” subject on the 4th year of the Social and Cultural Anthropology Degree at the National Distance Education University (UNED)

220 Author’s blog on Reservism <http://cimero.wordpress.com/2007/02/>, accessed on April 28, 2013

221 Most of it posted from 2006 in the aforementioned author's blog.

222 Of which the author is a member since 2005.

The personal interviews took place after the comparative study of the CIS and Volunteer Reservists samples. The charts resulting therefrom were shown to the interviewees at the end of the interviews so that they did not have an influence on their answers. The conversations revolved around the Volunteer Military Reserve Force, but also around the nation, patriotism and democracy. The goal was to gain a better understanding of the way this group sees the War and the values of the Spanish Volunteer Military Reserve Force.

- **Manuel Revuelta Bayod** was chosen for the interviews because of his wide experience as a reservist in the Air Force²²³, although he is currently linked to the Navy. He was also the first Reservist in Asturias to be published in the BOE (official Gazette).

His first posting in the VRF was as sergeant of the Air Force in the Torrejón Air Base. After 3 years, he had to leave for family and professional reasons. He applied again in 2009 and was appointed sergeant in the 3rd Flight, which he believes to be the best unit of the Spanish Navy. This interview was considered appropriate not only because of his former experience in the AF, but also because he was the first volunteer reservist in Asturias and was not linked to the Reserve Force for more than a year in between postings. Given his undeniable vocation, he returned to the VRF as soon as the circumstances would let him.

When he was younger, he applied to join the Military Academy to become an Officer; but, after three attempts, he decided to study Chemistry in Oviedo. Several members of his family were in the military. His paternal grandfather's premature death put an end to what surely would have been a brilliant military career. The Bayods have been pharmacists in Zaragoza, but his grandfather always wanted to be a military man²²⁴. It so happens that the grandfather of a well-known volunteer reservist from Madrid was handed over command of the Regiment by one of his ancestors. Later, both of them had relatives discharged from the army on the same personnel record in 1932, because they refused to swear loyalty to the 2nd Republic on the grounds that they had already sworn loyalty to the King. They met when they were both volunteer reservists.

It was in 2003 that a friend told him of the creation of the Volunteer Reserve Force, which was about to be published in the BOE (official Gazette). He became very excited and studied the official announcement in depth, and he remembers how at the Local Office of León they refused to process his application that Friday. So, on Monday, at 9:00 a.m. he was already back at the Office explaining to the government employee who was there (and was not very well informed of this matter) how to process his documentation.

He showed his concern regarding the current situation of unawareness of the population of the need for defense, and he emphasized that such awareness cannot exist if people don't feel they

223 Interview with Sergeant Revuelta and other reservists accessible at <http://img412.imageshack.us/img412/1562/lvaactodelegacionty1.jpg>, published by the extinct *La Voz* newspaper of Asturias on February 11, 2007

224 In those days the system was rather different. His grandfather, Tomás Bayod, served in the Cavalry Arm, Complement Division, achieving the rank of captain during the Civil War.

belong to something they can lose. He criticizes the authorities' lack of attention to these matters, citing, as an example the poor institutional representation at corporal Noval's tribute paid each year next to the Parliament of the Principality of Asturias and at the ceremonies organized as a tribute to corporal Noval at the barracks. Are our troops seen off when they go abroad? Are they received by the politicians that sent them when they return?

He is quite optimistic as regards the 8% of Reservists who answered "probably yes" when asked if they would defend the territory in the event of an invasion. He remembers the case of an acquaintance of his that joined the General Air Force Academy with the sole purpose of becoming a pilot and being hired in the private sector as soon as possible. He was really surprised when he read in the official Gazette that this person decided to stay in the Army and accessed the General Staff course.

On the other hand, he deplores some people's "government employee" attitude while serving in the Army, when much more is expected of the military; as well as the fact that some members of the Armed Forces tend to hide their military condition when they are among civilians. We both agreed that the private joke of calling the Army "the company" should really be avoided. It is something we both try to instill in the military professionals we have the chance to work with: that the Army is not a company. It does, however, undertake "important enterprises", such as those stated in Article 8.1 of the Spanish Constitution:

"The mission of the Armed Forces, comprising the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, is to guarantee Spain's sovereignty and independence, to defend its territorial integrity and its constitution."

His opinions regarding this study match most of the answers given by the Volunteer Reservists, commented here.

- **Andrés Llavona Fernández**²²⁵: Born 53 years ago in Oviedo. PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology by the University of Oviedo, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master's Degree in Management of Geriatric Centers. He is married and has one daughter.

Llavona has worked at Meres International School, Real Oviedo SAD and Oviedo Medicina Deportiva S.L. He is currently the leader of the opposition, with 7 city councilors, as a member of FAC (Foro Asturias Ciudadanos) at the Oviedo City Council; his personal ethics having made him relinquish his salary there, as he is combining this task with his job as a university professor.²²⁶ This reminds us that several of our colleagues are in politics, some of them even as members of the National Parliament; the best known of which –although he is no longer a reservist– is probably the current President of Extremadura, José Antonio Monago.²²⁷

225 Article where Llavona and other reservists, including myself, explain our reasons for becoming volunteer reservists: <http://cimero.antoniocestas.com/lavozdiplomas08.pdf> published in *La Voz the Asturias* on February 16, 2008

226 <http://www.lne.es/oviedo/2011/10/06/andres-llavona-concejal-foro-renuncia-sueldo/1138999.html> accessed on April 24, 2013

227 <http://observatorio.cisde.es/?p=3702> accessed on April 24, 2013

He became a volunteer reservist as a result of a set of personal circumstances. He had been granted a deferment from the compulsory military service but had to relinquish it in order to be able to get a job at Caja de Ahorros de Asturias (Asturias Savings Bank) which required having completed it.

After the visit of two Activation Groups during his first days of service in Córdoba –the Legion and the COE (Special Operations Companies) – he decided to join the latter and was third in the tests. At that time he practiced sports regularly, especially judo and mountain climbing. His family was shocked and sad to see him go to COE n. 22 for 16 months. But it was an amazing experience for him. It was there that he was taught what he considers one of the most valuable life lessons. Upon arrival at the barracks, he, like everyone else, was asked to reflect on the COE's motto: "The difficult takes time, the impossible just takes a little longer." and then explain their conclusions. This thought, as he has publicly declared²²⁸, has remained in his mind since then and it has helped him better himself in numerous occasions. By the way, he did not get the job at the Savings Bank in the end because they would not hold it for him for more than a year. But it is not something that has bothered him too much. He had the chance to become a professional military man, but he decided not to.

He is one of the reservists who have been activated more times –in general, the sanitary area is one of the fields with a greater lack of personnel. And he is a member of the committee that is preparing the 2014 Defense Nursing Conference, having been a speaker in previous years.²²⁹ This, he says, keeps him active and motivated, as it enables him to combine civilian and military nursing. Nevertheless, he really feels at his best when activated, probably because it reminds him of his time at the COE.

He firmly believes that the Military Reserve Force has not developed its potential to the full. He recommends his Nursing students to take advantage of the job opportunities offered by the Army. "Serving one's country does not mean becoming attached to any political ideologies", he says.

He shares the opinion that the fact that the members of the Armed Forces do not wear their uniforms when they are not on military duties somehow renders them "invisible" to the population in general; in contrast to years ago, when you could be arrested if you were seen, in your free time, not wearing a uniform in the street. We also talked about the prestige of international missions and the hasty withdrawal from Iraq, when "we had to pay a high price for not being true to our word".

His opinions regarding this study also match most of the answers given by the Volunteer Reservists, commented in this piece of work.

This interview took place in Oviedo on March 25, 2013.

228 <http://cimero.wordpress.com/2008/10/29/devuelvo-el-beso-que-entonces-recibi/>, accessed on April 24, 2013

229 <http://www.enfermeriadesfensa2012.es/ponencias.php> accessed on April 24, 2013

- **María Isabel Pérez García**, born in Pola de Laviana in 1962. She holds a degree in Law from the University of Oviedo. She works for the San Martín del Rey Aurelio Town Council, in Sotrondio, in the coal-mining area of Asturias, where she lives. She is married and has two daughters. She was town councilor in 2007 and Regional Deputy in 2011. In 2012 she took back her social services job. She has been linked to the areas of Culture, Education, Sports and Youth. She is also a member of the Management Board of the Partido Popular political party in Asturias. Ms Pérez is very proud to be a volunteer reservist in an area such as the coalfields of Asturias.²³⁰

She does not have and has not had any relatives in the Armed Forces, and she believes that she has inherited a liking for “the military” from her grandfather, who, after fighting on both sides during the Spanish Civil War, always spoke very well of soldiers. She considered the possibility of joining the Army and making it her profession, but, when she was young, women did not have it very easy to access certain careers –in contrast, Spain is now the second country of Europe with more women in the Army²³¹, and until not long ago it was the first²³²–, so she decided to study Law.

As a member of the Volunteer Reserve Force, she has been a sergeant in the Army since 2007, assigned to the works command in La Coruña in Labor Risk Prevention. She has a Master's Degree in Environmental Management and she has done a superior course in Labor Risk Prevention in its three specialties. She has also done some courses at the UME (Emergency Military Unit), where she was activated for several months.

She was recently called for a 4-month activation, which was published in the BOD, to serve again at the UME, but some bureaucratic issues made it impossible. She understands, but she was quite upset as she was really looking forward to it. Nevertheless, there is a chance that she may be called to activation again very soon.

She told me that being a woman had not been a problem during her activations or in any other situations related to the Volunteer Reserve Force. As already mentioned, there is 12.1% of women in the Armed Forces and 18.5%²³³ in the Reserve Force, which proves that women are fully integrated in this sector. Although she, obviously, did not do military service, she swore allegiance to the flag when she was 36 years old on a visit of the training vessel of the Spanish Navy “Juan Sebastián de Elcano” to Gijón, and she was very excited to be able to do so. She could feel this excitement again when she repeated this oath two years later in an act organized by the Air Forces in Langreo²³⁴ and, especially, when she finally did it as a Volunteer Reservist.

²³⁰ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqYpGIJDgNc> She talks about this in this video of presentation of the list of candidates, in minute 3.13.

²³¹ <http://www.farodevigo.es/portada-pontevedra/2013/03/31/ejercito-espanol-segundo-europamujeres/782785.html> accessed on May 01, 2013

²³² http://elpais.com/elpais/2006/02/26/actualidad/1140945422_850215.html accessed on May 01, 2013

²³³ See table on page 12 with details on the Volunteer Reservists.

²³⁴ <http://cimero.wordpress.com/2006/05/22/jura-de-bandera-civil-en-la-felguera-cuencas-mineras> accessed on May 01, 2013

In her opinion, if the conditions in the Spanish Reserve Force were similar to, say, the Italian Reserve Force (the Selected Reserve Force) "people would kill to get in". She thinks that the population in general does not have enough information about the Armed Forces and that the fact that those men and women "sacrifice their lives" in times of crisis or war is not valued as it should be.

She also believes that volunteer reservists should be better trained. Also, that the professional military do appreciate our willingness and our personal and professional sacrifice. However, she is not happy with the political decision of turning volunteer reservists into "government employees". Most government employees that join the Volunteer Reserve Force feel that they are still working as government employees, but, this time, in the Armed Forces.

She also thinks that the values of most volunteer reservists are instilled in them by their families (as it ought to be).

She wanted to end our interview acknowledging the work of the Basque and Catalan Volunteer Reservists, who particularly feel the lack of support.

Her opinions match most of the answers given by the Volunteer Reservists in this study.

This interview took place on April 16, 2013 in Oviedo.

- **Francisco Díaz de Otazu Güerri**, Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps (VR) ,47 years old, born in Boltaña, Huesca. He holds a degree in Theology and is currently a History teacher at La Corredoria High School (Oviedo). He is single. He has trained applicants for the Volunteer Reserve Force at the Naval Academy. He has been assigned to the Naval Museum in Ferrol, collaborating in the cultural area, and is currently working as a teacher in the Military Naval Academy of Marín (Pontevedra).

He was one of the first volunteer reservists in Asturias. In fact, Second Lieutenant Revuelta, the first reservist from Asturias to appear in the official Gazette, met him at the Defense Office when he submitted his application²³⁵ –Second Lieutenant Otazu's enlistment, however, was published a bit later. Otazu has done a great job collaborating with the VR and the Ministry of Defense in guidance tasks.²³⁶

He did military service voluntarily and kept his bonds to the Army until he arrived at the Reserve Force for cultural and historical reasons. He has published several cultural and pedagogical articles, some of them, related to Military History²³⁷ and the Volunteer Reserve Force²³⁸ are cited below.

235 I personally had the luck to meet him a year later in those same circumstances and his guidance was very helpful.

236 <http://cimero.antoniocestas.com/otazuvirtual.pdf> accessed on May 02, 2013

237 An example: <http://cimero.antoniocestas.com/reservistas/otazuvirginus.pdf> accessed on May 02, 2013

238 F. DÍAZ DE OTAZU: «Margarita se llama mi amor. Oficiales y suboficiales eventuales en las Fuerzas Armadas», Arbil Digital Magazine, Zaragoza, 2007, number 94, at <http://cimero.antoniocestas.com/margaritasellamiamor.pdf> accessed on May 02, 2013

His contribution to spreading the Defense Culture is very important, particularly in a country such as Spain, where it is not as common as in other countries. He is the author of the lyrics for the Official Volunteer Reservists Anthem.²³⁹ He became a reservist because a friend of his, an NCO, informed him and two other friends of the creation of the Volunteer Reserve Force. The three of them became members.

In his opinion, women are fully integrated in the VRF. However, he thinks there is some positive discrimination in cases of tie –where the woman is chosen. He agrees with other reservists that the reason for the Army being the most valued institution and yet the least valued profession in Spain is, among other factors, the “invisibility” of the military. He also agrees that military uniforms should be used outside the barracks, as in other neighboring countries.

He is concerned about the lack of patriotism, which, in his opinion, should not only be present in football matches or consigned, like other traditions, to the Army. In other countries, like the USA, people in general –not only the Armed Forces– celebrate historical episodes such as their independence wars (the Boston marathon is a good example). Actually, we are an anomaly in this respect. He also believes that Spain, with one of the lowest Defense budgets in the world, is a lot more undefended than we think.

When asked about values, he answers that there is a distinct lack of honor, abnegation, service and discipline among the general population –particularly in the education sector–, as against the military world.

This last interview, with one of the most “archetypal” volunteer reservists in Asturias, took place in Oviedo, on April 21, 2013.

6.3 Conclusions

After comparing the CIS and VR surveys and reflecting on the personal interviews, I come to the conclusion that there are concepts, such as “values”, that are difficult to define. It may be due to the fact that it is a term that is used in a very broad sense.

The Oxford Dictionary defines it as: “1. The regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, worth, or usefulness of something”, “2. Principles or standards of behaviour; one's judgment of what is important in life”.

This word is frequently used in Anthropology, but its meaning is never really clarified. R. Firth points out that “value” is used in the sense of *feeling* by Malinowski and Evans-Pritchard,

²³⁹ http://www.ares-resvol.es/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=120&Itemid=2 accessed on May 02, 2013

of *conception* by C. Kluckhohn, of *general meaning* by F. Kluckhohn, of *implicit reference* by Homand, of *interest* by Radcliffe-Brown, and even of *ethos* by Kroeber. So many different – sometimes contradictory– uses of the word evidence a significant epistemological problem.²⁴⁰

The debate regarding the meaning of this term, on which great thinkers of all times have not been able to agree, brings to mind Socrates' words: "I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing." In Weber's opinion, these questions cannot really be tackled by science, because the constitution of values is not the result of rational behavior, and he adds: "values are objective, positive data that determine certain types of behavior, different from those rationally focused on a purpose, and even from emotional or traditional actions"²⁴¹.

In view of the epistemological doubts regarding the definition of values, we will only talk here about the main ones, that is, those which have been more relevant and frequently discussed in this study and in the interviews with Spanish volunteer reservists:

- **Patriotic and democratic.** As stated in section 4.3. "Spanish Volunteer Reservists: patriots and democrats", Reservists can be described as patriotic because they love their country and strive to procure its welfare; also as democrats, as proven by the creation of the VRF itself, emanating from the people's sovereignty, and their constitutional right and duty to defend their nation. Obviously, among 5,500 people, there must be members who do not agree; but it is normal in a group as large as this one.

- **Civic-minded**²⁴², in relation to their commitment to their nation and people.

- **Order and discipline**, as synonyms of organization and self-control, in the sense explained above; but also obedient when "activated" and acting as military men and women.

- **Committed to their Armed Forces**, volunteering to act in national territory and on missions abroad, whether they are eventually asked to or not.

- **Leadership**, as civilians for matters related to Defense (see the final comment of question 20, on page 61).

- **Availability and dedication**, always willing to sacrifice their lives if necessary and, on a lower level, to sacrifice their free time or salaries. Also, not giving up in certain regions of Spain where being a reservist can sometimes entail harassment.

²⁴⁰ P. BONTE (y otros), *Diccionario de etnología y antropología*. Madrid, Ediciones Akal, 1996, p. 729 ff.

²⁴¹ Ibid., p. 729

²⁴² The dictionary of the Spanish Royal Academy of Language defines "valor cívico" (civic value) as: "Fortitude to discharge one's civic duties without being intimidated by threats, dangers or humiliation."

- **Great work capacity**²⁴³, with every possible exception.

- **Duty and commitment** –values that are lacking in today's society– to the Nation, to the people, to our civilization and its values. As Benigno Maújo²⁴⁴ states, these two values are closely related to another crucial one: social responsibility, which makes the members of a society wish to devote part of their time and work to that society, as an expression of communion and involvement with it. It manifests itself in the duty we all have to do something for society, for others, without looking for remuneration, profit or money; altruistically, not asking for anything in return; just giving, offering, serving.

- **Honor**: It can be deduced from the above, with no need for a complex cultural and anthropological analysis of this concept. Not all Volunteer Reservists have the same level of commitment, but they are all, undoubtedly, willing to perform their duties in relation to their fellow men and women, and to themselves.

This document was conceived as a first step, a necessary introduction, for a future doctorate. The word “necessary” has been chosen here because it is the key not only to accessing that path, but also to detecting questions –favorable and unfavorable– that will help to be successful in reaching the goals I have set myself to achieve. In this preliminary task, I have made some mistakes, which I intend to avoid in the future. For example, the data from the VR's survey was processed by means of Excel spreadsheets, without having prepared a database using a web form. It was a mistake because it was a time-consuming task that could have taken less time to do.²⁴⁵

I also believe it would have been very interesting to compare three, instead of two, surveys. That is, to include a comparison between the Armed Forces and undergraduates.²⁴⁶ But the limited length of this piece of work did not make it possible.

Despite these limitations, I sincerely hope this study contributes to make the Volunteer Reservists better known to the people in general; especially the fact that, although the Reserve Force has only been in existence in Spain for ten years, its members have already shown an outstanding spirit of service before self and want to see it grow within the historical Warp of their old, loved Nation.

243 The Spanish Volunteer Reservists have always done themselves proud at foreign conferences, as I have personally witnessed and been told. Their contribution has been often acknowledged. For example, a US colonel, the director of a 15-day course in Bulgaria, referred specifically to the Spanish Reservists and described them as “tremendous workers”. <http://cimero.wordpress.com/2009/08/15/relato-curso-cior-cla09-en-bulgaria/> accessed on April 27, 2013

244 Conversation with the Delegate in Asturias of the Spanish Reservists' Association (ARES) dated May 29, 2013

245 In any case, the chance to use computer applications has made me value, even more, the research carried out decades ago, when these powerful tools were not in existence.

246 MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ, Miryam y otros: *La imagen de las Fuerzas Armadas por parte de los universitarios españoles*, Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos (Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies), Madrid, 2011

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

AE	Spanish Navy	MDEF	Spanish Ministry of Defense
AF	Air Force	MPTM	Professional Troop and Navy Soldier
AF	Armed Forces	MUCIS	Sample from the Center for Sociological Research (CIS) which is compared to the VR sample
BOD	Official Defense Bulletin	MURES	Sample of Volunteer Reservists processed and analyzed in this piece of work
BOE	Official Gazette	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
CC	Common Corps	RAE	Spanish Royal Academy of Language
CCAA	Autonomous Regions	SMO	Compulsory Military Service
CE	Spanish Constitution	TA	Territorial Army
CIS	Center for Sociological Research	VRF	Volunteer Reserve Force
DD	Office of the Defense Department in Asturias	VR	Volunteer Reservist
DRAE	Dictionary of the Spanish Royal Academy of Language	VRs	Volunteer Reservists
ET	Army		
EU	European Union		
IEEE	Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies		



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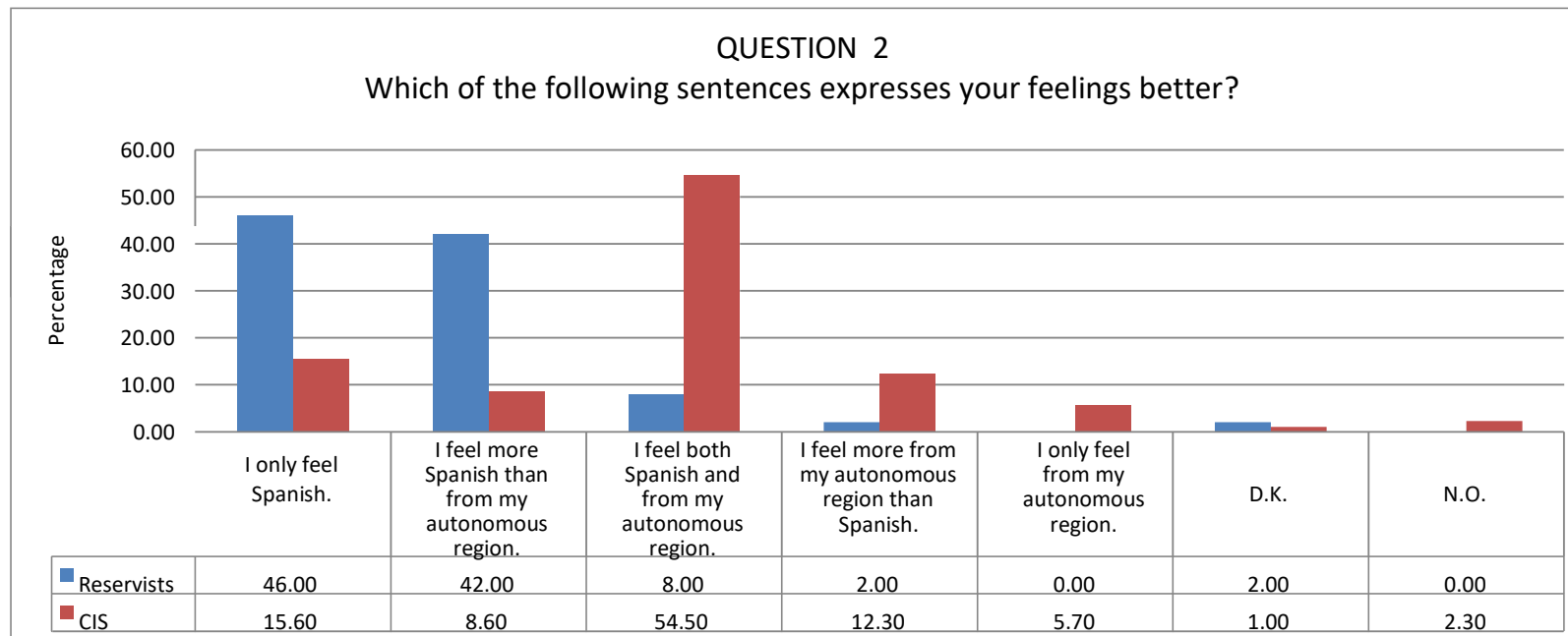
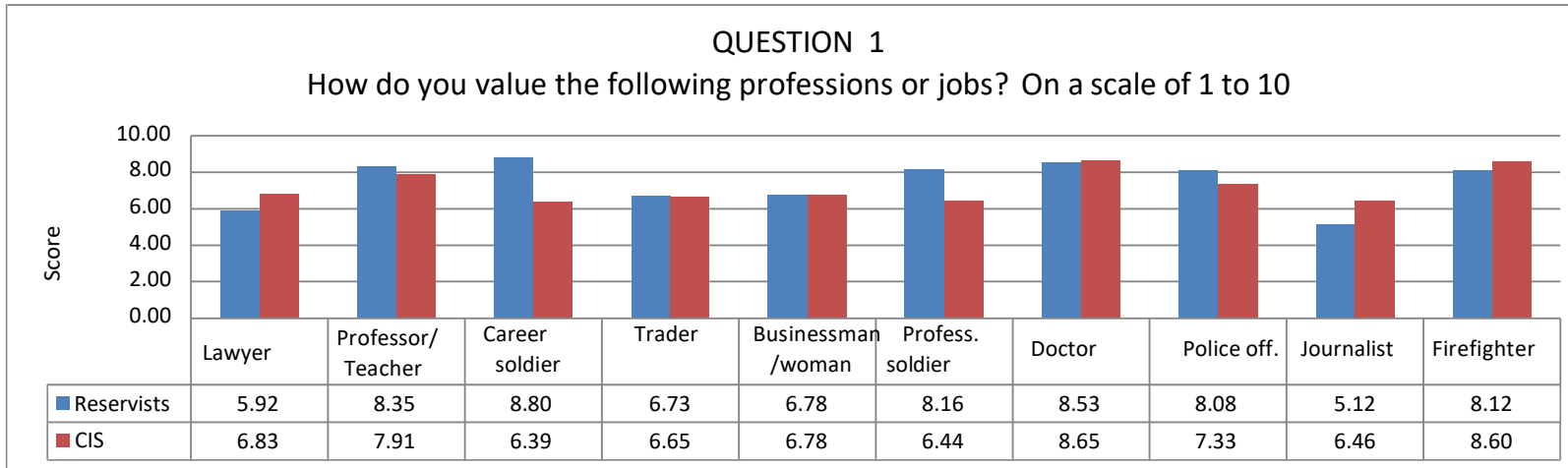
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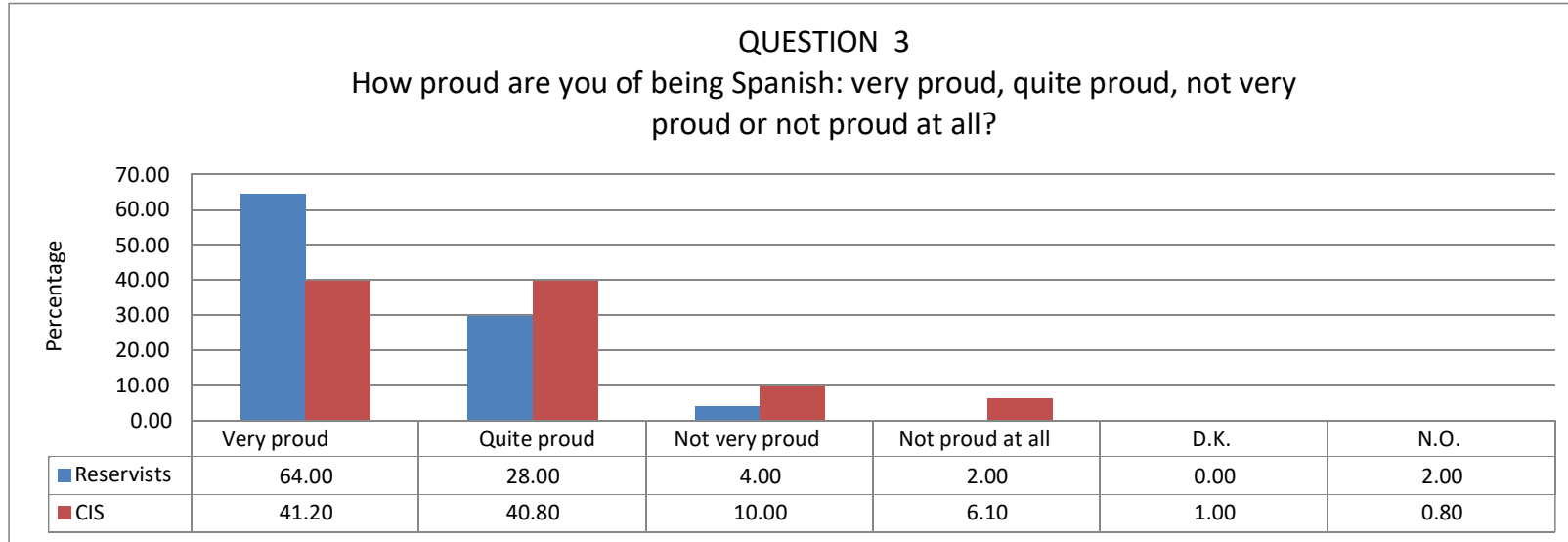
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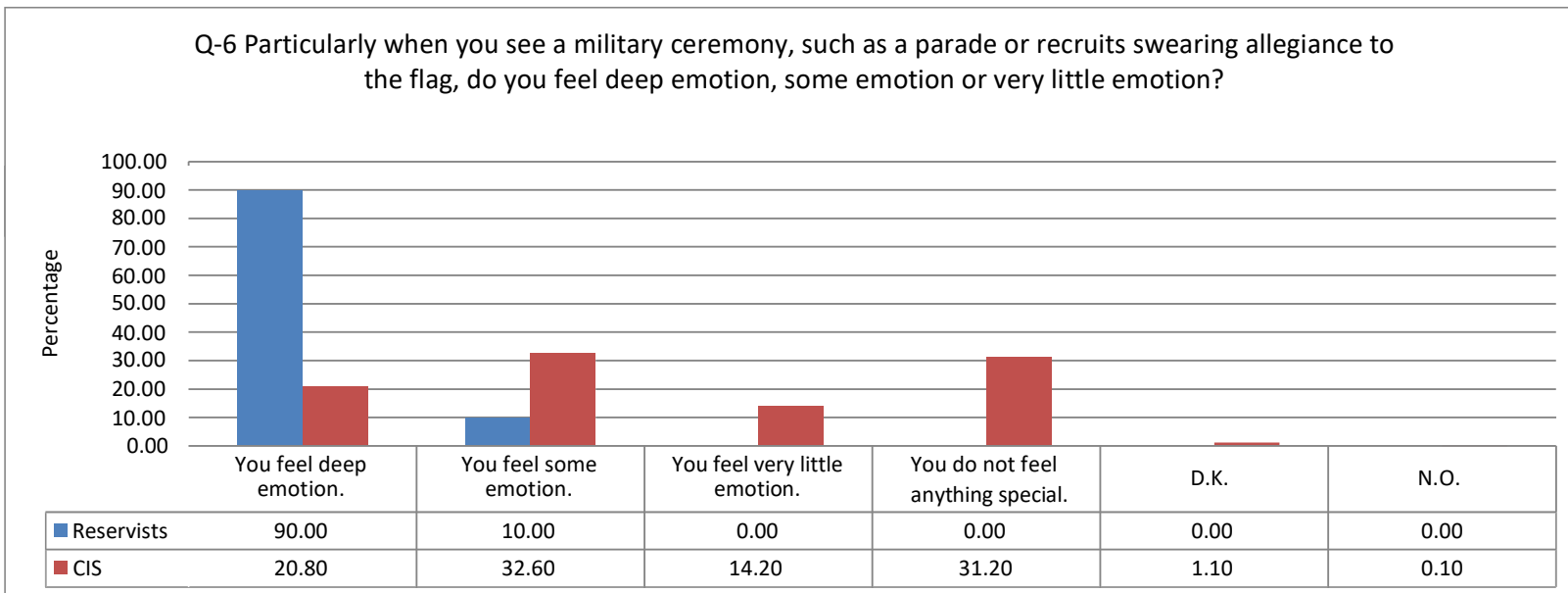
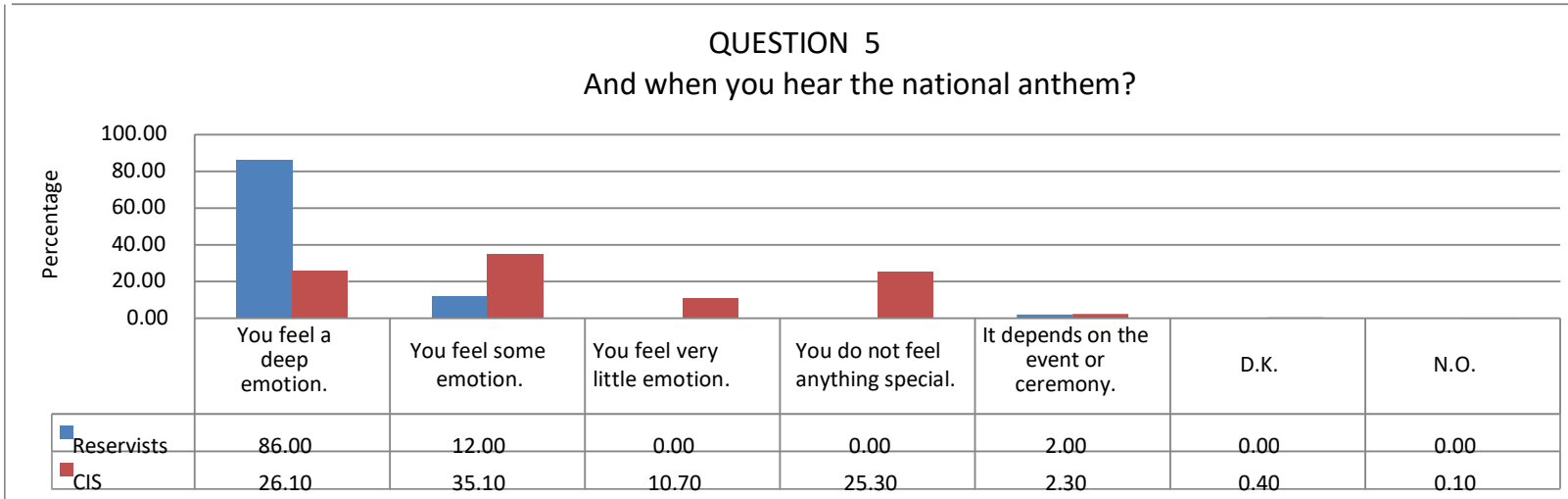
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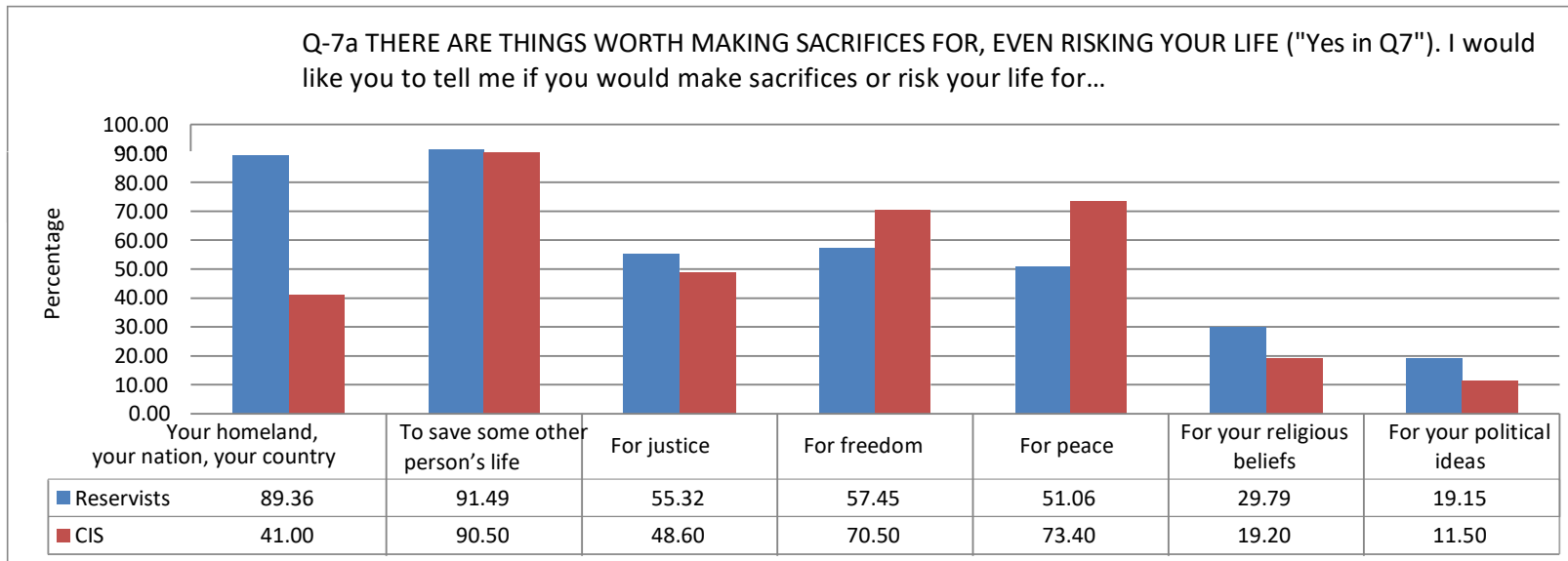
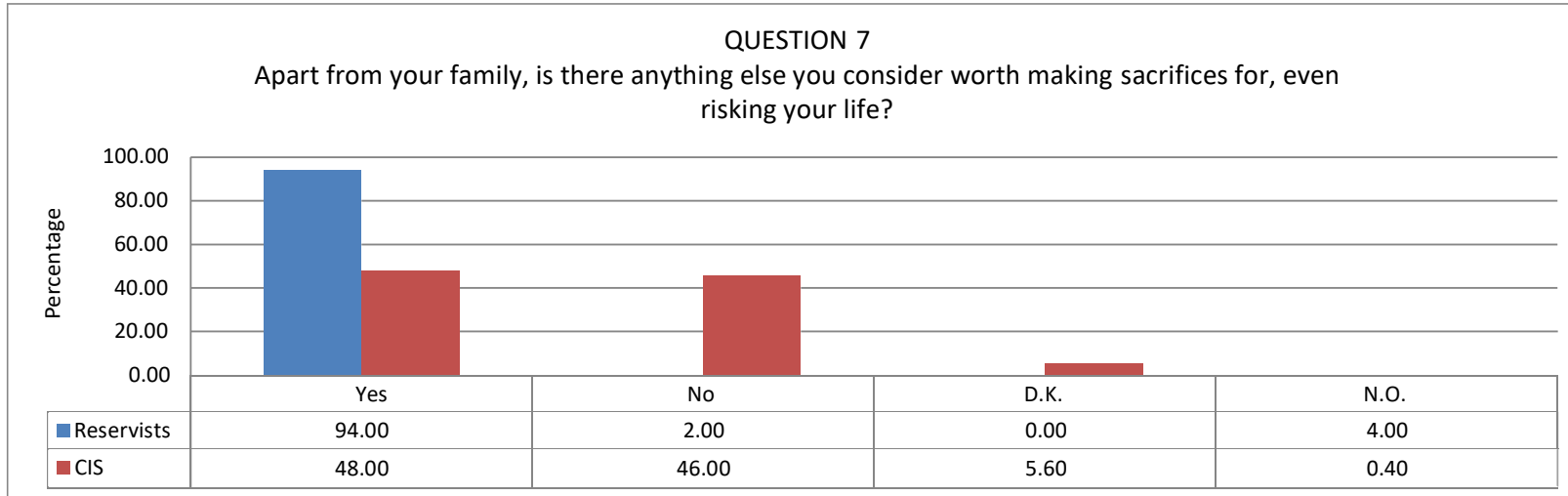
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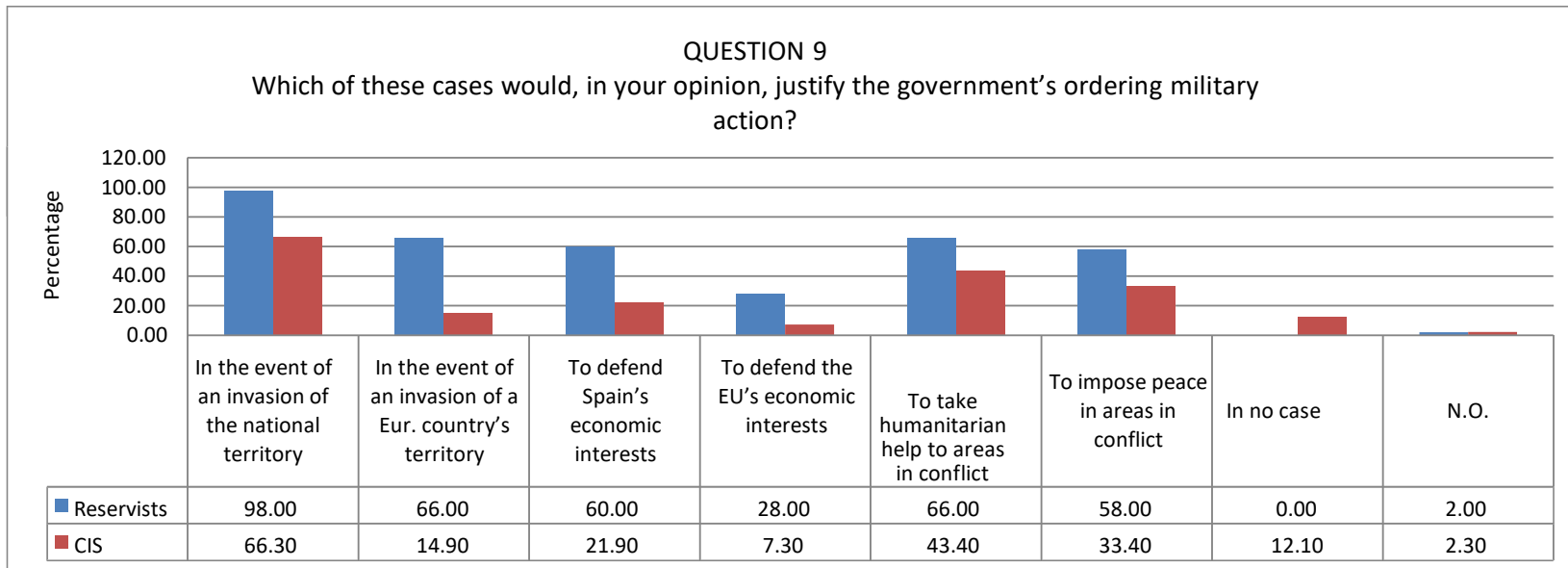
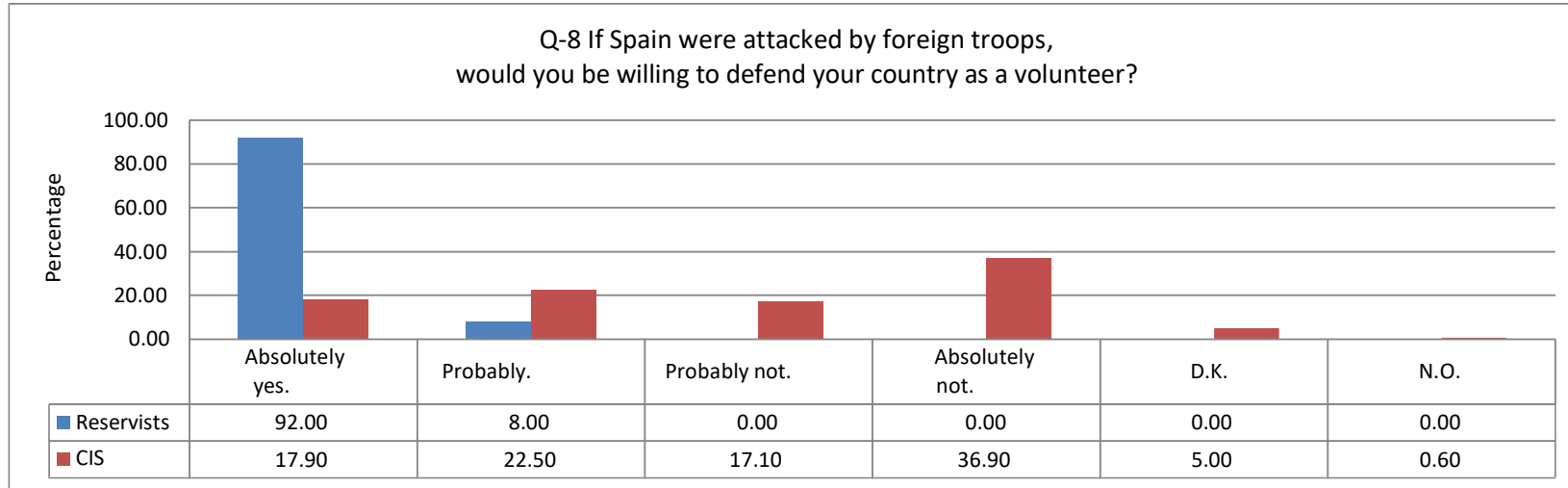
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ANNEXES
SURVEY CHARTS

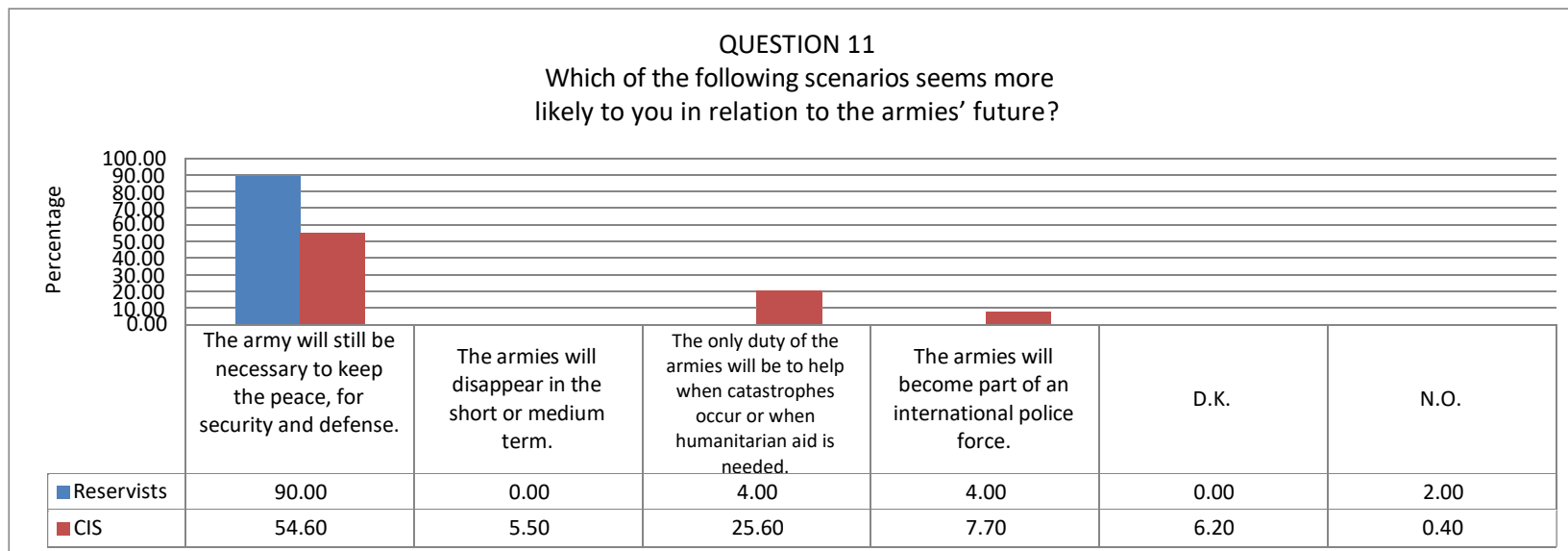
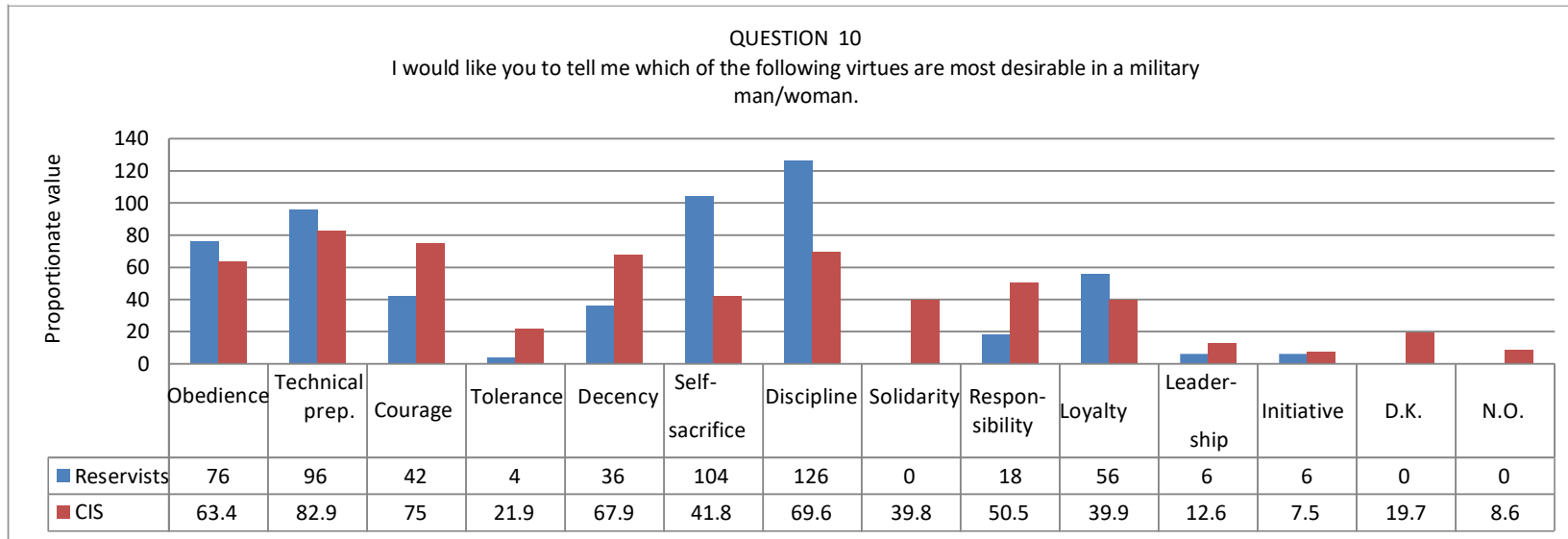






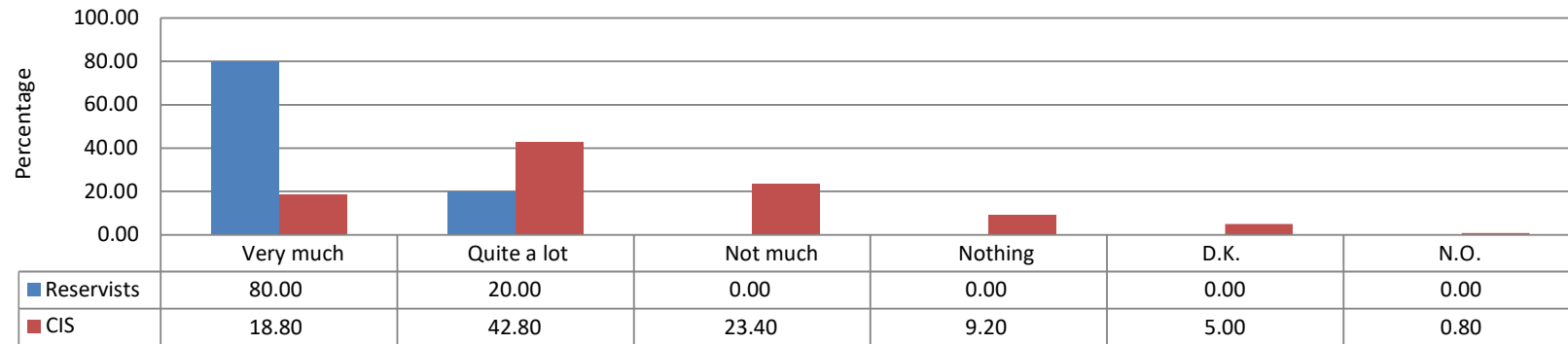






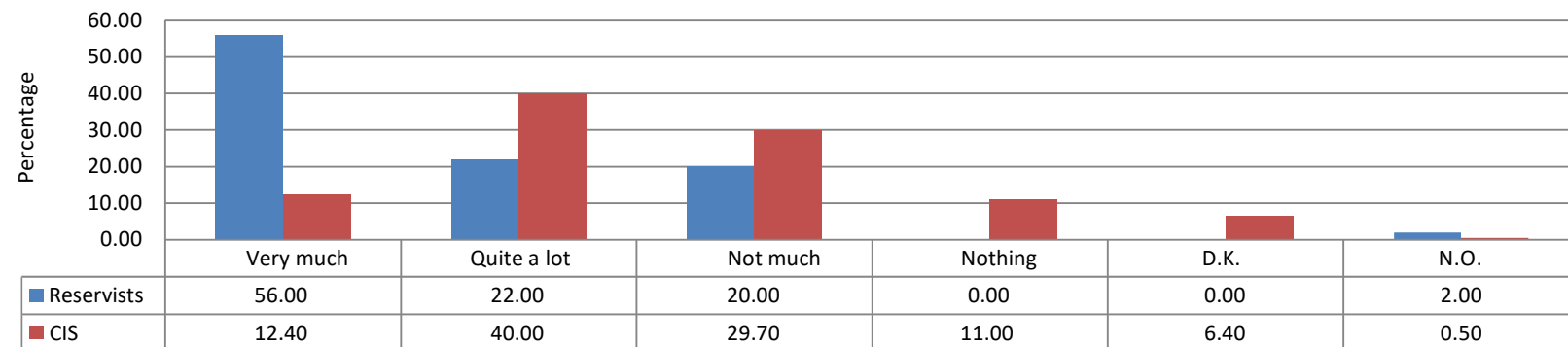
QUESTION 12

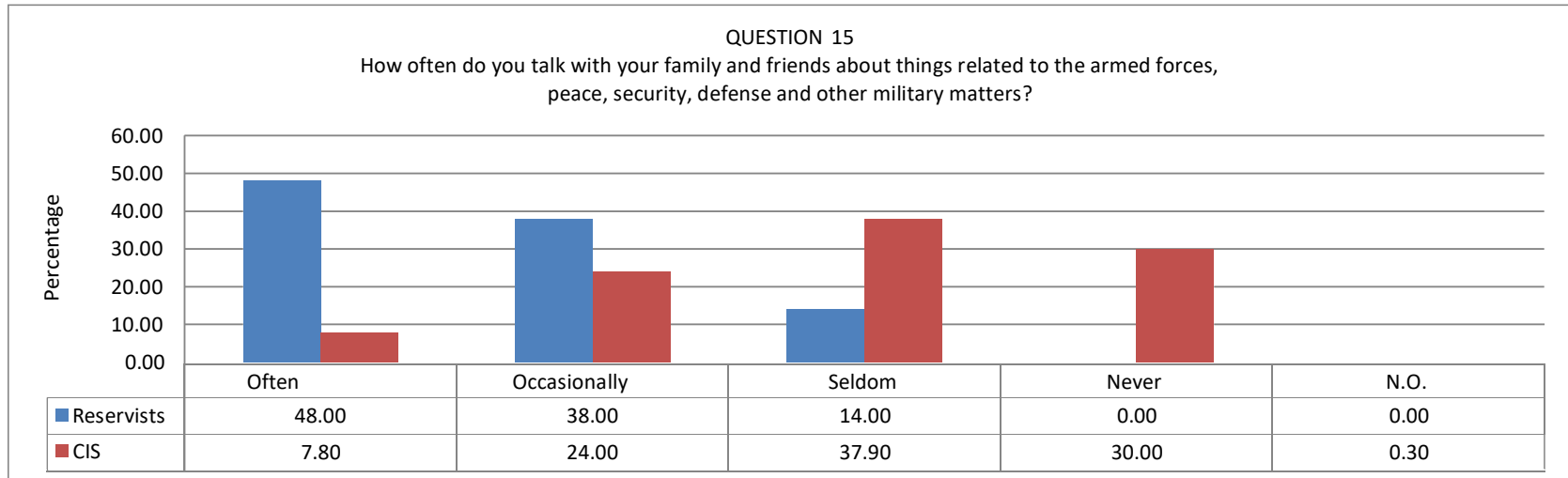
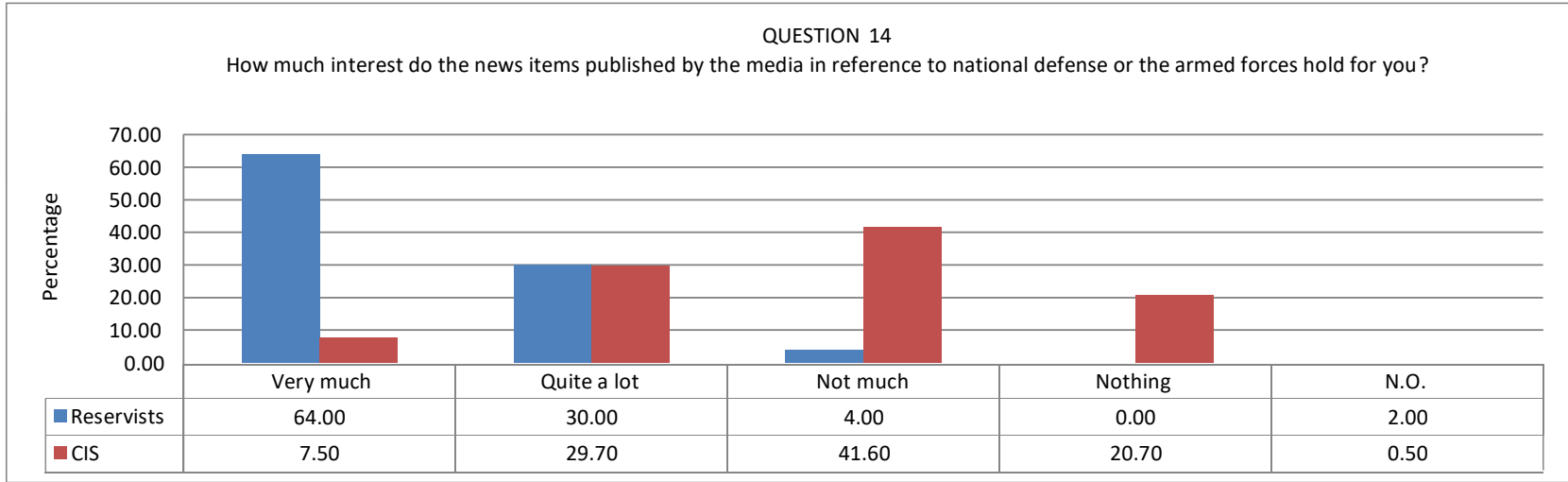
In your opinion, does the performance of the armed forces contribute very much, quite a lot, not much or nothing at all to a country's international prestige?

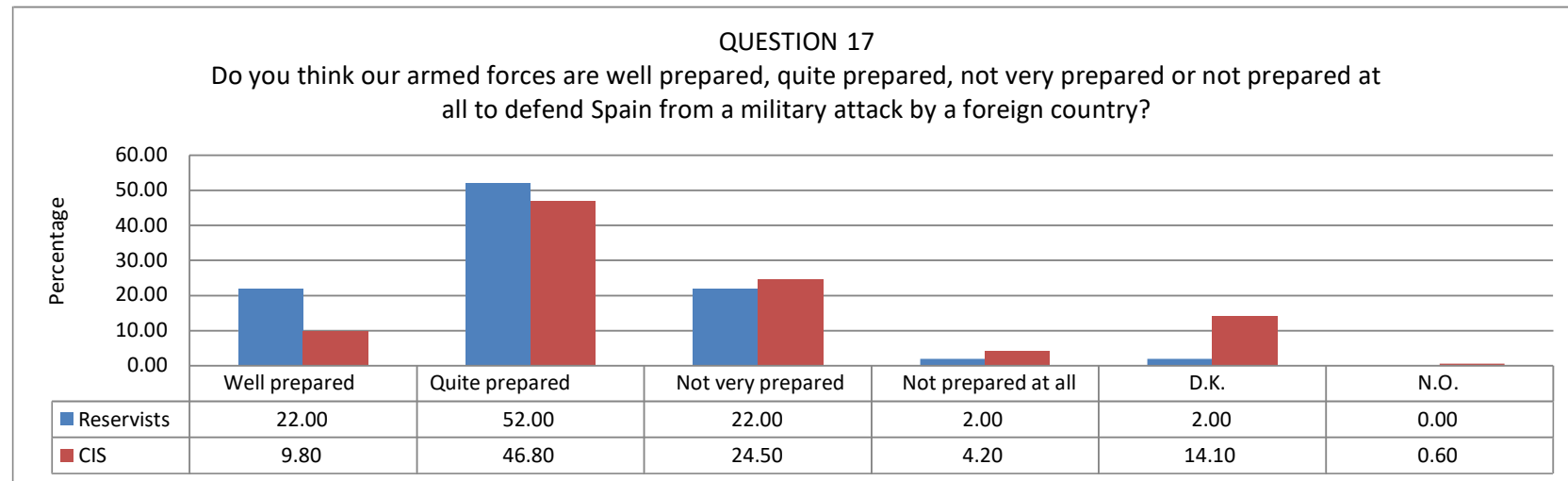
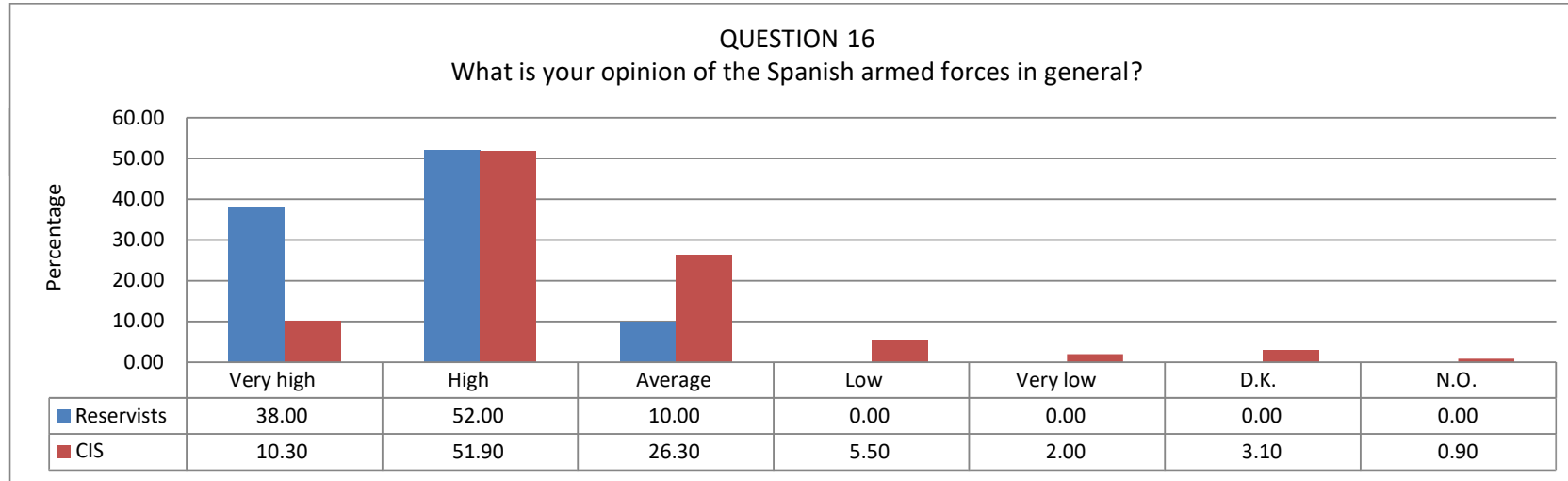


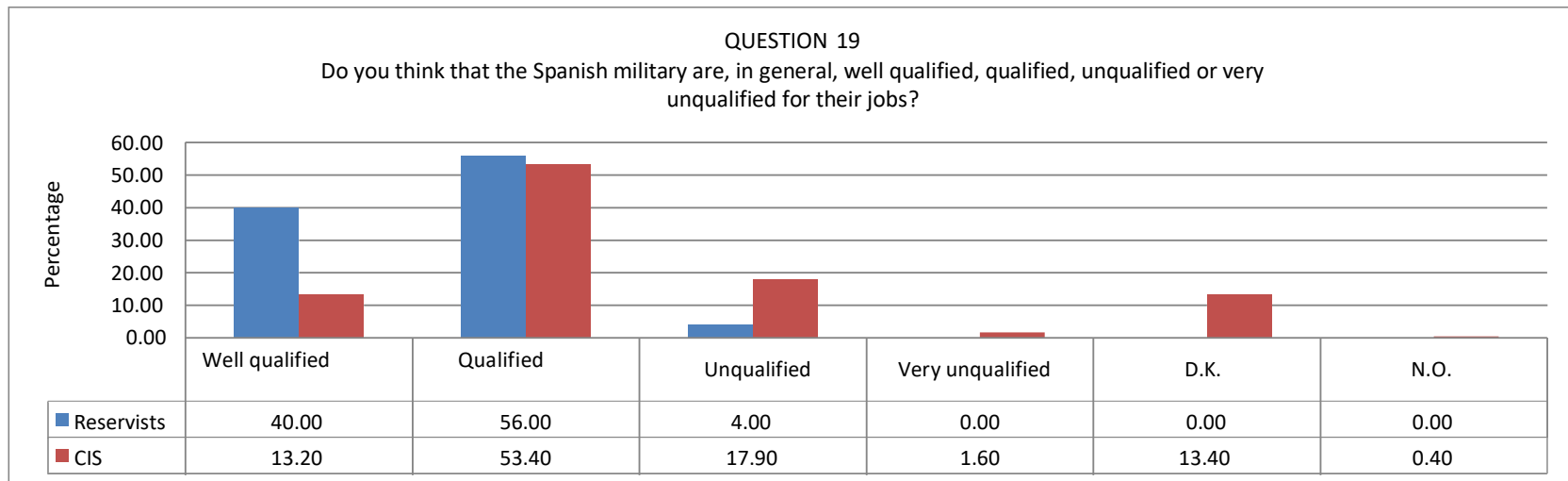
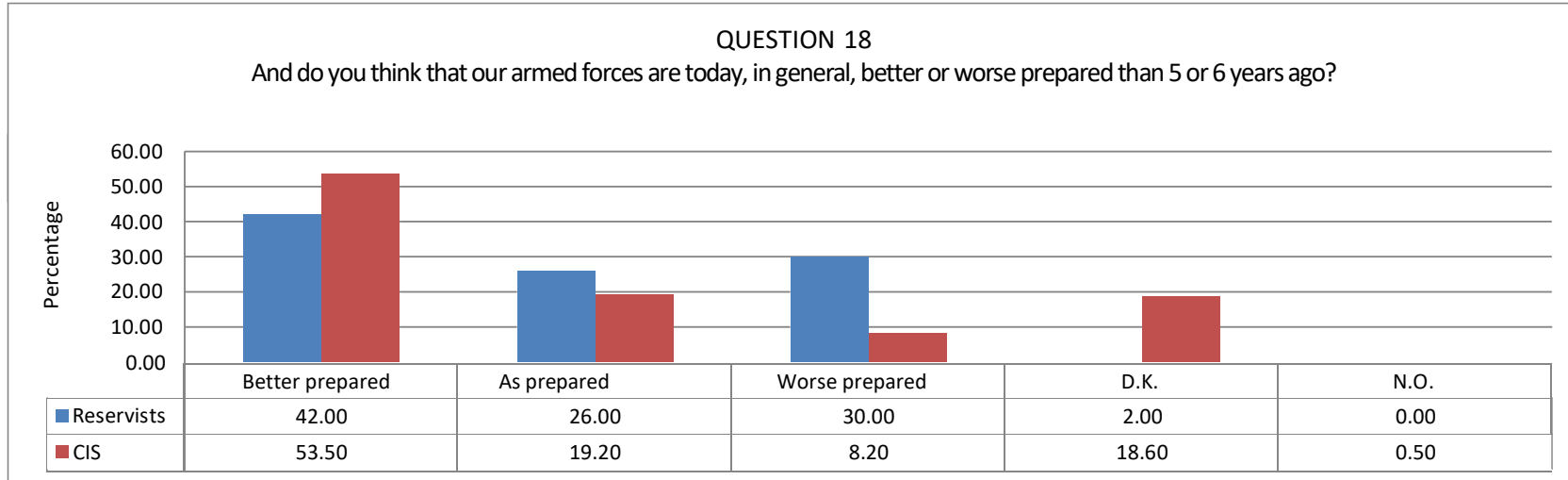
QUESTION 13

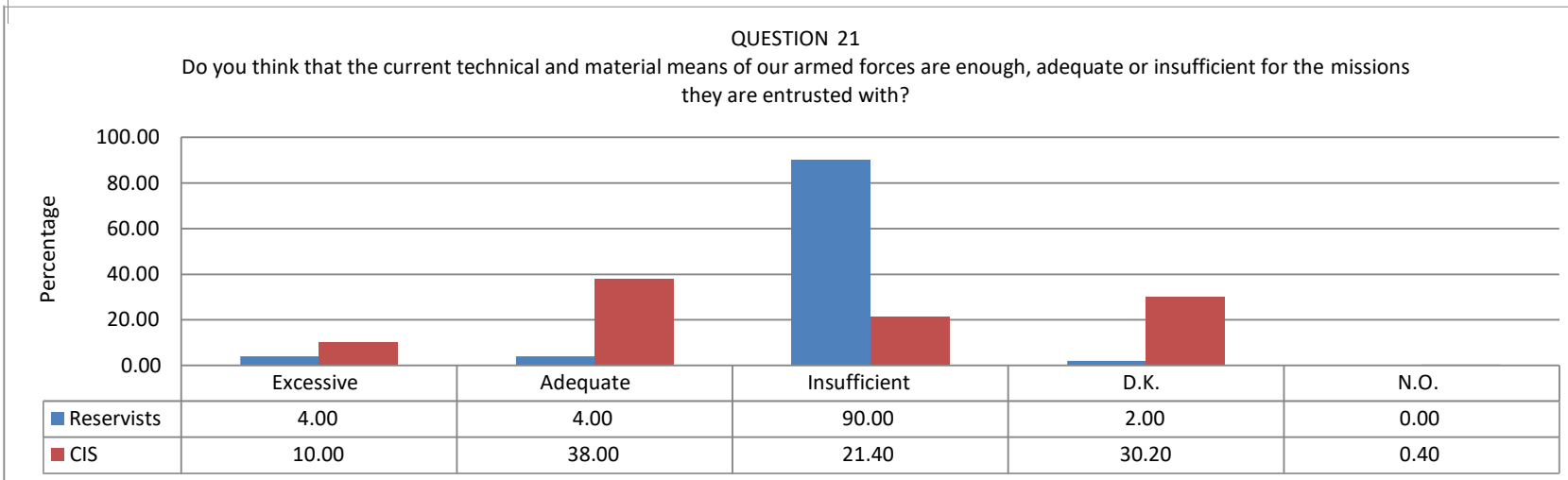
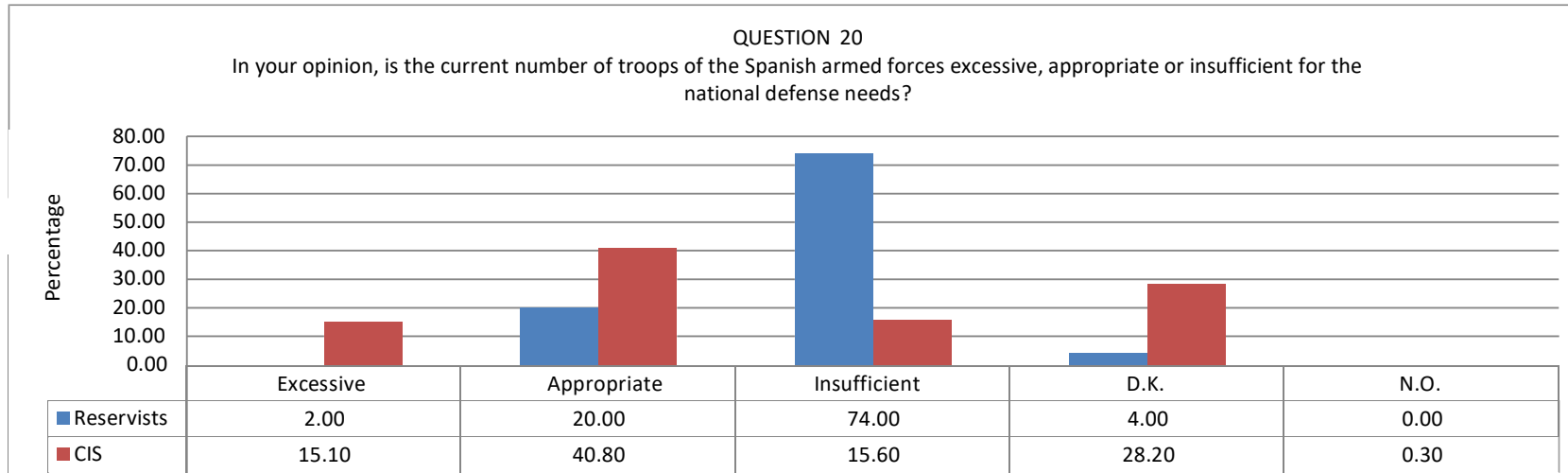
And, specifically in Spain, do you think the armed forces' performance during these last years has contributed to improve our country's international prestige?

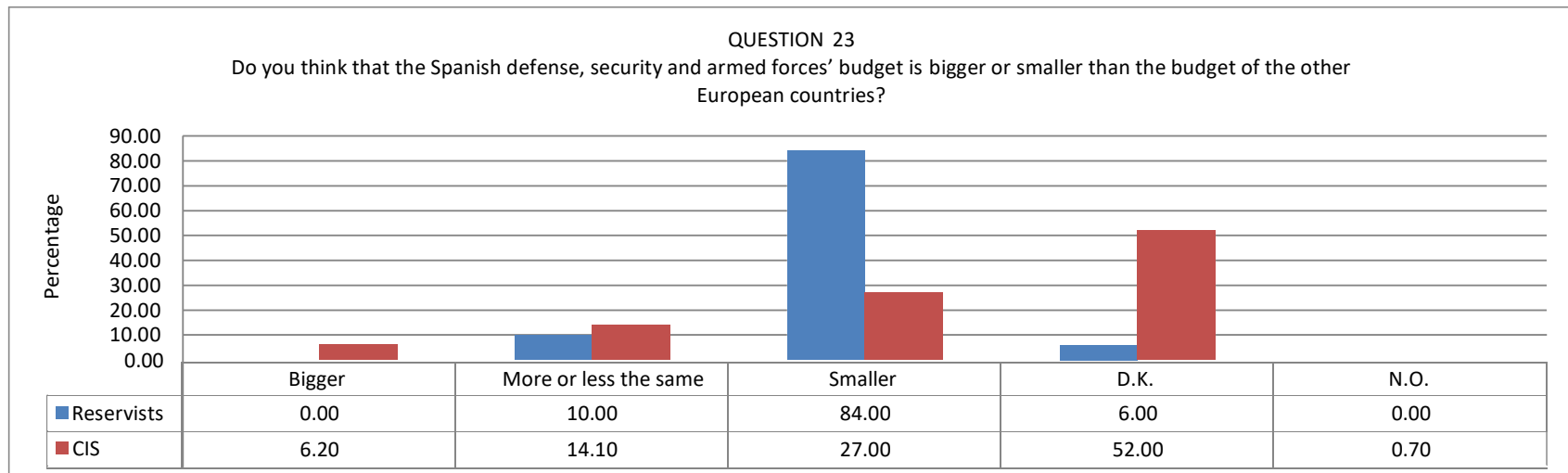
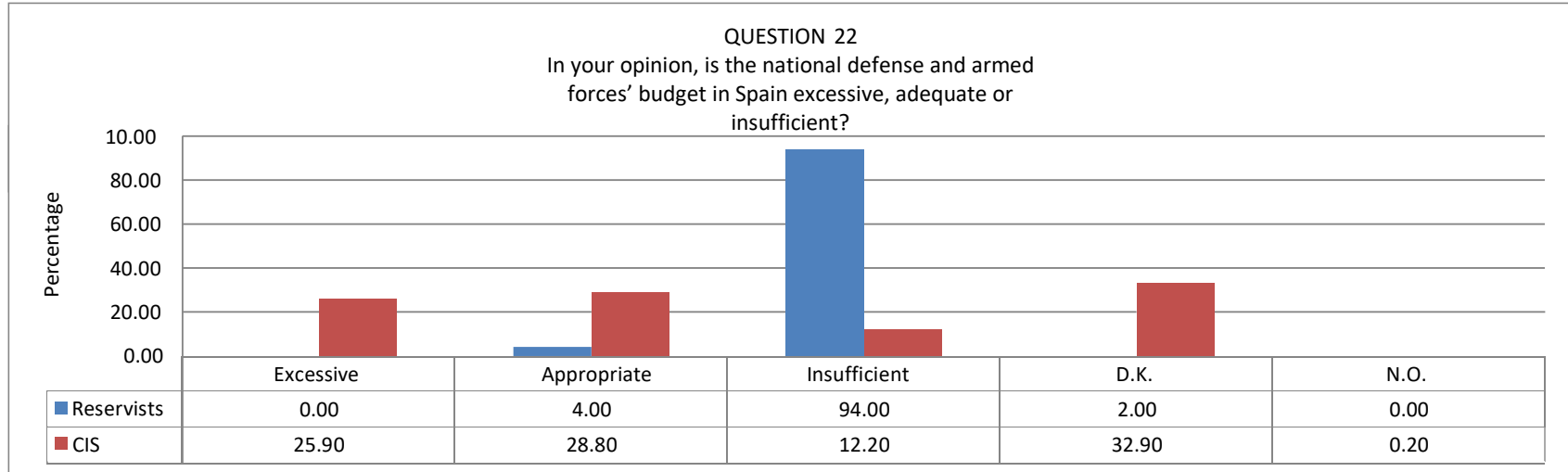


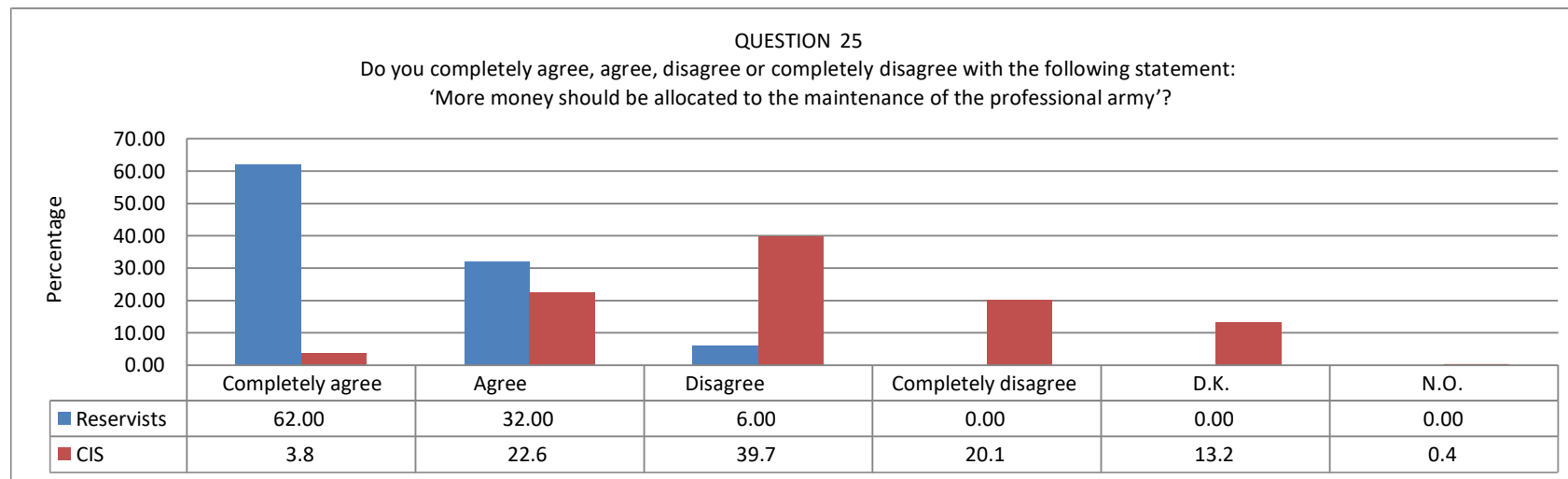
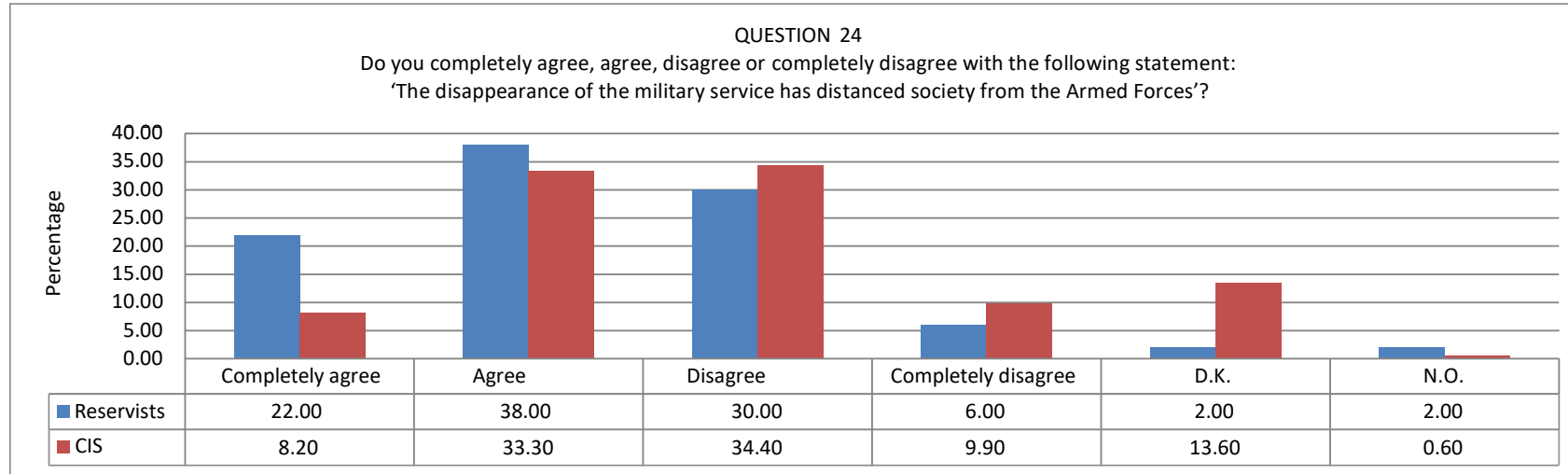


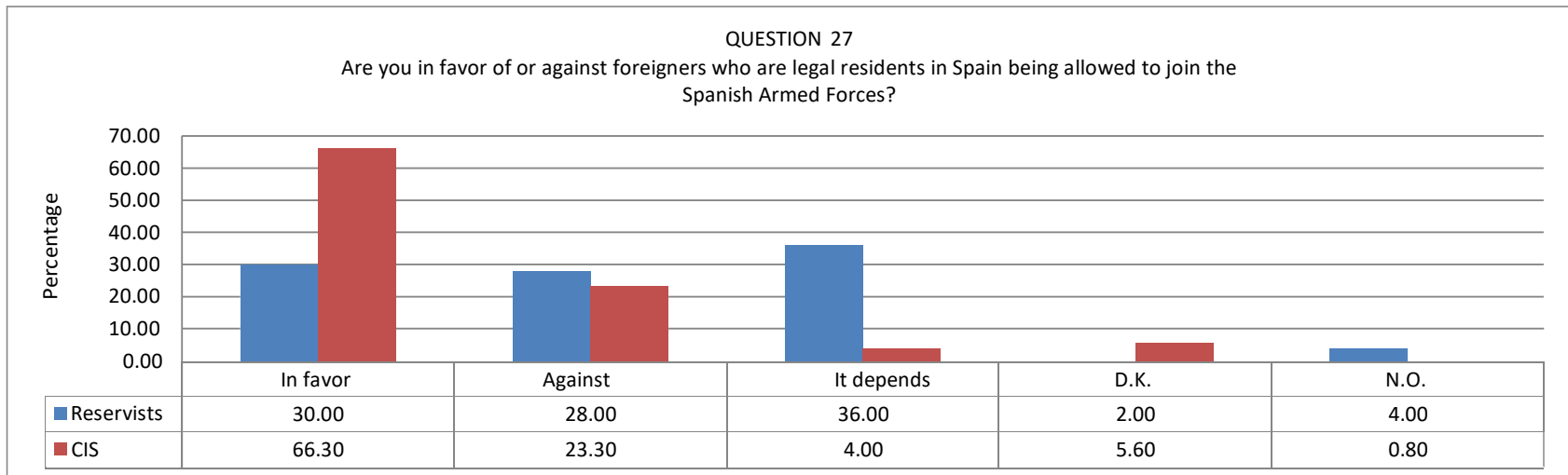
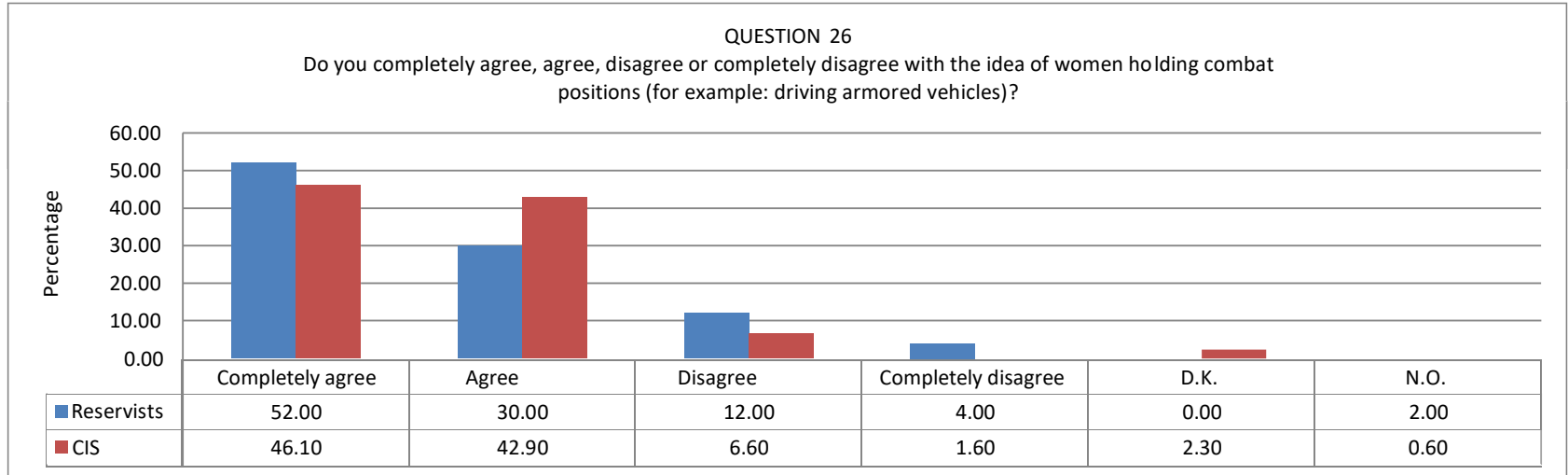


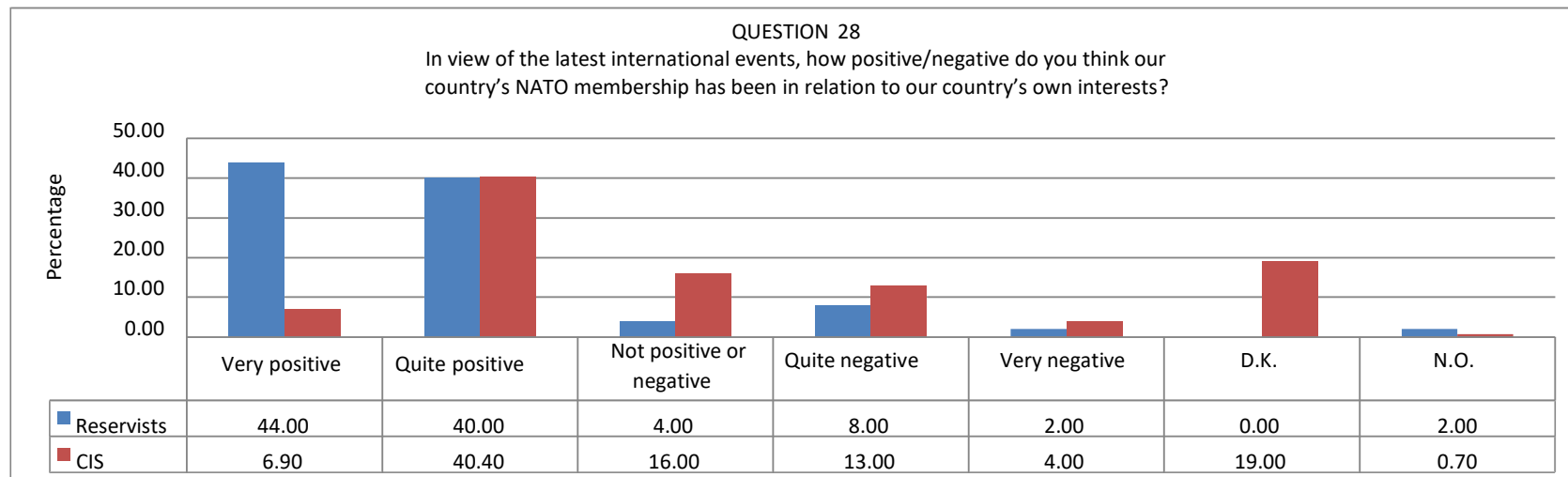
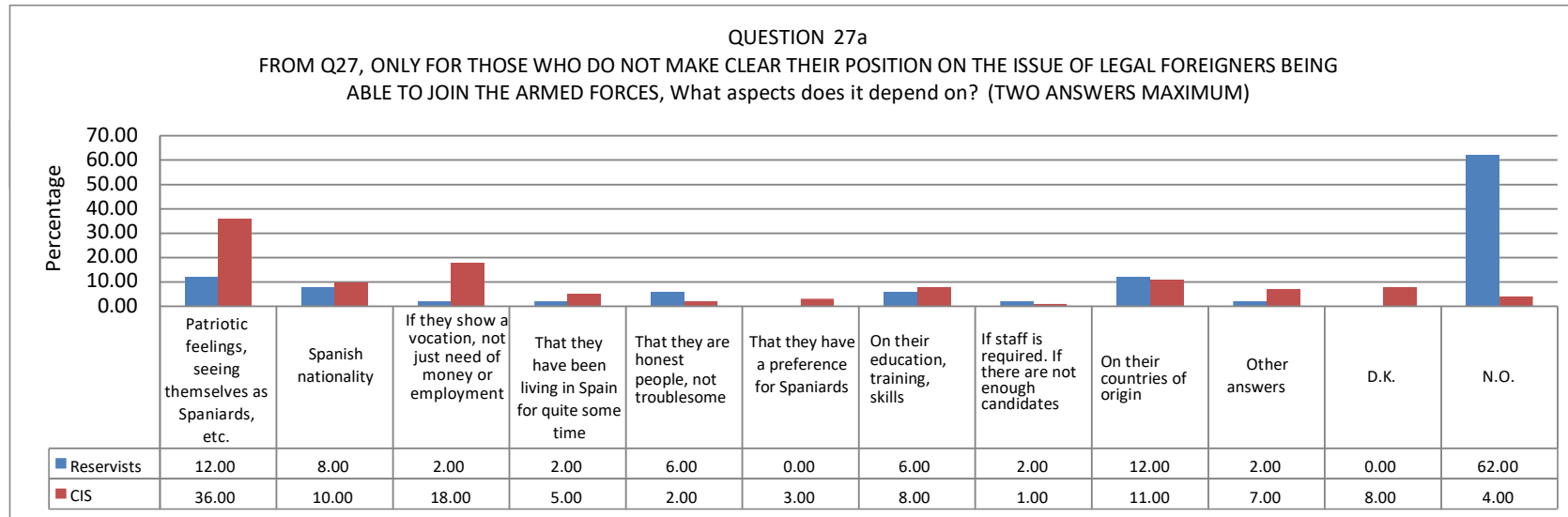


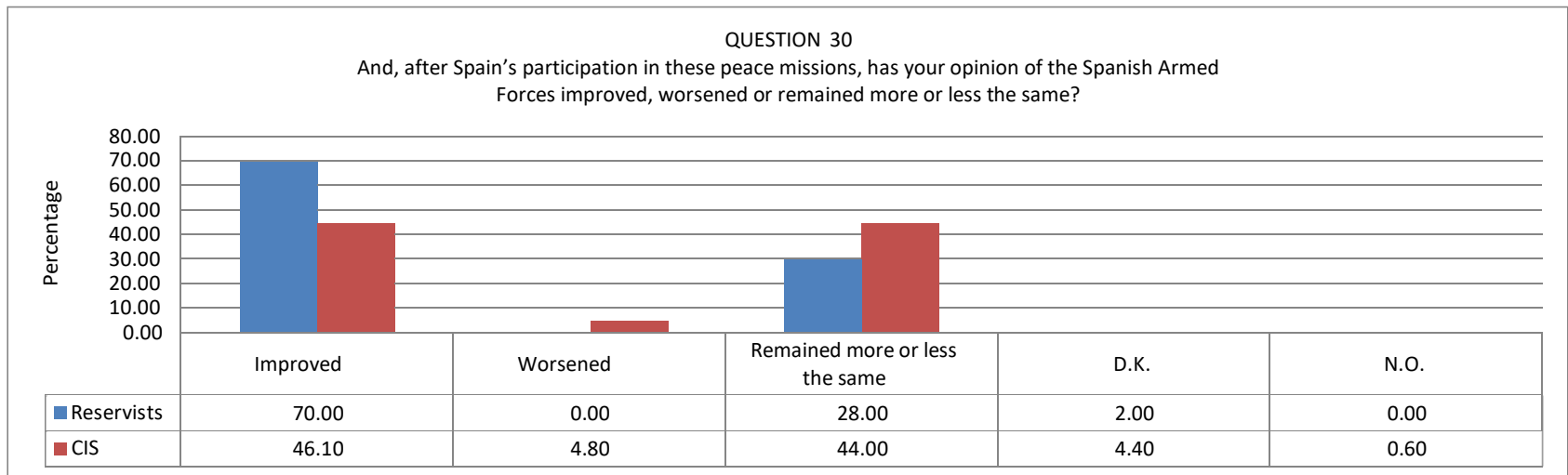
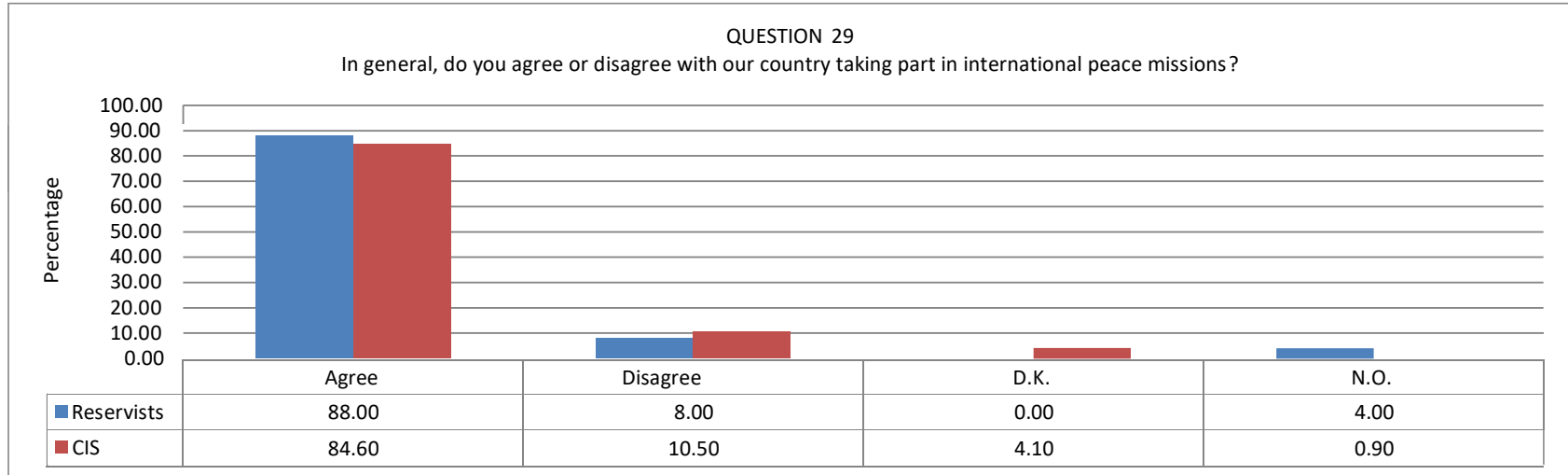


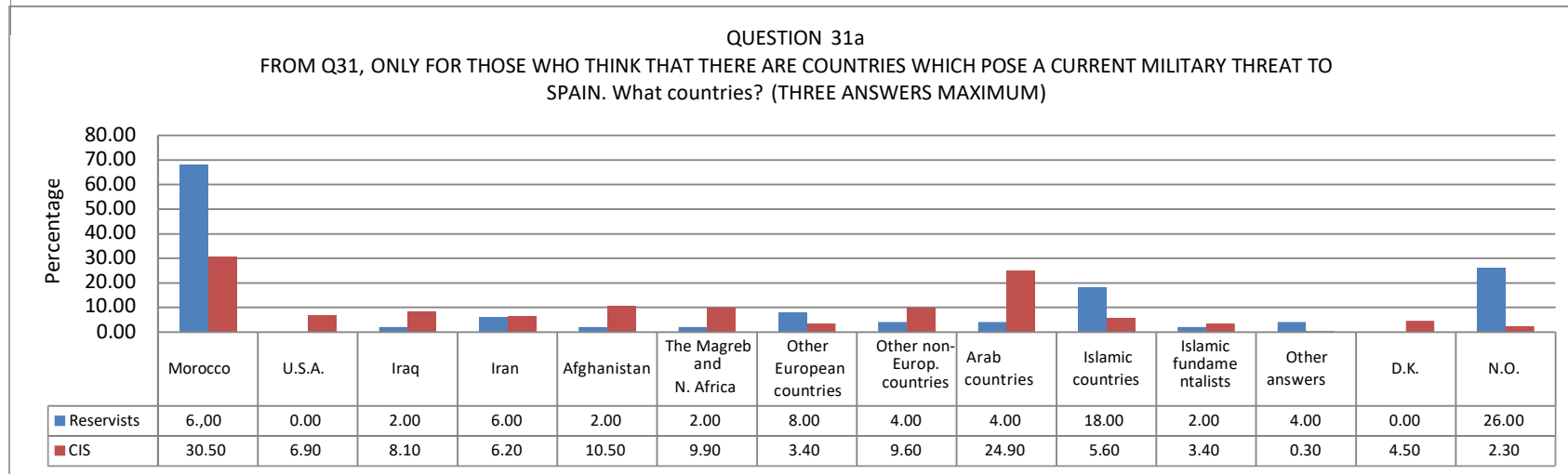
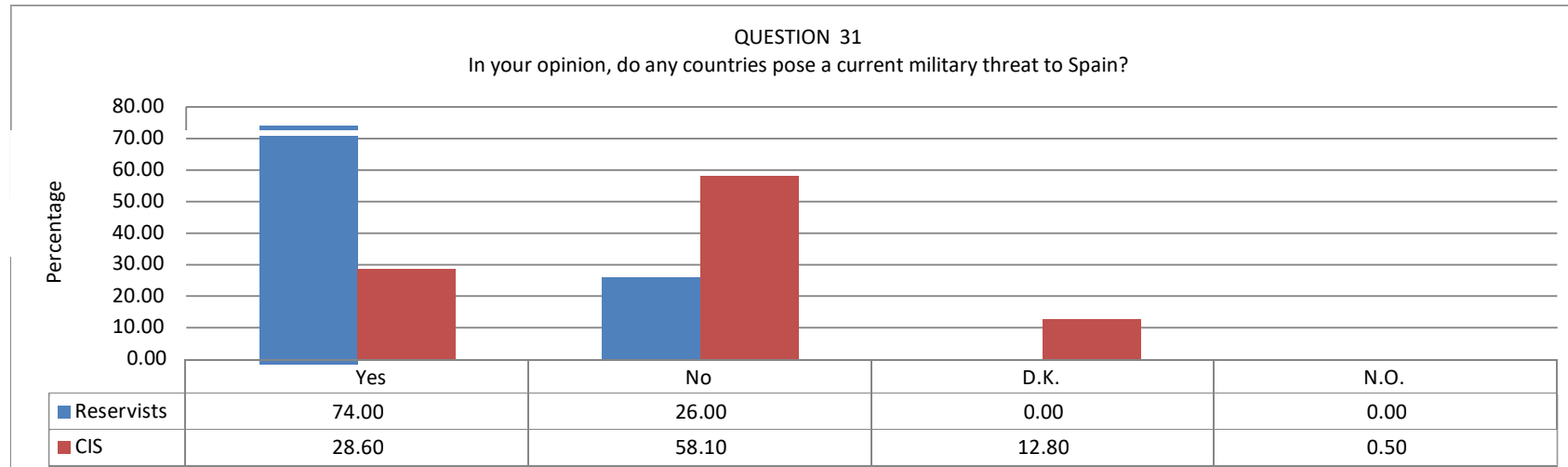


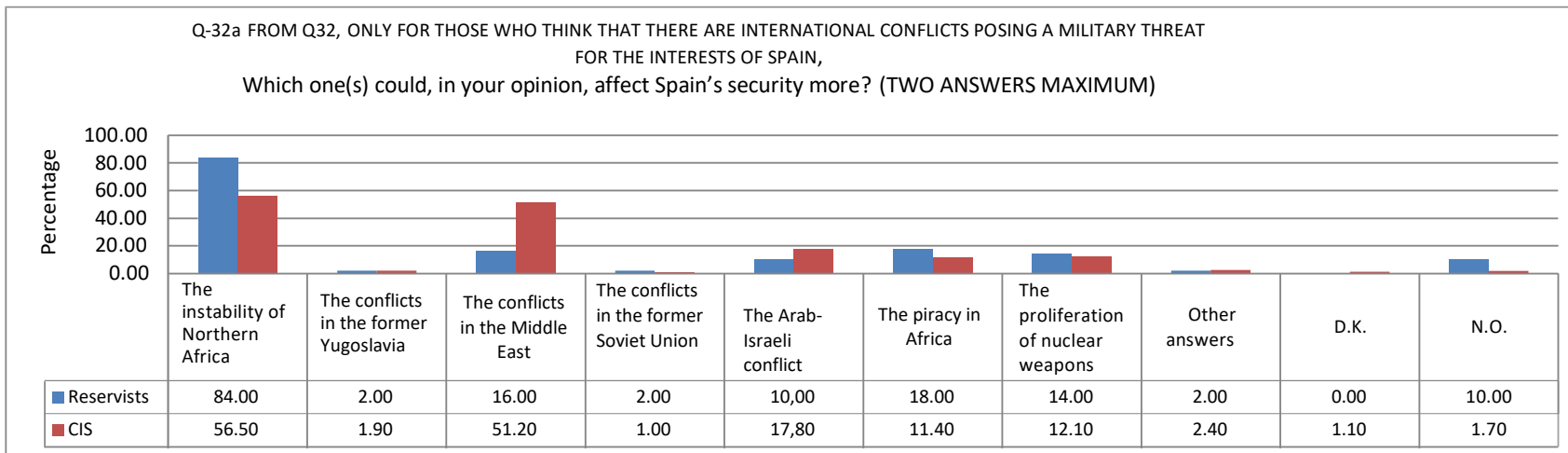
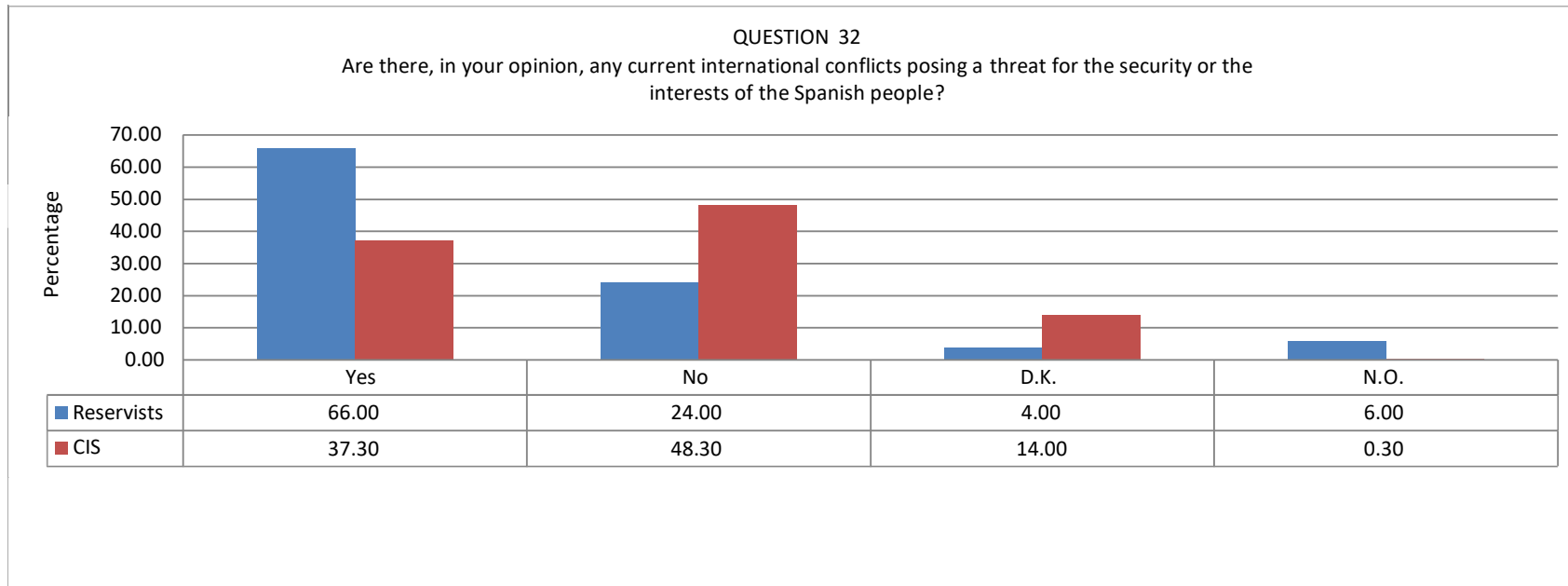


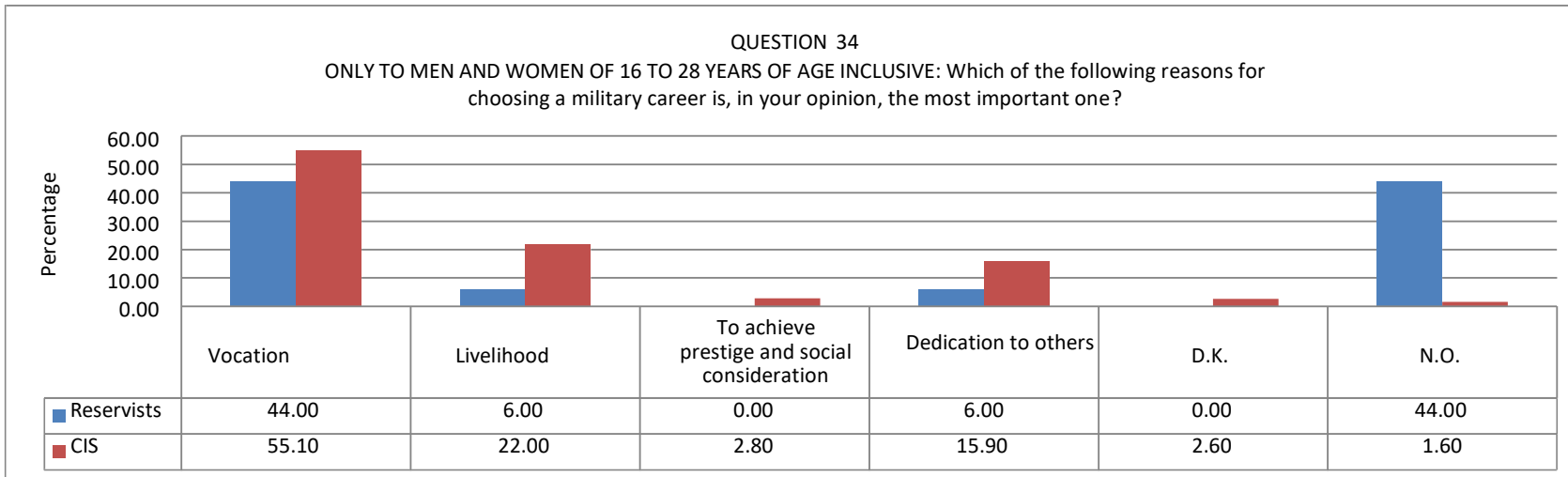
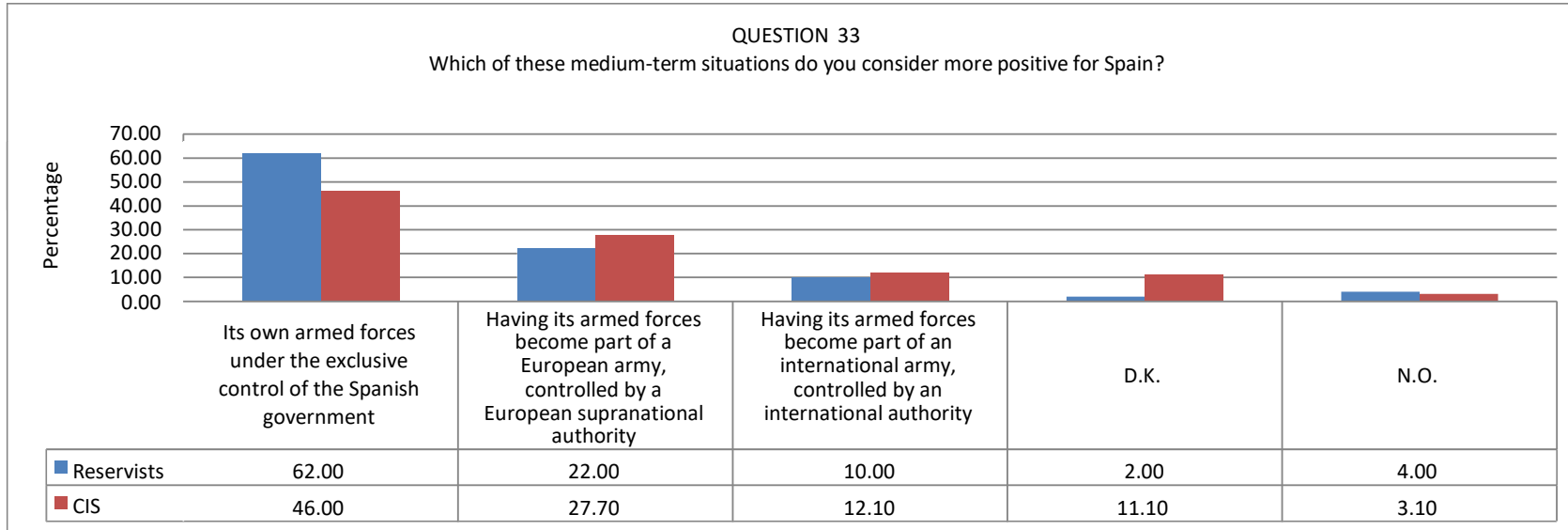


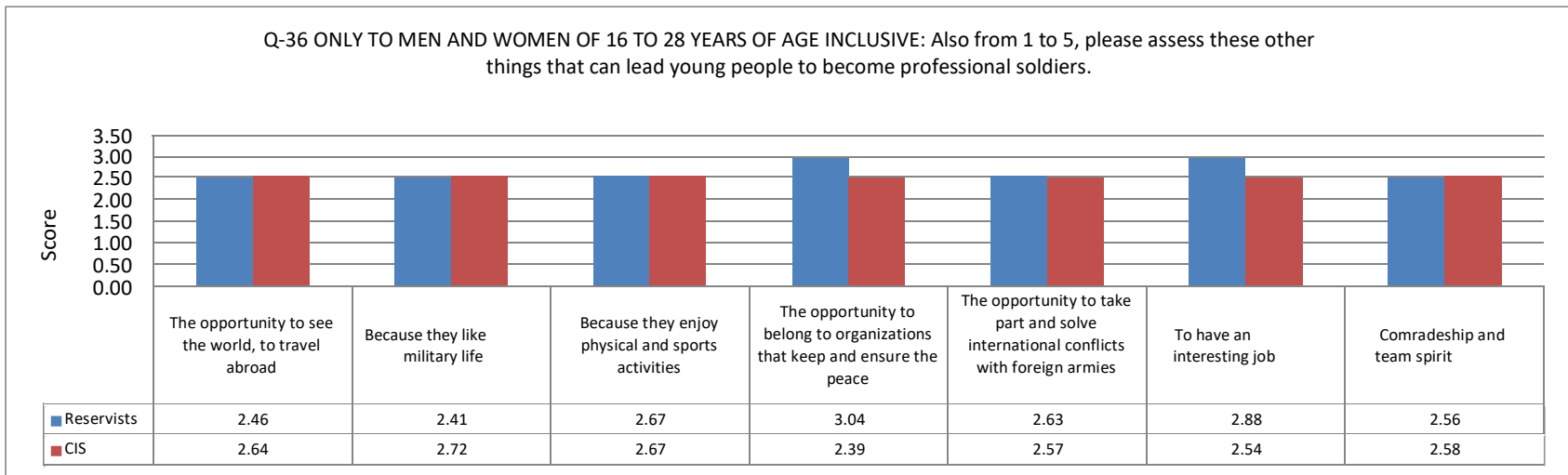
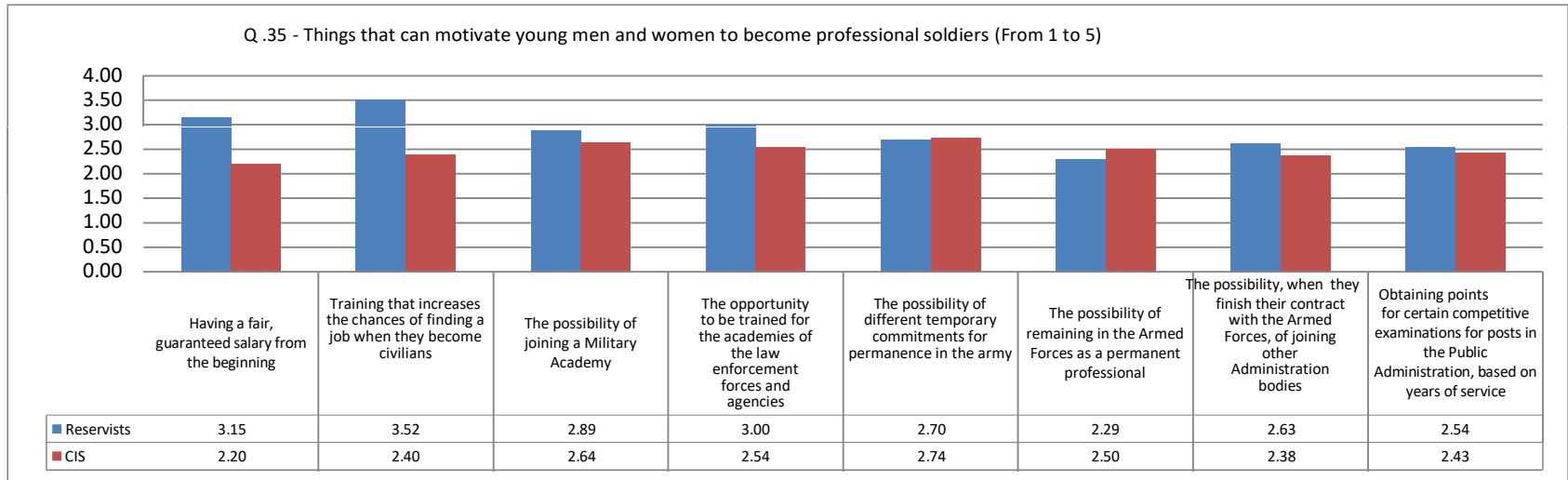


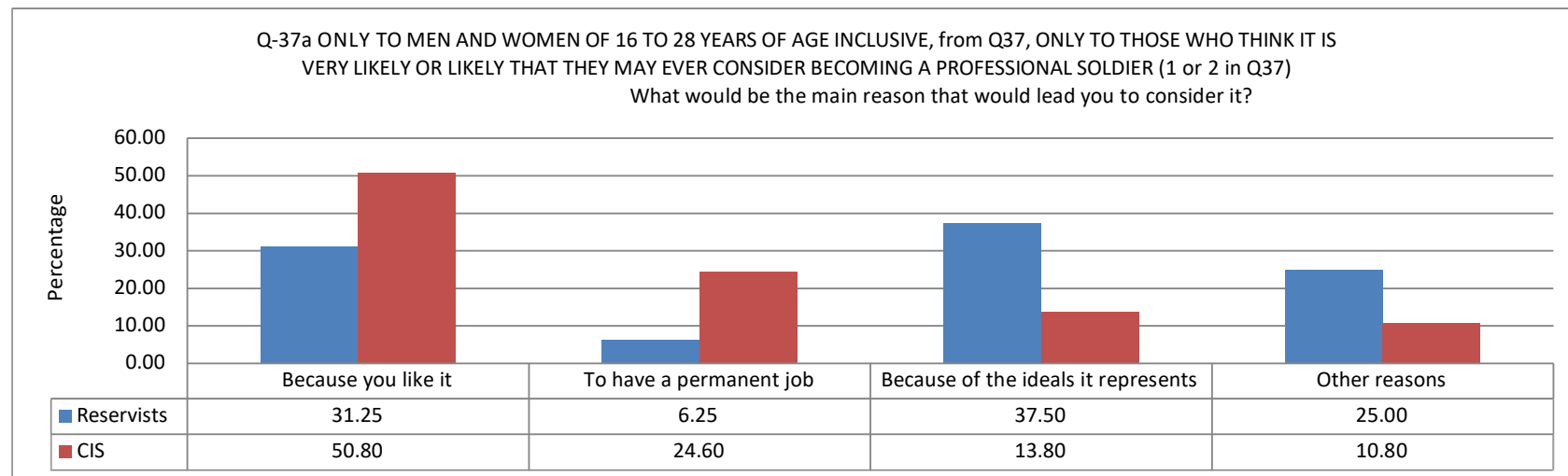
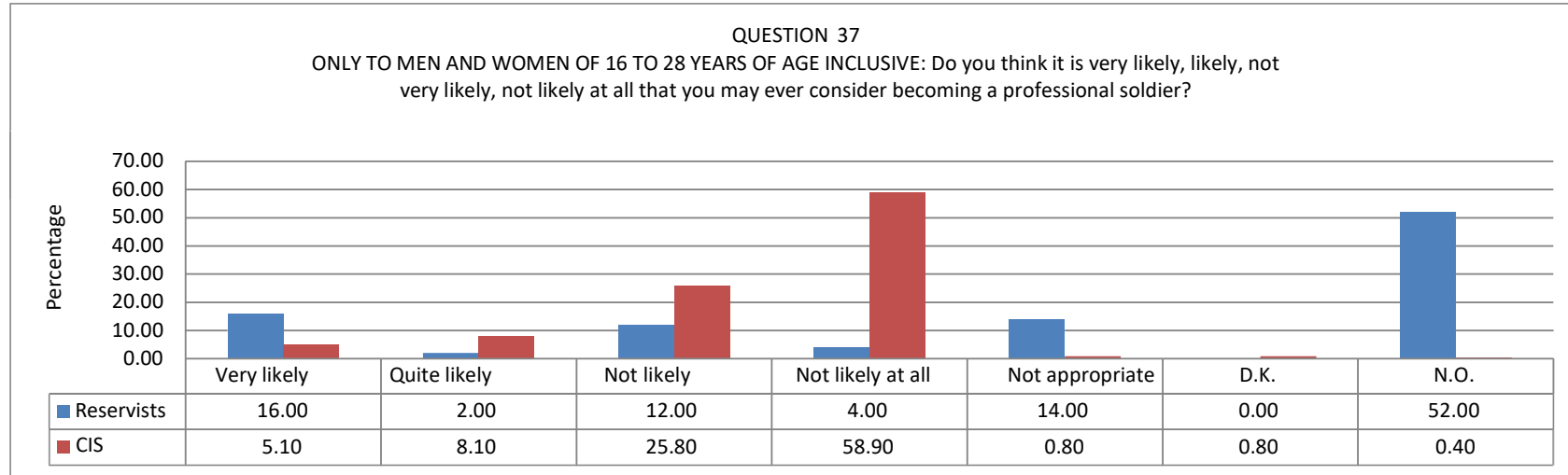


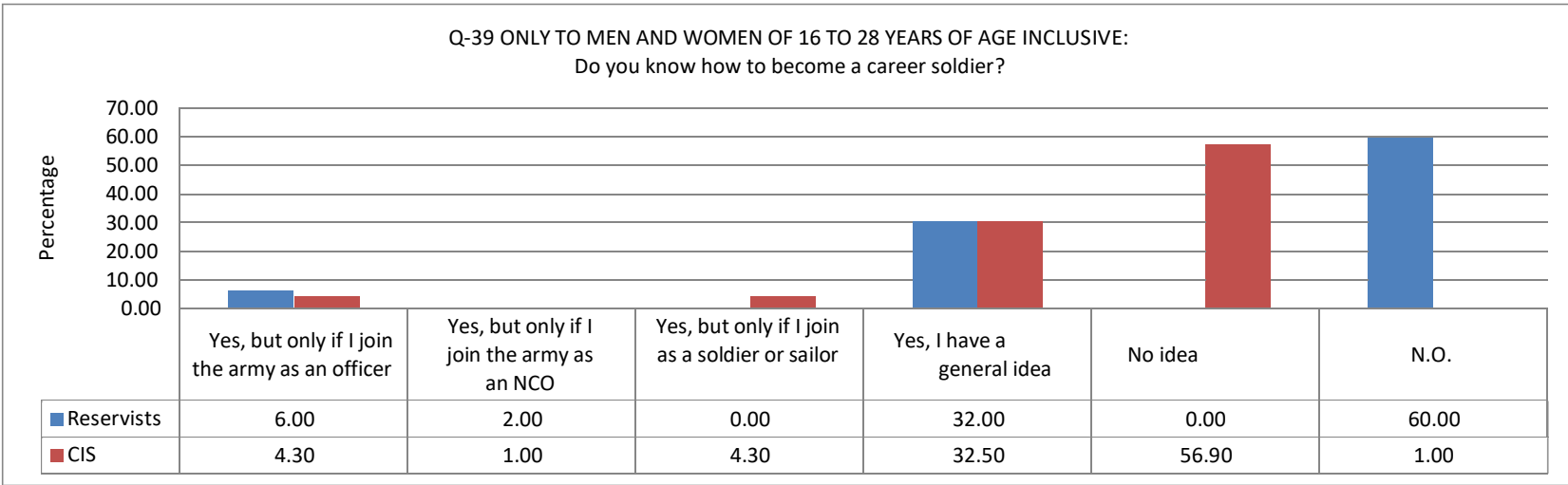
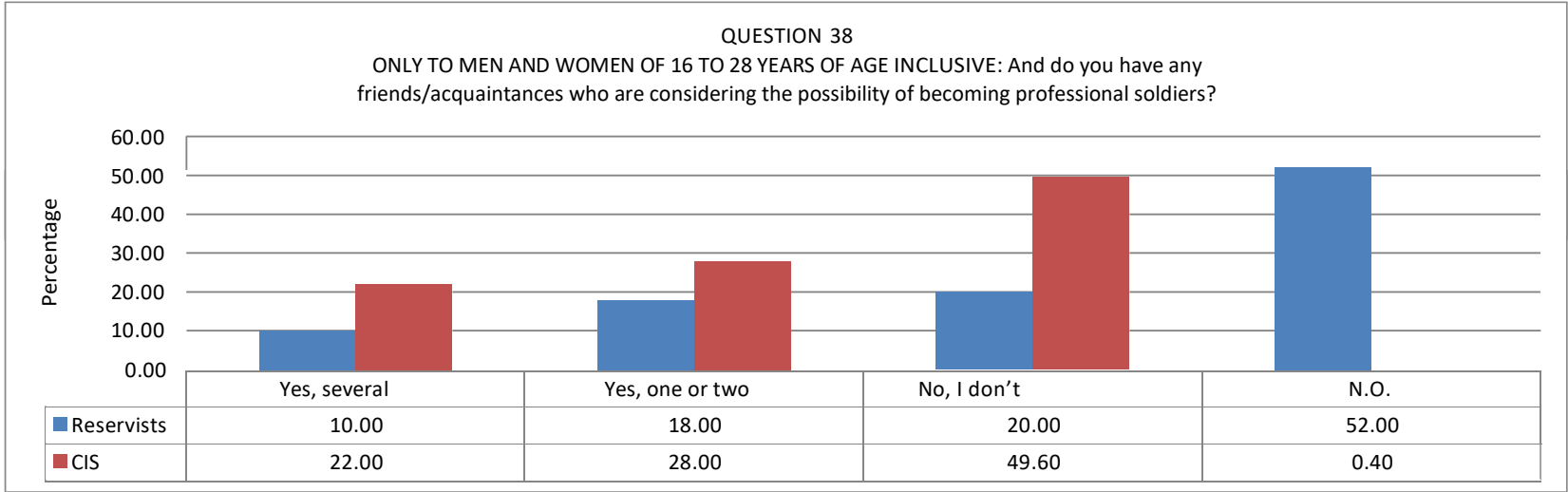


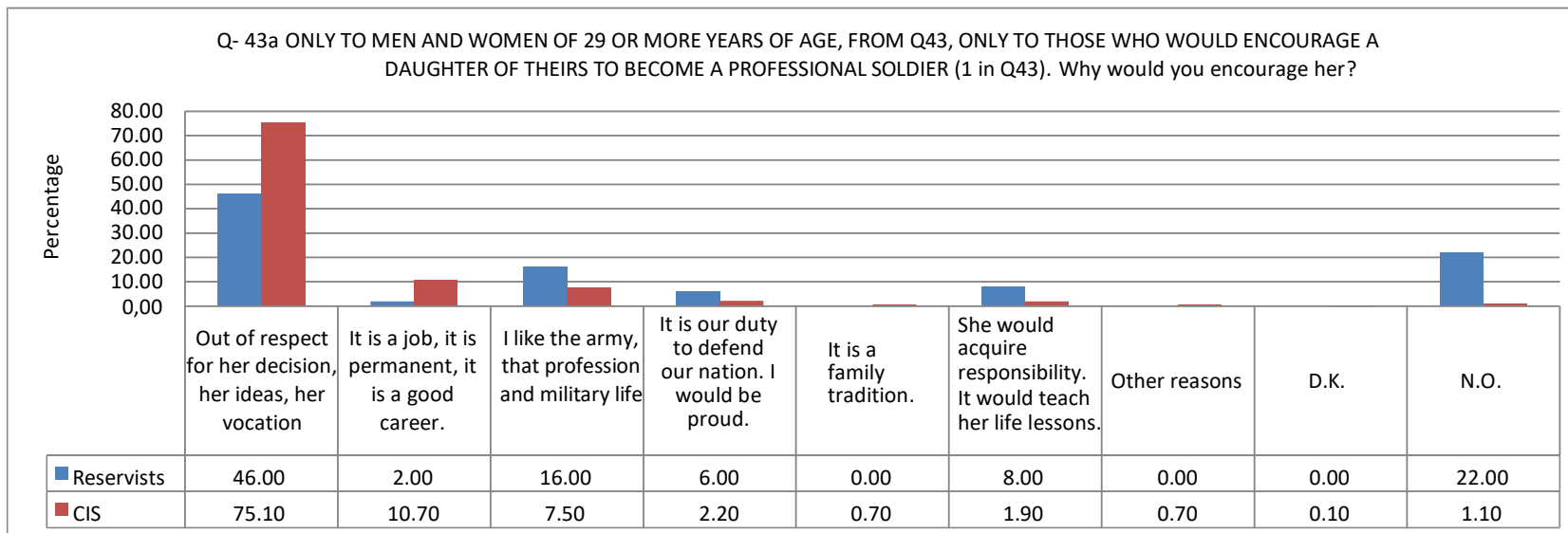
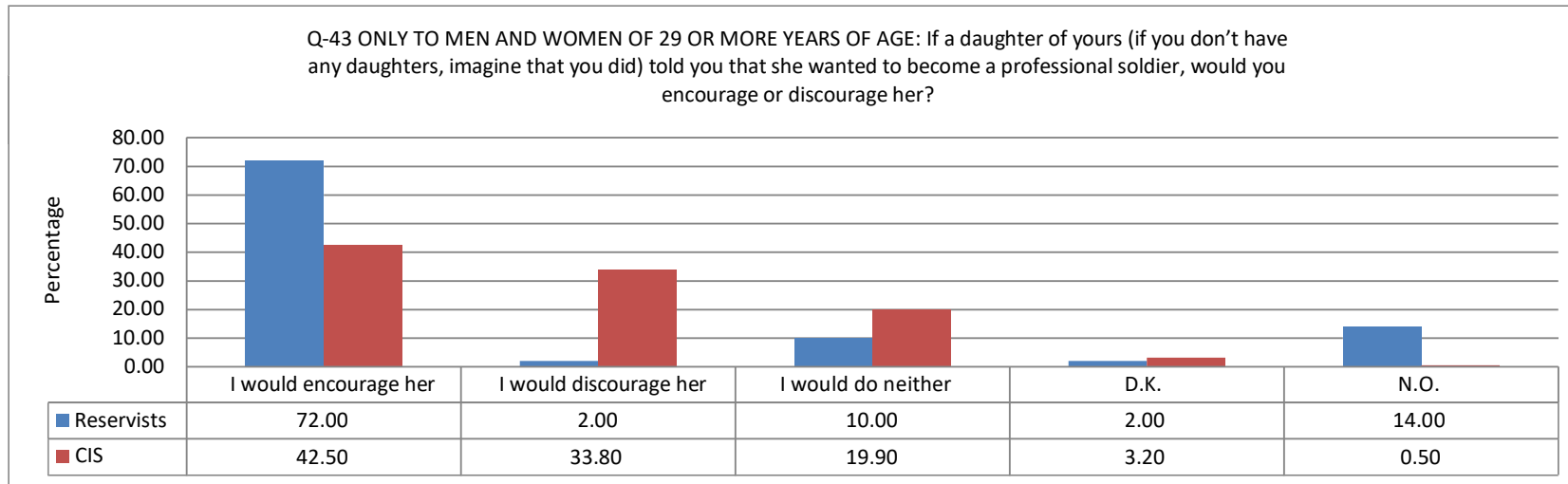


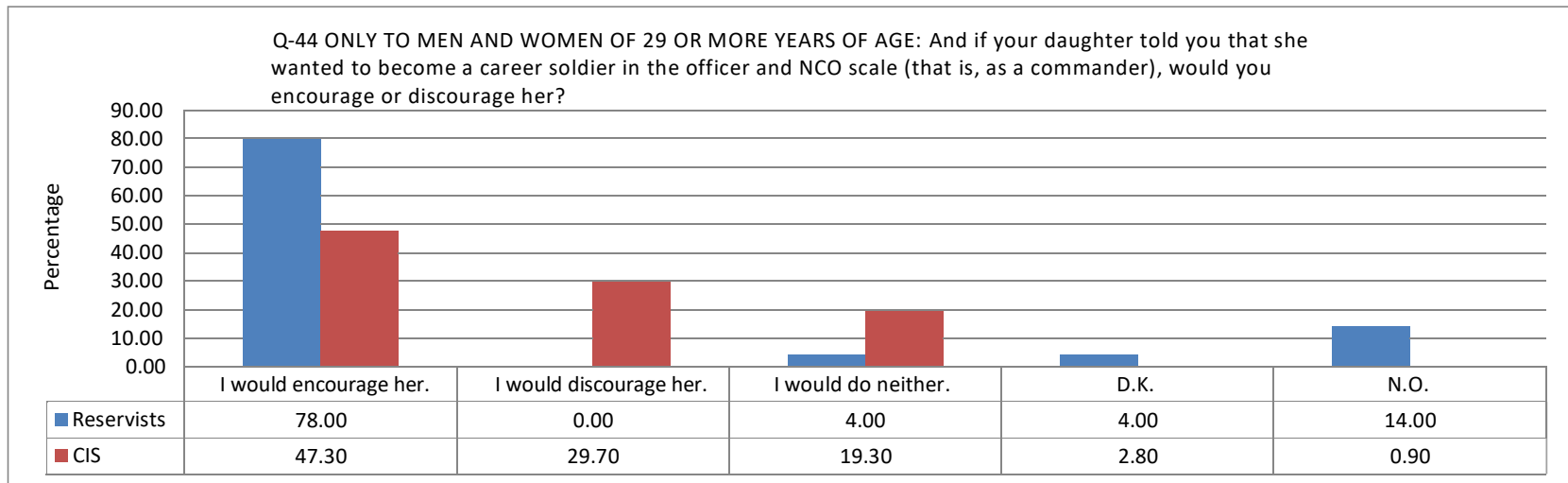
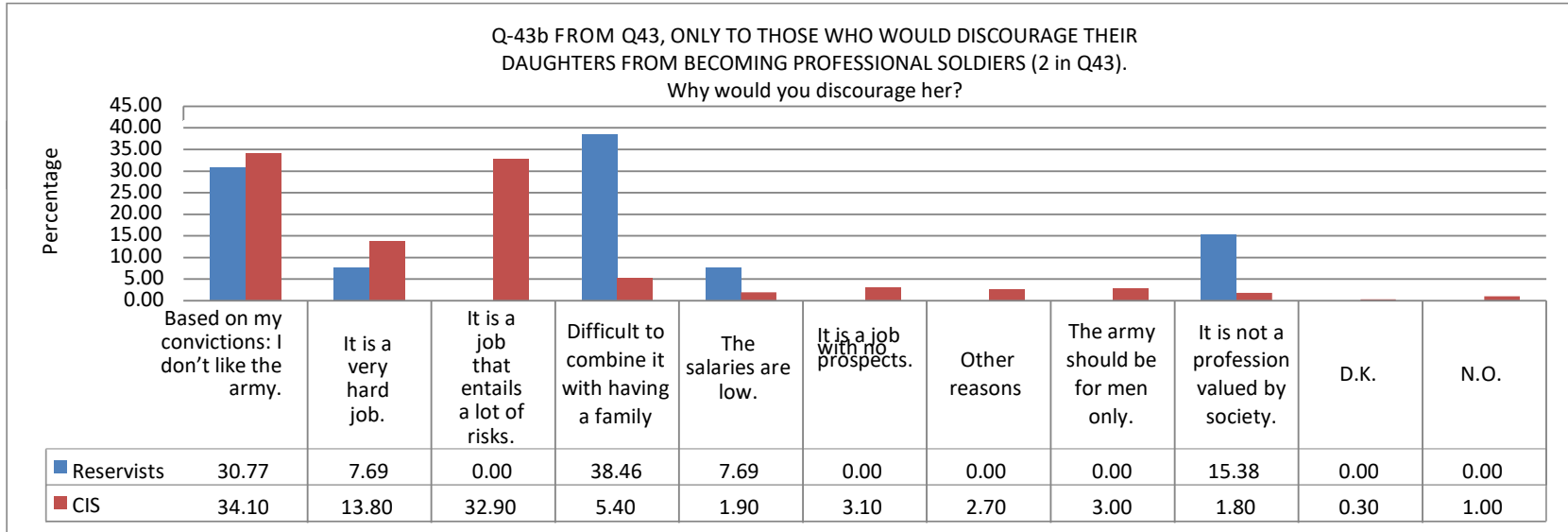


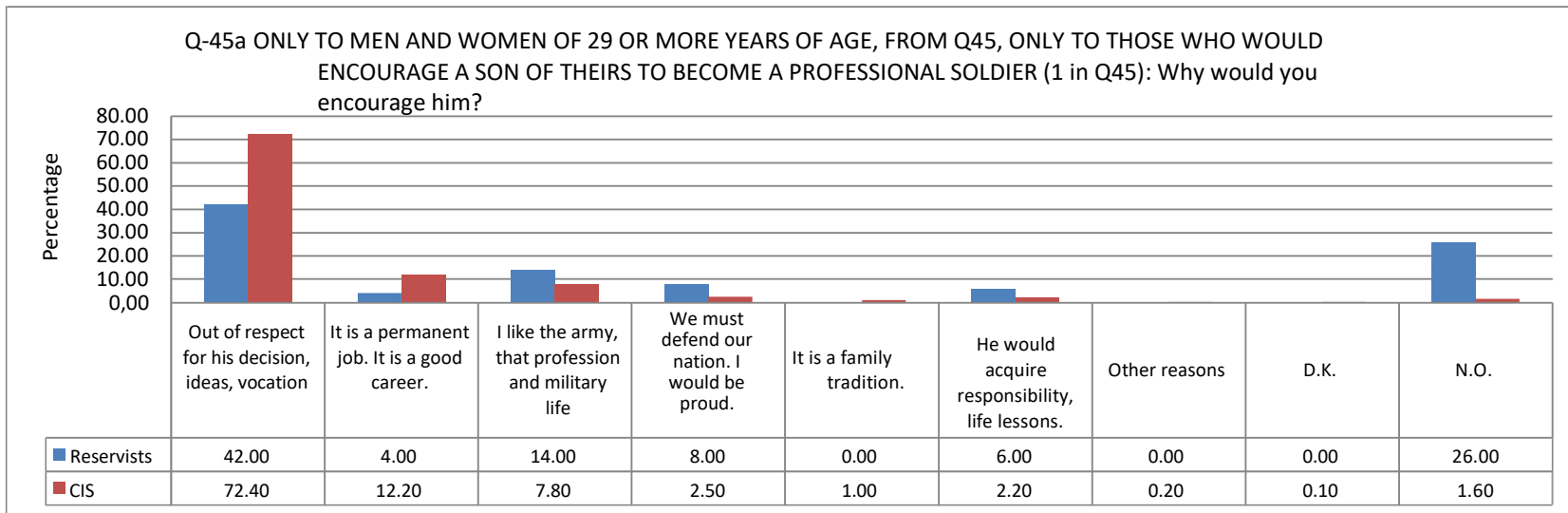
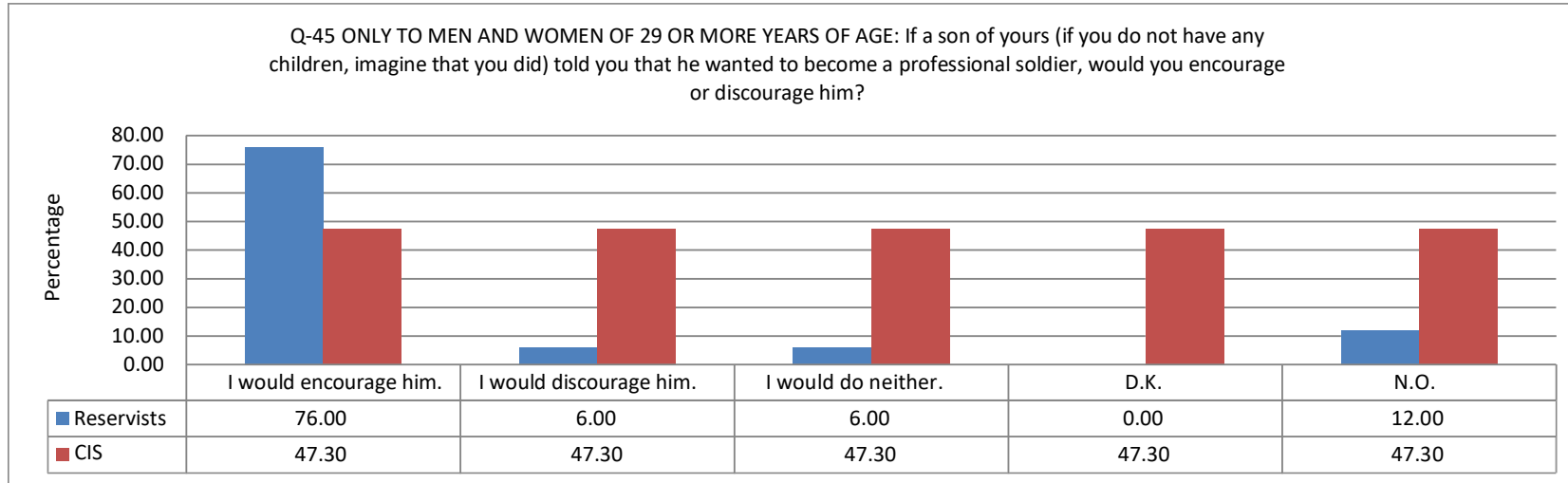


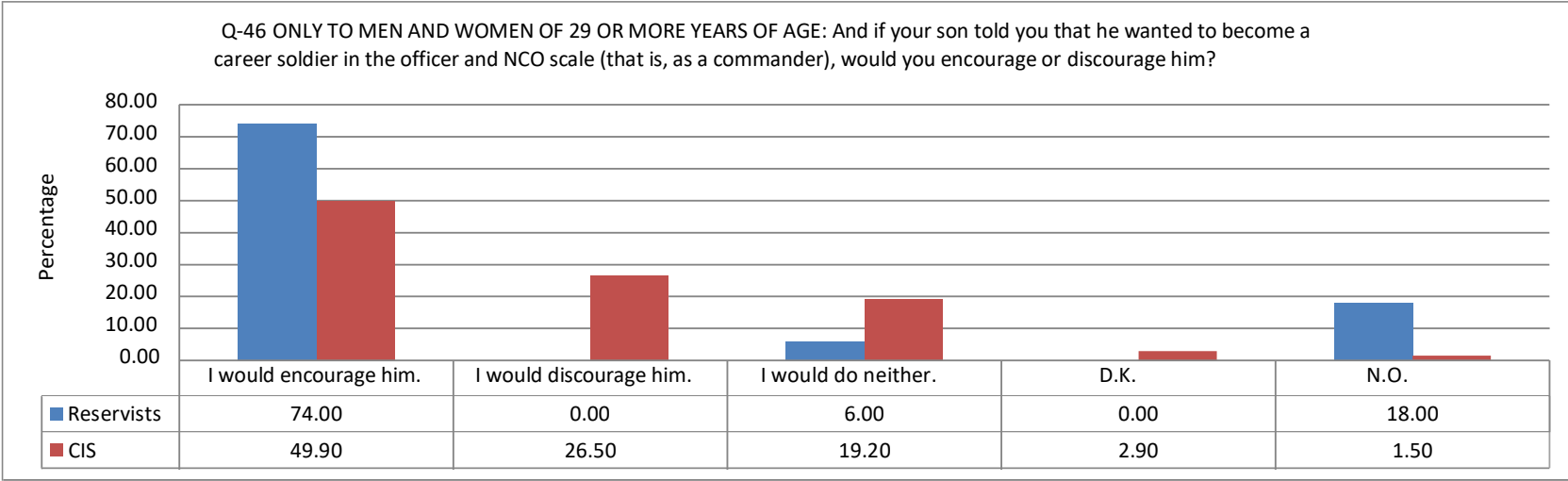
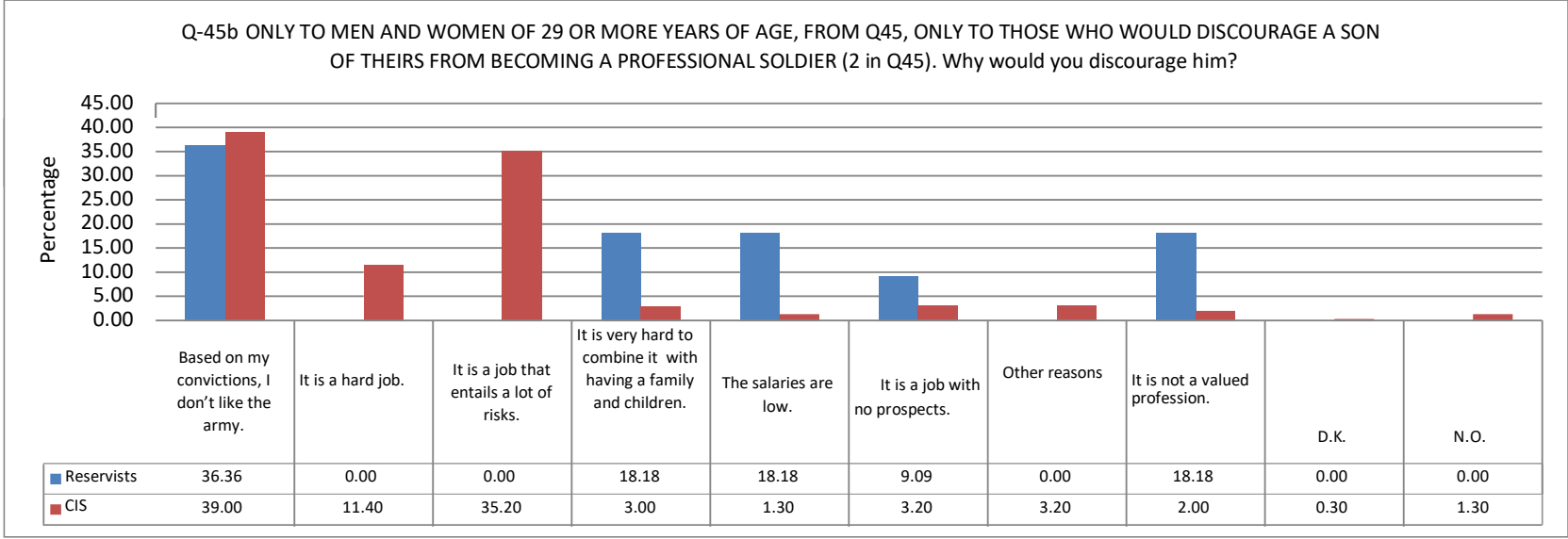


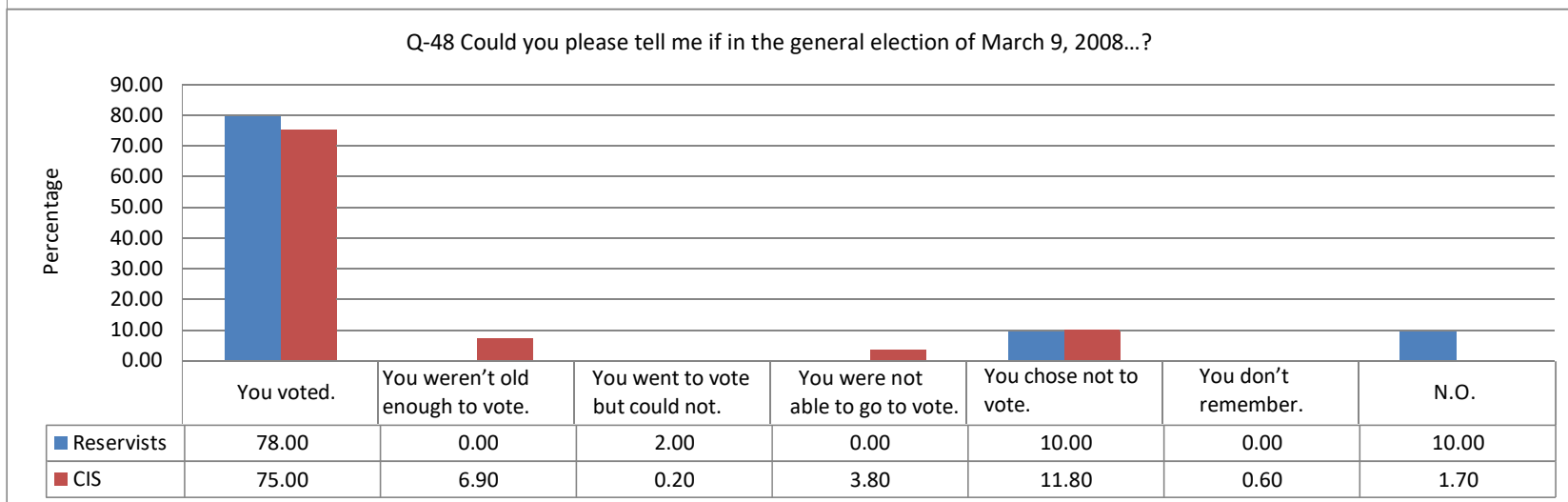
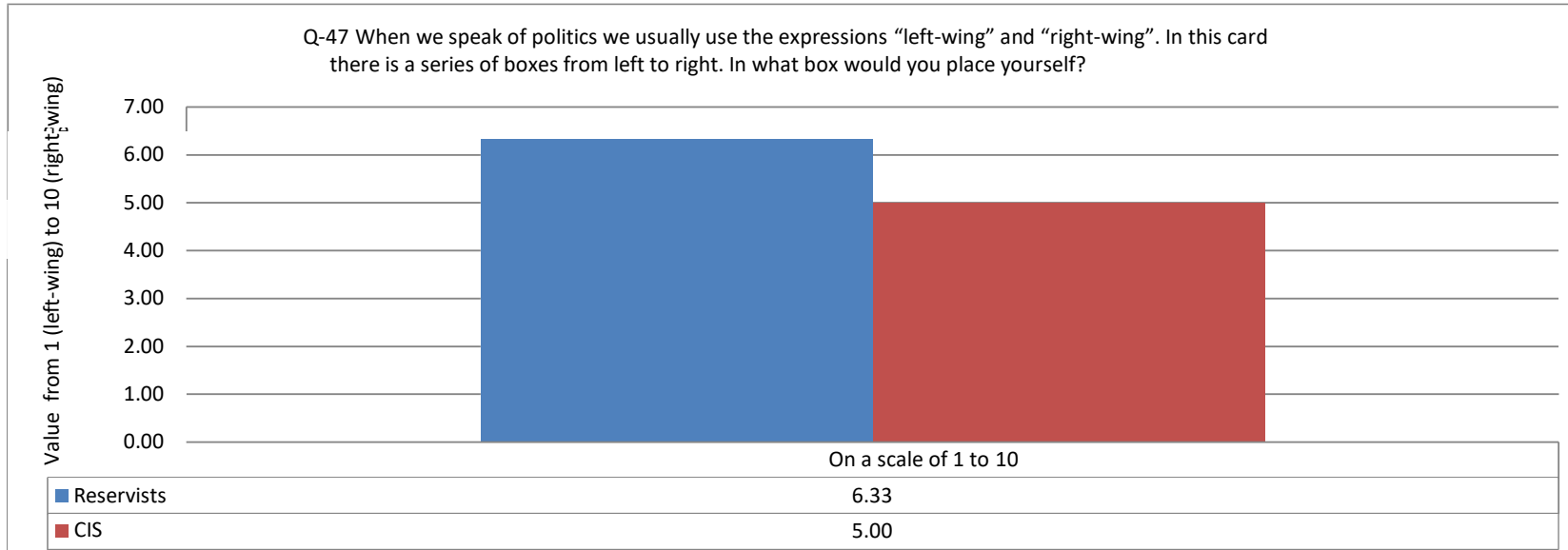


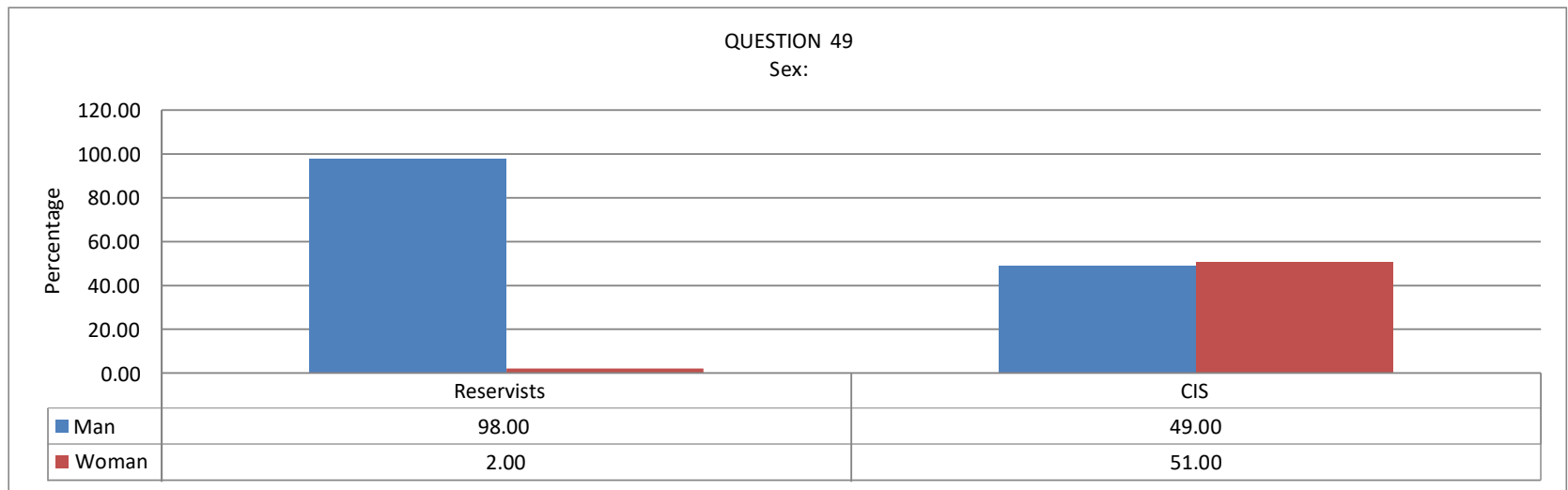
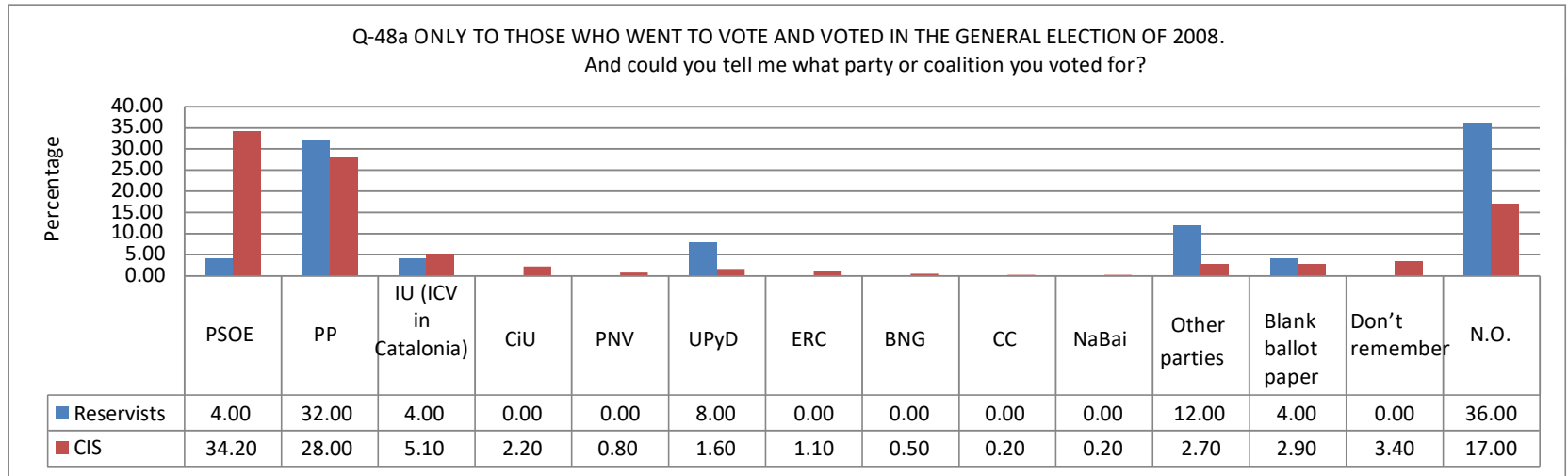


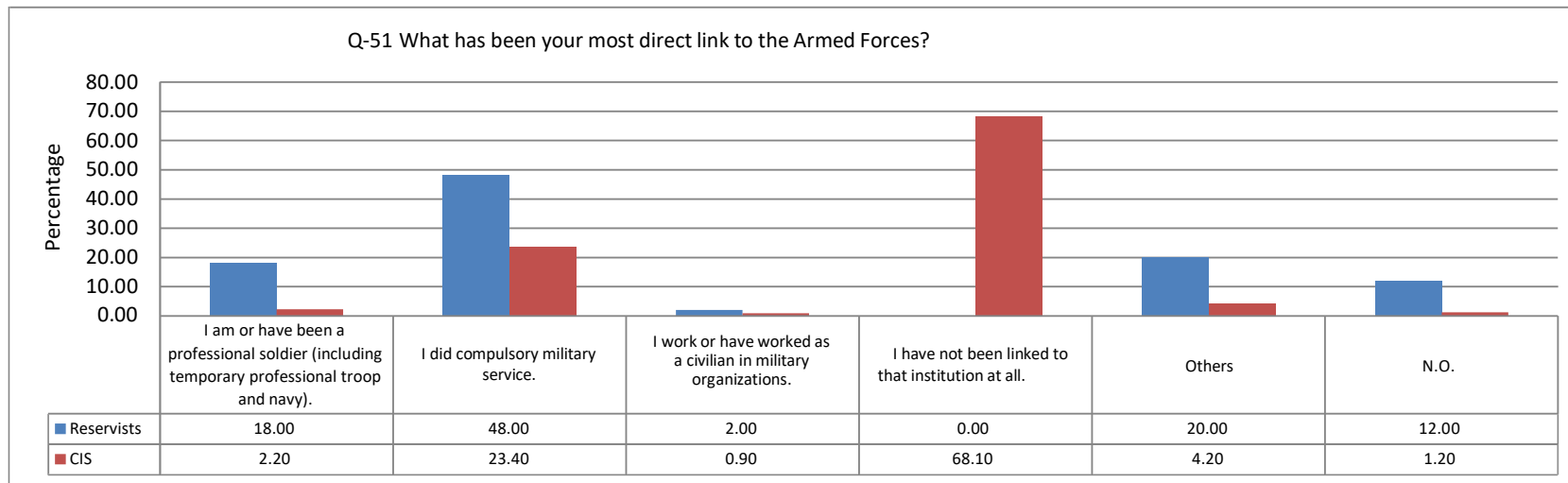
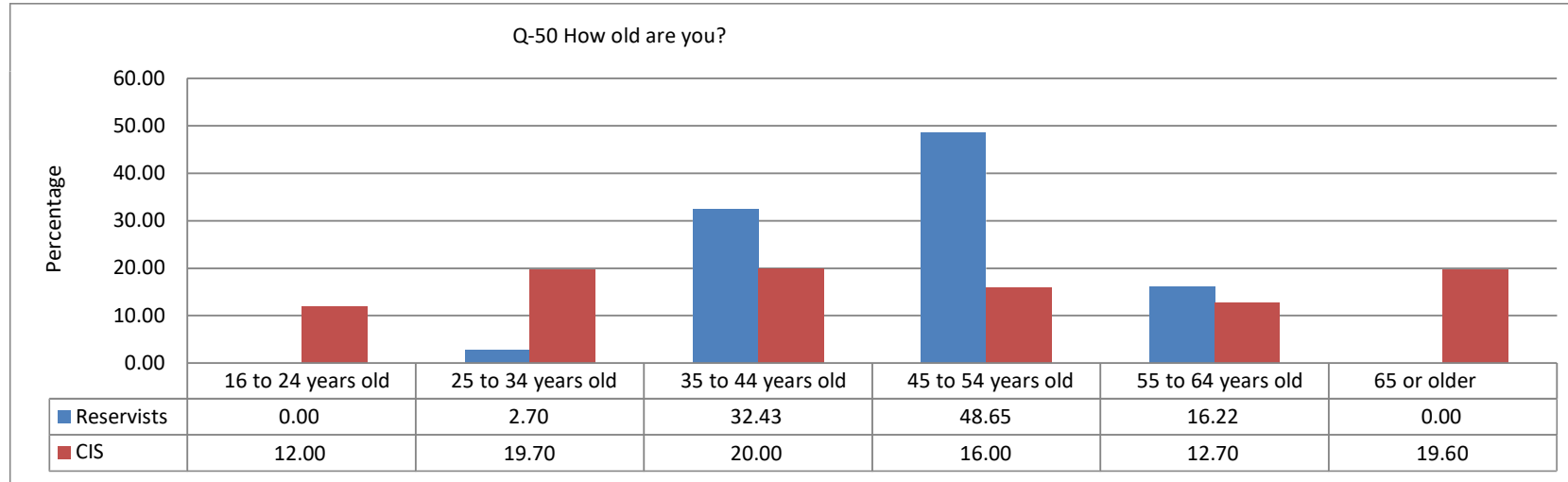


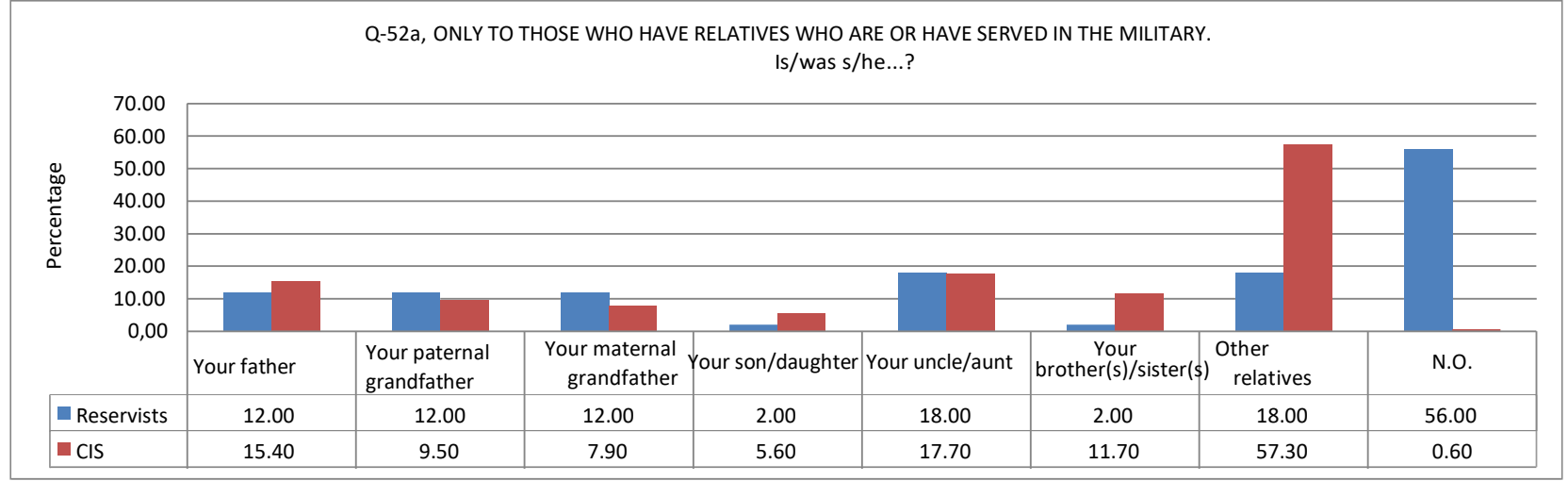
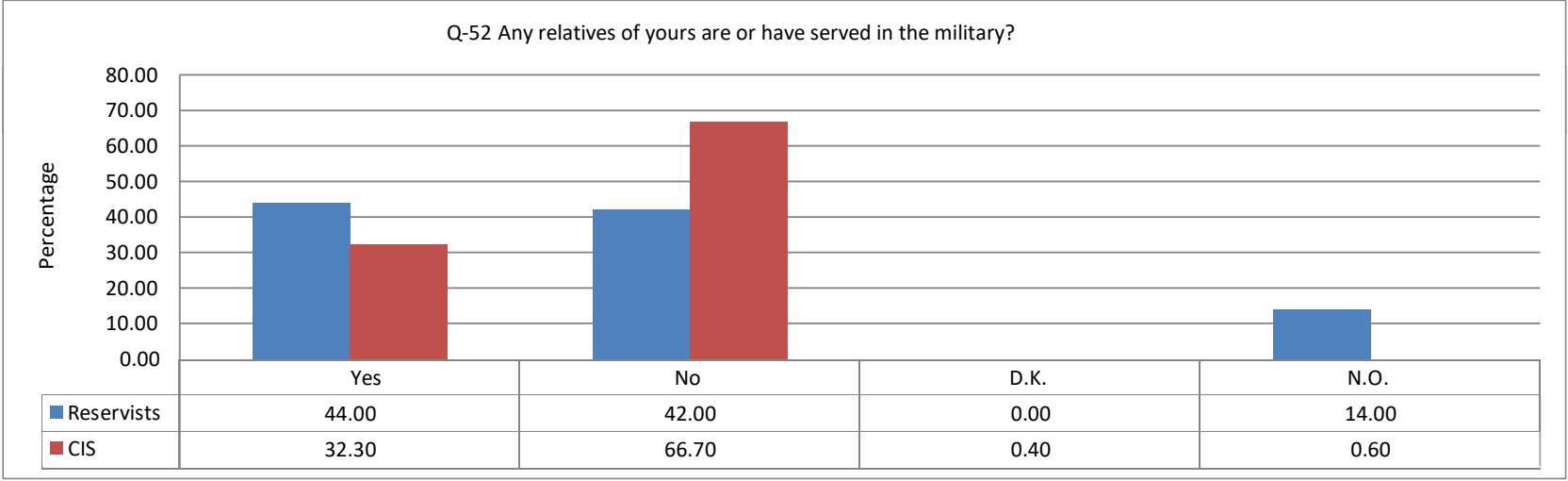


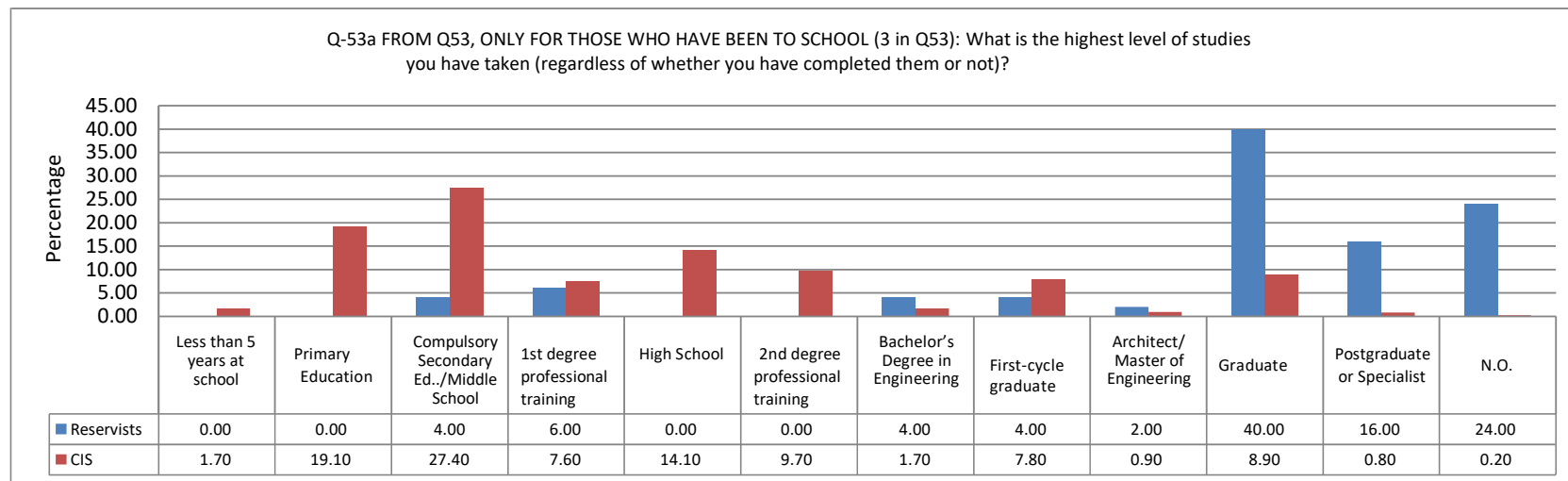
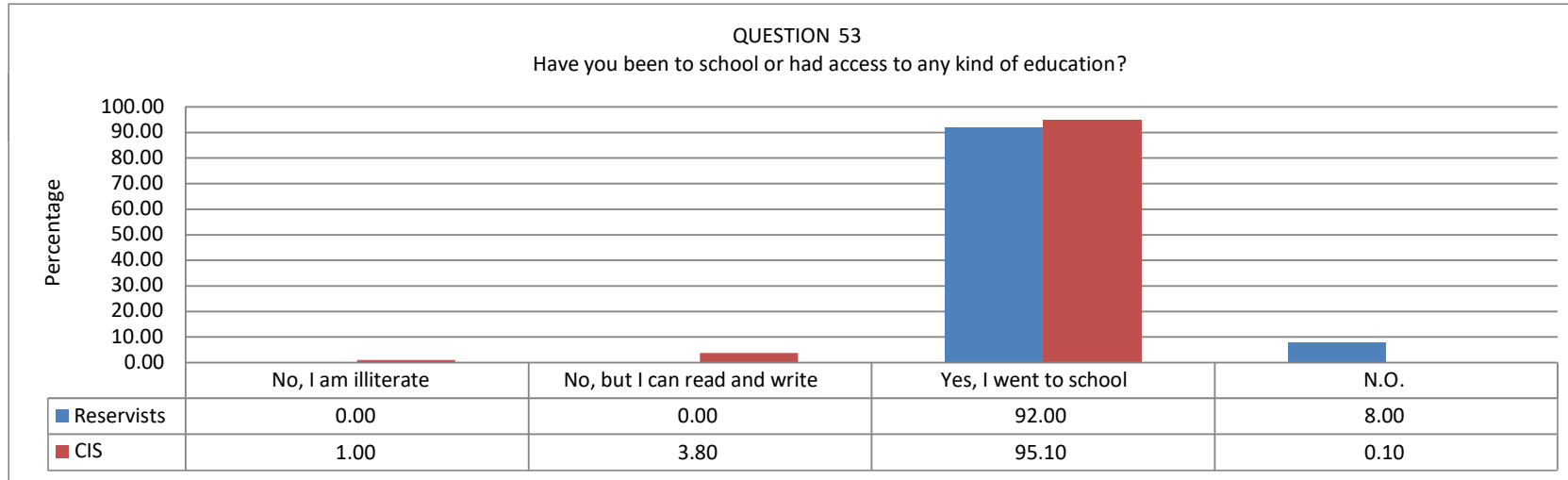


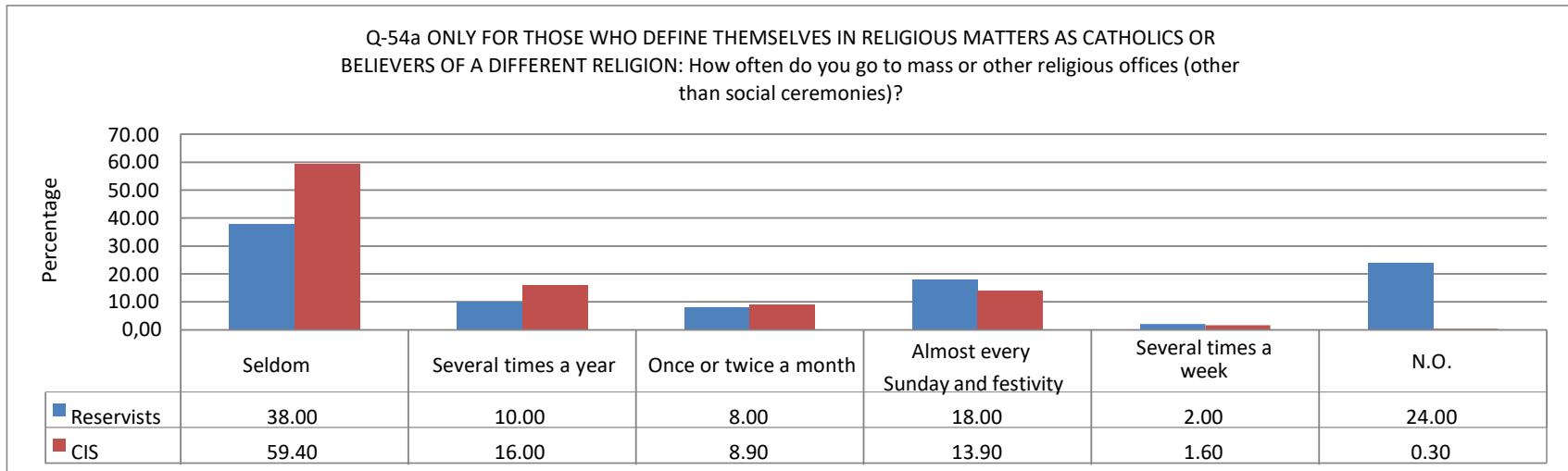
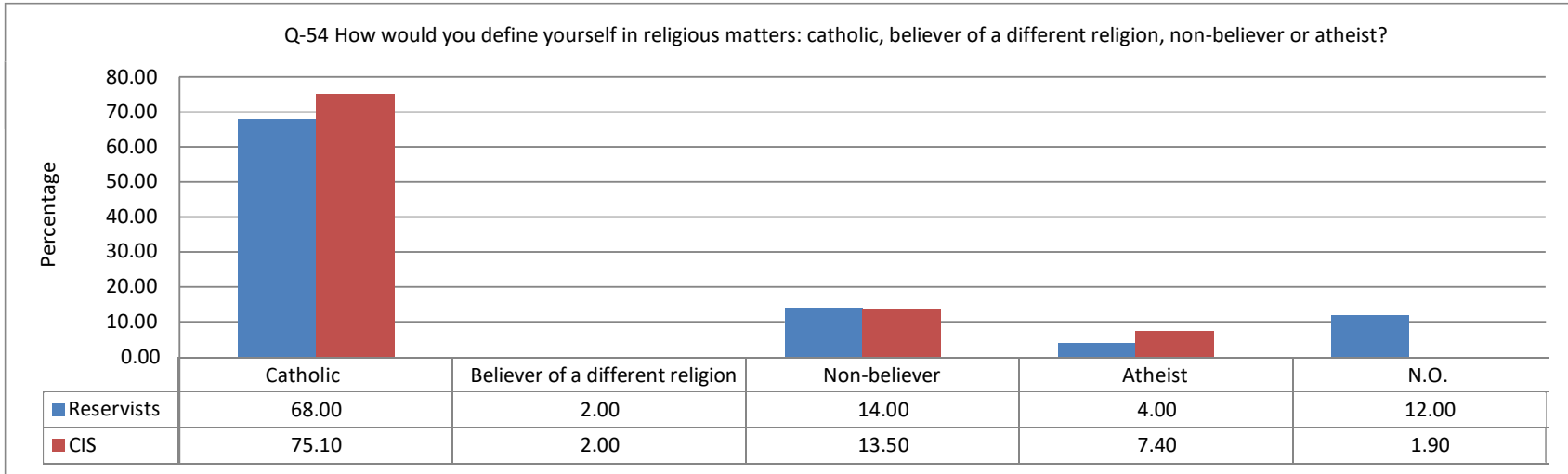


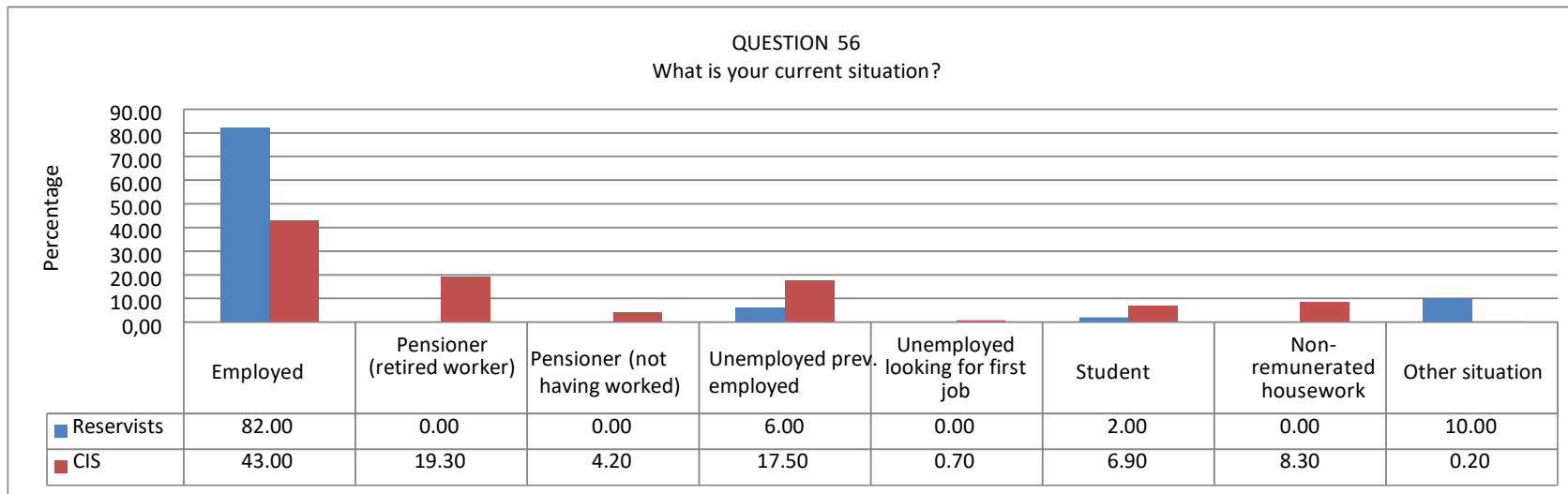
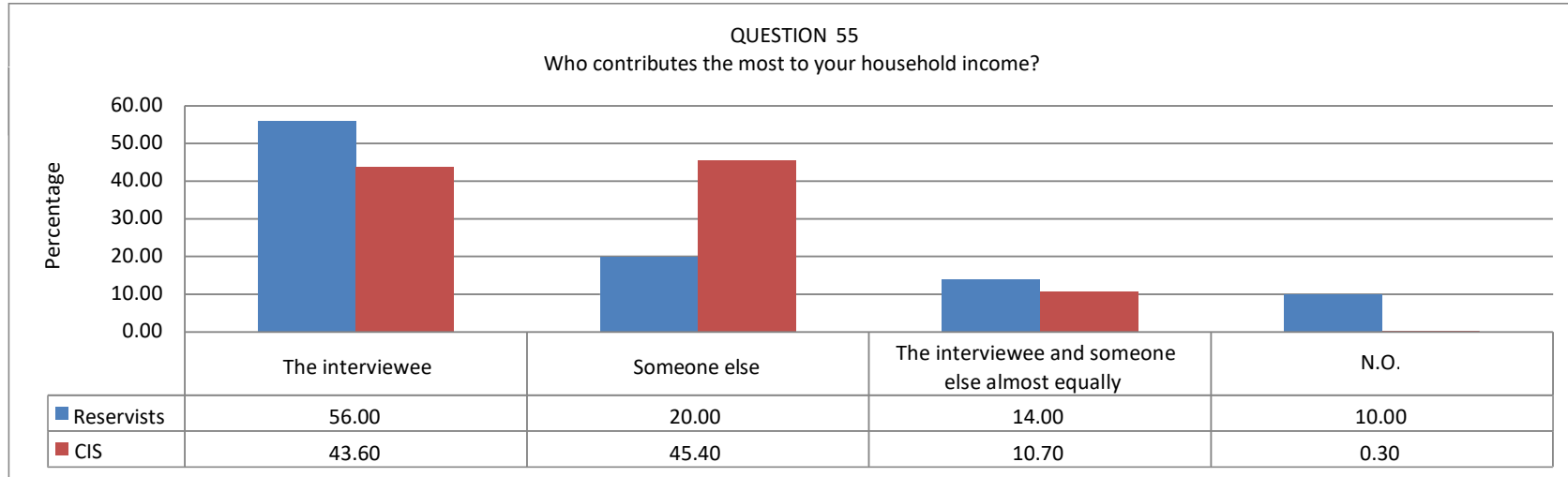


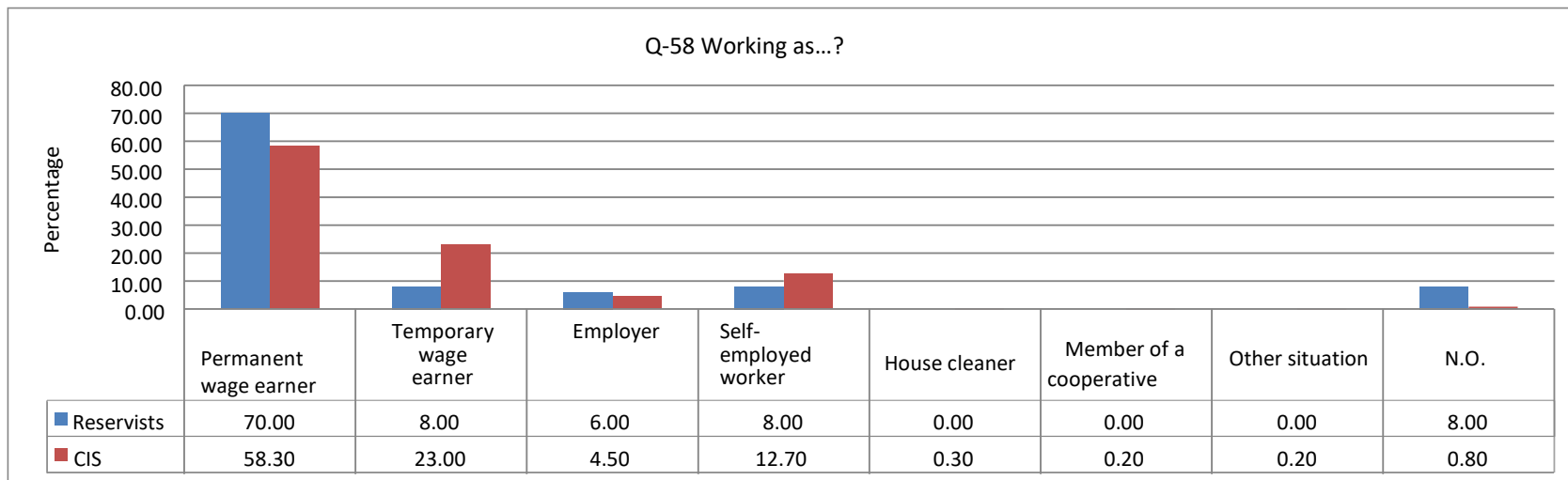
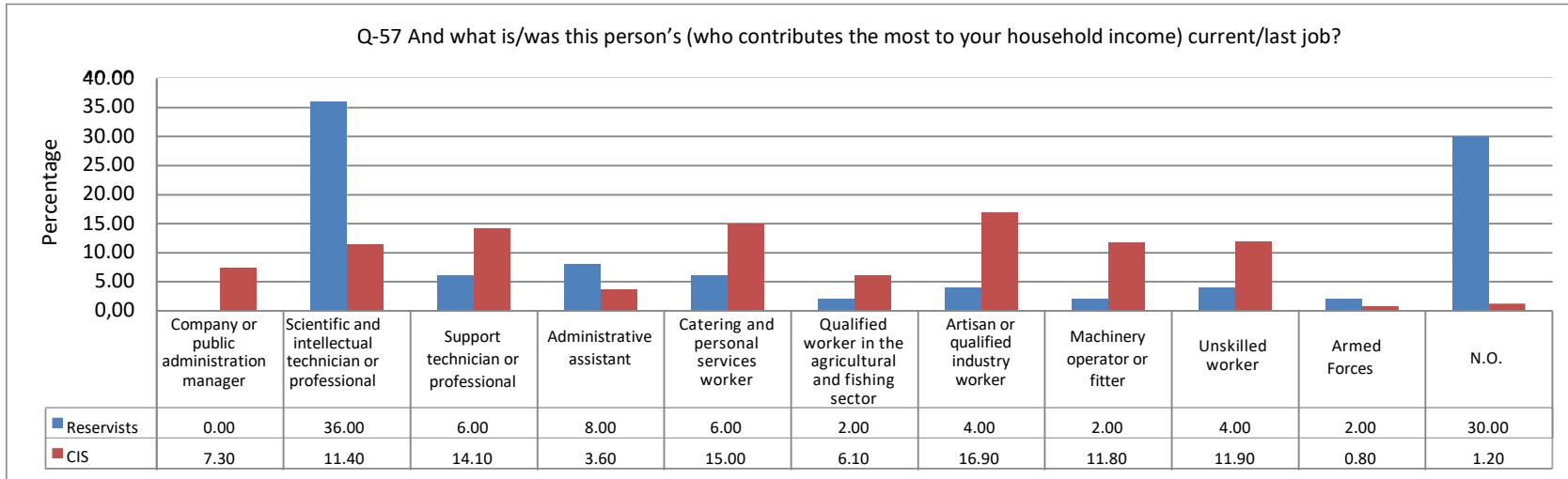


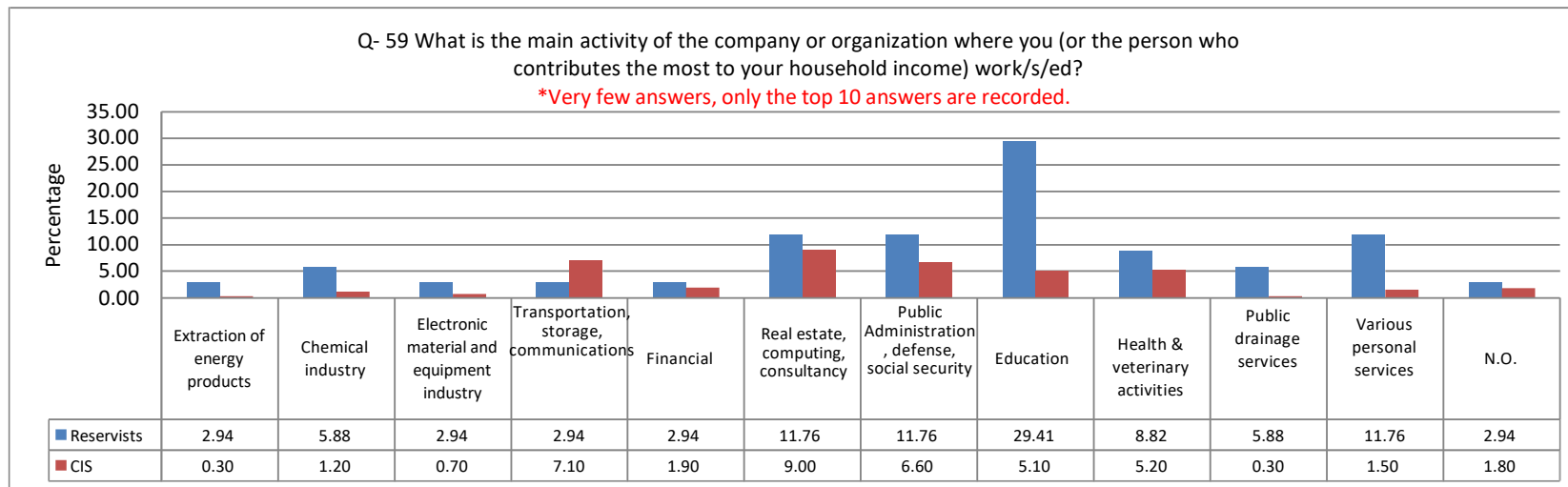
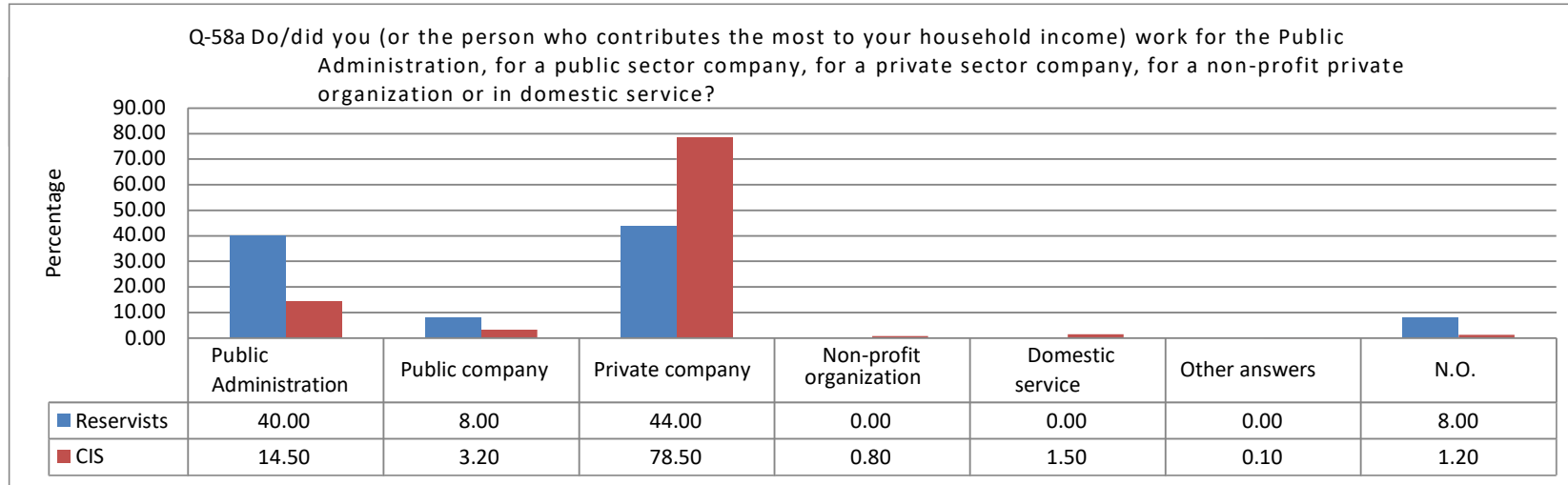




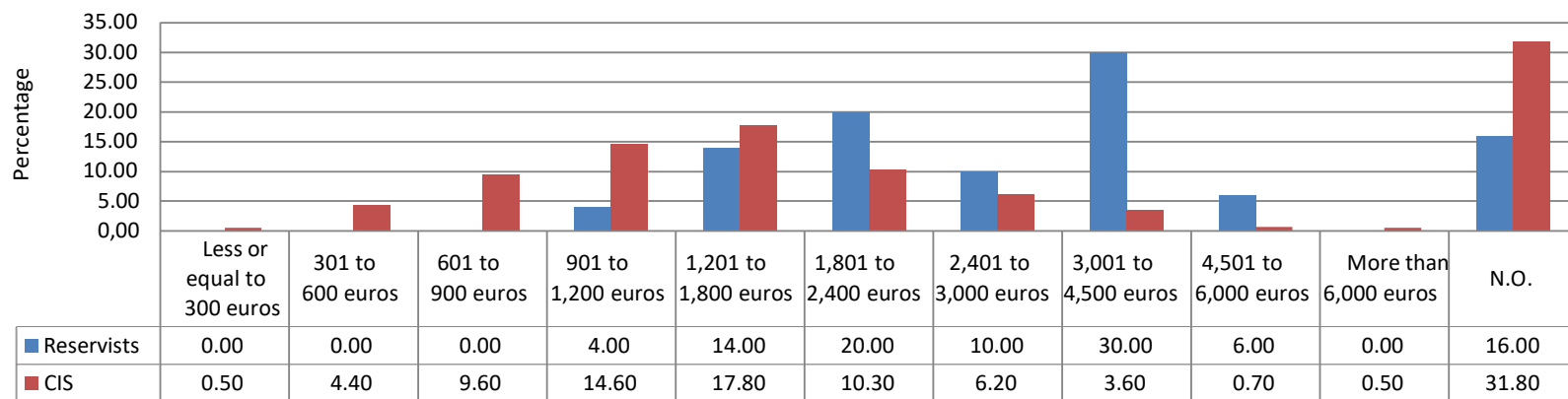








Q-60 What is your current average monthly net household income (total income contributed by you and the other members of your home)?





JOSÉ ANTONIO LÓPEZ DÍAZ, que firma con el pseudónimo de **Antonio Cuestas**, nació en Las Cuestas de Trubia, Oviedo (Asturias) en 1959.

Es Ingeniero de Minas y Máster en Historia por la Universidad de Oviedo.

Comenzó su vida laboral a los 14 años como Aprendiz de la Fábrica de Armas de Trubia (Empresa Nacional Santa Bárbara). Trabajó en ella durante 25 años teniendo entre otras responsabilidades las de: Jefe del Taller de Mecanosoldadura, Jefe de Almacenes y Transportes, Jefe de Compras de Santa Bárbara Blindados (SB-B)-Sevilla durante siete años.

Profesor de Enseñanza Secundaria desde 1998. Habilitado en el Programa Bilingüe (inglés) desde 2008.

Realizó el Ciclo Superior de inglés en Escuela Oficial de Idiomas (EOI) y el Nivel C1 del Trinity College, Norwich (UK). Diplomado por la OTAN para el mundo militar. Francés: Ciclo Medio, EOI. Portugués: Ciclo Superior, EOI-Madrid y Ciclo Superior del Instituto de Idiomas (Universidad de Sevilla).

Miembro de la Junta Directiva de ARAMA (Asociación para la Recuperación de la Arquitectura Militar en Asturias) y de la Asociación Iberoamericana de Periodistas Especializados y Técnicos (AIPET) desde 1989.

En el ámbito empresarial privado, fue presidente de la Sociedad "SKI-TOTAL" y ejerció como monitor nacional de tenis y pádel, así como de árbitro nacional.

Conferenciante sobre diversos aspectos empresariales e históricos y sobre la Reserva Militar Española.

Alférez de Fragata (RV) desde 2006 hasta el presente.



Con la colaboración de:



Asociación ARES de Reservistas Españoles

