

Spain

Ethnicity in Spain

Group selection

Spain has witnessed a peaceful transition to democracy following the death of Dictator Francisco Franco in 1975. The new Constitution of 1978 started the process of democratic consolidation. Rapid economic modernization gave the country a dynamic and fast growing economy and turned it into a global champion of freedom and human rights (cf. ⁴¹⁴⁸).

Following Fearon's (⁴¹⁴⁹) list, the population of Spain consists of the following groups: **Spanish** 68 percent, **Catalan** 16.9 percent, **Galician** 6 percent, **Basques** 5.4 percent and **Roma** 1.9 percent.

⁴¹⁴⁸ [CIA World Factbook, 2015]

⁴¹⁴⁹ [Fearon Laitin, 2003]

Power relations

Franco Regime, 1946 - 1976

Moreno and Arriba (⁴¹⁵⁰) describe the "sacred unity of the homeland" as *raison d'être* for the Franco regime. Any form of federalism, separatism or ethnic identity in the form of language or cultural differentiation was suppressed (⁴¹⁵¹). Although Linz and coauthors (⁴¹⁵²) report that many of the ministers of the Franco regime were in fact of minority-origin, the fact that the dictatorial regime suppressed any form of strive for greater regional autonomy should be taken as a sign for the exclusion of the political interests of the respective ethnic groups from executive government. Hence, the ethnic representatives can be seen as mere token representatives. Moreover, any form of political organization that supported any form of nationalism different from Spanish nationalism was forbidden. Therefore, the Spanish are coded as being dominant while the Catalans, Galicians and Basques are coded as being discriminated. All three groups can be considered as being politically relevant due to (1) their special role of having had autonomy rights in the second republic and fostering polarization in the wake of the civil war, as well as (2) the existence of regionalist opposition movements in the late years of Franco's dictatorship (⁴¹⁵³).

⁴¹⁵⁰ [Moreno Arriba, 1998]

⁴¹⁵¹ [Moreno, 1997]

⁴¹⁵² [Linz, Jerez Corzo, 2003]

⁴¹⁵³ [Moreno Arriba, 1998]

During the time, the Roma were persecuted and harassed by the fascist regime (⁴¹⁵⁴) - therefore, they are coded as being discriminated.

⁴¹⁵⁴ [Minority Rights Group International, 2014]

Democracy, 1977 - 2017

A new constitution was drafted under the broad inclusion of all ethnic groups, leading to the compromise of "(1) the idea of an indivisible and solely Spanish nation-state and (2) a concept of Spain as an ensemble of diverse peoples, historic nations, and regions" (4155). The so-called historical nationalities, Catalonia, the Basque Country and Galicia, gained regional autonomy in the process. There was a distinct involvement of regional political elites in the drafting of the constitution (4156), and particularly the Catalans had representation among the seven political leaders (the so-called 'Fathers of the Constitution') who participated in the writing of the Constitution. However, all minority groups were still excluded from the executive power. Given that the former Francoist restrictions and bans to political organization were abolished in late 1976 (Law 1/1977 for the Political Reform), Catalans, Basques, and Galicians are considered powerless from 1977 on. Indeed, ethno-nationalist political organizations flourished during this period, although they never got enough electoral support to be included in government. After the death of Franco, the persecution of Roma stopped and policies were crafted to further their inclusion into society. However, they were not included into the national executive. Therefore the Roma are coded as being powerless.

4155 [Moreno, 1997]

4156 [Linz, Jerez Corzo, 2003]

In 1978, Spain ratified its new Constitution, creating a system of differentiated regional autonomy for its major ethnic/linguistic groups, and of equal rights for Roma. In 1979 the first elections were held.

The political relevant ethnic groups have had representation in the national parliament in every legislature, but have never been formally part of the government. Although politicians from Galicia, the Basque Country, and Catalonia have been ministers (and Prime Ministers) in different national governments (4157), they were not part of nationalist political organizations and therefore did not represent the interest of these minority groups. Even the left-wing Socialist governments, which have included members of its Catalan branch Partido de los Socialistas de Cataluna (PSC), supported a form of federalism that extends to all regions in Spain and therefore did not support the interest of any region in particular. Following the same reasoning, the support of Basque and Catalan parties of the investiture of national governments did not mean direct access to executive power, but a set of policy concessions or exchange support at the regional level. Given all of this, the powerless status is extended to the whole period. Regarding regional autonomy, Catalonia and the Basque Country had their Statues of Autonomy approved in 1979, so autonomy is coded from 1980 on. Galicia approved its Statue in 1981, so regional autonomy is coded from 1982 on.

4157 [Linz, Jerez Corzo, 2003]

The Roma are coded as powerless after the ratification of the new Constitution; no signs have been found neither for their discrimination nor for their inclusion into executive power at the national level

(see also ⁴¹⁵⁸).

In Catalonia tensions recently increased: In November 2014 a symbolic vote for independence was held. 80% of the 2.3 million people that voted (of a total of 5.4 million eligible voters) were in favor of a Catalanian independent state. Three years later the regional Catalanian government calls for a referendum on independence from Spain, taking place on October 1st 2017. The Spanish government opposes this referendum and claims it is violating the constitution (⁴¹⁵⁹).

⁴¹⁵⁸ [US State Department, 1999-2013]

⁴¹⁵⁹ [The Guardian, 2017]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Spain

From 1946 until 1976

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Spanish	0.68	MONOPOLY
Catalans	0.169	DISCRIMINATED
Galician	0.06	DISCRIMINATED
Basques	0.054	DISCRIMINATED
Roma	0.019	DISCRIMINATED

From 1977 until 1979

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Spanish	0.68	DOMINANT
Catalans	0.169	POWERLESS
Galician	0.06	POWERLESS
Basques	0.054	POWERLESS
Roma	0.019	POWERLESS

From 1980 until 1981

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Spanish	0.68	DOMINANT
Catalans	0.169	POWERLESS
Galician	0.06	POWERLESS
Basques	0.054	POWERLESS
Roma	0.019	POWERLESS



Figure 832: Political status of ethnic groups in Spain during 1946-1976.



Figure 833: Political status of ethnic groups in Spain during 1977-1979.



Figure 834: Political status of ethnic groups in Spain during 1980-1981.

From 1982 until 2017

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Spanish	0.68	DOMINANT
Catalans	0.169	POWERLESS
Galician	0.06	POWERLESS
Basques	0.054	POWERLESS
Roma	0.019	POWERLESS



Figure 835: Political status of ethnic groups in Spain during 1982-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Spain

From 1946 until 2017

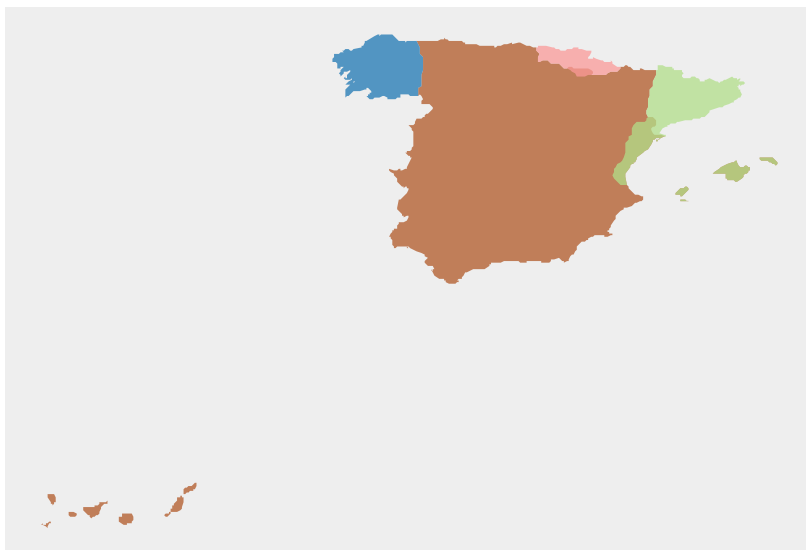


Figure 836: Map of ethnic groups in Spain during 1946-2017.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Spanish	428 430	Regional & urban
Catalans	47 366	Regional & urban
Galician	35 110	Regional & urban
Basques	11 585	Regional & urban
Roma		Dispersed

Table 285: List of ethnic groups in Spain during 1946-2017.

Conflicts in Spain

Starting on 1968-06-06

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Spain	ETA	Basques	1968-06-06	Explicit	Yes	No