# duPont BH Neg File – Emory 2018

#### Resolved: Spain should grant Catalonia its independence.

# Case

### Case

#### Ben and I Negate.

#### Our Sole Contention is Promoting Isolation

Kester of Foreign Policy writes on October 9th that if Catalonia were to break off from Spain, it would have to gain unanimous support to re-enter multilateral organizations that Spain is a part of. Unfortunately, Jon Henly of the Guardian writes on October 9th that in order for Catalonia to join the EU, every single member state would have to agree to it.

However, an independent Catalonia would not be able to garner unanimous support to join the EU for three reasons:

**First, because other EU members need to deter their own border crises.**

Rebecca Pinnington writes for Express on October 11th that other member nations such as Belgium and Denmark will not allow Catalonia to join the EU because it would set a dangerous precedence for independence on their border regions. To deter their own situations from escalating, plenty of EU member states would be unlikely to vote in favor of Catalonian membership.

**Two, because Catalonia can’t meet the EU’s economic standards.**

The EU has strict financial requirements for their members, including a limit on a country’s national debt. Of these includes the soundness and stability of public finances, which prevents member nations from having a national deficit of over 3% Unfortunately, the Catalan news network El Nacional reports in September that Catalonia’s deficit is over 9.8 billion euros, totaling over 5% of the region’s GDP. What’s scarier is the fact that the 2014 deficit had only grown since 2012 and 2013. Since Catalonia would not have this debt resolved in the event of independence, they would be an economically infeasible candidate to be a member of the EU.

**Third, because the EU isn’t ready for new members.**

Ryan Heath of Politico writes that new budget negotiations and problems with Brexit have caused the EU to not have the ability to consider new members until 2027. Unfortunately, even if they are considered, Heath furthers that the shortest amount of time it has taken a country to join the EU is 5 years, meaning Catalonia would still see negative impacts of not being in the EU.

For all three of these reasons, Sen of the Atlantic Council writes on October 2nd that Catalonia would lose its membership in the European Union if it were to gain its independence.

**Leaving the EU would be monumentally catastrophic for Catalonia as they would lose their source of finance.**

Sofia Bosch of CNBC writes that Catalonia has amassed one of the largest public debts of Spain's regions, at roughly 72.2 billion euros. As such, Catalonia accounts for 16.34 percent of Spain's debt, which is not a small price tag. Unfortunately, Albert Estanol of the Conversation writes that the Catalan government has a public debt of its own, on top of its proportional share of the Spanish government debt, which Catalonia would probably also need to take on as part of the split negotiation. This becomes even more problematic as the Foundation for Social Studies and Analysis writes that Catalonia would have to tackle this debt alone as it would lack essential funding from the European Central Bank. Due to this, Diaz writes that because Catalonia wouldn’t have the support of the Central European Bank or the Spanish government, it would likely default on this debt.

**There are two impacts of Catalonia defaulting on its debt.**

**The first is market credibility.**

Daniel Lacalle writes that if Catalonia were to default on their debt, their credibility on the debt market would be destroyed which is why Aristegui of the Indian Express says that the Catalan government would be completely incapable of financing and paying the pensions of retired Catalans and the social security of the region. This is extremely important because a total of 2.9 million people within Catalonia live directly off of these payments.

**Second is the implementation of Austerity Measures**

Kuepper writes that after countries deal with their default, they often enter a period of rough austerity measures. These measures are disastrous, as Magone reports that the last wave of austerity measures resulted in cuts to Education, social policy, and the health sector with and Lehndorff writes that they resulted in the freezing of pensions and a 5 percent reduction in public sector wages. Holisitcally, Kenworthy writes that for every 10% decrease in social spending, poverty increases by 7.5%.

**For these reasons, we are proud to negate.**

### Cards

#### Kester 17

[John Kester, 10-9-2017. "France Won’t Recognize an Independent Catalonia." Foreign Policy. http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/09/france-wont-recognize-an-independent-catalonia/] //BH

Carles Puigdemont, the president of the wealthy northeastern Spanish region, may [declare independence](http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/09/europe/catalonia-spain-independence-politics/index.html) Tuesday when the Catalan Parliament next meets. That threat comes after Spanish government forces cracked down on what they viewed as an illegal independence referendum held Oct. 1. EU officials have long hinted sotto voce that the laws of the land are those of member states — meaning Spain’s constitution would prevail in the dispute. The country’s Constitutional Court declared Catalonia’s bid unconstitutional. But **France’s vocal rejection makes clear the perilous path that any independent Catalonia would have to tread. Just one “no” vote on recognition would prevent an independent Catalan membership in the EU and NATO.** France’s reaction is easy to understand, as the splintering of centuries-old states in Europe is rekindling France’s own separatist fires. Corsican and Breton nationalists have pushed to leave the third-largest economy in the EU. French President Emmanuel Macron’s coalition handily won the June legislative elections but took [no seats](https://www.ft.com/content/c219dcbc-8e3b-11e7-9580-c651950d3672?mhq5j=e7) in Corsica. Instead, the island chose three members of parliament from a Corsican secessionist alliance.

#### Henley 17

[Jon Henley, 10-9-2017. "An independent Catalonia: practicalities of leaving Spain." Guardian. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/09/an-independent-catalonia-practicalities-of-leaving-spain] //BH

As with warnings of City firms fleeing a hard Brexit, industry is already alarmed: half a dozen Spanish companies, including major banks, are [moving their registered head offices](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/05/catalonia-political-turmoil-prompting-firms-to-consider-relocating-banks-spain-eu-independence)to guarantee access to their domestic and wider EU markets. **Despite claims by pro-independence campaigners that the EU would not want to lose a wealthy region that would rank 15th or 16th in the bloc in terms of GDP, Brussels has made clear that the region will not automatically become a member. It would have to apply, and acceptance would require the agreement of every other EU member state – including**[**Spain**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/spain)**, which in 2014 threatened to veto an eventual Scottish accession bid precisely to discourage Catalan independence.** [Catalonia](https://www.theguardian.com/world/catalonia) has much of the paraphernalia of statehood: it has a flag, a parliament, its own police force and broadcast regulator, and it provides some of its own public services such as healthcare and education. But an independent Catalonia would need to establish its own central bank, inland revenue, air traffic control and defence force, all of which are currently run from Madrid – as are electricity and gas transportation and distribution.

#### Pinnington 17

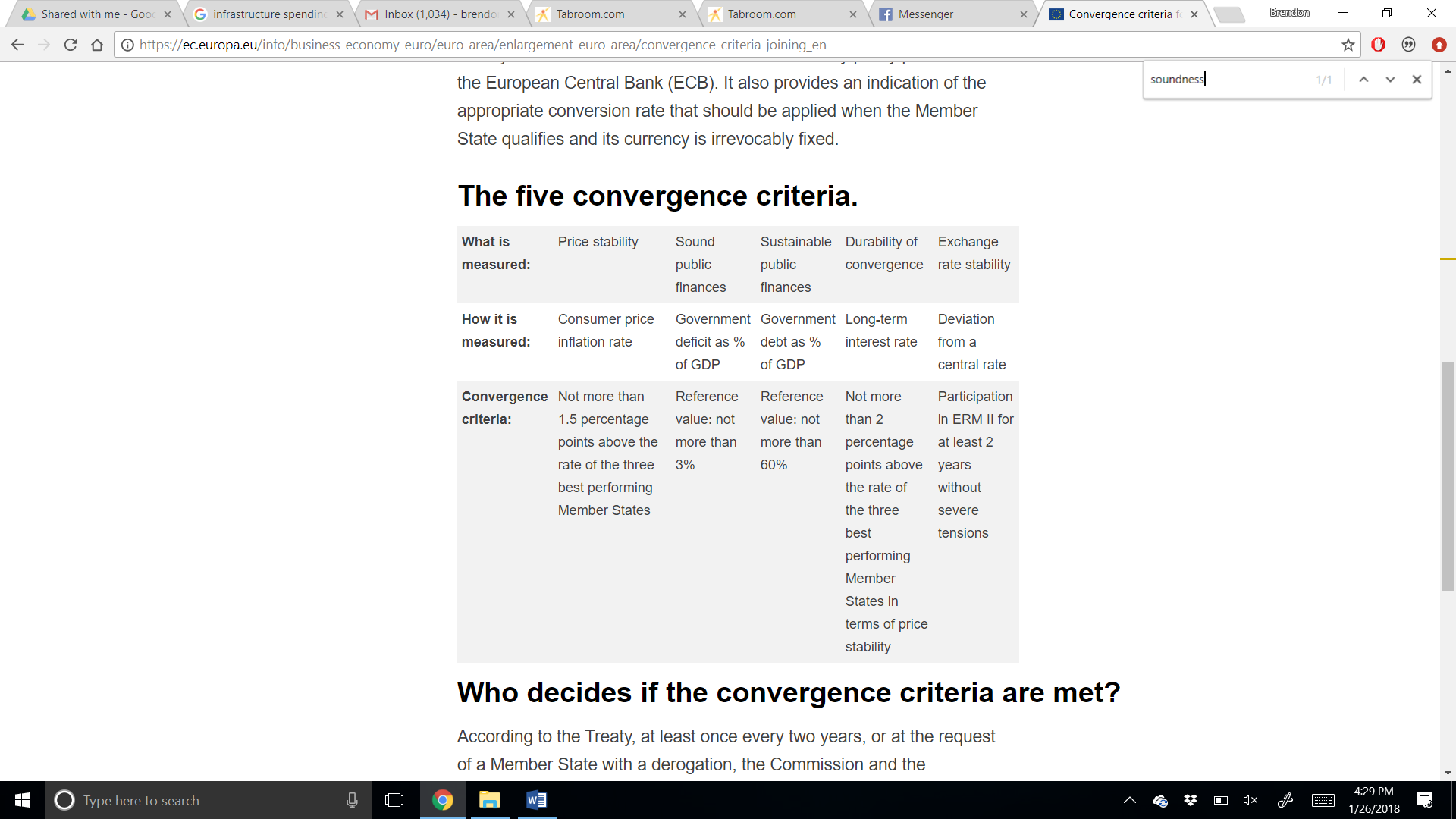
[Rebecca Pinnington, 10-11-2017. "Catalonia referendum SABOTAGE: Spain 'would VETO independent region joining the EU'." Express.co.uk. https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/865244/catalonia-catalan-independence-referendum-spain-veto-eu-membership] //BH

In any case, he said: “Even if Catalonia got Madrid to agree to a legal referendum on independence, voted in favour of leaving Spain and got Madrid to grant independence, it would still have to get the unanimous agreement of member-states to give it the status of a candidate for membership. “It would then have to show in negotiations with the Commission that it could meet all the requirements of an EU state, and get its membership ratified by the European Parliament and by all the other member-states – likely to be a lengthy process.” **Spain is not the only EU27 country that could veto Catalan accession to the block, either. Other member states with concerns about separatism, like Belgium, France, or Denmark, where there are independence movements in border regions, could also have an interest in making life difficult for a newly-independent state.** Mr Bond said: “I think Spain’s view would carry a lot of weight - if they had done a deal with Catalonia, others might hesitate to cause problems.” But **if Spain and Catalonia fail to come to an agreement, the newborn country will experience a lot of setbacks in its quest to be part of the EU**

#### The EU 16

[No Author, 10-10-2016. "Convergence criteria for joining." European Commission - European Commission. https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/euro-area/enlargement-euro-area/convergence-criteria-joining\_en] //BH

Agreed in Maastricht by the EU Member States in 1991 as part of the preparations for introduction of the euro, the convergence criteria are formally defined as a set of macroeconomic indicators which measure: Price stability, to show inflation is controlled; **Soundness and sustainability of public finances, through limits on government borrowing and national debt to avoid excessive deficit**; Exchange-rate stability, through participation in the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM II) for at least two years without strong deviations from the ERM II central rate; Long-term interest rates, to assess the durability of the convergence achieved by fulfilling the other criteria. The exchange-rate stability criterion is chosen to demonstrate that a Member State can manage its economy without recourse to excessive currency fluctuations, which mimics the conditions when the Member State joins the euro area and its control of monetary policy passes to the European Central Bank (ECB). It also provides an indication of the appropriate conversion rate that should be applied when the Member State qualifies and its currency is irrevocably fixed.



#### El Nacional 17

[No Author, 9-7-2017. "Spain admits fiscal deficit with Catalonia is 9.9 billion euros." El Nacional. http://www.elnacional.cat/en/news/fiscal-deficit-catalonia-2014\_189402\_102.html] //BH

**Spain's treasury has** today **published that Catalonia's fiscal deficit**, that is, the difference between the money it sends to Madrid and the money it receives back, **reached 9.892 billion euros in 2014. According to the calculations of the System of Territorialised Public Accounts, that 2014 total equals 5.02% of the gross domestic product (GDP)**, the amount of 2014 amounts to 5.02% of the gross domestic product (PIB). In other words, each Catalan gives 1,317 euros for nothing in return. Also net contributors to the statewide balance are the citizens of the autonomous communities of Madrid (per capita deficit of 2,979 euros), Valencia (374 euros) and the Balearic Islands (1.373 euros). The Treasury last year published the balances for 2013, which calculated Catalonia's fiscal deficit with the State at 8.8 billion euros, equivalent to 4.53% of GDP. As for 2012, the Treasury calculated the deficit as 7.666 billion euros, 3.87% of GDP. These figures show a large growth in the negative balance between the Catalan economy and Spain over the last two years.

#### Ryan Heath 16

Ryan Heath, 12/15/16, “The race for EU Membership”, Politico, <https://www.politico.eu/article/the-race-for-eu-membership-neighborhood-turkey-uk-european-commission/> //BB

The United Kingdom might be trying to check out of the European Union, but there are at least 10 countries keen to be in. There’s a problem though: The EU’s golden age of expansion is over. While national governments would like to ensure political stability in the EU’s neighborhood, they have no appetite to let those countries join before 2025. For some countries, such as Turkey, there’s almost no chance of ever joining. The European Parliament and countries such as Austria are already trying to suspend membership negotiations with Turkey. “I won’t set a speed limit on the road to Europe,” said Johannes Hahn, the European commissioner responsible for EU enlargement, who insisted “Each candidate defines speed of joining via [its] own merit.” At the same time, Hahn told a Western Balkans policy summit hosted by Friends of Europe on December 7, that there is a majority against EU enlargement in most EU countries. Instead of pushing EU national governments before they are ready Hahn suggested candidate countries focus on economic development and anti-corruption efforts. Shada Islam, Europe director at Friends of Europe, is pessimistic. “I think we need to stop pretending and accept that there will be no new enlargement for many years — and that all these countries have a long way to go before they meet any of the key membership criteria,” Islam said, adding that given six to 10 years of continuous effort, the six Balkan nations may have a chance at membership. The countries lining up for EU membership are becoming restless. “Enlargement is not high on the EU’s agenda and we know it,” said Natalie Sabanadze, Georgia’s ambassador to the EU. Prior to the closed-door policy of the Juncker Commission, leaders in countries wanting to join the EU could promise to voters that EU membership would be forthcoming in exchange for sometimes difficult institutional and policy reforms. Today, even if a country meets all of the EU’s requirements it may be blocked for political reasons. Western Balkans countries see themselves as rooted in Europe and warn that the EU will hurt itself if it fails to draw them close. Tanja Miščevič, Serbia’s chief membership negotiator, said “The Schengen system cannot function, and energy union cannot be completed, without the Western Balkan countries.” Ditmir Bushati, Albania’s foreign minister, said that while it is clear “No one will be able to join EU in foreseeable future” it would be dangerous to allow Russia to fill a vacuum in his region. If anyone can become a surprise front-runner in the membership race it is Albania, already a NATO member and mostly free from the complications of the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. All other prospective EU members in the Western Balkans suffer fundamental complications. For Macedonia, it’s as simple as Greece refusing to even recognize its name. Allowing Montenegro and Kosovo to join without Serbia alongside them could create a security risk for both countries. Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the worst position of all and may hold these countries back if the EU insists they join in bloc formation. Don’t expect the European Commission to give firm indications about any of this in 2017: The EU promises a policy update only in spring 2018. Several EU officials POLITICO spoke to suggested that with Brexit and a new budget to negotiate and implement from 2020-2026, the EU simply doesn’t have room on its plate until 2027 to consider new members. Goran Svilanović, a former Serbian foreign minister, and now head of the Regional Cooperation Council, said he is “very frustrated” by this approach and says that it would be better to “start negotiating. Keep us busy. Help us be successful.” No country has even turned around a membership application in less than five years (Finland is the current record holder), and for former Warsaw Pact and Yugoslav states, 10-15 years is typical.

#### Sen 17

[Ashish Kumar Sen, 10-2-2017. "EU Membership on the Line: Independence Would Prove Costly for Catalonia." Atlantic Council. http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/eu-membership-on-the-line-independence-would-prove-costly-for-catalonia] //BH

**Catalonia would lose membership of the European Union (EU) if it were to declare independence from Spain—a development that would have serious economic consequences for this affluent region, according to the Atlantic Council’s Fran Burwell.** “That means barriers will go up immediately; no free movement for people who have Catalan passports; no free movement of goods of services to and from Catalonia; their relationship with the euro will be suspect, like Kosovo which uses the euro with no legal power to do so; there would be no common agricultural policy money for Catalonia,” said Burwell, painting a dire scenario that, she believes, has not been given adequate consideration in the Catalan people’s headlong rush toward independence. Noting that she has never seen a poll that shows Catalans want to leave the EU, Burwell, a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council, added: “The fact that we did not have a debate about what this actually means is, I think, a bad thing. It’s just this dream of independence that’s out there without actually thinking what it would entail.”

#### Bosch 17

[Sofia Bosch, 9-20-2017. "Spain's economy losing Catalonia would be like the US losing California and Florida combined." CNBC. https://www.cnbc.com/2017/09/21/heres-how-bad-economically-a-spain-catalonia-split-could-really-be.html] //BH

At the same time, Catalonia could take a potential hit, as 35.5 percent of Catalan exports are to the Spanish market. Catalonia would also have pay to create new state structures (embassies, central banks, etc.) which carry a large price tag. Earlier this month, Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos claimed that Catalonia could see its economy shrink by 25 to 30 percent and its unemployment double if it splits to form a separate state. Regardless, the fate of both nations would ultimately come down to the decisions made in post-separation negotiations on debt and the European Union. Spain's national public debt in 2016 was priced at roughly $1.18 trillion, according to central bank statistics. Meanwhile, Catalonia has amassed one of the largest public debts of Spain's regions, at roughly 72.2 billion euros ($86.9 billion) in 2016. Around 6 billion euros of this is for long-term securities that have been issued and the rest being various loans from different institutions. Therefore, Catalonia accounts for 16.34 percent of Spain's debt, which is not a small price tag. This aspect, combined with the loss of Catalonia's tax revenues, would be a hit to the Spanish economy. While many believe that the public debt of the new nation "would inevitably be assumed by the Kingdom of Spain," Cuenca explains that the direct separation impact to the debt is impossible to predict. "The problem, again, is transition: For how many years would financial trouble last? How many jobs, how many investments, how many commercial operations would be lost during transition? No one knows precisely," Cuenca said. The success of Catalonia is determined heavily on whether or not they would assume a percentage of the Spanish debt and if they would be required to pay off their own debt. Either situation could prove to be detrimental to a new Catalan nation and would damage the potential for economic expansion.

#### Estanol 17

[Albert Banal-Estanol, 10-12-2017. "Catalonia, Spain and the economic consequences of a split." Conversation. https://theconversation.com/catalonia-spain-and-the-economic-consequences-of-a-split-85557] //BH

Catalonia would of course need to invest in creating new state structures, such as embassies and a central bank. This may cost more than what Catalonia pays now as a proportion of the same structures for a larger state. Conversely, the new Spanish government could use the split as an opportunity to simplify its own administrative structures, as the preferences of the rest of the Spanish population would be more homogeneous without Catalonia. Negotiating the split Another issue is government debt. The new Spanish state and Catalonia would need to negotiate the allocation of joint assets and liabilities. Currently, most of the public debt in Spain is issued by the Spanish government. The Catalan government has a relatively small public debt of its own, on top of its proportional share of the Spanish government debt, which Catalonia would probably also need to take on as part of the split negotiation. The Catalan government would probably need to seek funding from financial markets. This could be possible if it becomes an independent state which raises its own taxes. Although the new Spanish state may be in a worse financial situation than it currently is, it would retain the support of the European Central Bank. In the short-run the split may be costly, as both sides may also face economic uncertainty and disruptions to trade, as their populations may boycott each other’s goods and services (as has happened at previous times of tension). Because of the size difference, Catalonia would end up suffering more from this (the rest of Spain accounts for one third of Catalan exports).

#### Foundation for Social Studies and Analysis 14

[Multiple Contributors, 2014. " 20 Questions and Answers on the Secession of Catalonia." Foundation for Social Studies and Analysis. http://www.fundacionfaes.org/file\_upload/news/pdfs/20140212192231.pdf] //BH

and financial supervisory and collection structures, whose ‘sovereign debt’ is currently rated as junk bond, and which requires the assistance of Spain's Regional Liquidity Fund for basic funding. The differences in funding costs would be an additional reason for Catalan nonfinancial firms to move their registered offices outside Catalonia. Secessionism seeks to sidestep these issues by presenting a seceded Catalonia as a new country with no debt, which of course is false. The seceded Catalonia would have to meet its enormous current debt payments alone. And would lack essential aid: the funding from the European Central Bank, which even large European countries today cannot do without. Advocates of secession should explain clearly how and who will decide the amount of debt which each Catalan would have to repay. Can anyone who does not intend to grossly manipulate public opinion safely say that this issue could be resolved without a bitter confrontation between the people of Spain and the new citizens of an independent Catalonia? Off-shoring of financial institutions, higher financing costs, the fall in exports to Spain and the EU, and the relocation of non-financial companies are some of the effects that would naturally follow from having the ‘Catalan euro’ as the currency of a seceded Catalonia. I

#### Diaz 17

Jesus Diaz, 10/17/17, “You Can’t Support Catalonia’s Secession Movement If You Were Horrified By Brexit”, Fast Company, <https://www.fastcompany.com/40479515/you-cant-support-catalunyas-secession-movement-if-you-were-horrified-by-brexit> //BB

And when a government abolishes the law to advance a political agenda, valuable companies and people run away. Getting out of Spain would have devastating effects on Catalonia’s economy, even more so than Brexit. Despite nationalistic propaganda, the European Union has clearly stated that the territory would automatically be outside of the Eurozone’s political and economic space. Without the support of the Central European Bank and the Spanish government itself, Catalonia would probably default in no time. Borders would be closed too. Fear of being left out of the European Union started to have a real effect last year on the region’s economy

#### Daniel Lacalle 17

Daniel Lacalle, 10/1/17, “Catalonia’s Independence Threat Is Bad for Spain (And Catalonia)”, <http://www.dlacalle.com/en/catalonias-independence-threat-is-bad-for-spain-and-catalonia/> //BB

Given that the transition document calls for expropriation of assets and puts credit commitments in question, there is very little probability that any investor would take the risk of financing a credit event of this magnitude adding the risk of breaking commitments. “… But the Catalan debt is guaranteed by the Spanish State, and if we don´t want we will not pay it”. Welcome to a “credit event”. Suppose a country owes all its debt to a single nation. With default, according to some, everyone will be happy and the country will finance itself like royalty, right? It is not like this. Risk is not reduced, it multiplies. Because credibility as a debtor is destroyed. Not only will refinancing be more expensive. It is more difficult to access markets. See the case of Ecuador, which defaulted and it took years to access the debt markets. When it finally came to issue bonds, it was for a very small amount at 7.95% for ten years in dollars. Today it is financed at 10.5%. And it is an oil rich country.

#### Aristegui 17

Gustavo de Aristegui, 10/8/17, “Minority’s illegal plan behind Catalonia's partition drive”, The New Indian Express, <http://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2017/oct/08/minoritys-illegal-plan-behind-catalonias-partition-drive-1668357--1.html> //BB

More than Catalonia being oppressed by Spain, it is about an illegal and heinous plan of a minority to impose the partition of Spain on the majority. Separatists had a marginal support in Catalonia for decades, it grew until it peaked at 47-48 per cent in 2015 and then plummeted to just over 40 per cent. This fundamental element is probably at the heart of the decision to try to impose secession on the majority of Catalans and the rest of Spain. It seems very clear that the moderate middle classes of Catalonia were poisoned by extremist nationalists and faced terrible financial and economic crisis. Separatists are maliciously hiding essential facts from their unsuspecting supporters: Catalonia would be out of the European Union and the Euro; their public debt would become ‘junk bonds’ in the international markets, making it near-impossible to finance the resulting new state. The Catalan government would be completely incapable of financing and paying the pensions of retired Catalans and the social security of that region as both are paid by the Central government of Spain. The Government of Catalonia, besides other existing debts, owes 100 billion Euros to the Spanish Central government. In short, the Republic of Catalonia would be born bankrupt!

#### Government of Catalonia 14

[No Author, 2014. “THE NATIONAL TRANSITION OF CATALONIA.” Government of Catalonia. <http://economia.gencat.cat/web/.content/70_economia_catalana/Subinici/Llistes/nou-estat/catalonia-new-state-europe/national-transition-catalonia.pdf>] //BH

Social Security is, due to its size, the basic institution guaranteeing the welfare state in all European countries. Currently, in Catalonia a significant number of people are recipients of Social Security income. The number of people (approximately 2.2 million) that sometime in the last year have received directly from Social Security all or most of their financial resources is close to the figure of the total employed population contributing to Social Security (approximately 2.96 million). In the medium and long term, the improvements that should be introduced into the Social Security system should be guided by the principle of respect to Social Security international standards. There is no single social security model in the world. In fact, there is actually no overarching concept of what is included in the concept of Social Security. Internationally, the first common criterion of what Social Security is about is Agreement no. 102 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which specifies not only what areas of protection national social security systems must have, but also what the minimum intensity of this protection is in order to avoid false coverage.

#### Kuepper 17

Justin Kuepper, 6/30/17, The Balance, “What Happens when a country defaults?”, <https://www.thebalance.com/what-happens-when-a-country-defaults-1978981> //BB

Country defaults tend to be very different than businesses or individuals. Instead of going out of business, countries are faced with a number of options. Often times, countries simply restructure their debt by either extending the debt's due date or devaluing their currency to make it more affordable. In the aftermath, many countries undergo a rough period of austerity followed by a period of resumed (and sometimes rapid) growth. For instance, if a country devalues its currency to pay its debt, the lower currency valuation makes their products cheaper for export and helps its manufacturing industry, which ultimately helps jumpstart its economy and make debt repayment easier.

Magone 17

[ Jose M. Magone, 12-6-2017. “Contemporary Spanish Politics.” Routledge. <https://books.google.com/books?id=ciBBDwAAQBAJ&pg=PT338&lpg=PT338&dq=catalonia+implemented+austerity+policies+in+2011+because+of+debt&source=bl&ots=jEhf4MOvfv&sig=wzoAIGCJAsbLokwA2XM_QAFk8-0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiIyqCtvu7YAhUJNKwKHfA1BTEQ6AEIRzAF#v=onepage&q=catalonia%20implemented%20austerity%20policies%20in%202011%20because%20of%20debt&f=false>] //BH

In the Catalan elections of 28 November 2010, CiU under leader Artur Mas won the election with 38.2 per cent and 62 seats, while the parties forming the tripartite government lost badly. The Catalan socialists got about 18 percent and 28 seats, a major decline over 8 points. ERC got 7 and 10 seats, losing half of its share of the vote, and ICV-EUiA 7.4 per cent of vote, a loss of one-quarter of its vote share. The People’s Party was able to improve and become the third largest party with 12.4 per cent and 18 seats. Last but not least, Catalan Solidarity for Independence (SI) got 3.3 per cent and 4 seats, and Ciudadanos was able to improve slightly to 3.4 per cent and 3 seats. Artur Mas could comfortably form a minority government that was supported in parliament by the Socialists, However, PSC drew a red line if Mas were to push forward the question of independence. In the context of the sovereign debt crisis, high levels of public debt and a budget deficit, the new CiU government implemented quite a tough austerity programme which included many cuts in education, social policy and in the health sector. Both the Zapatero and Rajoy governments put considerable pressure on the Catalan government which had a budget deficit of 4.35 per cent in 2011. Due to the austerity policies, the Catalan government was able to finish the year 2012 with a 3.75% surplus (El Pais, 15 May 2012; 21 July 2015). The growing tensions between Catalan and central government led to a growing radicalization of the discourse of regional president Artur Mas. He decided to call for early elections on 25 November 2012. The main aim was to unite political groups in the Catalan parliament for a declaration of independence after the elections. A non-binding vote in parliament before the elections would confirm this route to independence.

#### Lehndorff 12

Steffen Lehndorff, 2012, “A triumph of failed ideas: European models of capitalism in the crisis”, https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=uQAHyofs-x4C&oi=fnd&pg=PA199&dq=neoliberalism+and+catalonia&ots=NCw9gde5mx&sig=\_gz3npsSQ\_HYifs6a6hQxGoyZVo#v=snippet&q=catalonia&f=false //BB

In this context, the government performed a strategic u-turn in May 2010, fully accepting a programme of budget adjustment and structural reofrms with a neoliberal bent: 1. Cuts in public spending, starting with a reduction of 5 per cent in public sector wages, freezing pensions and eliminating the previous tax breaks for employees; 2. Structural frosm of the labour market (September 2010, August 2011) concerning collective bargaining (June 2011), public sector pensions (February 2011) and the financial system, especially savings banks (see Box 1);

#### Kenworthy 99

Lane Kenworthy, March 1999, “Do Social-Welfare Policies Reduce Poverty? A Cross-National Assessment”, Oxford Journals, <http://ocean.sci-hub.tw/7494bd59485a6235b9f8f8a502022017/10.2307%403005973.pdf> //BB

Regression results for analyses of cross-national variation in absolute poverty are shown in Table 4. The coefficients for each of the three alternative social-welfare policy extensiveness measures are negative and statistically significant at or near the .01 level. This suggests that social-welfare policies do help to reduce poverty, even when indirect, dynamic effects are taken into account. The unstandardized coefficient inthe equation with government transfers used as the social-welfare policy measure indicates that, on average for these fifteen nations, each additional one percent of GDP spent on transfers over the period 1960-91 may have reduced the absolute poverty rate in the early 1990s by as much as .75 of a percentage point. Pretax/pretransfer poverty is the most important determinant of posttax/ posttransfer poverty.

# OV/UV

### Social Security Weighing

#### Impacts to the Social Security system in Catalonia are the most important for a couple of reasons:

#### Scope: The evidence that we cite from Case explains that 2.9 million people in Catalonia rely on Social Security transfers. Our impacts inevitably affect more people than anything that they cite in case.

#### Magnitude: They can’t contextualize any of their impacts and tell you what they mean for the Catalan people. However, losing social security would be a catastrophe because people who aren’t able to work depend on them. Without them, their families lack a steady source of income, and probably will struggle to survive on a day to day basis. The magnitude of these payments makes a too big of an impact in the lives of families to cut them off for the foreseeable future.

#### Timeframe: Social Security needs to be prioritized, because if not, Gimenez says that in the event of independence, it won’t be fully funded until 2088. That means by affirming, you virtually guarantee that every social security dependent in Catalonia right now will never see another check again. Our negative impacts last longer than theirs, so it’s a reason to negate.

# Blocks

## A2: Self Determination

### A/2- General

#### Turn this on them. Baran 17 contends that granting secession to a country such as Catalonia would cause the secessionist trend to spillover to other countries, destabilizing the peace both at a local and global level.

#### Gottlieb of the University of Chicago warrants that self-determination unleashed would result in anarchy and disorder world-wide. He argues that the spillover effect would make it harder to control Weapons of Mass Destruction, threaten peace, and interfere with the management of terrorism, AIDS, the environment, and population growth.

Deniz Baran – Turkey, December 3, 2017, Does “Self-Determination” Right Grant the Right for Unilateral Independence?http://www.worldbulletin.net/haberler/196511/does-self-determination-right-grant-the-right-for-unilateral-independence

There is no doubt that there is the right to self-determination in the framework of the international law, yet it is also possible to argue that the utilization of the right to self-determination was carried out in the colonial context roughly a half-century ago in order to facilitate the legal independence of colonized states and that it is now highly arguable how to utilize the right to self-determination in the modern day. It seems that any use of the right to self-determination to pave the way for unilateral independence and secession attempts while harming the territorial integrity of existing states would not be approved by the international community. Such an interpretation still constitutes a strict minority of adherents to the doctrine. In addition, when the right to self-determination is assessed not only from the perspective of the international law but also from the perspective of realpolitik, passing over the constitutional framework, which is binding for different “peoples”—e.g. ethnic, religious groups, etc. within existing states—and **paving the way for arbitrary secession attempts would again pose a great danger for the maintenance of the peace, both at a local and a global level**. **Such a justification for separatist movements would also damage the efforts to reach compromises between different groups within existing states and result in the spread of the separatist trends across the world.**

Gottlieb 93 – Professor of International Law and Diplomacy at University of Chicago School of Law [Gidon, Nation against state: a new approach to ethnic conflicts and the decline of sovereignty, p. 26-27]

**Self-determination unleashed and unchecked by balancing principles constitutes a menace to the society of states. There is simply no way in which all the hundreds of peoples who aspire to sovereign independence can be granted a state of their own without loosening fearful anarchy and disorder on a planetary scale**. **The proliferation of territorial entities poses exponentially greater problems for the control of weapons of mass destruction and multiplies situations in which external intervention could threaten peace. It increases problems for the management of all global issues, including terrorism, AIDS, the environment, and population growth**. It creates conditions in which domestic strife in remote territories can drag powerful neighbors into local hostilities, creating ever widening circles of conflict. Events in the aftermath of the breakup of the Soviet Union drove this point home. Like Russian dolls, ever smaller ethnic groups dwelling in larger units emerged to secede and to demand independence. Georgia, for example, has to contend with the claims of South Ossetians and Abkhazians for independence, just as the Russian Federation is confronted with the separatism of Tartaristan. An international system made up of several hundred independent territorial states cannot be the basis for global security and prosperity.

### A/2- People Want

#### First of all, even though 90% voted to support the referendum, The Local 17 tells us that only 43% of the population voted and many of the Anti-Independence supporters boycotted the vote and it was not held to electoral standards, meaning this statistic isn’t representative of the whole population.

#### Nixon of the Wall Street Journal quantifies in November 2017 that 54% of Catalans oppose independence. This is critical because this poll post-dates the 90% who supported independence during the October referendum. This means that this is not democratic at all. Only about half the population supports independence and if we grant independence, it will hurt the 54% who do not want it.

#### A pro world would just harm democracy. Blanco of the University of Barcelona warrants that the leaders of the Catalan movement are picking and choosing what rules they want to follow, destroying the democratic state and the rule of law.

#### Treisman of The Washington Post explains that economic development promotes democracy, meaning if we prove Catalonia is better off economically in the Status Quo, you flow democracy to us.

“Protesters Rally against Catalan Independence in Barcelona.” The Local, The Local, 8 Oct. 2017, www.thelocal.es/20171008/protesters-rally-against-catalan-independence-in-barcelona.

Angelo Rossini Calvo, 38, said he planned to attend the protest in Barcelona because he felt the separatist lawmakers did not have a big enough majority in the Catalan parliament to justify the referendum. "You can't call an important referendum like this, break a people and a country because you have one seat more," the cabin crew instructor told AFP at his flat in central Barcelona on the eve of the demonstration. The Catalan government on Friday published final results from the referendum indicating that 90 percent of voters backed the proposal to break away from Spain. Turnout was 43 percent as Catalans who reject independence largely boycotted the polls, The vote was not held according to official electoral standards, without a regular voter list, electoral commission or observers. Dozens more protesters got off the morning train from Madrid at Barcelona's Sants station to join the protests on Sunday. "A lot of ordinary Catalans felt under pressure so we decided to come and support our compatriots and show them that they are not alone," said Juan Gil-Casares, 33, who works in Madrid and travelled up with his uncle and cousins.

Simon Nixon [reporter, WSJ], “Spain Sees Signs That Tide Is Turning in Catalonia,” Wall Street Journal, November 12 2017. Available at: https://www.wsj.com/articles/spainsees- signs-that-tide-is-turning-in-catalonia-1510524920

MADRID–One of the first things a visitor to Madrid will notice these days is the Spanish flags festooned from balconies across the capital, something that usually only ever happens when the national football team is playing in a major tournament. The same is true in other Spanish cities. It is a mark of how the crisis triggered by the regional government in Catalonia’s decision to hold an independence referendum that was illegal under the Spanish constitution and subsequently declare independence has reawakened previously dormant Spanish nationalism, including among the **54% of Catalans who according to a recent poll oppose independence.**

Nacho Martin Blanco, Professor, Abat Oliba CEU University of Barcelona, “The Case Against Catalan Secession,” AL JAZEERA, 9—1—17, www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/07/case-catalan-secession-170728105819426.html, accessed 12-1-17.

Perhaps the most tragic and lasting consequence of this political moment is the effect this is having on public opinion, eroding the idea of the state and the rule of law within a democratic framework that guarantees our individual rights and freedoms. After five years of continuous invective spewed by pro-independence politicians and commentators against the Spanish Constitution of 1978, this sort of depressing antisystemic discourse that would revile our hard-won democratic gains is not only becoming tolerated, but normalised. It is bad enough that nationalist leaders have managed to normalise a disdain for the rules of our democratic, constitutional system. But what is worse is that they have managed to do it from within the very institutions of the system that they so scorn. To those who would constantly try to caricature Spain as being a nation of "low democratic quality", it is worth pointing to The Economist's Democracy Index, which in 2016 grouped Spain once again among "full democracies", akin to Germany or the United Kingdom. The philosopher Karl Popper described democracy's strength not so much as "the rule of the people" as "the rule of law", the restraining of power through constitutions and institutions that acted on behalf of the people. This is the essence of liberal democracy, settled in a system of reciprocal checks and balances designed to guarantee individual rights and freedoms and avoid the abuse of power, whether tyranny or simply overstepping one's authority. **Today in Catalonia we have a government presuming to be the only qualified judge of its own cause, deciding as they please which laws or judicial resolutions are applicable to them and their relatives, and which are not. If we were to accept this, it would also mean accepting, by extension, that everyone else in society has the same right, and could presumably take the law into their own hands. This would lead to nothing less than the wholesale destruction of the democratic state and the rule of law.**

Treisman, Daniel. “Economic Development Promotes Democracy, but There’s a Catch.” The Washington Post, WP Company, 29 Dec. 2014, www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2014/12/29/economic-development-promotes-democracy-but-theres-a-catch/?utm\_term=.0548983eb4fa.

In a recent article I suggest a reason why this debate refuses to die. **Economic development does lead to greater democracy** but not in a smooth, incremental way. At certain times, a country’s income matters a lot for its political evolution; in other periods, income’s influence is muted. What opens such windows is leadership succession. As authoritarian states become richer, they do tend to become more democratic—but the impact of development is concentrated in the early years of new authoritarian leaders.

### A/2- Guarantees Secession

#### Kreuger ’10 writes that The United Nations argues that self-determination does not guarantee acquisition of territory.

#### Borgen ’07 reminds us that self-Determination can be achieved when the central state allows the minority group to practice representation, it does not mean a guaranteed right to state secession.

#### Lyle ’05 writes that secession based on self-determination is legally justified in only a few situations to avoid destroying the territorial integrity of nations.

Aaron Kreuter, J.D. University of Minnesota Law School, 2010, Self-Determination, Sovereignty, and the, Failure of States: Somaliland and the Case for Justified Secession, p. 373-374

**Though the right of self-determination is highly regarded within international law, various international documents attest to the fact that the right to territorial integrity is at least as important a right—Article 2 of the United Nations Charter is foremost among these documents.** Though some commentators have called for a relaxation of the current standards protecting territorial integrity, the majority view defers to the existing laws as codified in various international legal instruments. **Related to the issue of territorial integrity is the principle of uti possidetis juris: “The right to self-determination must not involve changes to existing frontiers at the time of independence.” The original purpose of this doctrine was to maintain the borders of former colonies upon decolonization.**

Christopher J. Borgen, Associate Professor of Law at St. John's University - New York, 2007, Imagining Sovereignty, Managing Secession: The Legal Geography of Eurasia's "Frozen Conflicts," p. 483-484

In sum, **the basic norm of self-determination** is the right of a people of an existing state "to choose their own political system and to pursue their own economic, social, and cultural development."' It **is not a general right of secession.** The concept of self-determination is actually comprised of two distinct subsidiary parts. **The default rule is "internal self-determination," which is essentially the protection of minority rights within a state. As long as a state provides a minority group the ability to speak their language, practice their culture in a meaningful way, and effectively participate in the political community, then that group is said to have internal self-determination. Although self-determination was mentioned in the U.N. Charter, 16 and in article 1 of both the Civil and Political Rights Covenant and the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant, 17 jurists even in the last decade have found that "international law as it currently stands does not spell out all the implications of the right to selfdetermination."'**

Brock Lyle, JD St. Louis School of Law, Attorney, January, 2005, Blood for Oil: Secession, SelfDetermination, and Superpower Silence in Cabinda, p. 706-707

In extreme circumstances, the right of self-determination includes a right to secede. **Inherent in the organization of a country is the right to keep that country together. This right is also included in the Charter of the United Nations. Particularly in the infant nations of post-colonial Africa, countries have a keen interest in preserving their right of territorial integrity.** There must be a balance, therefore, between the inalienable right of self-determination and the right to maintain a nation’s territorial integrity, because territorial integrity was not intended to preclude the right to self-determination. On one hand, too strict a reading of territorial integrity creates an internationally sanctioned form of fascism, a nation where the people have no freedom to disagree. On the other hand, too broad a definition of self-determination makes it impossible to keep countries together. **Therefore, the threshold for secession based on selfdetermination should be very high to avoid fractionalization based on minor divergences of interest. In U.N. General Assembly Resolutions 151457 and 1541,58 the right to self-determination was held to apply only in colonial situations. Later court decisions expanded this to apply to people who are oppressed by foreign occupying powers or otherwise denied the free exercise of selfdetermination. Secession is only allowed in cases of gross human rights violations.**

### A/2- Spain Oppresses Catalonia

#### Judge, this is just simply false. Cultural oppression ended with Franco. Woolf 17 writes that Spain is not suppressing Catalan independence, for Spain is allowing the region to have their own language, and cultural customs. In addition, after Franco’s death, Catalonia gained much of its lost autonomy, including its own parliament and police force

#### Harel 17 Continues that Catalan is the dominant language of the region, the local culture is flourishing and Catalonia receives relatively large budget allocations from the central government.

#### All of this is just rhetoric by Catalonia Seperatits to promote their cause. Do not fall for this Judge.

Christopher Woolf, “The roots of Catalonia’s differences with the rest of Spain,” PRI’s The World, 20 October 2017<https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-10-20/roots-catalonia-s-differences-rest-spain>

The traditional language of Catalonia is Catalan. In the past century, however, it’s lost ground to Spanish, or more properly, Castilian (castellano).The languages [are very different](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/nov/22/catalan-language-survived). They’re related, but not always mutually intelligible. It's like the difference between, say, German and Dutch, or French and Italian. If you know a little Spanish and walk into a Catalan supermarket, you’d be hard-pressed to understand many of the signs and labels. After Franco’s death in 1975, Catalans signed up for a new constitution that gave them considerable regional autonomy and control over their language and education. For the last 30 years, most school subjects have been taught in Catalan. -**Spain is not suppressing Catalan independence, for Spain is allowing the region to have their own language, and cultural customs. In addition, after Franco’s death, Catalonia gained “much of it’s lost autonomy, including its own parliament and police force”**

Harel, Victor. [Israel Ambassador to Spain]. “Why an Independent Catalonia Would Be a Huge Mistake” Haaretz. October 2017. <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/1.815155>

**The vast majority of the arguments put forth by the referendum’s organizers are baseless. Catalonia’s autonomy is obvious: Catalan is the dominant language of the region, the local culture is flourishing and Catalonia receives relatively large budget allocations from the central government.** It’s true that Catalonia is wealthy, contributing a quarter of Spain’s exports and a fifth of its gross domestic product. But let’s recall the global financial crisis of 2012: Who, if not the central government, rescued the banks in Barcelona? And just this week, the Spanish government gave Catalonia one third of all the regional funding it allocated, 7 billion euros. The Catalan government’s economic plan may blow up in its face when international corporations, which will operate only in a stable economic environment, begin preparing to leave.

## A2: Econ

### A/2- Debt

#### BBC news writes that any money gained from tax boosts due to independence would just be eaten up by the need to create public institutions and run them without the same economies of scale. They can’t afford it in the aff world.

#### Their evidence about Catalonia going into a surplus current tax payments to Spain. What that means is the number is reflective of the current Catalan economy. However, we are telling you that Catalonia a) has an enormous debt crisis already b) Catalonia’s economy would suffer insofar as it is separated from the EU and all of its trading partners. Therefore, when there is no source of income, there is no money to pay off that debt.

BBC News, 12-22-2017, "Reality Check: Would Catalonia be a viable country?," http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41474674

It's also true that Catalans pay more in taxes than is spent on their region. In 2014, the last year the Spanish government has figures for, Catalans paid nearly €10bn (£8.9bn) more in taxes than reached their region in public spending. Would an independent Catalonia get the difference back? Some have argued that even if Catalonia gained a tax boost from independence, that might get swallowed up by having to create new public institutions and run them without the same economies of scale. And some argue that it makes sense for the state to redistribute money from richer to poorer regions in this way.

### A/2- General

#### Turn, Decreased trade through loss of EU membership – harms economy

#### Turn, decreased workforce mobility

#### Turn, high amounts of income inequality means that the lower class in Catalonia won’t be able to fill high-skill jobs and the cycle of poverty is expanded

#### They don’t understand the reason that Catalonia pays more than they receive. Bosch of Yahoo Finance writes in September that the Catalonian government is 86.9 billion dollars in debt, meaning that they have to make up for it somehow.

Cards:

BBC News, 12-22-2017, "Reality Check: Would Catalonia be a viable country?," http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41474674

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Catalonia has a high amount of income inequality [Josep Desquens, 4-1-2003. "Europe's Stateless Nations in the Era of Globalization." No Publication. http://www.saisjournal.org/posts/europe's-stateless-nations-in-the-era-of-globalization] //BH

The central argument supporting the past and present fiscal imbalance is a so-called inter-regional solidarity. There are also other less convincing arguments such as the populist claim that Catalonia has a historical debt to the rest of Spain,37 or the economically mis­taken opinion that such a fiscal imbalance is necessary as a means to finance Catalonia's large trade surplus with the rest of Spain. 38 Let us focus on solidarity. The current inter-regional solidarity system has major struc­tural flaws that have to be recognized. First and foremost, no solidar­ity system can compromise the economic health of the 'donor,' as the current one is doing. Second, the current system was designed when disparities between Spanish regions were much higher. Now, after twenty years in the European Union, this has changed signifi­cantly. Indeed, in comparing Spain to other E.U. countries we see that the regional differences in Spain are not as abysmal as claimed. Countries such as Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Italy have more substantial inter-regional disparities, Third, **supporters of the status quo ignore that Catalonia, though rich, has one of the highest rates of intra-regional income disparity in Spain, both territorially and socially.** These disparities are not tackled effectively under the current system. In this respect, it is important to highlight that if Catalonia were an independent state within the European Union, roughly half of its territory would be designated as a preferential area for E. U. structural funds.39 Catalonia is currently considered as a single unitary entity by the European Union and thus, given its overall level of income, is not eligible for these funds. It is in this predicament that significant parts of Catalonia that require public investment do not receive public aid neither from Madrid nor from Brussels. Sala-i-Martin has referred to an interesting example that il­lustrates well the character of the present Spanish solidarity system.40 In 2000, the GDP per person in Catalonia was 21.9 percent higher than the Spanish average. In comparison, the GDP per person of the Autonomous Community of Castilla y Leon was 7.6 percent lower than the Spanish average.

[Sofia Bosch, xx-xx-xxxx. "Here’s how bad a Spain-Catalonia split could really be." No Publication. https://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/bad-spain-catalonia-split-could-053400928.html] //BH

This week, Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos claimed that Catalonia could see its economy shrink by 25 to 30 percent and its unemployment double if it splits to form a separate state. Regardless, the fate of both nations would ultimately come down to the decisions made in post-separation negotiations on debt and the European Union. The debt issue. Spain's national public debt in 2016 was priced at roughly $1.18 trillion, according to [central bank statistics](https://www.efe.com/efe/english/business/spain-s-public-debt-in-2016-stood-at-1-18-trillion-98-percent-of-gdp/50000265-3182407). Meanwhile, **Catalonia has amassed one of the largest public debts of Spain's regions, at roughly**[**72.2 billion euros ($86.9 billion) in 2016**](http://economia.gencat.cat/en/actualitat/04/public_debt/)**. Around 6 billion euros of this is for long-term securities that have been issued and the rest being various loans from different institutions.** Therefore, Catalonia accounts for 16.34 percent of Spain's debt, which is not a small price tag. This aspect, combined with the loss of Catalonia's tax revenues, would be a hit to the Spanish economy. While many believe that the public debt of the new nation "would inevitably be assumed by the Kingdom of Spain," Cuenca explains that the direct separation impact to the debt is impossible to predict.

### A/2- Infrastrucure

#### The Squo is solving. Wood of Express reports that the Spanish government is making transfers in the status quo in order to promote development of their infrastructure. They need to prove to you that this isn’t enough for them and that their world is comparatively better.

#### BBC news writes that any money gained from tax boosts due to independence would just be eaten up by the need to create public institutions and run them without the same economies of scale. They can’t afford it in the aff world.

#### We would contend that a cryptocurrency would eventually wreck the Catalonian economy through the extreme fluctuation of boom and bust cycles. This is monumentally important because if Catalonia’s economy tanks, they won’t be able to make investments into the infrastructure they claim are so important.

[Vincent Wood, 3-28-2017. "Desperate Spain tackles calls for independence by splashing MILLIONS on Catalonia." Express.co.uk. https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/785036/Independence-Spain-Catalonia-Scotland-United-Kingdom-Mariano-Rajoy-railway-infrastructure] //BH

**MADRID has announced major infrastructure investments for Catalonia to stave off calls for independence as regions across Europe attempt to split from traditional unions.** Madrid yesterday said it would block any Scottish attempt to join the European Union (EU) through the back door over fears it may inspire Catalonia to follow suit. Now prime minister Mariano Rajoy has promised to invest €3.9billion (£3.3billion) over the next 8 years in rail projects for the region. The project, a top demand from the Catalan government, is hoped to weaken demand for an independence push within the region’s business community. In 2014, former Catalan leader Artur Mass was handed a two-year-ban from public office for holding an illegal independence referendum.

BBC News, 12-22-2017, "Reality Check: Would Catalonia be a viable country?," http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41474674

It's also true that Catalans pay more in taxes than is spent on their region. In 2014, the last year the Spanish government has figures for, Catalans paid nearly €10bn (£8.9bn) more in taxes than reached their region in public spending. Would an independent Catalonia get the difference back? Some have argued that even if Catalonia gained a tax boost from independence, that might get swallowed up by having to create new public institutions and run them without the same economies of scale. And some argue that it makes sense for the state to redistribute money from richer to poorer regions in this way.

### A/2- Social Spending

#### Econ is a prereq. If they don’t win econ then they can’t improve social spending.

#### Catalonia needs funds which is really bad because the Institute of Economy Studies writes that the fiscal deficit between Catalonia and Spain is nonexistent due to the greater richness in Catalonia, and in reality Catalonia takes more from Spain than it gives due to the Automatic Liquidity Fund. Specifically, this fund was made by the Spanish government after the 2008 crisis to defray debts and the Insitute concludes that it is THE ONLY REASON CATALONIA HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE WELFARE STATE. Voting aff removes the Liquidity fund, stripping Catalonia of it’s welfare system.

#### BBC news writes that any money gained from tax boosts due to independence would just be eaten up by the need to create public institutions and run them without the same economies of scale. They can’t afford it in the aff world.

Miguel Cifuentes, 10/21/14, “A report published in English reveals that Catalonia will lose 20% of the GDP if they become independent”, The Diplomat in Spain, <http://thediplomatinspain.com/en/a-report-published-in-english-reveals-that-catalonia-will-lose-20-of-the-gdp-if-they-become-independent/> //BB

Jose Luis Feito, president of the IEE, warns that “we are witnessing the systematic manipulation and distortion of data in order to inflame anti-Spanish and pro-independence sentiments”. It pulls apart, one after another, the Catalan nationalist’s arguments, which support independence. The 8% fiscal deficit between Catalonia and Spain which the Generalitat claims, would be no more than 2%, and is nothing more than the reflection of the greater richness of this region, which has a GDP 20% higher to the average of the Spanish regions, and, as such, supposes a higher payment of taxes. Feito completely rejects the “Spain steals from us” slogan, and maintains that “it is the other way round”, since Catalonia is the one benefiting from the Spanish market, its principal export market. Faced with the nationalist accusation of Spain’s pillaging, Feito maintains that Catalonia is the greatest beneficiary of the Autonomic Liquidity Fund (FLA, in Spanish), through which Madrid defrays Catalonia’s debts and deficits, which absorbs 40% of this fund. This is the only reason they are able to maintain the welfare state, weather the crisis and pay their debts. This figure is double what it should receive, relative weight in the Spanish GDP, and supposes a preferential treatment compared to the other Spanish regions.

BBC News, 12-22-2017, "Reality Check: Would Catalonia be a viable country?," http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41474674

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### A/2- Taxation

#### The Guardian reports that the Spanish government is paving the way towards giving Catalonia the right to tax itself. This solves one of the key issues that caused the referendum in the first place.

#### BBC news writes that any money gained from tax boosts due to independence would just be eaten up by the need to create public institutions and run them without the same economies of scale. They can’t afford it in the aff world.

Daniel Boffey, 11/21/17, “Spain 'ready to discuss' greater fiscal autonomy for Catalonia”, The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/21/spain-ready-to-discuss-greater-fiscal-autonomy-for-catalonia> //BB

Madrid is paving the way for Catalonia to be given the power to collect and manage its own taxes, similar to the system enjoyed by the autonomous Basque country, in an attempt to defuse the crisis over an illegal referendum on independence for the region. Senior sources in the Spanish government have told the Guardian that although there remains intense opposition within the ruling People’s party (PP) to any future referendum on self-determination, there is a renewed willingness to open discussions on a new fiscal pact under which Catalonia would have greater control of its finances. “If the Catalans ask for a fiscal pact, we are ready to discuss this,” one senior source said. “The Basque country [in northern Spain] and Navarre collect their own taxes. They have their own system and there is a meeting between the Basque country and the central government and they decide how much they contribute to foreign policy and defence. It‘s a negotiation. Every five years. “We are open to discuss this, taking into account that the constitution of Spain also establishes solidarity [among the Spanish regions].”

BBC News, 12-22-2017, "Reality Check: Would Catalonia be a viable country?," http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41474674

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### A/2- Catalonia Better w/o Spain

#### Given the heavy debt both Spain and Catalan carry, the two countries heavily depend on Foreign Direct Investment. However, DW reports that investors perceive a divided Spain as a severe economic threat, and investment has decreased as a result.

#### Internally, Catalonia’s drive for independence has severed business ties between Catalonia and Spain. This has 2 impacts

#### one, Expansion writes that in the case of Catalonia secession, Spanish boycotts will devastate the Catalonian economy, a loss of 20,000 million euros for Catalan companies.

#### two, Wolf Street writes that companies in Catalan do not see a new republic as economically stable, and thus are fleeing by the masses.

#### Delink- Fortune explains that Catalan’s problem of “losing money” happens in almost every rich country, there’s no sort of uniqueness here. Specifically, Fortune mentions New Jersey and writes that they receive less back in taxes than what they put in. New Jersey doesn’t use this as a reason to secede, so it doesn’t hold up for Catalonia.

#### No Solvency- The affirmative needs to prove that Catalan has the economic capacity to remain an independent state, without the benefits of the E.U. With Independence, Catalan could apply for EU membership, but in the meantime, Catalan cannot fare as a independent state given that Sen argues that Spain will veto Catalan’s request to join the EU, destroying the possibility that Catalan will return back to normal after secession.

[Deutsche Welle (www.dw.com), , DW.COM, "Fitch joins S&P in Catalonia downgrade warning | Business | DW | 06.10.2017," , http://www.dw.com/en/fitch-joins-sp-in-catalonia-downgrade-warning/a-40829299]

Late Wednesday, Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings placed its ratings for Catalonia "on CreditWatch with negative implications," saying that the Catalan government's political confrontation with Spain's central government had escalated in view of a planned Catalan declaration of independence as early as Monday. "We see a risk that this escalation may damage the coordination and communication between the two governments, which is essential to Catalonia's ability to service its debt on time and in full," the S&P statement continued.

[Sophie Baker, , Pensions & Investments, "Catalonia independence declaration makes mark on markets - Pensions & Investments," 10/27/17, http://www.pionline.com/article/20171027/ONLINE/171029840/catalonia-independence-declaration-makes-mark-on-markets]

Following the moves, the country's 10-year government bond yields rose 3.12%, or 5 basis points, to 1.588%, while the country's stock index, the Ibex, fell 1.45% over the day to Spain's market close. The euro depreciated 0.6% against the dollar to $1.16. "For the first time in a number of years, currency markets have taken note of European politics," said Richard Benson, co-head of portfolio investments at Millennium Global Investments. "Up until now this appeared to be an internal Spanish issue, but now the almost inevitable escalation is being taken seriously by currency markets. We are not entirely sure what it means for macro markets … but it can't be positive," he added.

[, , Expansión.com, "El 23% de los consumidores de fuera de Cataluña ya no compra productos catalanes," 11/08/17, http://www.expansion.com/economia/2017/11/08/5a0306e3e2704e5c178b456c.html]

In the case of Catalonia acceding to independence, 49.1% of Spanish consumers, not counting the Catalans, would stop buying products from that autonomous community, which would result in a loss of 20,000 million euros for the Catalan companies, explained on Wednesday the general director of Reputation Institute for Spain and Latin America, Enrique Johnson. Of the remaining 50.9%, 15.4% are not clear about the decision they would make and 35.5% are reluctant to stop buying Catalan products even in the case of independence

[, , Wolf Street, "Catalonia’s Post-“Independence” Economic Hangover Sets In | Wolf Street," , https://wolfstreet.com/2017/12/06/catalonias-post-independence-economic-hangover-sets-in/]

Almost 3,000 firms have shifted the registered address of their headquarters outside Catalonia since the banned referendum on October 1, many to Madrid. Although the exodus has slowed in recent weeks, every day dozens of Catalan companies continue to change their registered office, despite the express appeal of Spain’s Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, to stop doing so after the activation of Article 155 of the Constitution. Many of the companies worry that secession would leave them outside the Eurozone and exposed to the unpredictable policies and possible tax grabs of a new republic burdened with heavy debts.

[, , Fortune, "In Spain, the fight for Catalan independence comes down to cash money | Fortune," , http://fortune.com/2015/01/30/spain-catalonia-independence-taxes-economy/]

“The problem of fiscal discrimination in Catalonia is similar to what happens in a rich area of any place,” says Santiago Lago, a professor of economics at the University of Vigo. “If you take similar regions, rich areas in France or Italy or the UK, the results are very similar.” In the United States, for example, New Jersey gets only $0.88 back in federal spending for every $1 it puts in. Meanwhile, Mississippi gets $3.07, according to a 2014 study from finance site Wallet Hub.

Ashish Kumar Sen, “EU Membership on the Line: Independence Would Prove Costly for Catalonia,” Atlantic Council, 2 October 2017.

Independence has some very serious ramifications for Catalonia. In my view, those are not being discussed at all. Those have to do with the European Union. If Catalonia were to leave Spain it would effectively leave the European Union and they would not get back in because Spain has a veto. That means barriers will go up immediately; no free movement for people who have Catalan passports; no free movement of goods of services from Catalonia; their relationship with the euro will be suspect, like Kosovo which uses the euro with no legal power to do so

### A/2- Rise of the Right = Good Econ

#### The economy doesn’t really matter if the people of Spain won’t have progressive measures taken by the government. This is important, as we would contend that the future progressive policies that could be passed by a balanced government would outweigh any sort of marginal monetary benefit that they can make out to you.

#### Spain’s economy would take a hard hit if Catalonia were to be given their independence. Without EU membership, Spain would have to pay tariffs on everything that is imported from Catalonia and as a result, their spending on imports would increase, making a trade deficit more likely.

#### Spanish citizens working in Catalonia would lose their jobs, which would be really bad for their economy

### A/2- EU Developmental Aid

#### The EU won’t back the Catalonians. Hopkins 17 explains that they are afraid of having a bad precedent of secessions occurring throughout Europe. This is furthered by Lee of the Guardian who writes in October that recognizing Catalonia as independent would unravel Europe as we know it.

#### For Catalonia to receive such funding, they would have to be a member of the EU. We give you four reasons in case which explain why this won’t happen. The biggest of these is the massive amount of debt that Catalonia has.

Amelia Hopkins, 10/17/17, “The Financial Issues of Catalan Independence”, Top MBA, <https://www.topmba.com/admissions/financial-issues-catalan-independence> //BB

Spain has demonstrated continual reluctance to allow Catalonia to become an independent state, as has the EU in general, so the leniency which they’d show the new nation is questionable. While Catalonia would technically meet all the requirements to rejoin the EU, it requires each member state to agree for that to happen. Given that Spain is not the only nation with a domestic independence movement - prominent movements in the rest of Europe include the Flemish region of Belgium and the Bavarian region of Germany - it’s likely that these countries would vote no on re-entry to the EU for Catalonia to avoid setting a precedent.

Nathalie Lee, “The EU has tied its own hands. It cannot intervene in Catalonia”, 10/3/17, The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/03/eu-catalonia-brussels-spain> //BB

It is possible the Catalonia crisis will deteriorate to such a point that the EU will need to shed its caution. For the moment it is in a bind and hoping a compromise will emerge. The dramatic scenes in Barcelona have made it look feeble. But the EU is predicated on a rules-based order, and its leaders believe that in an unpredictable world rife with populism it has to hang on to those rules if it is to survive as a bloc. Sticking scrupulously to the law and to treaties means avoiding setting precedents that might lead to an unravelling. The EU has set itself the goal of countering rising illiberalism and nationalism, and it’s struggling. The Catalan crisis exposes its political limits and its difficulty in making citizens understand how it functions. For Europe, as for Spanish democracy, this is a major test.

### A/2- Uncertainty/Confidence

#### Mitigate: Xavier Martin of ARA Catalonia news explains that about only 10% of businesses who have applied to move their headquarters actually have

#### Mitigate: Martin continues that the economic impact of the relocation of headquarters has been zero. Not one company has relocated its production facilities and zero employees have lost their jobs.

#### Non-unique: Martin explains that legalities regarding the EU cause uncertainty too. They cant join when you affirm, so they’re never

1. **Turn. De Barron of El Pais on 2017 warrants that the investor uncertainty was caused by Catalonia’s calls for independence, suggesting a euro exit that led to many companies feel better to leave the region’s economy than be situated in an isolated economy if Catalonia were to be independent. Moreover, an independent Catalonia risks companies paying twice as much corporate tax- once for Spain and again for Catalonia. That’s why Liebing in 2017 quantifies that about 7,000 businesses and banks would move out of Catalonia if it becomes independent, because it would be too risky to be located in a newly independent country separated from the EU.**

Ara Catalonia News Xavier Sala Martin December 15, 2017

https://www.ara.cat/en/The-separatists-are-to-blame\_0\_1924607602.html

Now that several weeks have passed and we have started to see real data, we can analyse what has in fact happened. First of all, let’s start by saying that **of the 3,000 companies that applied to relocate their headquarters, only 332 have so far completed the process, according to Ministry of Economy** figures. This number will undoubtedly change in the future since there is a lag in the data but, for the moment, there aren’t 3,000 companies, but rather 332. Second, the **economic impact of companies moving their headquarters is almost zero. Not one company has relocated its production facilities and not one employee has lost their job due to their company’s headquarters being relocated**. I said all this at the time, but now it has been confirmed by an institution which can hardly be accused of being pro-independence: the Technicians Union of the Ministry of the Spanish Treasury! In fact, more jobs have been lost due to the unfair dismissals perpetrated by the 155 Ministry, which shut down the Catalan embassies, than are due to the alleged "exodus" of companies. Third, one has to wonder why 3,000 companies agreed to change their headquarters so quickly. The official Newspeak spokespersons informed us immediately that **they either did so out of a fear of independence (the unilateral declaration at least) or they were afraid of the legal uncertainty in which Catalonia would find itself, if it were to be expelled from the European Union.** This official explanation immediately seemed to me to be rather flimsy. To begin with, in order for Catalan companies to be left in a legal limbo and for Catalonia to be expelled from the EU, Spain would first have to recognize its independence. So long as Spain was unwilling to recognize Catalonia’s independence, the companies would have continued to be Spanish and, therefore, would still have been part of the EU! Why were they in such a rush, then? If we examine the type of companies that changed their headquarters, we can observe two revealing characteristics. The first is that virtually none of them were foreign-owned (and any foreign one are largely in the insurance sector). This is an interesting piece of information, since if there were an "exodus" of companies for fear of them being left out of Europe or from a fear of legal uncertainty, how come only Spanish companies were “afraid” of that?The second interesting piece of information is that most firms that changed their headquarters are from highly regulated sectors or depend largely on state-funded public projects. An example of this type of company would be cement manufacturers, who sell their product to builders who depend on contracts awarded by the government in Madrid. If we add to this the fact that Seat’s trade union issued a statement stating that the company had received "pressure from the Spanish government and the King" to move their headquarters, it tells a very different story from the official version: the Spanish government and the King sent messages to every Catalan company urging them to move their headquarters. The **message carried an implicit threat of reprisals for those who failed to do so. Those companies which directly or indirectly depend on government contracts gave in**. The others (which includes the majority of foreign companies) did not. The alleged exodus can therefore be explained, not by a fear of independence but a fear of the retaliation of a Spanish government enraged to the point of being prepared to cause an economic catastrophe in order to stop Catalonia from becoming independent.

de Barrón, Íñigo, et al. “How and Why Capital Fled Catalonia.” EL PAÍS, EL PAÍS, 18 Oct. 2017, elpais.com/elpais/2017/10/16/inenglish/1508139705\_469301.html.

The decision made by Catalan companies and banks to [move their corporate headquarters out of the region](https://elpais.com/elpais/2017/10/10/inenglish/1507620262_850506.html) has dealt what could be a definitive blow to the regional government’s secessionist plans. But the decisions have had more to do with pressure from the world’s financial capitals than to voices from within Catalonia and Madrid. Following the October 1 independence referendum, Catalan companies received a deluge of calls from international credit rating agencies and investment fund managers, all delivering the same message: Catalonia has become synonymous with uncertainty, and [uncertainty is something the markets hate](https://elpais.com/elpais/2017/10/05/inenglish/1507197962_676016.html). For long enough, the Catalan problem has been swept under the carpet by foreign investors, but when images of police violence started circulating and the region’s independence bid suggested a euro exit, alarm bells started to ring. Most companies never imagined that international investors would become so twitchy. Another destabilizing factor is the prospect of a Catalan treasury. If such an entity is established, it could mean companies being hit twice on corporate tax – once by Spain and again by Catalonia. Hence, Catalonia has seen asset managers withdrawing and companies relocating.

Abigail Liebing , The Hillsdale Collegian: Hillsdale College, November 30, 2017

Leaving Spain would be a foolish decision for Catalonia since it would also be leaving the EU. Catalonia had a strong economy until the movement for independence. **About 7,000 businesses and banks are considering moving out of Catalonia if it becomes independent. For many international businesses it would be too risky to be located in a newly independent country separated from the EU**. If Catalonia could separate from Spain, the economy could weaken. But the Dec. 21 elections will be the next step in determining the strength and possibility of an independent Catalonia. If the current pro-independence leaders are not banned from the election there is still a chance that the independence movement could move forward until Catalonia is separated from Spain. "The truth is that we are all expectant and waiting to see what happens, but we have to solve it quickly," Bilbao said.

## A2: Domestic Politics

### A/2- Solves Unrest

#### 1. It certainly doesn’t solve unrest. Tir of the University of Colorado writes that even if peaceful secession occurs, conflict can occur in the future over things such as land distribution due to leadership changes. That means that they never get full solvency on conflict as it’s bound to happen again. That’s why EngstroÌrm 09 writes that violence can and will happen, even in a multilateral secession, if the region is multi-ethnic. Considering that Catalonia, although majority Catalan, still has Castilians and numerous other ethnic groups. This can lead to violence. In fact, the Guardian in 2017 reports that in recent protests, there were at least 350,000 people protesting against independence. If independence were to be granted, the secessionist violence is likely to be caused through these groups.

EngstroÌrm, Jenny. Democratisation and the Prevention of Violent Conflict: Lessons Learned from Bulgaria and Macedonia. Ashgate Pub., 2009, books.google.com/books?id=WRL1yhvtYVwC&pg=PA104&lpg=PA104&dq=violence+in+a+newly+independent+country&source=bl&ots=tKhe5T8lEY&sig=jwa0884hCsqWa1MXW6NL6pzdcpY&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwju9enU57TYAhVjy1QKHf05D\_UQ6AEINzAD#v=onepage&q=violence%20in%20a%20newly%20independent%20country&f=false.

**For 10 years following its peaceful secession from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), Macedonia defied sceptics' predictions that this small, newly independent country would suffer a similarly violent inter-ethnic war to Bosnia and Kosovo. As late as the summer of 2000, the popular mood in Maccdonia remained that of cautious optimism.** Having weathered many storms, domestic as well as international, in the years following its declaration of independence, Macedonia was naively held up as a token island of peace in the otherwise volatile Balkans. and, second to Slovenia, it scored the highest of the ex-Yugoslav states on the index of political freedom and democracy.' Throughout the 1990s, the relationship between Macedonians and Albanians remained tense, resulting in the occasional violent confrontation. Nevertheless, in contrast to Kosovo and Bosnia, a full fledged armed conflict was avoided. Even at the height of the Kosovo crisis, which led to a massive flow of Albanian refugees into Macedonia and put a severe strain on the country's limited resources and fragile inter-ethnic peace, Macedonia still managed to avoid the emergence of large-scale violence. In the spring of 2001. however. **Macedonia seemingly ran out of luck. witnessing a six-month-long armed confrontation between the Albanian-led guerrilla National Liberation Army (NLA) and the Macedonian security forces.** Did this mean that Macedonia had finally become another Bosnia. or another Kosovo? Had conflict prevention and democratisation ultimately failed in Macedonia? If not, then what had gone wrong? The Macedonian experience in the 1990s is particularly intriguing as it offers an interesting illustration of the dynamics of democratisation in an ethnically heterogeneous society. More specifically. the Macedonian case helps to illuminate the ways in which democratisation can help to mitigate conflict and also alerts us to some of the factors that obstruct the development of democracy and peaceful inter-ethnic relations. **The case of Macedonia therefore allows us to form a clearer picture of the prospects for, and limitations of, democratisation as a conflict mitigating agency in multi-ethnic states.** Furthermore, Macedonia's experience with democratisation and conflict prevention highlights the interconnectedness of domestic and international political forces, and demonstrates that democratisation processes do not occur in isolation from events external to the country undergoing political transformation. Until quite recently, the international dimension of democratisation was largely ignored in democratisation theory, which may be due in large part to the fact that questions pertaining to democracy and democratisation were treated mainly within the realm of traditional political science with its focus on the domestic level of analysis. At the same time, democracy theory was a largely uncharted territory for international relations scholars until it started to

Jaroslav Tir, Professor of Political Science at University of Colorado Boulder, October, 2005, Keeping the Peace after Secession: Territorial Conflicts between Rump and Secessionist States, p. 721

**Yet a peaceful, agreed-on secession is not a guarantee against future territorial conflict. Preferences over land distribution can change-due to a change in the country's leadership or general political climate-and the leader can actually receive domestic support for reneging on an agreement that has become unpopular. In some cases, the secession-related boundaries may have been unpopular from the start because the leaders signing the associated agreement did not reflect the population's preferences or because nonviolent coercion was applied against the leader at the negotiating table. Both states can fall victim to this problem: the future rump state could be pressured into relinquishing land it did not wish to give up, while the would-be secessionist state could be pressured into scaling down its territorial ambitions.** In fact, the leaders of SISs are often pressured by the international community to accept the previously internal, administrative borders as the new international boundaries. **In sum, peaceful, agreed-on secessions present constraints but not guarantees against the use of force**.

Jones, Sam, and Stephen Burgen. “Catalonia: Hundreds of Thousands Join Anti-Independence Rally in Barcelona.” The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 8 Oct. 2017, www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/08/catalonia-spain-prime-minister-refuses-rule-out-suspending-autonomy.

**of thousands of people have taken to the streets of Barcelona to protest against the Catalan government’s decision to push for independence, as Spain’s prime minister warned that he was prepared to suspend the region’s autonomy to stop it splitting from the rest of the country.** Sunday’s rally – organised by Societat Civil Catalana, the region’s main pro-unity organisation – comes a week after the [independence referendum](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/01/dozens-injured-as-riot-police-storm-catalan-ref-polling-stations) that has plunged Spain into its worst political crisis in four decades. The march, whose slogan is “Let’s recover our common sense”, was intended to call for a new phase of dialogue with the rest of Spain and featured such luminaries as the Nobel-winning novelist [Mario Vargas Llosa](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2010/oct/07/mario-vargas-llosa-five-essential-novels) and Josep Borrell, former president of the European parliament. Societat Civil Catalana said more than 1 million people had taken part, but Barcelona police put the turnout at 350,000. The Catalan president, Carles Puigdemont, is under growing pressure to stop short of declaring independence. The political uncertainty has already led some businesses – [including Spain’s third-largest bank](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/06/catalonia-business-independence-spanish-government) – to move their bases from Catalonia. According to the Catalan government, [90% of participants voted for independence](http://www.catalangovernment.eu/pres_gov/government/en/pressnotice/303544/catalan-self-determination-referendum.html) in the referendum, 7.8% voted against and almost 2% of ballot papers were left blank. Puigdemont is due to appear in the Catalan parliament on Tuesday to “report on the current political situation” and to put the referendum results to MPs. The move – seen as an attempt to circumvent the Spanish constitutional court’s [ban on a similar session scheduled for Monday](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/05/spanish-pm-mariano-rajoy-warns-of-greater-harm-from-catalonia-independence-plans) – could potentially provide an opportunity for the region’s promised unilateral declaration of independence. “I hope that nothing will happen,” Juliana Prats, a Barcelona resident taking part in the protest, told Associated Press. “[Catalonia] is going to lose more than [Spain] because businesses are fleeing from here already. I hope it will remain like it has been up until now: 40 years of peace.” Vargas Llosa, who was born in Peru but has Spanish citizenship, told the rally: “Besides Catalans, there are thousands of men and women from all corners of [Spain](https://www.theguardian.com/world/spain) who have come to tell their Catalan companions that they are not alone. We want Barcelona to once again be the capital of Spanish culture.”

### A/2- Refugees

#### Spain is letting in refugees in the status quo. El Local reports that Spain let in 16,000 refugees in 2016 which 600% higher than the year before.

#### Catalonia is already 80 billion in debt, and they would have to shoulder this burden in the event of independence. Unfortunately, we would contend that this debt would leave Catalonia unable to shoulder the burden of these refugees as inevitably there would be tradeoffs with other necessary nation building activities. Make them prove that refugees would be priority number one, otherwise you can’t vote off of this.

#### Turn this argument. Spain might be in support of refugees right now, but if you pull away one of the most liberal states, which holds liberal seats in Spain’s federal parliament, that means there’s going to be a conservative push in Spain, which will decrease support for refugee resettlement.

#### Turn it again. Because Catalonia provides a huge amount of money to Spain, if you remove that money, then you are decreasing the overall amount of funds that’s going to the refugees.

1. **A2 Ideological Commitments. The Christian Science Monitor** in 2017 reports that 84% of the Spanish population agree on taking in more refugees and are less fear fearful of terrorism and extremism.
2. **A2 Political Commitments.** Two points of information here.

**A.** I would argue that the recent calls to help refugees were merely for political reasons in order to increase support for the independence movement.

**B.** Puigdemont said he is still uncertain on refugees.

[No Author, 3-13-2017. "Spain welcomed more refugees than ever before in 2016." El Local. https://www.thelocal.es/20170313/spain-welcomed-more-refugees-than-ever-before-in-2016] //BH

Close to 16,000 people sought asylum in Spain during 2016, more than six times the figure of a year earlier.But less than half of those who applied for asylum in Spain were successful in their application. Of the 15,755 people who applied, only 6,855 (43.5 percent) were granted asylum and 3,395 refugees (21.6 percent) had their applications denied outright. The remaining 5,505 are still waiting for their applications to be processed.The figures released by [the Spanish Refugee Council (CEAR) r](https://www.cear.es/espana-limita-al-maximo-el-derecho-de-asilo-a-los-refugiados-que-no-huyen-de-siria/)eveal that those fleeing the civil war in Syria have had the most success with asylum applications.Some 90 percent of all those applications accepted – amounting to 6,215 – were from Syrians. However, only 355 have actually been awarded full refugee status with the remaining 6,500 applicants given a form of “subsidiary” protection which is open to review.

Christian Science Monitor, 2-19-2017, "Why 160,000 protesters in Barcelona want Spain to welcome more refugees," https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2017/0219/Why-160-000-protesters-in-Barcelona-want-Spain-to-welcome-more-refugees

A recent BBC World Service poll also found Spain the most welcoming of all countries, with 84 percent of the population agreeing to take in Syrian refugees. Along with this accepting attitude of immigration, Spaniards appear less fearful of terrorism inspired by Islamic extremism, a cultural attitude political scientists say stem from its own experiences. “Spaniards have had to deal with terrorist attacks by the [Basque] separatist organization ETA. The Spanish public opinion slowly learned not to descend into a spiral of rhetorical and political violence," Spanish political scientist Miguel Ángel Simón told Martins. "The major parties paved the way when they signed the Antiterrorism Pact in December 2000. In it, they agreed not to use terrorism as a political weapon. The same philosophy determined a new agreement against radical Islamist terrorism, after 2004." A 2013 study by the Migration Policy Institute, a migrant think tank in Washington, also attributed Spain’s immigration attitudes to three factors: a belief that immigration both bolsters economic growth, a perception that it is representative of democracy, and the low visibility of immigrants, “which makes them less of a perceived threat to national identity.

### A/2- Energy Poverty

#### 1. Badcock of BBC News explains that the Catalan parliament passed a second anti-poverty law that would inform social services before cutting off non-paying customers, even allowing Catalonia to eventually pay off the customers’ bills.

James Badcock, 11-20-2016, "Spain anger over 'energy poverty' deaths," BBC News, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-38024374

A second anti-poverty law passed by the Catalan parliament in 2015 introduced the obligation on utility companies to inform social services before cutting off non-paying customers. The local authority can then effectively choose whether to allow the company to cut off gas, electricity or water, or decide to take over payment on behalf of a vulnerable household. Spain allows a 25% discount on energy bills only for especially large families, households where all members are unemployed or pensioners are on the minimum state pension. Any income, however little, can make a family ineligible - as Matias Gonzalez from Barcelona found out, when his son started bringing home €136 (£116; $144) a month for occasional shifts in a bar, as a supplement to €426 entering the household in the form of benefits. The president of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, has pointed the finger at electricity supplier Gas Natural, which could be fined €100,000 for failing in its legal duty to inform social services when deciding to cut off 81-year-old Rosa.

### A/2- Green Tech Policy

#### They make the problem out to be bigger than it actually is. Export writes that Spain delegates the ability to create environmental policies to Catalonia in the status quo. That’s monumentally important because we would contend that if Catalonia’s government wanted to implement these policies, they would have already because they have the power to.

#### They try and paint the picture that the Spanish government is completely against the concept of green tech. This is complete misrepresentation as Export continues that Spain is projected to invest over 42 million Euros into green tech nationwide this year. Spain isn’t the big bad wolf that they claim they are.

#### A/2 – Tax money Causes constraint: This is nonunique, budget constraints exist in either world. In fact, we would argue that Catalonia would be even worse at implementing these policies if independent because of how much debt they’re in. Make them prove to you not only that their politicians want to implement these policies, but they have the financial means to.

[No Author, 7-1-2017. "Spain." Export Gov. https://www.export.gov/article?id=Spain-green-technology] //BH

Another important problem in Spain is water. The main objective for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment is to guarantee supply of sufficient quantity and quality throughout the country and for all uses while ensuring respect for environmental issues. These supply guarantee and quality improvement efforts are combined with due management of extreme weather phenomena, floods and droughts, which represent a threat not only to public safety but also threaten the environment and the economic activities associated with water. Water planning by the central government is organized at two levels: river basin management plans and the national water plan. **In Spain, powers on environmental matters are shared among the state, the autonomous regions and the municipalities.** **The autonomous regions implement the applicable regulations and may issue additional rules for stricter environmental protection; in addition, they have the power to control many relevant areas related to the environment, such as integrated environmental authorizations.** The regions’ powers regarding the environment are exercised through bodies equivalent to state ministries. Spanish municipalities also have powers concerning environmental protection, which must be executed in accordance with the regulations issued by the state and the autonomous regions. The main environmental powers of the municipalities relate to municipal environmental permits, urban waste, water treatment and noise limits. Today 78 percent of European citizens live in cities, and 85 percent of the EU’s GDP is generated in cities. Spain has a national plan for intelligent cities, promoted by the Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda. The plan invests Euros 153 million in smart cities development, coordinates efforts between cities, improves communication and offers recommendations for short and long term development in all smart city sub-sectors.

[No Author, 7-1-2017. "Spain." Export Gov. https://www.export.gov/article?id=Spain-green-technology] //BH

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Green Technologies and Services - Total Market Size/Imports/Exports | | | | |
| **Green Technologies and Service**s | 2015 | 2016 (estimated) | 2017 (estimated) | 2018 (estimated) |
| Total Market Size | 39,591,418 | 40,762,345 | 41,095,249 | 42,208,977 |
| Total Local Production | 35,300,490 | 36,834,736 | 37,135,563 | 38,620,986 |
| Total Exports | 6,359,726 | 7,060,275 | 7,117,936 | 7,545,012 |
| Total Imports | 10,650,654 | 10,987,884 | 11,077,622 | 11,133,003 |
| Imports from the U.S. | 3,121,791 | 3,590,876 | 3,620,206 | 3,765,014 |
| Exchange Rate: 1 USD | 0.901 | 0.900 | 0,900 | 0,900 |

*Total Market Size = (Total Local Production + Total Imports) – (Total Exports)*  
*Data Sources: Unofficial estimates using data from local sources including Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing, Food and the Environment; Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda;* *Institute for Energy Saving and Diversification: sector associations and journals.*

### A/2- Solar Energy

#### Independence from Spain doesn’t do enough to bring their impacts to fruition. Catalonia must liberate itself from Italy, still the largest shareholder of ENEL, which owns the nuclear power stations in Catalonia through a subsidiary named ENDESA. Unless they can prove to you that they can get Italy on board for Solar energy, don’t give them any sort of probability.

#### The status quo is starting to solve back for their problems. Abaco writes in August of 2017 that support for things like the ‘sun tax’ are currently declining in the Spanish government and that there’s only one party left that supports such measures. The article concludes that as soon as Rajoy falls out of power, the Sun tax falls with him and then all of their impacts are solved back for.

**Catalonia needs to get rid of Italy** [Miningawareness, xx-xx-xxxx. "Catalonia Approved SOLARCAT Strategy To Make Decentralized Solar Central to Catalonia’s Transition to 100% Renewable Energy By 2050." Mining Awareness +. https://miningawareness.wordpress.com/2017/10/18/catalonia-approved-solarcat-strategy-to-make-decentralized-solar-central-to-catalonias-transition-to-100-renewable-energy-by-2050/] //BH

Spanish Prime Minister Rajoy’s “eyes are nothing like the sun” (Shakespeare Sonnet 130, adapted.) Catalonia will apparently need to liberate itself from Spain in order to pursue its plan of converting to decentralized solar energy in its push to reach 100% renewable energy by 2050. Catalonia must liberate itself from Italy, still the largest shareholder of ENEL, which owns the nuclear power stations in Catalonia through a subsidiary named ENDESA. While France has been allowed to bail out its state-owned nuclear industry, the EU would probably say that Catalonia promoting solar constitutes unfair subsidies, so it’s probably better for Catalonia to leave Spain and the EU (especially Italy) behind. But, of course, Spain threatens to scuttle Catalonia’s government tomorrow and SOLARCAT would be scuttled with it.In the framework of the SOLARCAT strategy, the Executive Board has also approved the development of a guaranteed long-term renewable energy purchase model PPA Power Purchase Agreement, which should allow the Generalitat of Catalonia, in the framework of public procurement of goods and services, to purchase the totality of the renewable energy generated in a photovoltaic solar park installed in Catalonia, which will be newly constructed on land owned and in use by the Generalitat using an innovative private partnership with citizen participation, for a guaranteed period of 15 to 25 years.

[No Author, 8-21-2017. "The rise and fall of solar energy in Spain." Abaco Advisors. http://www.abacoadvisers.com/spain-explained/life-in-spain/news/rise-and-fall-solar-energy-in-spain] //BH

Those promoting renewable energy sources have hoped that each general election could lead to a reversal of the punitive laws. Many Spanish politicians do not agree with the imposition of the tax or the current approach to energy production. There are still hopes for reform with only one political party continuing to support the status quo. However, whilst Rajoy and the PP remain in charge it will be difficult to topple the law even though there is so much opposition to it. In January 2017 a law proposal was registered in congress that would mean the beginning of sun tax removal. The proposal includes the right to solar energy without charge and indicates that several consumers should be able to pool their power as part of a self-consumption facility to help tackle poverty. Those supporting the government argue that attacking solar power was the only way to address the electricity deficit in the country during a time when the books needed to be balanced. Those in opposition are clearly saddened to see Spain’s solar superiority now in tatters as other countries accelerate theirs. Whatever the state of the electricity companies it hardly seems fair to penalise those who have invested in Spain’s solar future, or those who want to do their bit to address climate change.

### A/2- Shipbuilding

### A/2- Cyber Security

### A/2- Civil War

#### It takes two to tango, and Catalonia won’t dance. Greenhalgh of Veterans Today writes in September that Catalonia does not want bloody confrontation with Spain. This brings the probability of their impacts close to zero.

#### No war would occur, Catalonia doesn’t have forces to fight with. Beckhusen writes on October 5th that an independent Catalonia would be left with no sort of military infrastructure, which would be really bad because Spain would be able to use their army instead of their police force to harm Catalonia if need be. They don’t have any solvency in their world.

#### Spain doesn’t want conflict. Couzens of Express writes on October 30th that Spain will only be inclined to take military action against Catalonia if they make the first move. Insofar as they haven’t made that move, we’d say the probability is really low.

#### We have to look at the resolution, which states that Spain grants Catalonia independence, showing that Spain will willingly give Catalonia independence in our world, and thus you can cross off all of their points of Spanish backlash on the flow, because if the resolution was allowing for these abusive arguments, it would be phrased like “Independence is in Catalonia’s best interest”, similar to the Septober resolution from this year.

[Ian Greenhalgh, 12-14-2017. "Spain Heading Towards Civil War?." Veterans Today. https://www.veteranstoday.com/2017/09/30/spain-heading-towards-civil-war/] //BH

The Catalans clearly fear a repeat of the brutality and violence of the Franco era; in Brussels last week four Catalan MEP’s asked the European Commission to inform Spain that it could not use military force to stop Catalonia from breaking away from Madrid. The MEPs Maria Badia, Ana Miranda, Raul Romeva Rueda and Ramon Tremosa also wrote to the EU justice commissioner. However, it looks like the international community and the European nations will once again stand idly by and not involve themselves in Spain’s affairs. This is probably largely motivated by a desire to avoid giving a boost to other nascent independence movements across Europe, such as the Bavarians, Basque, Walloons and Scots. **The Catalans do not want violence, they are trying to do things in a calm and peaceful manner, but the heavy-handed reaction by Spanish authorities in Madrid smacks of the bad old days of Franco and fascism when Catalan identity was brutally suppressed to the point where the Catalan language could only be spoken in private or in the safety of numbers such as on the terraces of the famous Nou Camp football stadium in Barcelona.** The Catalan police, controlled by the Catalan local government in Barcelona has so far done nothing to either hinder or assist Madrid’s use of force, however, this may change if the heavy-handed intimidation tactics continue – the Catalan police may be forced to act to protect their own people, should Madrid’s forces resort to violence, which is a very real possibility, given the notorious reputation of the Guardia Civil.

[Robert Beckhusen, 12-14-2017. "If Catalonia Declares Independence, It’s Going to Want a Military." No Publication. http://warisboring.com/if-catalonia-declares-independence-its-going-to-want-a-military/] //BH

Catalonia, the Spanish autonomous region at the center of a historic secession crisis, could declare independence in a matter of days. If it happens, Madrid will not recognize the breakaway state. It’s not clear if the European Union, which needs Spain’s permission, would allow Catalonia to remain a member. Probably not. R**egardless of what happens, Catalonia would need a military, according to the region’s leading politician. “Armed forces and a defense policy are absolutely essential,”** Catalonia’s pro-independence Pres. Carles Puigdemont said in August 2017. “We are in a global fight and we have seen it with the jihadist threat … Catalonia needs a democratic and modern defense policy.” That view is not shared by some politicians favoring secession. “President, it is unethical to use dramatic terror attacks to [justify the need](http://www.euronews.com/2017/09/07/what-would-a-catalonian-army-look-like) for an army,” parliamentarian Gabriela Serra of the CUP — a pro-independence socialist party in Catalonia — told Euronews. “Nothing justifies militarism.” That debate might have to wait until after independence, if it happens. In any case, an independent Catalonia with 7.5 million people — a population greater than Denmark — and a GDP on par with Portugal could have a military. It would just need to build one. From scratch. Fortunately for Puigdemont, activists with the Catalan National Assembly — a pro-independence organization which had its Catalan web domain pulled by Madrid — have already done some of the work under the name of the Military Studies Society (SEM), which has produced [Spanish- and English-language policy blueprints](http://sem-cat.blogspot.com/p/documents-in-english.html) for the initial steps needed to field an army, air force and navy. While the blueprints are aspirational, they present a pragmatic and realistic guide to constructing a military from the ground-up, befitting an independent Catalonia’s requirements and real, serious constraints**. It would be far from easy. The Spanish military has scarce military infrastructure and no dedicated naval or air bases in the region. Spain’s primary military academies are in Zaragoza, Marin, Toledo and Segovia — not within Catalonia. This is not an accident. In short, an independent Catalonia would wake up one morning without an army, navy, air force or the institutional backbone to support them.** The SEM’s blueprints are a means of laying the initial groundwork for a Catalan military that could one day be equivalent to other smaller European countries such as Denmark. SEM advocates boosting Catalonia’s share of defense spending dedicated to operations and maintenance to 40 percent, lower than many austerity-driven European countries and similar to the Israel Defense Forces in the 1960s. SEM also wants to avoid the “macro-cephalic” — with think this means “officer-heavy” — command system of the Spanish military.

[Gerard Couzens, 10-30-2017. "Catalonia in CRISIS: Army 'READY to intervene over independence' amid fears of CIVIL WAR." Express.co.uk. https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/873187/Catalonia-Spain-independence-referendum-news-army-intervene-civil-war] //BH

Eduardo Inda, director of online news website OKDiaro.com and a regular on Spanish political and current affairs programmes, told broadcaster La Sexta soldiers would be mobilised to protect airports, ports and nuclear power stations if they came under threat. Fears of a violent uprising - seen as remote by most observers despite sensationalist claims Spain could be on the verge of another civil war - came to nothing today on the first weekday since the Spanish government imposed direct rule on Catalonia and stripped its leading politicians of their powers. But the calm prevailing in Barcelona and other Catalan cities didn't stop Mr Inda, an outspoken right-winger who often gets into shouting matches with fellow guests on Spanish TV news shows, from referring to the possibility of the army intervening. **Referring to Spain's years of dictatorship under General Francisco Franco, he said: "The army in Spain unfortunately has some connotations which take us back forty-odd years so the Spanish government is going to be especially cautious. "If the situation remains calm, the army won't be deployed.** "But if there is the slightest risk that any strategic installations are going to be taken, such as reservoirs, ports, airports, nuclear power stations, the army would be deployed to defend them." OkDiario.com also claimed in a website report that the army was ready to intervene if required, illustrating its report with an archive photo of soldiers patrolling the streets of Barcelona.

### A/2- Police State Expansion

#### The problem is being fixed, Sam Jones of the Guardian writes that the members of the Catalonian government that were inciting any sort of police violence were jailed, meaning that they’re not present to incite violence rn

#### Turn, the situation is comparatively worse in their world. Beckhusen writes on October 5th that an independent Catalonia would be left with no sort of military infrastructure, which would be really bad because Spain would be able to use their army instead of their police force to harm Catalonia if need be. They don’t have any solvency in their world.

#### Look to scope. They have to prove to you how prevalent an increase in police violence would be. If they don’t do this, they can’t win the argument. Unfortunately, the BBC writes that historically, instances like the one that occurred during the referendum are few and far between. Until they prove a significant increase, don’t weigh the argument.

Cards:

[Sam Jones, 11-2-2017. "Spanish judge jails eight members of former Catalan government." Guardian. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/02/spanish-court-question-catalonia-separatists-except-puigdemont] //BH

**A judge in Madrid has ordered eight members of the deposed Catalan government to be remanded in custody pending possible charges over**[**last week’s declaration of independence**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/27/spanish-pm-mariano-rajoy-asks-senate-powers-dismiss-catalonia-president)**. Carmen Lamela, sitting in Spain’s national court, jailed the eight former ministers – including Oriol Junqueras, deputy to the deposed president, [Carles Puigdemont](https://www.theguardian.com/world/carles-puigdemont)– on Thursday while they are investigated on possible charges of sedition, rebellion and misuse of public funds**. Lamela ruled that a ninth, who resigned the day before the Catalan parliament [voted to declare independence](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-europe-41780816/catalan-parliament-votes-to-declare-independence-from-spain) last Friday, could remain at liberty on bail of €50,000 (£44,600). Lawyers for those under investigation said their clients would appeal against the judge’s decision, which they described as unjustified, disproportionate and predetermined. Puigdemont, who [travelled to Brussels shortly before Spain’s attorney general announced his intention to pursue the charges](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/30/spanish-prosecutor-calls-for-rebellion-charges-against-catalan-leaders), had been summoned to attend the national court to give evidence on Thursday and Friday. In a written request to Lamela, prosecutors said that Puigdemont and four other members of his administration were aware that they had been ordered to testify, but had chosen not to attend. “Repeated attempts to deliver the summons at home and repeated phone calls have been ignored,” they said. “For his part, [Carles Puigdemont](https://www.theguardian.com/world/carles-puigdemont) has publicly stated his intention not to appear and has requested … to make a statement via videoconference, without giving any information about his current whereabouts.” Consequently, they added, they were requesting Puigdemont be found and arrested, along with the four other regional ministers who are also in Belgium. Late on Tuesday, Puigdemont’s Belgian lawyer Paul Bekaert claimed to state broadcaster VRT that a warrant had been issued for the five Catalan politicians, but this was contradicted by a Spanish judicial source. “I have just heard from my client that the warrant has been issued for the president and four of his ministers who are in Belgium,” he said. “Mr Puigdemont will stay here. He has said that he will fully cooperate with Belgian authorities during the procedure,” Bekaert said. A Spanish court source later told the Reuters news agency that this was not true.

[Robert Beckhusen, 12-14-2017. "If Catalonia Declares Independence, It’s Going to Want a Military." No Publication. http://warisboring.com/if-catalonia-declares-independence-its-going-to-want-a-military/] //BH

Catalonia, the Spanish autonomous region at the center of a historic secession crisis, could declare independence in a matter of days. If it happens, Madrid will not recognize the breakaway state. It’s not clear if the European Union, which needs Spain’s permission, would allow Catalonia to remain a member. Probably not. R**egardless of what happens, Catalonia would need a military, according to the region’s leading politician. “Armed forces and a defense policy are absolutely essential,”** Catalonia’s pro-independence Pres. Carles Puigdemont said in August 2017. “We are in a global fight and we have seen it with the jihadist threat … Catalonia needs a democratic and modern defense policy.” That view is not shared by some politicians favoring secession. “President, it is unethical to use dramatic terror attacks to [justify the need](http://www.euronews.com/2017/09/07/what-would-a-catalonian-army-look-like) for an army,” parliamentarian Gabriela Serra of the CUP — a pro-independence socialist party in Catalonia — told Euronews. “Nothing justifies militarism.” That debate might have to wait until after independence, if it happens. In any case, an independent Catalonia with 7.5 million people — a population greater than Denmark — and a GDP on par with Portugal could have a military. It would just need to build one. From scratch. Fortunately for Puigdemont, activists with the Catalan National Assembly — a pro-independence organization which had its Catalan web domain pulled by Madrid — have already done some of the work under the name of the Military Studies Society (SEM), which has produced [Spanish- and English-language policy blueprints](http://sem-cat.blogspot.com/p/documents-in-english.html) for the initial steps needed to field an army, air force and navy. While the blueprints are aspirational, they present a pragmatic and realistic guide to constructing a military from the ground-up, befitting an independent Catalonia’s requirements and real, serious constraints**. It would be far from easy. The Spanish military has scarce military infrastructure and no dedicated naval or air bases in the region. Spain’s primary military academies are in Zaragoza, Marin, Toledo and Segovia — not within Catalonia. This is not an accident. In short, an independent Catalonia would wake up one morning without an army, navy, air force or the institutional backbone to support them.** The SEM’s blueprints are a means of laying the initial groundwork for a Catalan military that could one day be equivalent to other smaller European countries such as Denmark. SEM advocates boosting Catalonia’s share of defense spending dedicated to operations and maintenance to 40 percent, lower than many austerity-driven European countries and similar to the Israel Defense Forces in the 1960s. SEM also wants to avoid the “macro-cephalic” — with think this means “officer-heavy” — command system of the Spanish military.

[BBC News, 10-27-2017. "Reality Check: Were Catalonia police violence photos fake?." . http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41677911] //BH

Earlier totals had been disputed by Spanish ministers and newspapers - arguing that people might turn up at a clinic despite having no medical complaint.

However, the Catalan health service insists everyone included in these latest figures received a diagnosis from a medical professional.Twelve police officers were also injured on polling day. This figure is agreed by both the Catalan department of health and the Spanish government. **It is difficult to find examples where as many civilians were injured during clashes with police.** Yet when assessing the level of violence, the degree of force is important, not just the number of injuries. **There are various cases where police in EU member states used an equivalent or even higher degree of force in public.** Here are some recent examples: [A man died last year](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37356684)when police in Belfast used CS spray during a violent incident in the city centre. [German police in Hamburg used water cannon](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-16981783)to disperse protesters at this summer's G20 summit. 270 were treated for injuries - and 20 of those were treated as inpatients. [Dozens of protesters were injured in Athens](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17006686) when police used tear gas after anti-austerity protests turned violent in 2012. Portuguese police [beat a man in front of his young children](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-32793901)outside a football stadium in 2015. [Two hundred were injured in Genoa, Italy](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/1471107.stm) after police beat protesters at the G8 summit in 2001. It is worth noting that none of those events were votes.

### A/2- Decreased Political Polarization

#### This is bad for politics, as it leads to more authoritarian government. With the exit of Podemos, the right wing would rise in the Spanish government, preventing any sort of future social policies from being passed.

#### Letting one party control the government leads to poorer policymaking because people don’t have discourse on key pieces of legislation because there’s no sort of disagreement. This is bad as both countries could end up being harmed in the long run.

#### Getting rid of Podemos won’t solve the problem in Catalonia. Kennedy of Reuters writes in 2016 that other political parties in Spain are so embroiled with their own internal struggles that they won’t be able to come to any sort of agreement as a whole. This means that polarization still occurs, but with three parties instead of four. They don’t fix the problem whatsoever.

#### Even if you believe that these parties can solve their own internal struggles, they still won’t be able to get along together. Reuters writes in 2015 that all of the Spanish political parties have vastly different agendas and aren’t very open to compromise on them, meaning that their impacts probably won’t happen anytime soon.

Cards:

[Paul Kennedy, 11-2-2016. "The messy politics behind Spain's new government." Conversation. https://theconversation.com/the-messy-politics-behind-spains-new-government-67970] //BH

When Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy was finally able to announce the formation of a minority government after 10 months of deadlock, he called for [political unity](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/28/spain-to-get-government-after-10-month-political-impasse-mariano-rajoy). The national parliament must work together to make up for lost time, he said. **But that unity will not easily be achieved while most other political parties are embroiled in their own internal struggles. Rajoy was only able to make his breakthrough thanks to a decision by the Socialist Party (PSOE) to abstain from a vote to allow him to form a government, rather than voting against him. That decision has split the party and led to the resignation of its leader, Pedro Sánchez.** Spain has endured [two elections](https://theconversation.com/spain-steels-itself-for-another-election-after-months-with-no-government-60675) in the past year alone, and Rajoy’s centre-right People’s Party (PP) was the only major party to increase its vote and number of seats between those two votes. Rajoy’s strategists will therefore already be planning their next move.

[Reuters Editorial, 12-23-2015. "Spanish parties outline conflicting views on post-election pacts." U.S.. https://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-politics/spanish-parties-outline-conflicting-views-on-post-election-pacts-idUSKBN0U60RX20151223] //BH

**Spain’s main political parties outlined conflicting positions on Wednesday on how to form a viable government in the wake of an inconclusive election on Sunday, suggesting the negotiations will be complex and time-consuming.**Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez, speaking to the media after meeting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, said he would reject any pact that led to a new government with Rajoy or his People’s Party (PP), dashing hopes of a grand coalition of the mainstream left and right. On Sunday, Rajoy’s **center-right PP won the most votes but fell far short of a parliamentary majority, while the Socialists came second. Both lost significant ground to the relatively new liberal Ciudadanos and left-wing Podemos parties. Without the backing of the Socialists, or at least their implicit support via abstentions, it would be impossible for the PP to form a government with a majority in parliament.** Other combinations are possible but they would require at least three parties reaching an accord. “We say ‘no’ to Rajoy and his policies,” Sanchez told a news conference after the meeting. “The Socialists will work so that there is a new government, a government of change, with progressive ideas and capacity for dialogue,” he said.

### A/2- Spanish Nationalism

#### Turn: Kingsley reports in October that Catalonia separatism would actually revive and exacerbate Spanish nationalism. Indeed David Gardner confirms this as the same thing happened back in 2012 when there was a surge of Catalan separatism.

Gardner, David. “Separatists reawaken Spanish nationalism.” Financial Times, Nov. 12, 2012, www.ft.com/content/b3e6cd00-2f52-11e2-b88b-00144feabdc0.

This year’s surge of separatist sentiment in Catalonia and the Basque Country is reawakening what had appeared to be a dormant Spanish nationalism, led by rightwing forces in and around the ruling Popular party, with salvos of rhetorical artillery between the two sides poisoning political debate. More modulated voices that subscribe to neither brand of nationalism are being drowned out by this increasingly atavistic discourse, which some feel summons up the spectres of Spain’s fractious past. Faced with a drive for independence by the home rule government of Catalonia ahead of a watershed election there on Sunday, the central government in Madrid is threatening to use the full force of the law to prevent Catalan plans for a subsequent plebiscite on the region’s future. Reasoned proposals to reform the constitution and move Spain’s pluri-national state towards a more federal model have been caught in the crossfire – not helped by gathering evidence that the opposition Socialist party is heading for a meltdown across Spain, as well as in Catalonia. Mariano Rajoy, prime minister, insists he is open to dialogue but that the right of self-determination is proscribed by a constitution that consecrates the indissoluble unity of Spain. Catalan opinion tipped towards secession after a democratically endorsed and Socialist-led attempt to give Catalonia enhanced self-government was struck down by the constitutional court – at the behest of the PP when it was in opposition. The ruling party, which has an absolute majority in parliament yet governs almost entirely by decree, is treating the constitution with the reverence accorded to a tablet of stone, even though last year it took the lame-duck Socialist government a matter of days to amend the charter to incorporate the eurozone fiscal compact. “This should all be negotiable but it has become poisoned by an accumulation of grievances,” says Jesus Ceberio, former editor of El Pais, Spain’s leading centre-left newspaper.

Kingsley, Patrick, and Raphael Minder. “Catalonia Separatism Revives Spanish Nationalism.”The New York Times, The New York Times, 5 Oct. 2017, www.nytimes.com/2017/10/05/world/europe/catalan-independence-referendum.html.

Equally dangerous, in the eyes of many Spaniards, is Catalonia’s threat to tear apart a country that is a composite of regional identities and languages — including Basque and Galician as well as Catalan — a reality the government and the country have never truly found a comfortable way to digest. “In America people are proud to be patriots, whereas in Spain if you say that you’re proud of your country, they say you’re a fascist,” said Carlotta Carro, a 24-year-old lawyer who supported the Spanish police crackdown on the Catalan referendum. “But now people have a reason to go out into the streets to proudly show their flag.” Indeed, the Spanish flag has become more visible in Madrid and other cities, as people have responded to the conservative government’s call to stop Catalan separatism in its tracks with their own displays of flag-waving. “It’s finally a symbol for everyone,” said Lucrecia Fernández, a 50-year-old business administrator, who hung 11 Spanish flags from her apartment three days before the referendum on Sunday. But the clashes between Catalans and the Spanish national police have lent the nationalist resurgence — on both sides — a suddenly volatile dimension. Before the referendum, Catalans watched online videos of Spanish police officers leaving for Catalonia to enforce Madrid’s order to close polling stations, encouraged by residents shouting “go for them.” After the vote, Spanish television broadcast images of some of the same police officers, their hotels surrounded by crowds shouting abuse and calling for them to leave. “Nationalist movements need to feed off each other,” said Joan B. Culla, a Catalan historian. “It’s both unfortunate and normal that the escalation of Catalan nationalism, particularly in recent days, will fuel a Spanish nationalism that already existed, even if it seemed to many to have been kept underground.”

### A/2- Inevitability

#### Not going to happen. Josh Lowe of Newsweek explains in October that the Spanish government has made their position very clear stating that they will not negotiate a deal for secession because it is literally illegal by their constitution

#### The status quo is solving in other ways meaning that there is no long term need for secession. Daniel Boffey of the Guardian writes in November that Spain is working towards giving Catalonia the autonomy to collect their own taxes and overall greater control over their own finances to defuse tensions. Tobias Buck of the Financial Times continues in October that support and pressure for negotiations and dialogue is increasing within Spain, making it the most likely resolution.

#### No guarantee that political will continues. BMI Research reports in October that anti-independence parties are on the rise which threatens movements for independence which is why Charles Chang of AU News writes that pro independence parties are on track to lose their parliamentary majority in the elections on December 21st.Taking this and negotiations into consideration, BMI concludes that there is a 15% chance independence happens stating that negotiated greater autonomy is more likely

1. **Public support is low too. The Gulf Times reports 3 weeks ago that barely a quarter of Catalonians want independence but rather 71% want a deal negotiated that keeps them as a part of Spain.**
2. **The movement is dying. Nixon of the Wall Street Journal quantifies in November 2017 that 54% of Catalans oppose independence. This is critical because this poll post-dates the 90% who supported independence during the October referendum.**

Josh Lowe (Newsweek) October 2017

<http://www.newsweek.com/catalonia-catalan-independence-referendum-declaration-679665>

Before things get that far, it’s possible the Spanish and Catalan governments could sit down to negotiate some sort of more moderate deal.The Catalan government has called for the EU to play a more active role in mediating the debate between it and the central government in Madrid, but the central government has rebuffed this.Raul Romeva, the Catalan government's minister of foreign affairs, says his side would still be open to dialogue with Madrid. "A sustainable solution should be based on dialogue, on negotiations, with no preconditions," he tells *Newsweek*, **"Is there any offer from the state? No there is not."The Spanish government position is that there is no viable debate to be had. “The government will not negotiate over anything illegal," a statement from Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's office said this week**, according to [Euractiv](https://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/news/spain-rejects-catalonias-mediation-proposal/). Meanwhile, **the EU is likely loathe to intervene too heavily**.While politicians across the continent were concerned by social media and TV images of police manhandling Catalans as they went to vote on Sunday, the basic EU legal position is that Spain has a right to uphold its constitution, and that the constitution makes the referendum invalid.“It seems to me like the EU doesn’t want to get involved in this,” says Jonathan Hopkin, an Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics (LSE), “**They would rather it was left to Spain’s institutions to sort it out**.”But, Hopkin says, if there were more serious violence, particularly anything that resulted in a death, “the EU would probably have to start to get involved.”

**Daniel Boffey, 11/21/17, “Spain 'ready to discuss' greater fiscal autonomy for Catalonia”, The Guardian,**<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/21/spain-ready-to-discuss-greater-fiscal-autonomy-for-catalonia> //BB

***Madrid is paving the way for Catalonia to be given the power to collect and manage its own taxes, similar to the system enjoyed by the autonomous Basque country, in an attempt to defuse the crisis over an illegal referendum on independence for the region****.* Senior sources in the Spanish government have told the Guardian that although there remains intense opposition within the ruling People’s party (PP) to any future referendum on self-determination, there is a renewed willingness to open discussions on a new fiscal pact under which Catalonia would have greater control of its finances. “If the Catalans ask for a fiscal pact, we are ready to discuss this,” one senior source said. “The Basque country [in northern Spain] and Navarre collect their own taxes. They have their own system and there is a meeting between the Basque country and the central government and they decide how much they contribute to foreign policy and defence. It‘s a negotiation. Every five years. “We are open to discuss this, taking into account that the constitution of Spain also establishes solidarity [among the Spanish regions].”

Tobias Buck (Financial Times) 10/7/2017

<https://www.ft.com/content/1242db56-ab8a-11e7-aab9-abaa44b1e130>  
**Tens of thousands of people gathered in Madrid and Barcelona on Saturday morning as Catalonia prepared to declare independence, calling for talks to defuse Spain’sworst political crisis for decades**. The Catalan authorities say that a majority of those who voted in a referendum last Sunday supported a split from Spain. Madrid says secession is illegal under the country’s 1978 constitution. The political stand-off has divided the country, pushed banks and companies to move their headquarters outside Catalonia and shaken market confidence in the Spanish economy. That has prompted calls from the European Commission for Catalan and Spanish leaders to find a political solution. In peaceful protests that dispersed by early afternoon across 50 Spanish cities, thousands dressed in white and carried banners calling for peace and dialogue between leaders. **In Barcelona, protesters chanted “let’s talk” in Catalan, while many carried signs criticising political leaders for not finding a diplomatic solution.**

BMI Research (October 2017) Spain Country Risk Report

<https://www.bmiresearch.com/articles/independence-declaration-will-not-lead-to-catalan-secession>

**Combined support for the anti-independence parties has increased somewhat over the course of the year in the run-up to the October 1 referendum**. The most popular of these remains the centrist Ciudadanos (Citizens,C's), which has seen its support climb from around 15% to 19% in late October 2017. The centre-left Socialists' Party of Catalonia (PSC) and the centre-right People's Party (PP) have largely maintained their support levels around 13% and 10% respectively over the last 12 months. The primary unknown quantity in the anti/pro-independence party dynamic is the left-wing Catalunya en Comu (Catalonia in Common, CeC) movement, which incorporates the Catalonian faction of the Podemos movement alongside several other socialist groups. The movement's support ranges from around 9% to 12% in polls, and while it supports a referendum on Catalonian independence, it does not have a concrete stance on whether it supports the region's secession, instead looking to focus on economic and welfare issues. **Without sustaining a level of support above 50% that translates into a majority in the regional parliament (which the pro-independence parties currently hold) as well as a majority of the popular vote (which pro-independence parties did not achieve in the last election in 2015), the argument for self-determination will remain a difficult one to put forward as a legitimate will of the Catalan people**. FutureIndependence An Unlikely **ProspectWe continue to see Catalan secession from Spain as an unrealistic prospect, and we believe there is only around a 15% probability of Catalonia becoming an independent nation state over the coming years. Our core view remains that, at some point following the establishment of a new regional government, Madrid and Catalonia will eventually come to the table to negotiate, and certain concessions will be agreed in an attempt to appease separatists. Under this scenario, Catalonia would likely be granted greater fiscal autonomy, especially the ability to retain a greater share of its tax revenues and receive a larger percentage of central government funding as per the redistribution mechanism of the National Tax Administration Agency**. Of course we recognise the potential for other outcomes, including Madrid offering no concessions while maintaining the status quo, or indeed the possibility that Catalonia unilaterally secedes from Spain. While the latter would be the most damaging outcome, given that the region generates around 20% of Spanish economic output, a protracted period of uncertainty and persistent tensions will take hold under virtually all plausible scenarios, representing a constant drag on Spanish economic activity in the quarters ahead. Furthermore, enduring deep divisions imply that a severe escalation of tensions at some point down the line cannot be precluded.

Charles Cheng, What the Catalonia Region in Spain wants independence, 10-31-,17,

http://www.news.com.au/world/europe/why-the-catalonia-region-in-spain-wants-independence/news-story/a615d50d2483b67c39ef667cd5240304

**Catalonia's pro-independence parties will lose their parliamentary majority in the regional election on December 21, an official poll showed on Monday**. In 2015, the independence parties won 47.8 percent of thevote, which allowed them to form the largest bloc in the region's parliament. And the latest polls show support for secessionists hovering well below 50 percent, potentially putting another majority out of reach. Pro-indepence party Junts per Catalunya was predicted to take 25 to 26 seats, ERC another 32 seats and extreme-left party CUP 9 seats, according to the poll carried out by Sociological Research Centre (CIS). That would give the pro-independence camp just 67 seats in the 135-seat regional parliament, or 48 percent, stripping them of the previous slim majority.

Gulf Times, November 28, 2017 , Barely a quarter of Catalans want to push split from Spain,

http://www.gulf-times.com/story/572808/Barely-a-quarter-of-Catalans-want-to-push-split-fr

**Barely a quarter of Catalans want to continue with a plan to claim independence from Spain in the wake of December 21 regional elections, according to a poll published in El Pais newspaper** yesterday. An illegal Catalan independence referendum on October 1 plunged Spain into its worst political crisis in decades. It eased after the sacking of the secessionist Catalan authorities by the Madrid government elicited little resistance. But uncertainty could return if the pro-independence camp wins in the December 21 vote. **Just 24% of those polled** by Metroscopia **said they would like to continue with the independence process after the elections, whereas 71% said they would prefer politicians to find an agreement based on Catalonia staying part of Spain**. Pro-independence parties may fail to retain an absolute majority of seats in the Catalan parliament in next month's election, the first part of the poll published on Sunday showed. However, the survey's margin of error at 2.4% and the fact that support was evenly split between the two sides makes reading conclusions from polls difficult. The telephone poll surveyed 1,800 Catalans between November 20 and November 22. Failure to capture a majority in the regional parliament would be a heavy blow for Catalan separatists who have billed the election as a plebiscite on Madrid's decision to impose direct rule on the region last month. The October referendum produced a large majority in favour of independence, but turnout was only 43%. Catalan separatist parties are forecast to win 46% of the vote, down slightly from 47.7% in a previous election in 2015. Unionist parties combined would account for another 46% of votes, up from less than 40% last time, according to the Metroscopia poll. Turnout for the election, which former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont said on Saturday would be the most important in the region's history, is predicted to reach a record 80%.

Simon Nixon [reporter, WSJ], “Spain Sees Signs That Tide Is Turning in Catalonia,” Wall Street Journal, November 12 2017. Available at: https://www.wsj.com/articles/spainsees- signs-that-tide-is-turning-in-catalonia-1510524920

MADRID–One of the first things a visitor to Madrid will notice these days is the Spanish flags festooned from balconies across the capital, something that usually only ever happens when the national football team is playing in a major tournament. The same is true in other Spanish cities. It is a mark of how the crisis triggered by the regional government in Catalonia’s decision to hold an independence referendum that was illegal under the Spanish constitution and subsequently declare independence has reawakened previously dormant Spanish nationalism, including among the **54% of Catalans who according to a recent poll oppose independence.**

### A/2- Catalan Universities Better w/o Spain

#### De-Link: Once Catalonia declares independence from Spain and becomes independent, it leaves the EU and Spain would never vote to allow it back in- this would weaken Catalonia’s research facilities, cut access to essential funding streams and networks, and spark a brain drain.

#### De-Link: Catalonian Universities will lose funding from Spain and from the European Research Council immediately. At the moment, Catalonia receives 334 million Euros in grants from the ERC per year. It would lose this money and the standard of research and education would fall quickly.

#### Alt Harms to Spain: Catalonia splitting from Spain would cause harm to Spain’s education system- three of the top five Spanish universities right now are in the province of Catalonia. Spain would lose some of its top minds and Catalonian universities like the University of Barcelona would lose funding. Independence is a lose-lose for both countries’ education systems.

Joanna Hughes. MasterStudies.com. Oct. 16, 2017. <https://www.masterstudies.com/news/What-Does-the-Catalonian-Debate-Mean-for-Universities/-2021/>

Others fear that the secession would plunge science into isolating uncertainty, cut access to essential funding streams and networks, and spark a brain drain.”But independence isn’t an automatic win for academia, contend others. Explains Nature, “Many scientists believe that an independent Catalonia could change the scientific landscape even more fundamentally, not least by releasing universities from old-fashioned and inflexible national laws. Yet in the event of independence, Catalonia would automatically leave the European Union, and Spain would make sure it never got back in. That would weaken the region’s research. For one thing, it would no longer be allowed to host those plentiful ERC grants.”

Cristina Gallardo. International Weekly Journal of Science. Oct. 31, 2017. <https://www.nature.com/news/spanish-government-takes-control-of-catalonian-universities-1.22922>

The Catalonia region of north-east Spain has been in political turmoil ever since a highly controversial vote on independence was taken on 1 October. For the past 32 years the Catalan government has set and financed the budgets of universities, which were allocated €700 million (US$814 million) of the nearly €1-billion Catalan budget for science and universities in 2017. The region is strong in science: between 2007 and 2015, its universities won a 210 grants from the European Research Council, totalling €334 million. In the most recent round, 10 of the 22 ERC starting grants awarded to researchers in Spain were won by researchers based at Catalan institutions.

The top five Spanish universities, all ranking within the world’s top 300, are: The highest-ranked Spanish university, the University of Barcelona is 156th in the QS World University Rankings 2018. Established in 1450, it's among the oldest higher education institutions in the world, with rich traditions dating back to the Medieval Ages. Today, almost 63,000 students are enrolled in a wide array of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, across the university's 18 faculties and 100 departments. The University of Barcelona ranks within the world’s top 100 for many of the subject areas covered by the QS World University Rankings by Subject. Founded in 1968, the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (sometimes called UAM, or the Autonomous University of Madrid), is currently ranked at 187th in the world – as well as featuring in the QS Top 50 Under 50. UAM is home to more than 36,000 students across its eight faculties, and is especially noted for its Faculty of Law. It has three campuses, of which the main one, the Cantoblanco Campus, is located 15km (9 miles) north of Madrid. The Universidad Autónoma de Madrid prides itself in being the alma mater of His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain. The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona was also established in 1968, and ranks at joint 195th in the world, making it Spain’s third representative at international level. As one of the world’s leading universities under 50 years old, it features in the QS Top 50 Under 50. It teaches about 36,000 students and is famous for being one of the few universities in Spain to have a centralized campus, created in order to promote a strong university community, with all academic, research, cultural and social activities in the same place. This integrated campus is located about 20km (12 miles) from the center of Barcelona. The oldest Spanish university, the University Complutense Madrid is in fact one of the oldest higher education institutions in the world. It dates back to 1293, when it was originally known as Estudio de Escuelas Generales de Alcalá, before receiving its current name in 1499. Today, the University Complutense Madrid ranks at 233rd place in the world and within the global top 50 in the subject area of dentistry. More than 86,000 students study in the university, which was one of the first in the world to give a doctoral degree to a female student, in 1785. A private university, the University of Navarra was established in 1952 by Saint Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer. More than 12,700 students are enrolled in the university’s undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs, with many international master’s students. The university’s main campuses are in Pamplona and San Sebastián, while its prestigious IESE Business School also has offices in Barcelona, Madrid, New York, Munich and São Paulo. At the start of 2015, the university inaugurated a new museum of contemporary art, designed by well-known architect Rafael Moneo. In the QS World University Rankings 2018, the University of Navarra ranks joint 270th.

## A2: Global Politics

### A/2- Empowers Russia

#### Turn. An independent Catalonia is bad for Russia. Russia has a number of regions on it’s borders that it likes to claim as its own and if Catalonia were to become independent, it would legitimize those movements. This is really bad because we’d contend that in response to a crisis like this, Russia would be likely to respond aggressively, likely with military action of some sort. Overall, this does little to solve problems and actually puts the globe in greater danger.

#### If you don’t buy that, an independent Catalonia would embolden Russia because of the damage done to the EU as a result. This means that their world has a much more predatory Rusia than our world does.

### A/2- Inspires Greater Independence Movements

#### They have to prove a benefit to inspiring greater independence movements. Countries going through more turmoil and being destabilized probably isn’t a good thing

### A/2- Foreign Intervention

#### Mitigate. Cockburn of the Independent writes in September that the EU has publicly stated that they have NO interest in intervening in Catalonia. Insofar as that’s true, the probability of the EU intervening is minimal at best.

[Harry Cockburn, Jon Stone, 9-21-2017. "The EU won't intervene in the Catalonia independence crisis." Independent. http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/catalonia-referendum-eu-not-involve-spain-independence-crisis-catalan-separatists-police-ballot-a7959696.html] //BH

The European Union has signalled it is unlikely to intervene in the crisis unfolding in Spain over Catalan independence, saying it must respect the constitution of the country. The Spanish government has said the planned referendum is illegal and on Wednesday arrested 14 senior officials, seized ballot papers and raided the homes of the Catalan separatists suspected of coordinating the vote, due to take place on 1 October. The head of Catalonia’s pro-separatist government has claimed the national government’s actions amount to the creation of a “de facto state of emergency” in the region. Meanwhile, thousands of protesters have taken to the streets in support of Catalan secession.

# Frontlines

### A2 Wont fall outside EU

#### Reuters writes that any new state has to apply to join the EU meaning Catalonia isn’t an exception.

Reuters Staff, 9/14/17, Reuters, “Independent Catalonia would need to apply to join EU: Juncker”, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-politics-eu/independent-catalonia-would-need-to-apply-to-join-eu-juncker-idUSKCN1BP210> //BB

An independent Catalonia would have to apply to join the European Union, the president of the executive European Commission said on Thursday, adding that such a policy would apply to any new state. Catalonia’s parliament has laid the ground for a referendum on independence from Madrid on Oct. 1, although Spain’s Constitutional Court has suspended the vote. Judges are now considering whether the legislation contravenes Spain’s constitution. “If there were to be a ‘yes’ vote in favor of Catalan independence, then we will respect that opinion. But Catalonia will not be able to be an EU member state on the day after such a vote,” Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said on YouTube and broadcast by Euronews. Echoing a stance made by his predecessor, Jose Manuel Barroso, Juncker said any newly independent state must follow the same EU membership procedures as all aspirants, citing Scotland and, in jest, his home country, Luxembourg. “If northern Luxembourg were to cede from the south, the same rules would apply,” Juncker said. The EU’s accession negotiations are an arduous process that involve complying with all EU standards and rules and winning the consent of all EU governments. This means that Spain would be able to block Catalonia’s EU accession if it wished.

### A2 EU Cares about money / EU is Pragmatic

#### The EU isn’t pragmatic. SBS News writes that when Scotland tried to become an independent country they also tried to continue trade with the EU but were slapped down. The precedent is that the EU follows rules and not what would benefit them.

SBS News, 10/8/17, “Could an independent Catalonia stay in the EU?”, <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/could-an-independent-catalonia-stay-in-the-eu> //BB

Senior French judge Yves Gounin warned in a 2014 article on independence movements that taking a hardline approach, kicking a newly seceded territory out of the bloc, could backfire on the EU. "Europe would have everything to lose by putting these states in quarantine -- its investors could no longer invest there, its young people could not study there, its workers could not move freely," Gounin wrote. Instead, he suggested that "realism" should trump "orthodoxy", arguing that "the most reasonable solution would be to negotiate independence and EU membership simultaneously". But something like a precedent for this exists from the Scottish referendum of 2014 -- which was held with London's blessing -- and it is not promising for Catalan separatists. To avoid a rupture, the Scottish government said that in the event of a "yes" vote, it would start pre-independence talks with the EU "to settle the terms of an independent Scotland's continuing membership". This notion was slapped down by then European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso, who warned it would be "extremely difficult". However, Scotland voted to remain part of the United Kingdom.

### A2 EFTA

#### 1. Hughes writes that in order to get the trade within the EFTA you have to get into the EEA which requires the consent of every EU member. We would argue that if the EU wouldn’t accept a country to join the EU, they wouldn’t accept a country for the EEA either.

Matthew Hughes, 10/2/17, “Catalonia’s technology startups are optimistic for the future”, The Next Web, <https://thenextweb.com/eu/2017/10/02/catalonias-technology-startups-optimistic-future/> //BB

European Union membership of a future Catalan state is a major issue, and one that shouldn’t be overlooked in the euphoria of the moment. For a state to be admitted into the EU, it must first obtain the unanimous consent of every EU member. Spain would almost certainly veto this. But what about membership of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), which consists of Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein? Here’s where it gets complicated, so pay attention. Ian Dunt, editor of Politics.co.uk and author of Brexit: What The Hell Happens Now, told me that it’s entirely possible for a Catalan state to join the EFTA, provided it obtain the consent of all of the aforementioned countries. However, to join the European Economic Area (EEA), and therefore gain access to the all-important single market, it would need to obtain the consent of all EEA members. This consists of all 28 members of the EU, plus the three members of the EFTA (everyone except Switzerland, essentially, which has its own weird bilateral framework with the EU). Again, Spain would likely veto that. And given that trade deals require the unanimous consent of the EU and its constituent parliaments, it might struggle to create a bespoke deal. This issue has long been known. Judging by the overwhelming result, it clearly hasn’t tempered enthusiasm for independence amongst Catalonia’s residents.

### A2 Spain Takes on Catalonian Debt

#### Estanol writes that in the event of negotiations, or what the aff is advocating for, the Catalonian government would have to take on part of Spain’s debt within a split negotiation.

[Albert Banal-Estanol, 10-12-2017. "Catalonia, Spain and the economic consequences of a split." Conversation. https://theconversation.com/catalonia-spain-and-the-economic-consequences-of-a-split-85557] //BH

Catalonia would of course need to invest in creating new state structures, such as embassies and a central bank. This may cost more than what Catalonia pays now as a proportion of the same structures for a larger state. Conversely, the new Spanish government could use the split as an opportunity to simplify its own administrative structures, as the preferences of the rest of the Spanish population would be more homogeneous without Catalonia. Negotiating the split Another issue is government debt. The new Spanish state and Catalonia would need to negotiate the allocation of joint assets and liabilities. Currently, most of the public debt in Spain is issued by the Spanish government. The Catalan government has a relatively small public debt of its own, on top of its proportional share of the Spanish government debt, which Catalonia would probably also need to take on as part of the split negotiation. The Catalan government would probably need to seek funding from financial markets. This could be possible if it becomes an independent state which raises its own taxes. Although the new Spanish state may be in a worse financial situation than it currently is, it would retain the support of the European Central Bank. In the short-run the split may be costly, as both sides may also face economic uncertainty and disruptions to trade, as their populations may boycott each other’s goods and services (as has happened at previous times of tension). Because of the size difference, Catalonia would end up suffering more from this (the rest of Spain accounts for one third of Catalan exports).

### A2 EFTA

#### 1. The EFTA doesn’t include the financing benefits of the EU meaning that Catalonia still can’t resolve their debts without being in the EU because they can’t get loans from the EFTA.

Simon Kennedy, 8/9/17, “Britain’s Not-So-Sweet Options for an EU Trade Deal”, Bloomberg, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-08-09/britain-s-not-so-sweet-options-for-eu-trade-deal-quicktake-q-a> //BB

The Centre for European Reform said a deal resembling Switzerland’s is "Britain’s best hope,” since it "represents the limit of market access that the EU has been willing to accept without the full supremacy of EU law." Switzerland is a member of EFTA, which, thanks to about 120 bilateral accords, is a player in the single market for most goods. To the chagrin of some of its citizens, Switzerland, like Norway, has to accept free movement of labor, EU market regulations and annual payments to the bloc’s budget. (When the Swiss voted to restrict migration in a 2014 plebiscite, the EU was not happy, and the measure had to be implemented in a manner that sidestepped quotas.) But the Swiss model doesn’t include the unfettered EU access for the finance sector that’s so important to the U.K. And the EU might be reluctant to negotiate an even more complex version of Switzerland’s arrangement. There is also the Ukraine model, which eliminates nearly all tariffs and simplifies customs procedures. While there is no free movement of labor or budget contributions, the arrangement is aimed at preparing the Ukraine for EU membership.

### A2 Catalonia Borrows from others

#### Al Jazeera writes that rating agencies have given Catalonia such a low speculative grade that they won’t be able to borrow on the financial markets meaning without the EU they can’t borrow from anywhere.

Al Jazeera, 9/30/17, “Can Spain's economy survive a Catalan secession?”, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/spain-economy-survive-catalan-secession-170930163702214.html> //BB

Catalonia's debt represents 35.4 percent of its GDP, which made it the third-most indebted region in Spain in the first quarter of 2017, after Valencia and Castilla La Mancha. At the end of June, its debt stood at 76.7 billion euros. Ratings agencies have given it a low, speculative grade, which means Catalonia is not able to borrow directly on financial markets. So it depends on loans emitted by the Spanish state.