# Lay AC

## Case

### Cut Version

### Contention 1: Refugees

#### Spain is denying refugees

Ben Rosen of the 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, 1-12-2018]

FEBRUARY 19, 2017 —In 2015, Spain’s government made a promise: welcome in more than 17,000 refugees within two years. On Saturday, at least 160,000 protesters at a march in Barcelona said the conservative government is not living up to its pledge. The marchers, who organizers said numbered 300,000, held banners and posters that read in the Catalan language: “Enough Excuses! Take Them in Now!” and “No More Deaths, Open the Borders!” Spaniards and Catalans have a history of being more accepting of migrants than much of the rest of the European Union, perhaps because of their geography, their own histories of emigration and asylum seeking, their experiences with Basque and Islamic-inspired terrorism, or all of the above. But Saturday’s protest, organized by a group that calls itself Casa Nostra Casa Vostra (Our Home is Your Home) offers a counter to anti-immigrant and nationalist attitudes that have bubbled to the surface in Europe and the United States. It’s true the borders of the Iberian Peninsula have not seen the same flow of migrants as the rest of the continent. But Spaniards and Catalans have been overwhelmingly supportive of refugees and asylum seekers, even if they accuse their government of dragging its feet. How much do you know about the EU? Take our quiz. “It is very important that in a Europe of uncertainty where xenophobia is on the rise for Barcelona to be a capital of hope,” said the city’s mayor, Ada Colau, who joined the march on Saturday. The marchers, who police said numbered at least 160,000, but organizers said reached 300,000, demanded Madrid increase its efforts to take in refugees from war-torn countries like Syria. Protesters made their way from the city center to the Mediterranean coast, a stopping place symbolic of the 5,000 refugees who are estimated to have perished in the sea in 2016. So far, the Spanish government has accepted only 1,100 of the 17,337 refugees it pledged to accept two years ago, 15,888 from camps in Italy and Greece and 1,449 from Turkey and Libya. Of the 1,100, 65 Syrians and 1 Iraqi arrived in Madrid on Thursday. These numbers are far less than the 890,000 asylum seekers Germany brought in in 2015 and an additional 280,000 in 2016. But behind Germany and France, Spain has agreed to accept the third most migrants relocated from Greece and Italy of any EU member, according to the BBC. But such moves have largely been driven by protesting Spaniards, not the government, writes Catarina Fernandes Martins for The Christian Science Monitor. In Spain, after Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy agreed to welcome less than half of the original 6,000 [refugees] requested, Spaniards protested. Local authorities in Barcelona and Madrid called for cities across the country to provide shelter and aid to refugees, while Spaniards registered to have refugees stay as guests in their homes. Mr. Rajoy ended up accepting the requested EU refugee quota of 14,931, in addition to the 2,379 it initially agreed to accept. Ms. Colau, the mayor of Barcelona, has been a leader of this charge. She was the driver behind Barcelona, Madrid, and several other cities launching a register of families willing to open their homes to refugees or simply help them, according to The Guardian. She criticized Madrid’s stance toward refugees in December at a Vatican conference on Europe’s refugee crisis. Colau, who rose to prominence as a spokeswoman against Spain’s eviction measures, has the support of much of Catalonia, Spain, and Iberia behind her, as Ms. Martins wrote for the Monitor. The welcoming attitude on the Iberian Coast stands in contrast to most Central European countries, many of which have been overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of refugees seeking asylum and where support for ultra-right groups has surged in response. Although some anti-immigration remarks can be found on social media, the people of both Spain and Portugal have been overwhelmingly supportive of incoming refugees, perhaps due to their own histories of emigration and asylum seeking. It also may be partly because the refugees themselves – aware of the difficult economic conditions – prefer to press on to more prosperous countries such as Germany or Sweden. 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. Follow Stories Like This Get the Monitor stories you care about delivered to your inbox. But since the flow of migrants into Europe has increased by the tens of thousands, European leaders have had to navigate complex sentiments over refugees. While Mr. Rajoy of Spain has been hesitant to live up to his government’s pledge, British Prime Minister Theresa May was slow to condemn US President Trump’s travel ban, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s support of refugees was a red flag for political foes and helped buoy the far-right Alternative for Germany.

#### Catalonia has the ability to accept these refugees

Government of Catalonia of 9-30-2016 [‘Welcome refugees’, http://web.gencat.cat/en/actualitat/detall/20160930\_Persones-refugiades-persones-benvingudes, 1-12-2018]

Today the Government of Catalonia’s Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Families has presented the awareness campaign “Welcome refugees”, which intends to appeal to the Catalan people’s support of asylum or international protection seekers. The Generalitat currently has 1,216 accommodation vacancies for refugees distributed among 43 Catalan locations, of which only 419 are occupied through the state welcome and integration programme due to the Spanish state’s blockade. Meanwhile, the Secretariat for Equality, Immigration and Citizenship has an inventory of 126 resources for asylum seekers, including volunteers, accommodation and facilities, training, interpreters, therapists and the like, made up of individuals or entities lending their services to the Generalitat or to local initiatives. The campaign The campaign will officially begin next 4 October, although from today the televisions spot and its making-of can be viewed on the refugee.gencat.cat website and social media. This communication initiative will continue throughout the final quarter of 2016 and will include several items to guarantee an extensive multimedia dissemination (television, radio, social, graphic, outdoor and digital media). The campaign features the students of the Pegaso School in Barcelona, who each wrote a letter last July to a different child in a refugee camp, inviting them to come to Catalonia. The best letter was selected in a competition and was used in the bulk of the awareness campaign and the author of the letter is featured in the television spot. The initiative is framed within the projects by the Committee for welcoming refugees, which for the past year have integrated several ministries of the Generalitat, local initiatives and the main entities and organisations that work with refugees.

#### Refugees can raise wages by $60

Edward Taylor of PNAS, 5-12-2016 [, http://cyber.sci-hub.tw/MTAuMTA3My9wbmFzLjE2MDQ1NjYxMTM=/10.1073%40pnas.1604566113.pdf, 1-12-2018]

Spillovers into the Host Economy. The simulations found that an additional refugee increases total real (inflation-adjusted) income within a 10-km radius around the two cash camps by US$205 (CI: 166, 260) and $253 (CI: 194, 320) annually (Fig. 2 and SI Appendix, Table S1). These are equivalent to 63% and 96% of the average host-country per-capita income around the camps, and they exceed the value of per-refugee WFP assistance ($126 and $120, respectively). Most of the difference ($70 and $126) consists of income spillovers resulting from market interactions between refugees and host-country businesses and households. Other transfers to refugees, including private remittances, account for the rest ($10 and $7). Economic spillovers result as refugee households and businesses inside the camps purchase goods and services from hostcountry businesses outside the camps. All agricultural, livestock, other production activities, and all retail businesses outside the camps are owned by host-country households. Our surveys found that refugee households account for 5.5% of total income within a 10-km radius of the three camps; 17.3% of surveyed businesses outside the camps report that their main customers are refugees from the camps. The increase in refugee demand raises host-country incomes and spending which, in turn, generate additional rounds of spending impacts in the local economy. The familiar identity of economics, where total expenditures, including savings, equal total income for all households and activities, ensures that changes in expenditures match changes in incomes for all agents in the local economy. Host-country households do not receive any WFP cash transfers, but their real income increases by an estimated $41 per refugee at Gihembe camp and $69 per refugee at Nyabiheke camp (the rest of the local spillovers, $28 and $56, accrue to refugee households). Some refugees supply labor to host-country farms and businesses, creating additional impacts. Approximately 6% of hired workers (7% of hired farm workers) outside the camps are refugees. Refugees also stimulate trade between the local economy and the rest of the country, by an amount equal to $55 and $49 per refugee per year.

#### Refugees net a 1:2 dollar return ratio

Patrick Kingsley of Guardian, 5-18-2016 [Refugees will repay EU spending almost twice over in five years, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/18/refugees-will-repay-eu-spending-almost-twice-over-in-five-years-report, 1-12-2018]

Refugees who arrived in Europe last year could repay spending on them almost twice over within just five years, according to one of the first in-depth investigations into the impact incomers have on host communities. Refugees will create more jobs, increase demand for services and products, and fill gaps in European workforces – while their wages will help fund dwindling pensions pots and public finances, says Philippe Legrain, a former economic adviser to the president of the European commission. Refugee: an examination of the global migration crisis – in pictures View gallery Simultaneously refugees are unlikely to decrease wages or raise unemployment for native workers, Legrain says, citing past studies by labour economists. Most significantly, Legrain calculates that while the absorption of so many refugees will increase public debt by almost €69bn (£54bn) between 2015 and 2020, during the same period refugees will help GDP grow by €126.6bn – a ratio of almost two to one. “Investing one euro in welcoming refugees can yield nearly two euros in economic benefits within five years,” concludes Refugees Work: A Humanitarian Investment That Yields Economic Dividends, a report released on Wednesday by the Tent Foundation, a non-government organisation that aims to help displaced people, and Open Political Economy Network, a new thinktank. A fellow at the London School of Economics, Legrain says he hopes the report will dispel the myth that refugees will cause economic problems for western society. “The main misconception is that refugees are a burden – and that’s a misconception shared even by people who are in favour of letting them in, who think they’re costly but it’s still the right thing to do,” said Legrain in an interview. “But that’s incorrect. While of course the primary motivation to let in refugees is that they’re fleeing death, once they arrive they can contribute to the economy.” While their absorption puts a short-term strain on public finances, Legrain says, it also increases short-term economic demand, which acts as a welcome fiscal stimulus in countries where demand would otherwise be low. In the longer term, refugees will increasingly contribute to tax revenues – and also create jobs. “To put it simply, there is not a fixed number of jobs to go around,” reads the report. “Refugees who take jobs also create them. When they spend their wages, they boost demand for the people who produce the goods and services they consume. And they also create jobs for people in complementary lines of work. For instance, refugees who become construction workers create jobs for locals who are supervisors or sell building supplies.” Legrain also highlights how refugees could solve an impending demographic challenge in Europe. “The expected demographic changes in Germany are particularly stark,” he writes. “Without migration, by 2030 the working-age population is projected to shrink by a sixth (8.7 million people), while the old-age population will grow by more than a quarter (4.7 million people).” He suggests that an influx of younger refugees could help care and pay for the increasing population of pensioners. To buttress his argument, Legrain cites several historical examples of successful large-scale refugee resettlement – in particular the resettlement of about 800,000 people to the US in the aftermath of the Vietnam war, which was one of the largest resettlement programmes in history. While they were an initial burden on state resources, several decades on Vietnamese-Americans have better household incomes and employment rates than US-born citizens. But Legrain warns that refugees’ positive economic impact will be stymied if Europe does not take immediate steps to accelerate refugees’ entry into the workforce. Asylum seekers should be allowed to work while their applications are being processed, to lessen their burden on the state, he said. They should also be given language lessons as a matter of urgency, and housed in areas where there are more jobs, rather than simply in places where the housing is cheapest. Authorities should also speed up certification of qualifications obtained in countries of origin, Legrain says, citing how a delay in certifying Syrian pharmacists in Sweden is exacerbating a labour shortage in that sector of the Swedish economy. Quick access to the labour market “reduces their reliance on public funds, ensures they are contributing their labour and taxes to the host economy, helps them adapt faster to life in their new society, and lowers the chances that they will end up marginalised from the labour market and society on a longer-term basis”, the report concludes. • This article was amended on 18 May 2016. An earlier version quoted Legrain as saying the working age population was projected to shrink by 8.7m people by 2030, and the old-age population to grow by 4.7m, without making clear that he was referring to Germany, not the EU.

### Contention 2: Ripping off the Band-Aid

#### First, Preventing Civil War

#### If both sides don’t come to terms, the situation could get a lot worse

Jonathan Powell of New York Review of Books, 10-27-2017 [How to Solve the Catalan Crisis, http://www.nybooks.com/daily/2017/11/03/how-to-solve-the-catalan-crisis/, 1-12-2018]

It is hard to watch the slow-motion car crash taking place in Catalonia without horrified fascination—and without thinking, at the same time, how serious and how avoidable it is. The reason neither the European Union nor Spain’s neighbors are doing anything to allay the crisis is that we Europeans complacently believe that violent conflict will not return to the continent. Other European leaders do not believe the cost of annoying Spain’s prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, by intervening and losing his support on EU or bilateral issues is justified since they do not believe the Catalan situation is so serious that it will turn violent or directly affect them. Yet Europe is not magically immune to the horrifying violence that surrounds it in an arc from Syria to Libya. The continent has been plagued by violent conflicts over the issue of self-determination until very recently. It was only twenty years ago that a long-running war in Northern Ireland ended, eighteen years ago that serious armed conflict in Kosovo ended, and just six years ago that the ETA terrorist campaign in the Basque Country was brought to an end by the Aiete Declaration. None of these bloody European conflicts ended by themselves. They were only brought to an end by political leaders on both sides who were prepared to engage in negotiations, at considerable personal and political risk. The conflict in Catalonia over self-determination will not end by itself, either. Although it has so far been a largely peaceful dispute, if both sides persist in escalating the dispute, they could turn it into another bloody conflict inside Europe’s borders—with consequences for all of us. In other similar disputes, it has been a short step from heads being broken in the streets in clashes between protesters and police to young, over-enthusiastic partisans responding with violence of their own. Far better to solve the conflict now, before real violence begins, than allow the blood to flow and then try to stop it. We have experience in stopping such conflicts. The demand for national self-determination is not a new phenomenon. European countries in particular faced it often enough through the half-century of decolonization and they reached negotiated settlements in the end to nearly all the demands for independence. Self-determination is, however, a devilish problem to solve because it involves the clash of two rights: in this case, the right of the Catalan people to govern themselves, assert sovereignty, and run their affairs, and the right of Spain to maintain its national territorial integrity unless a majority of the Spanish people vote—across the country as a whole—to allow Catalonia to leave. Britain and Ireland faced a similar problem over Northern Ireland. A majority of people in the island of Ireland wished for a united Ireland under one government, but a majority of the population in Northern Ireland wished to remain part of the United Kingdom. The people of the United Kingdom as a whole didn’t have a strong opinion on the matter, but a majority would probably, if asked, have voted to maintain the integrity of the UK. The solution we found to this clash of rights in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement was based on the principle of consent. There would be no change in the status of Northern Ireland unless a majority of its people voted for it to happen. The republicans who had supported the Irish Republican Army accepted this solution, and the violence ended. This principle of consent underlies the British attitude to Scotland, too. The United Kingdom does not have a written constitution, so we do not have a rule on whether nations within the state have a right to self-determination or not. But governments of all political parties accept that any decision on continued rule from London must depend on the consent of the people within that part of the country. That is why the British government has allowed one referendum on independence in Scotland and made it clear that it would respect the outcome. Doubtless, it will do so again if the people of Scotland demand another vote on the issue. Canada found perhaps the best answer to the conundrum of self-determination after decades of separatist agitation in Quebec. The question went to the Canadian Supreme Court, which decided in a landmark judgement in 1998 that unilateral secession was not legal; the various international documents that support the existence of a people’s right to self-determination also contain parallel statements that support the conclusion that the exercise of such a right must be sufficiently restricted to prevent threats to an existing state’s territorial integrity. However, the justices ruled that if a referendum found in favor of independence, the rest of Canada “would have no basis to deny the right of the government of Quebec to pursue secession.” Negotiations would have to follow to define the terms under which Quebec would gain independence, should it maintain that goal. This seems to me the obvious conclusion in the case of Catalonia, too. Just saying, as Madrid does, that secession is against the law and is not allowed by the Spanish constitution is not a sufficient answer because, of course, the law and the constitution can be changed. The region does not have a right under international law to unilaterally declare independence from Spain. But if it becomes clear that a large part of the people, possibly a majority, favor independence, then the only sensible thing to do is to hold a dialogue with the leaders of that region. Negotiations do not imply that the government is going to accept independence, any more than the British government accepted a united Ireland in the Good Friday negotiations. The conservative government in Madrid, however, has always refused any such dialogue. The Rajoy administration’s ostrich-like attitude is in many ways what created the problem in the first place. After lengthy and torturous negotiations, a previous, Socialist government had agreed a Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia that devolved further powers to the region in 2006. This statute was put to a vote in the Spanish and Catalan parliaments and endorsed in a referendum in Catalonia. At that stage, support for Catalan independence stood at just 14 percent. The conservative People’s Party (PP), then in opposition, promised to reverse the statute unilaterally and took the issue to the Constitutional Court. In 2010, the court struck down a large part of the statute. The response in Barcelona was a huge demonstration of more than a million people under the slogan “We are a nation. We decide.” The following year, Rajoy’s PP won an outright majority in the general election. Not surprisingly, the Catalan government and its supporters were outraged and attempted to negotiate with Rajoy about what should happen next. He, in trademark style, refused to engage. The results were to drive up support for independence, increased success for separatist parties in regional elections, the first of a series of attempts to hold a referendum on independence, and the replacement of the Catalan government’s centrist leader Artur Mas by the more radical Carles Puigdemont. Thus it was Rajoy and his refusal to negotiate that almost single-handedly brought about the election of a majority-separatist government in Catalonia in 2016. The world suddenly paid attention when Spanish police used excessive force to try to stop a further referendum on October 1. There was incredulity abroad that a government would try to win hearts and minds of its people by pulling women out voting booths by their hair. Following the referendum, Puigdemont suspended the parliament’s Declaration of Independence based on the controversial result and appealed for negotiations with Madrid. Instead of responding by agreeing to talk without preconditions, Rajoy insisted that Puigdemont renounce independence and return to the legal path. No talks took place and, under political pressure in Catalonia and the threat of the central government imposing direct rule by article 155 of the Spanish constitution, Puigdemont made a unilateral declaration of independence on October 27. The field is now set for a more serious confrontation than either side presumably wanted. The Spanish government will find it hard to impose its will in Catalonia in the long term because it has very little presence there; most of the powers of government are already devolved. The separatists have called for passive resistance. Society is unprecedentedly polarized. The risk of things escalating on the basis of local errors of judgment by police officers or demonstrators must be high. All it will take is for one person to die for the fire to be lit. Rajoy has proposed that the way out lies in holding regional elections on December 21, and in Spain this is seen as a clever ruse. Since his policies so far have succeeded only in increasing support for Catalan independence from 14 percent to about 49 percent, it is not clear why the Spanish prime minister thinks it will solve the problem. More likely, his recent actions will have boosted the separatist vote still further, and the pro-independence movement may now have a majority. Even if Rajoy’s measures have not yet resulted in that outcome, the electoral system, which favors rural areas, may well produce another separatist government. If that happens and Rajoy still refuses to negotiate, we will be back to square one. The whole sorry mess is an object lesson in how not to handle the demand for self-determination by a nation within a country. The tolerant approach based on the principle of consent adopted in Scotland led to a defeat for separatists in the referendum in 2014. The solution in Catalonia seems obvious to me: both sides should engage in negotiations without preconditions and consider amendments to the Spanish constitution as proposed by the Socialist Party, which is supporting Rajoy against Catalan secession. Sooner or later, that is what Spain and Catalonia will have to do. I hope they do so sooner and avoid the return to Europe of violent conflict over self-determination.

#### Letting the secession movement continue without an end in sight could lead to violence

Ryan Griffiths of the Washington Post, 9-23-2017 [Analysis, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/09/23/kurdistan-and-catalonia-are-voting-on-independence-heres-what-we-know-about-secessionist-groups/?utm\_term=.27e38888fce7, 1-12-2018]

Controversial referendums on independence are scheduled in Iraqi Kurdistan on Sept. 25 and the Spanish region of Catalonia on Oct. 1. Both referendums place these secessionist regions on a collision course with their central governments and the international community, increasing the probability of conflict. What is the purpose of these referendums, and what is the strategy behind them? Secession occurs when a region within a state breaks away to form its own sovereign state. There were 55 active secessionist movements around the world as of 2011, and an average of 52 movements per year since 1945. Most have failed to achieve their goal of independence, sometimes coming to an agreement with their central government or simply fading away. Roughly a third have resulted in violence. Indeed, some claim that [secessionism is the chief cause of violence](https://www.amazon.com/Reputation-Civil-War-Separatist-Conflicts/dp/0521747295) in the world today. As I argue in [my recent book](https://read.amazon.com/kp/embed?asin=B06X9YG8SC&preview=newtab&linkCode=kpe&ref_=cm_sw_r_kb_dp_V6zXzbVSE1R2Q&tag=thewaspos09-20), we are truly living in the [Age of Secession](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0521747295?ie=UTF8&tag=thewaspos09-20&camp=1789&linkCode=xm2&creativeASIN=0521747295). **Strategy of secession** The Kurds and the Catalans are pursuing the same overall strategy of secession. Strategically, all secessionist movements are the same: they need to make a change by forcing others to recognize them as independent states. To do so, they engage in “[compellence](https://read.amazon.com/kp/embed?asin=B00FC655Q6&preview=newtab&linkCode=kpe&ref_=cm_sw_r_kb_dp_w.zXzb4YJ3HM0&tag=thewaspos09-20),” getting an actor to do something they would not otherwise do. These tactics vary, from the deployment of violence to civil resistance to electoral competition. Seen from a wide angle, Catalonia and Iraqi Kurdistan are not unique. They are using the same strategic playbook and employing the same tactics as other movements of their kind. ADVERTISING A secessionist movement can take two approaches to achieving independence. The first is to target their central government, the chief obstacle to any movement for achieving independence. If the government permits the independence, as Serbia did for Montenegro in 2006, then the path to sovereign statehood is almost certainly guaranteed. The second approach is essentially an end-run. Here, the movement goes around the central government to bring the [international community](https://www.amazon.com/Power-Politics-Formation-Twentieth-Century/dp/1107654661/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1505871125&sr=1-1&keywords=Bridget+Coggins) into the game. As in [South Sudan](https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2011/07/us-played-key-role-in-southern-sudans-long-journey-to-independence/241660/), the international community can either pressure the central government to permit the independence or, as in Kosovo, it can bypass the central government entirely to recognize the secessionist region. Most secessionist movements use both approaches. **How secessionist groups learn and weigh risky behavior** Secessionist movements are surprisingly aware of the strategic playing field. In interviews with more than a dozen secessionist movements, I have found that they are well networked and learn from one another. The Catalans sent observers to Scotland in 2014 to learn how to run a referendum campaign. The High Representative of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) to the United Kingdom used to meet regularly with their counterpart in the Catalan and Flemish movements to discuss best practices. However, this does not guarantee secessionists will always prevail or even make the right tactical choices. Sovereign states are generally — though not always — opposed to secession because of its disruptive potential. Forcing them to negotiate requires confrontational and risky behavior that can alienate supporters or result in violence. Such behavior is quite evident in both the Catalan and Kurdish cases. Should they be held, both referendums will increase tension with their central governments and the international community, raise the risk of conflict and potentially backfire. But strategic logic still motivates each group’s behavior.

#### Second, A Political Smokescreen

#### Catalan independence takes focus away from other important issues

Sebastiaan Faber, BéCquer SeguíN, Nation, 11-24-2017 [Spain’s Conflict Over Catalonia Is Covering Up Massive Political Corruption, https://www.thenation.com/article/spains-conflict-over-catalonia-is-covering-up-massive-political-corruption/, 12-9-2017]//RS

The editorial expressed concern with Spain’s deteriorating image abroad. But its defensive tone also betrayed insecurity. The escalation of the conflict over Catalonia since early September has revealed the depth of Spain’s constitutional crisis, which the central government’s harsh response to the Catalan challenge has only served to deepen. **The government’s approach has also undermined judicial independence, eroded civil liberties, and reversed decades’ worth of decentralization.** Meanwhile, **Rajoy and his party, the conservative Partido Popular (PP), have used the Catalan conflict to their advantage. Over the past two months, the standoff with Catalonia has conveniently served to distract from revelations of rampant corruption in the PP**. The Catalan right has borrowed from Rajoy’s playbook, also using the escalation of tensions to whitewash its own history of corruption and enthusiasm for austerity. The PP’s standoff with Catalonia began in 2006, when the party, then in the opposition, filed an appeal with Spain’s Constitutional Court against a newly approved statute of autonomy for the region. Since then, the **PP has repeatedly resorted to the judiciary to do its political dirty work, using the attorney general as an extension of the executive branch to put pressure on the courts in an attempt to cow political opponents.** The PP has also used the Constitution and recent changes to security legislation—known as the *ley mordaza*, or “gag law”—to curb freedom of assembly and press coverage. Conservative members of Spain’s judiciary have been happy to play along. In recent years, rap artists, puppeteers, Twitter personalities, and comedians have found themselves in court facing charges of “extolling terrorism” or “offending religious sentiments,” while journalists have been charged with “disobeying authority” and slapped with hefty fines for such actions as stepping from the sidewalk into the street during a demonstration in defense of press freedom. On November 17, Spain’s Supreme Court ruled that the crime of extolling terrorism can even apply to a retweet.

#### Corruption Drains Resources

Miguel ÁNgel GarcíA Vega of EL PAÍS, 8-14-2013 [Damage from Spain’s crooked dark side, https://elpais.com/elpais/2013/08/14/inenglish/1376481311\_929795.html, 1-12-2018]

C orruption is a journey into the night of the dark side of human nature, the place where, for F. Scott Fitzgerald, it is always three o'clock in the morning. It is a journey with moral and ethical tolls, but also an economic cost. And although there are no specific figures, experts' estimates suggest that the numbers are high, and the damage considerable. Friedrich Schneider, a lecturer in Economics at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria, a specialist in the economic impact of corruption, has made some calculations for Spain: "Around one percent of GDP," he says. In other words, the cost to the Spanish economy of corruption is some 10.5 billion euros a year. Schneider's estimate is not the only one of its kind. The World Bank says that the cost of corruption is between 0.5 percent and two percent of the wealth of OECD member states, such as Spain. Italian former Prime Minister Mario Monti, eager to get an idea of the cost of graft, discovered that 3.8 percent (60 billion euros) of the goods and services his country produced was washed down the sewers of corruption. That said, these calculations could well be just the tip of the iceberg for the simple reason that the victims of corruption are afraid to report it. Accurate or not, trying to put a figure on corruption at least helps us to understand that the practice has a direct impact on the economy and everybody's lives. "It isn't some kind of strange world that is removed from the realities of our life [...]. The money that the corrupt take is money that doesn't go into education and health. What's more, it is putting limits on our growth and the future of our children," says Enrique Alcat, who teaches at the IE Business School. "Corruption is slowing down Spain's recovery from the crisis. It generates political instability; damages the country's image abroad; damages investor confidence; and increases financial uncertainty," says José María Mella, the chair of the Economics department at Madrid's Autónoma University. "It is a predatory mechanism that devours society's resources," he sums up. How? Because it channels money away from the majority toward a minority that controls wealth and that tends to be well connected to decision-making elites. At the same time, it increases poverty, because it reduces public spending and weakens the welfare state, he argues. The World Bank puts the cost at between 0.5 and two percent of wealth Last month, corruption watchdog Transparency International organized a conference in Lisbon that brought together 150 activists from around the world to assess the global impact of corruption. Its calculations for the European Union were shocking. Between 10 and 20 percent of public contracts are lost through corruption, and five percent of Europe's annual spending is not accounted for. A European Commission draft document produced this month provides a more detailed picture. Brussels calculates that corruption costs the EU 120 billion euros a year, 1.1 percent of GDP across the 28-member bloc. Corruption is a dark, sticky stain: there are some 20 million cases of small-scale corruption in the public sector each year. According to Europol, there are some 3,600 criminal organizations operating within the EU. Corruption is far more pervasive, and far more tolerated, than we would like to think, and Spain has a big problem, say the experts. "Corruption in Spain has always been tolerated," says Jesús Lizcano, the head of the Spanish division of Transparency International. "Let me give you a figure," he continues: "Around 70 percent of the politicians who have been arraigned for corruption were subsequently re-elected in the most recent local elections." But despite the gloomy picture, there is some hope. The government-run Center for Sociological Investigations (CIS) last month noted that corruption is now Spaniards' second-biggest concern, after unemployment. This is good news, because the more that we are aware of the problem, and are concerned about tackling it, the more likely we are, as a society, to support measures to stop it and to fight our own demons. It channels money from the majority toward the minority that controls wealth "In Spain, historically we have always lived with the idea that everybody is trying to get away with it, by not paying their taxes, or whatever," says Carlos Cruzado, the head of the tax collectors' association, Gestha. The big corporations and the individuals with huge net wealth are the main culprits in not paying their share: estimates put their non-payment of tax revenue at 42.7 billion euros a year. The SME sector's shortfall is around 10.5 billion, and the self-employed around 5.1 billion. Estimates suggest that some 20 percent of Spanish economic activity takes place in the shadows. There is no doubt that corruption impacts negatively on state revenue; and not just as a result of unpaid taxes, but also because of the increase in unproductive public spending: the cost of uncompetitive contracts. At the same time, corruption reduces the state's ability to invest, and reduces the quality of public services. It also hits the private sector hard by eliminating competition, as well as making regulation ineffective. 70 percent of the politicians arraigned for corruption were then re-elected" But this journey into the dark side goes further. "Corruption means that the economy is not working efficiently. It distorts the market and prevents certain activities being carried out by the companies best suited to do so," says Beñat Bilbao-Osorio, an associate director and economist at the World Economic Forum's Center for Global Competition and Performance. It also takes us to places we don't want to be in. "Scandals put us in the same league as Greece, Italy and Cyprus, which is not where we want to be. One thing is having a deficit, high unemployment and lack of competitiveness, but we don't want to be a player in the corruption stakes," says economist José Carlos Díez. Every country has developed its own form of corruption, with its own DNA and characteristics. In Spain, corruption is particularly associated with property development. In his novel Crematoria , writer Rafael Chirbes paints a detailed and vivid picture of this underworld where corruption, local politics and bricks and mortar come together. He describes the spread of corruption in Spain during the boom years of the first decade of the century as "a fire that burned too quickly." Too quickly and too easily, says José María Mella of the Autónoma: "It is easy in those sectors to steal the money generated by concessions by establishing privileged relationships with government at the local and regional levels." But construction is not the only sector that encourages and facilitates corruption. Many experts say that the way the country's political parties are financed is a huge problem. These scandals put us in the same league as Greece, Italy and Cyprus" "The number of property development scandals has diminished, because the bubble burst, but the question of how the political parties finance themselves remains. This is a subject that has to be brought out into the open," argues Manuel Escudero, the director general of the Deusto Business School. The solution, he says, is to impose shorter contracts for public posts, bar anybody convicted of corruption from holding public office, remove politicians' privileges, and beef up the powers of the Audit Office. At the same time, as Segismundo Álvarez Royo-Villanova wrote recently in EL PAÍS: "do away with the outrageous practice of providing a retirement home for senior politicians on the boards of the country's semi-public companies" - otherwise known as the revolving door syndrome. Noted jurist Antonio Garrigues Walker says that despite the general mood of despondency about corruption, he is optimistic about the future. "A large number of the scandals are related to the boom years. That doesn't reduce their importance, but what is now clear is that eventually the truth will out, and that we are learning a hard lesson, but a positive one, in how to eradicate corruption at all levels of society. We are moving toward better times, and the government's new legislation on transparency [which would allow for some scrutiny of the Royal Household's accounts, for example] will help considerably," he says. But it doesn't affect Spain's public debt: investment is not endangered" But is Garrigues' optimism well founded? Is Spain getting better? According to international corruption rankings, such as that published by Transparency International, Spain is the 30th least corrupt country out of 176: between Botswana and Estonia; and far from Italy, which is 72nd, a country with a major problem, but equally distant from Denmark, supposedly the world's least corrupt country. There have been some 800 cases of criminal corruption over the last decade in Spain, resulting in the arrest of about 2,000 people, say the police. But the impact on the money markets is less than we might like to think. It seems that capitalism keeps moving along, according to its own rules. "The recent spate of corruption cases have had little impact on the bond markets," says Emilio Ontiveros, head of financial analyst firm AFI. "In other words, it doesn't affect Spain's public debt: investment is not endangered." Federico Steinberg, head of research at the Elcano Institute think-tank, concurs: "Except in the case of a major political crisis, investors pretty much focus on what interests them and ignore everything else." This is what prompts young people to seek a new life abroad" Cristina Manzano, the editor of online political analysis magazine Esglobal, cites a recent Elcano Institute study that illustrates investors' lack of interest in corruption. "The information provided by ratings agencies have an impact on Spain's markets, as do reports by Brussels. But pretty much everything else any other organization has to say has no impact on our capital markets." Daniel Pingarrón, an analyst at IG Markets, agrees: "Data about unemployment in the United States has a bigger impact on the Spanish bourse than Spain's own employment figures. That is the nature of globalization." Keith Salmon, an expert in Spanish politics at the Oxford Analytica think-tank, says that Spain's corruption problem is seen in Britain as "a serious matter, one that has similarities not just to what is going on in the south of Europe, but in some countries in Latin America." He also warns of a bigger danger: "the loss of faith and trust on the part of a whole generation of Spaniards in their governments, in the democratic system itself, and in the economy overall. This is part of what prompts many young people to seek a new life abroad, and so Spain loses the talent it needs to make a new tomorrow. This is a high price to pay, and will affect the country for many years."

#### Third, Helping the Economy

#### Uncertainty is climbing

Maria Tadeo of Bloomberg, 11-23-2017 [Spain's Economy to Count the Cost If Catalan Crisis Continues, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-11-23/spain-s-economy-to-count-the-cost-if-catalan-crisis-continues, 1-12-2018]

Spain’s economy is going to pay a price for Catalonia’s bid for independence. While Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has stepped in to take over the region, upcoming Catalan elections could prove another flashpoint for the independence movement. For Oxford Economics, that means lingering uncertainty, posing a risk to sentiment, share prices and bonds. In their worst-case scenario, Spain’s expansion would be weaker and the economy would be 17 billion euros ($20 billion) smaller in 2019 than would otherwise have been the case. That “adverse” view – not Oxford’s central projection – assumes a permanent increase in bond yields of 50 basis points and a 10 percent decline in stocks in 2018 and 2019 compared with its baseline scenario. “The economic impact of the Catalan independence crisis is still unknown, but the increased political tensions have already caused uncertainty to surge to the highest levels in over a decade,” Senior Eurozone Economist Angel Talavera said. The Catalan crisis erupted on Oct. 1 when the former regional government held an illegal referendum on independence that it claimed as a mandate to declare independence from Spain. Rajoy responded by invoking constitutional powers to disband Catalonia’s government, dissolve its parliament and call regional elections for Dec. 21. As hundreds of companies, led by CaixaBank SA, move their legal headquarters out of the area, Economy Minister Luis de Guindos has warned that the crisis is taking its toll on both the Catalan and Spanish economies. Spain’s benchmark IBEX 35 stock index has dropped about 3.5 percent since the end of September while the spread on 10-year Spanish debt over German bonds is little changed. Oxford’s analysis also takes account of a so-called economic policy uncertainty index, which measures the number of news articles that contains the word “uncertainty” and related terms in Spain’s main newspapers as a gauge for political risk. It exceeded levels seen in 2016, when Spain was struggling to form a government, and household and business confidence will suffer if levels remain high, according to Talavera. Even so, his base case is still for the economic impact of the Catalan crisis to be limited, with growth of 2.6 percent next year and 2.4 percent in 2019. His adverse scenario of prolonged tensions in Catalonia would see a weaker expansion of 1.5 percent next year and then 2 percent.

#### Businesses are leaving

Amanda Erickson of Washington Post, 11-30-2017 [Since Catalonia’s independence vote, 2,700 businesses have moved their headquarters, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/11/30/since-catalonias-independence-vote-2700-businesses-have-moved-their-headquarters/?utm\_term=.fdea4e6fca7f, 1-12-2018]

If Catalonia's bid for independence goes through, it'll change everything about how companies there do business. Catalonia won't be a member of the European Union. It might not even be in the euro zone. The region would need a currency, rules on immigration and newly negotiated trade deals. And those arrangements won't be easy to come by. Spain has already made it clear that it won't negotiate with Catalonia. The European Union has been leery to suggest a relationship as well. In theory, independence was supposed to make the region more prosperous. But the October referendum — and Spain's subsequent takeover — has left businesses nervous. Since the vote, more than 2,700 firms have moved their headquarters from the region, according to Spain's commercial registrar's office, the Agence France-Presse reported. That list includes major banks like Caixabank and Sabadell, along with small and medium firms. [Catalonia has always been distinct. Why is it part of Spain?] Many of these shifts are administrative. But they may be the first step to relocating staff and production. As AFP explains: “While tensions have eased somewhat since Spain's central government last month took direct control of the Northeast region and has scheduled regional elections in December, many businesses in Catalonia still feel the need to guard against uncertainty.” One businessman, who owns a small wine and spirits shop, explained that his sales have plunged 30 percent since Catalonia's referendum. In response, he's set up a duplicate distribution firm in Madrid. His products will still be produced in Catalonia, but they will have a Madrid address. “We won't sell anymore if we don't do this,” he said. “This is a decision you take when you have no other choice.” He, like other business executives, requested anonymity in the AFP report because of the sensitivity of the subject. Another drug distribution company is moving from Barcelona to Seville. “Patients say 'give me a product that is not Catalan.' This has never happened before,” the company's director told AFP. That shift is also designed to ensure the company remains within the European Union's legal framework. “We would go bankrupt because the medicines we import would be subject to customs duties,” he said. [Catalonia poses a real crisis for both Spain and Europe] Today's WorldView What's most important from where the world meets Washington Sign up Fear of boycott is a common theme among companies that have moved, Enric Rius, a tax expert who has helped several companies make the move, told the AFP. And that anger goes both ways. When Catalonia's big banks decided to leave Barcelona, Aleix Pons i Coll, vice president of mutual insurance firm Previsio, felt “anger and pain.” He said he'll look for other options to do business. “Even reluctantly we may decide to no longer work with [banks] that leave, and to focus on those that remain,” Pon i Coll told AFP. For now, Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is urging businesses to stay in Catalonia. But it's a hard case to make. “There is a perception that this society will continue to ignore laws, and that is dangerous for business activity,” the head of the drug distribution company told the AFP.

#### This uncertainty could stunt economic growth

William Chislett of Royal Institute, 11-8-2017 [, http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/wcm/connect/01e82708-49a4-463c-a65a-a632517a2e80/Commentary-Chislett-Potential-impact-Catalan-crisis-Spanish-economy.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&amp;CACHEID=01e82708-49a4-463c-a65a-a632517a2e80, 1-12-2018]

The most notable impact since the Catalan parliament declared independence on 27 October, in a disputed vote declared illegal by Spain’s Constitutional Court, has been the exodus of companies from Catalonia, which quickly turned into a stampede. More than 2,200 companies have located their legal headquarters in other parts of Spain. Tourism (Catalonia received 18 million of Spain’s 75.3 million tourists last year) and consumption have also taken a hit. The Bank of Spain warned earlier this month that the economy could lose between 0.3 and 2.5 points of GDP in two years (2018-19), depending on how long the crisis lasts and its impact on consumption, investment, employment and financing. Under its benign scenario, the worst of the uncertainty would end after the snap election on 21 December, called by the central government under its activation of direct rule of Catalonia following the independence declaration. The accumulated cost to the economy would be 0.3 points of GDP or around €3 billion. The Bank of Spain does not say this, but this scenario assumes that the anti-secessionist parties –the conservative Popular Party, which governs Spain, the Socialists and the centrist Ciudadanos– could win more seats than the pro-independence parties, an unholy alliance of conservative nationalists (PDeCAT), the more rabidly secessionist Republic Left of Catalonia and the anti-capitalist far-left CUP. In the worst-case scenario, following a victory by the pro-independence bloc and a continued stand-off with Madrid, up to 60% of the projected growth for 2018 and 2019 could evaporate. A lot is riding on this election. The pro-independence parties won 72 of the 135 seats in the 2015 election on 47.8% of the vote. Recent polls show these parties narrowly gaining control of the parliament again, but Madrid is hoping that the anti-secessionist parties will galvanise the increasingly vociferous ‘silent majority’ against independence into voting on a larger scale than previously.

#### Independence would encourage private investment

Holly Else of Times Higher Education (THE), 10-2-2017 [Opportunity and risk for Catalan research in independence debate, https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/opportunity-and-risk-catalan-research-independence-debate, 1-8-2018]

Advocates of independence argue that Catalonia’s government has already acted to free universities from some of the bureaucracy that hampers academic recruitment and promotion in the rest of Spain, and claim that independence would allow this process to be accelerated. Arcadi Navarro, secretary for universities and research in the Catalan government, said that independence would enable [Catalonia] him to implement policy measures that Madrid has so far banned. “They would include the development of a fiscal policy aimed to foster private donations, whose treatment is now worse than in many other European countries,” said Professor Navarro, director of the department of experimental and health sciences at Barcelona’s Pompeu Fabra University. “Also, we would leverage on private investments to ensure that knowledge better reaches society.”

#### Unilateral secession is bad—no international recognition and Catalonia gets locked out of markets. Tena 16:

Alfons LóPez Tena and Elisenda Paluzie, Business Insider, 2-24-2016 [Here are the economics of a Catalan secession from Spain, http://www.businessinsider.com/economics-of-catalan-secession-from-spain-2016-2, 1-4-2018]//DW

**The independent Catalonia is recognized by Spain, becomes a full EU member- state, enters the UN** and all the international organizations, assumes its rights and obligations under the existing treaties, etc. **In this case few are the economic impacts on economics since almost everything goes on as usual. Catalonia would gain full control of its own taxes**, hence around €16 billion ($21 billion) wouldn’t be siphoned off by Spain every year; economic policies best suited to Catalan needs may be developed if voters choose wisely; and **both parts take their fair share of former Spain’s public assets and debt in application of the Vienna Convention of 1983**. Spain’s only loss should be the fore-mentioned Catalan taxes, around 2% of Spanish GDP every year: a big but not an overwhelming blow. **If Spain** fails to get Catalonia off the European single market and the euro, but **blocks its membership as an EU member-state** –that requires an unanimous decision–, its reprisals against the independent Catalonia would be similar to the Spanish policies on Gibraltar and China’s on Taiwan: to make Catalan life inside the European single market and the euro highly bleak and rueful, and doing its best to clog any Catalan endeavor to become international organizations' and treaties' member. Spain wouldn’t even recognize the existence of independent Catalonia, it wouldn’t agree to negotiate any partition of public assets, and it surely wouldn’t accept the former Spanish and now foreign pensioners’ entitlement to be paid their earned pensions. In this case **Catalonia should just take the Spanish public assets that dwell in its territory**, and pay its pensioners with its own raised taxes, as Spain nowadays does in a pay-as-you-go pension system. The main impact would be on debt: **Spain retains all its €1 trillion debt** ($1.3 trillion) **with a shrunk GDP after losing Catalonia’s GDP, that is 19% of the nowadays Spain’s GDP** –therefore its debt-to-GDP ratio would soar to 114% from the currently 100%. Catalonia’s debt is €64.5 billion ($85.8 billion), 30.9% of its GDP, and Spain owns 60% of it. This is a powerful tool in Catalan hands to retaliate against the Spanish reprisals –such as behind-the-curtains officially-sponsored commercial boycotts doomed to end quickly: not to pay the former Spanish Catalonia's debt owed to a rowdy Spain. Whence a not-agreed independence inside the euro and the European single market should be an acrimonious but manageable scenario, with huge but limited economic damage for both Catalonia and Spain.

#### Deficit goes away

**Al Jazeera**, No Publication, 9-30-**2017** [Can Spain's economy survive a Catalan secession?, http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/spain-economy-survive-catalan-secession-170930163702214.html, 12-7-2017]//RS

The issue is much debated among both camps, who generally present widely different figures, often based on different methodologies and hypotheses. If independence were to happen, Spain's economy ministry claims that Catalonia would leave the European Union, its GDP would fall 25 to 30 percent and unemployment would double. But some **economists believe that the newly formed republic would stay in the EU, predicting its GDP would remain stable in the short term and rise seven percent long term. Catalonia's government also says the region would no longer suffer from what it calls a "fiscal deficit", given that the region pays more in taxes to Madrid than it gets back.** The regional executive says this deficit is around 16 billion euro, or eight percent of Catalonia's GDP and the central government, with a different methodology, estimates it to be 10 billion euro, or five percent of regional GDP.

### Contention 3: Climate Change

#### Catalonia will eliminate all of their emissions

100% By of Climate Group, 8-1-2017 [Catalonia passes climate change law to reduce emissions by 100% by 2050, https://www.theclimategroup.org/news/catalonia-passes-climate-change-law-reduce-emissions-100-2050, 1-12-2018]

The parliament of Catalonia has just passed the “Climate Change Bill”, a law that will strengthen the region’s climate efforts; the law aims to create a tax for large vessels and business activities that produce pollution. The autonomous community of Spain, which serves as co-chair for The Climate Group’s States & Regions Alliance and is part of the Under2 Coalition, has an ambitious plan to reduce its emissions by 40% by 2030, based on 2005 levels. The new law aims to reduce emissions by 65% by 2040 and 100% by 2050. Carles Puigdemont, President of the Generalitat of Catalonia says, “This law reinforces the international positioning of Catalonia in line with that established by the Paris Agreement on climate change. “The struggle against climate change is not a project of the Government of Catalonia, but rather a national challenge … It is something that has a direct impact on our prosperity and the economic model on which our country is based.” TOWARDS A NET-ZERO ECONOMY As the first law of its kind in the south of Europe, the Climate Change Bill will tax businesses about $10 for each ton of carbon dioxide emitted – a number that will raise to about $30 in 2025. Large ships will be taxed about $1,000 for each ton of nitrogen oxide emitted, and the bill will also reinforce the existing carbon tax on polluting cars. The money raised through these taxes will fund a host of climate actions, such as promoting renewable energy and energy-efficient houses. “Catalonia is showing how bold policies are necessary to shift towards a cleaner, healthier economy,” says Libby Ferguson, States & Regions Director, The Climate Group. “As the European co-chair of our States & Regions Alliance, the Catalan government is picking up the challenge and the opportunity arising from climate change. “This law shows how collaboration between businesses and policymakers is crucial to achieve this ambitious goal, and how state and regional governments are at the forefront of climate action.” TRANSPARENT CLIMATE ACTION Catalonia has been at the forefront of transparent climate action, agreeing to voluntarily disclose its emissions and ambitious climate targets on an annual basis since 2014 as part of The Climate Group and CDP’s Annual Disclosure initiative with states and regions. Between 2005 and 2014, CDP data shows the Catalonia reduced its emissions by 26% – exceeding the initial 25% reduction target by 2020, based on 2005 levels. By doing so, it was one of the seven governments who disclosed in 2016 that reached its 2020 target several years in advance. The region also has a target of achieving a 20% share of renewable energy in its total energy consumption by 2020, and has also energy-efficient targets in place. The Catalan government will now have to approve the plans for implementing the two new taxes before December 1 this year, with the new law to going into force in 2019.

#### Catalonia needs more international funding for this project

Author of Climate Group, 2-8-2017 [New report on climate change in Catalonia lays the foundations for bold new policies, https://www.theclimategroup.org/news/new-report-climate-change-catalonia-lays-foundations-bold-new-policies, 1-12-2018]

LONDON: Catalonia could face catastrophic effects of climate change in the next few years, but it is ready to strengthen its strategic policies to mitigate such consequences, a new report states. “Catalonia is proudly the European co-chair of The Climate Group’s States & Regions Alliance,” underlines Libby Ferguson, States & Regions Director, The Climate Group, “and is also a founding signatory of the Under2 Coalition, committed to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century. “Through its bold policies, the Catalan government is showing how the challenge of climate change can be transformed into an opportunity of a healthier, more sustainable society and a prosperous economy. “This report represents an important example of how state and regional governments are taking leading action on climate change and developing consistent long-term frameworks for decision making based on solid scientific evidence.” THE VALUE OF COLLABORATION The Third Report on Climate Change in Catalonia, the result of the participation of 140 authors and 40 reviewers from the region’s leading universities and research centres, highlights how temperatures in the Spain’s autonomous community are expected to rise by 0.8 degrees Celsius (°C) this decade, with an increase of 1.4°C by 2050 compared to the average for the 1971-2000 period. The new report forecasts more extreme temperature conditions, frequent heatwaves and tropical nights, an increase in the number of hot days and nights and longer periods of dry weather. It also warns that the expected number of heat-related deaths in the region may grow eightfold by 2050, resulting in over 2,500 deaths per year during the summer months, whilst also enhancing the prevalence of diseases such as dengue, malaria or chikungunya. “The report provides an exhaustive compilation of scientific research on the progression and impacts of climate change in Catalonia,” underlines Carles Puigdemont, President of Catalonia, “aiming at facilitating rigorous knowledge for responsible decision making. “The document is a comprehensive contribution on the regionalization of the analysis and projections on worldwide global warming which are key for joint collaboration and policy-sharing among States and Regions, and in particular, Under2 Coalition members.” POSITIVE SIGNS In Europe, total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions dropped by almost a quarter between 1990 and 2014, with policy makers aiming to reduce them by at least by 40% (from 1990 levels) by 2030. Catalonia is in line with this ambitious European goal, aiming for a reduction of 25% (in comparison to 2005) by 2020, and 40% by 2030. The report notes a series of positive signs on the global fight against climate change: the slowdown in the annual rise in emissions from fossil fuels in recent years, the huge acceleration in introducing renewable energies and, above all, the creation of a much better political framework through the Paris Agreement, with the final goal of achieving net zero emissions during the second half of this century. However, even if the climate action from many sub-national governments is clear, more needs to be done on a global scale to mitigate the worst effects of climate change and support these forward-thinking climate policies. Sub-national governments are the ones who are grasping such opportunity – but they need more tools to respond more efficiently to the challenge posed by climate change, the authors conclude.

#### PCA diverts money to countries that are the most impacted

Green Climate Fund, xx-xx-xxxx [Green Climate Fund, http://www.greenclimate.fund/home, 1-12-2018]

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. The human impact on our planet is unprecedented. Long-term changes in the earth’s climate system are significant. The Green Climate Fund was established with a mission to advance the goal of keeping the temperature increase on our home planet below 2 degrees Celsius. The Fund is a unique global initiative to respond to climate change by investing into low-emission and climate-resilient development. GCF was established by 194 governments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries, and to help adapt vulnerable societies to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Given the urgency and seriousness of the challenge, the Fund is mandated to make an ambitious contribution to the united global response to climate change.

#### **Climate Change is already becoming a threat to Catalonia**

CREAF, 7-19-2017 [Climate change is already threatening the Mediterranean ecosystems of Catalonia, http://blog.creaf.cat/en/noticies-en/climate-change-is-already-threatening-the-mediterranean-ecosystems-of-catalonia/, 1-12-2018]

Climate change is causing droughts which are more numerous, severe, and longer than before, in addition to an increase in temperature –with Catalonia already experiencing an increase of 1.6 ºC since 1950— making this Mediterranean region even drier. Studies included in the review included field experiments and more than 20 years worth of data logs from three ecosystem types: holm oak forests in the Prades region; semiarid scrublands recently affected by fire at Garraf; and temperate, humid forests over a gradient from holm oak to beech forests at Montseny. “The results obtained in Catalonia can be extrapolated to other areas, because these are ecosystems which are characteristic of the Mediterranean Basin,” says Josep Peñuelas, researcher at CSIC and CREAF.

#### Lives are lost in Catalonia

Èrica Martínez of Institute of Catalan Studies, 10-xx-2016 [, http://cads.gencat.cat/web/.content/Documents/Publicacions/tercer-informe-sobre-canvi-climatic-catalunya/Sintesis/CC\_Sintesi\_ANGLES\_web.pdf, 1-12-2018]

One of the most widely studied health effects are heat waves, causing increases in the number of deaths and hospitalizations by more than 20 %, mostly among the elderly and in persons with previous chronic conditions. The results presented in this chapter show that the expected number of heat-related deaths in Catalonia may grow eightfold by 2050, resulting in over 2.500 deaths per year during the summer months.

### Paraphrased Version

#### We affirm the resolution Resolved: Spain should grant Catalonia its independence.

#### Contention 1 is Refugees

[**Rosen**](https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2017/0219/Why-160-000-protesters-in-Barcelona-want-Spain-to-welcome-more-refugees) of the Christian Science Monitor writes in 2017 that Spain has only accepted 1,000 refugees out of the 17,000 it has promised to accept. However, 160,000 individuals took to the streets of Barcelona to protest the lack of refugees.

Granting Catalonia independence would allow them to take in more refugees as the [**Catalan government**](http://web.gencat.cat/en/actualitat/detall/20160930_Persones-refugiades-persones-benvingudes)reports in 2016 that there are over 1200 unoccupied centers to host refugees. However, Spain has rejected their want for more refugees.

The first impact is boosting the economy.

[**Edward Taylor**](http://cyber.sci-hub.tw/MTAuMTA3My9wbmFzLjE2MDQ1NjYxMTM=/10.1073%40pnas.1604566113.pdf) of the University of California quantifies in 2016 that over 17% of businesses surrounding refugee living areas reported that their main customers were refugees. He concludes that a single refugee living near them increases incomes by 60 dollars.

Overall, [**Patrick Kingsley**](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/18/refugees-will-repay-eu-spending-almost-twice-over-in-five-years-report) of the Guardian reports in 2016 that refugees create long-term economic benefits they will repay the cost needed to host them by 2 times. To put this in simple terms, spending 1 dollar on a refugee will net a 2 dollar return within a few years.

Second is saving lives.

[**Amnesty International**](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2016/03/why-does-refugee-resettlement-change-lives/) writes that accepting refugees literally means the difference between life and death, avoiding trafficking, or being sold into the sex trafficking industry. In context to Catalonia, this would impact 15,000 refugees.

#### Contention 2 ripping off the Band-Aid.

**There are 3 reasons for why Spain should grant Catalonia independence now.**

**First is preventing a civil war.**

[**Jonathan Powell**](http://www.nybooks.com/daily/2017/11/03/how-to-solve-the-catalan-crisis/) of NY Books writes in 2017 that if the dispute persists and escalates, it could turn into another bloody conflict.

**Second is removing a political smokescreen**.

[**Sebastian Faber**](https://www.thenation.com/article/catalonias-elections-take-spain-back-to-square-one/) of the Nation finds in December that the Catalan independence movement has taken the spotlight, undermining focus on other important issues including corruption.

This is devastating as [**Miguel Vega**](https://elpais.com/elpais/2013/08/14/inenglish/1376481311_929795.html) finds in 2013 that the annual damage from corruption to Spain’s economy is more than 10 billion euros. He furthers that this corruption is why Spain’s economy is still suffering the effects of the 2008 recession as it decreases investor confidence.

**Third is boosting the economy which happens in 2 ways.**

**First is solving uncertainty.**

Senior Economist [**Angel Talavera**](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-11-23/spain-s-economy-to-count-the-cost-if-catalan-crisis-continues) in 2017 explains that increased political tensions have caused uncertainty to surge to the highest levels in over a decade.

Overall, [**Chislett**](http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/wcm/connect/01e82708-49a4-463c-a65a-a632517a2e80/Commentary-Chislett-Potential-impact-Catalan-crisis-Spanish-economy.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=01e82708-49a4-463c-a65a-a632517a2e80) of the Royal Institute writes in 2017 that uncertainty and lack of investor confidence in the standoff could reduce economic growth by 60% over the next 2 years.

Affirming not only reverses the trend by ending the conflict, but also increases investment as [**Else of Times writes in 2017**](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/opportunity-and-risk-catalan-research-independence-debate)independence would enable Catalonia to implement policy measures to attract more private sector investment that Madrid had previously banned.

**Second is splitting the burden.**

As the resolution indicates, by voting affirmative Spain would allow Catalonia’s independence. This causes no economic harms as [**Alfons Tena**](http://www.businessinsider.com/economics-of-catalan-secession-from-spain-2016-2) of Business Insider writes in 2016 that if Spain agrees to allow Catalonia independence, debt would be split proportionally, Catalonia would remain in the EU and life would go on normally while both countries reap the benefits of the secession. Overall, [**Al-Jazeera**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/spain-economy-survive-catalan-secession-170930163702214.html) finds in 2017 that economists predict that Catalonia’s GDP would remain stable in the short-term and rise by 7% in the long-term because they will no longer suffer from a fiscal deficit as they pay more to Spain than they get back.

This is key to decreasing poverty as Michael Roemer of Harvard writes that there is a 1 to 1 ratio between GDP and wages which in return the OCED writes that just a 1% increase in wages can decrease poverty by up to 4%.

#### Contention 3: Climate Change

According to [**the Climate Group**](https://www.theclimategroup.org/news/catalonia-passes-climate-change-law-reduce-emissions-100-2050) in 2017, Catalonia has plans to completely cut greenhouse gas emissions by 100% by 2050. However, [**they continue**](https://www.theclimategroup.org/news/new-report-climate-change-catalonia-lays-foundations-bold-new-policies), that the majority of scientists believe that Catalonia needs more resources and money if they want to reach this goal.

The affirmative solves by allowing Catalonia to sign the Paris Climate Accords and gain funding as [**The Green Climate Fund**](http://www.greenclimate.fund/home) explains that the Paris Climate Accord forces nations to allocate money towards countries that are most susceptible to the effects of global warming for the development of green technology. Catalonia will receive funding because they meet this criterion, as [**CREAF News**](http://blog.creaf.cat/en/noticies-en/climate-change-is-already-threatening-the-mediterranean-ecosystems-of-catalonia/) explains that Catalonia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change in the world, given its unique terrain, having already experienced nearly a 2 degree increase in temperatures since 1950.

**The impact is saving lives.**

[**The Third Report on Climate Change in Catalonia**](http://cads.gencat.cat/web/.content/Documents/Publicacions/tercer-informe-sobre-canvi-climatic-catalunya/Sintesis/CC_Sintesi_ANGLES_web.pdf) found that without green advancement, Catalonia’s temperatures are expected to rise by an additional 1.4 degrees Celsius by 2050. They explain that this will increase the number of heat-related deaths to over 2500 deaths annually.

## Frontlines

### AT: Catalonia/Barcelona Says No

#### Barcelona leans left and has programs designed for refugees. Davis 17:

Reuters Editorial, U.S., 6-20-2017 ['Refugee city' Barcelona puts work for young migrants on the menu, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-refugees-employment/refugee-city-barcelona-puts-work-for-young-migrants-on-the-menu-idUSKBN19B159, 12-26-2017]//DW

In February, tens of thousands of people took to the streets of **Barcelona**, calling for the Spanish government to take in more refugees. The city’s **leftist mayor** Ada Colau has **criticized the government of Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy for failing to meet its pledge to house more refugees**. In 2015 she published a register of families in Catalonia, Spain’s wealthiest region, willing to open their homes to refugees, or simply to help in some way. **Barcelona is “a progressive city which is open and warm towards people coming from outside**”, Ignasi Calbó, coordinator of the “Refugee City” program at Barcelona City Hall, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. **The social inclusion program helps migrants settle in Barcelona**, he explained. **Its initiatives include Mescladís, a quirky bar and restaurant in the historic center run entirely by migrants. The scheme also helps refugees find work at the many cultural events that take place across the city** each year, including Sonar, a popular electronic music festival. Among those seeking asylum in the Catalan capital, the largest numbers are from Venezuela, Ukraine, Honduras and El Salvador.

### AT: Refugees Hurt Economy

#### This argument doesn’t apply to Catalonia. Catalonia has a program to quickly integrate refuges—most studies conclude that the reason they hurt the economy in the short-term is because of lack of integration. We solve for that.

#### Turn: Refugees contribute more in taxes than they receive in government funds. Matsangou 15:

No Author, No Publication, 11-2-2015 [Refugees are an economic benefit, not burden, to Europe,//DW

While such measures are a costly enterprise, particularly when factoring in millions of people, doing so is economically advantageous for the host nation. Contrary to common presumptions, **refugees actually contribute more in taxes than they obtain in governmental support**. A study by the ZEW economic institute found that **on average** in 2012, **foreigners in Germany paid around €3,300 more in taxes than they received in state contributions – the total surplus amounted to €22bn**.

### AT: No Jobs in Spain/Catalonia

#### Having no job in a first-world country is still better than living in a war-torn country not knowing if you will live the next moment.

#### Status quo is recovering—Catalonia and Spain’s economies are growing higher and unemployment is decreasing. IESE 12/12/17:

No Author, No Publication, xx-xx-xxxx [Spain’s Economy Recovering But Major Reforms Pending, https://www.iese.edu/en/about-iese/news-media/news/2017/december/spains-economy-recovering-but-major-reforms-pending, 12-30-2017]//DW

The areas where most progress has been made in policy reform are the internationalization of the Spanish economy and stabilization of the financial system, the report noted. And **there have been some encouraging signs from the labor market**, where **employment is recovering** thanks to an expanding economy and to 2012 labor reforms. Data indicates that some **500,000 jobs have been created per year** since 2015. "There’s a before and an after the 2012 labor reforms," Carlos Ocaña, head of Funcas, said. "The goal was to recover lost competitiveness, which has been successfully achieved since jobs have been created, although with an adjustment in salaries and with considerable disparities among regions." There is still much work to be done, he noted, particularly in dealing with short-term contracts and in implementing more pro-active policies for job creation. There are approximately 2 million people who lost their jobs during the recent crisis and who have been unable to find work; long-term unemployment is one of the labor market’s main weaknesses.

#### 2018 Forecast is Bright—Economy is growing at a healthy rate. Spain’s Central Bank 12/27/17:

Ap, NEWSTAGE, 12-30-2017 [Spain's economy seen growing strongly despite Catalan crisis, https://newstage.com.ng/2017/12/27/spains-economy-seen-growing-strongly-despite-catalan-crisis/, 12-30-2017]//DW

**Spain’s central bank says** strong **exports are likely to help the economy grow by a quarterly rate of 0.8 percent** in the last three months of the year despite the negative effects of the Catalan political crisis. **Spain’s economy is set to expand by** 3.1 percent in 2017, but the government revised its estimate for 2018 from 2.6 percent to **2.3 percent** because of uncertainty created by the since-ousted Catalan regional government’s push for independence in October. The central bank said Wednesday buoyant exports overall made up for the economic fallout in prosperous Catalonia. Its figures are estimates and official data will be published by the National Statistics Institute next month.

### AT: Refugees Take Jobs

#### Refugees net good for the labor force

Patrick Kingsley of Guardian, 5-18-2016 [Refugees will repay EU spending almost twice over in five years, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/18/refugees-will-repay-eu-spending-almost-twice-over-in-five-years-report, 1-12-2018]

Refugees who arrived in Europe last year could repay spending on them almost twice over within just five years, according to one of the first in-depth investigations into the impact incomers have on host communities. **Refugees will create more jobs, increase demand for services and p'roducts, and fill gaps in European workforces** – while their wages will help fund dwindling pensions pots and public finances, says Philippe Legrain, a former economic adviser to the president of the European commission. Refugee: an examination of the global migration crisis – in pictures View gallery Simultaneously refugees are unlikely to decrease wages or raise unemployment for native workers, Legrain says, citing past studies by labour economists.

#### Turn: Refugees take low-income jobs and push natives up the ladder. Matsangou 15:

No Author, No Publication, 11-2-2015 [Refugees are an economic benefit, not burden, to Europe,//DW

There are further examples that illustrate that **refugee workers actually increase wages for the local population.** When Yugoslav **refugees in Denmark began working in low-skilled jobs** during the 1990s and the 2000s, **rather than driving wages down** as many expected, their presence made the economy more complex. Instead of filling such jobs, **natives moved up the skills ladder to more specialised professions that were better paid** and more productive. Then there is the case when **Cuban refugees** settled **in Miami** in 1980, they **gave a major boost to the city’s economy by providing unskilled labour in numerous industries**, including hospitality, textile production and agriculture.

#### Past Refugees Influx Proves No Net Job Loss

Cali 15

[Recent research](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/08/24/090224b083091fbc/1_0/Rendered/PDF/The0impact0of00Turkish0labor0market.pdf) finds that while Syrian refugees in Turkey—the majority of whom have no formal work permits—have displaced unskilled informal and part-time workers, they have also generated more formal non-agricultural jobs and an increase in average wages for Turkish workers. In addition, many of the displaced [Turkish] workers have gone back to school and may well increase their wages once they return to the labor market. This picture is also consistent with the Jordanian case, where [unemployment has not increased](https://www.brookings.edu/blogs/future-development/posts/2015/02/25-syrian-refugees-jordan-karasapan) in areas where Syrians have resettled, as Syrian workers have tended to find employment in low-skill sectors that Jordanians typically avoid. And this evidence is consistent with that on the net impact of migrants on host countries’ labor markets, which is typically [small](http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/archive/doc/full_text/CGDBriefs/3120183/time-bound-labor-access.html) and if anything [positive on average](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/restud/prpaper.pdf).

### AT: Terrorism

#### Terrorism is incredibly rare—you’re more likely to be killed by a lightning strike lol. Nowrasteh [Cato Institute] 16:

Alex Nowrasteh, Cato Institute, 9-13-2016 [Terrorism and Immigration: A Risk Analysis, https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/terrorism-immigration-risk-analysis, 12-26-2017]//DW

These data sets identify 154 foreign-born terrorists in the United States from 1975 to the end of 2015. Ten of the subjects were illegal immigrants, 54 were lawful permanent residents (LPR), 19 were students, 1 entered on a K-1 fiancé(e) visa, 20 were refugees, 4 were asylum seekers, 34 were tourists on various visas, and 3 were from Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries. The visas for 9 terrorists could not be determined. The number of murder victims per terrorist attack comes from government reports, the RDWTI, the GTD, and John Mueller’s research. From 1975 through 2015, those **154 foreign-born terrorists murdered 3,024 people, 98.6 percent of whom were killed on September 11**, 2001. **The other 1.4 percent of murder victims were dispersed over the 41- year period**, with two spikes in 1993 and 2015. The spikes were produced by the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed 6 people and the combination of two 2015 incidents — the Chattanooga shooting on July 16, 2015, that killed 5 people and the San Bernardino attack on December 2, 2015, that killed 14 people. (The 2013 Boston Marathon bombing killed 3 people.) From 1975 through 2015, **the annual chance that an American would be murdered in a terrorist attack carried out by a foreign-born terrorist was 1 in 3,609,709. Foreigners on the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) killed zero Americans in terrorist attacks, whereas those on other tourist visas killed 1 in 3.9 million a year. The chance that an American would be killed in a terrorist attack committed by a refugee was 1 in 3.64 *billion* a year**. Of the roughly 768,000 total murders committed in the United States from 1975 to the end of 2015, 3,024 (or 0.39 percent) were committed by foreign-born terrorists in an attack.[24](https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/terrorism-immigration-risk-analysis#cite-24) Those risk statistics are summarized in Table 1. The annual chance of being murdered was 252.9 times as great as dying in an attack committed by a foreign-born terrorist on U.S. soil. The U.S. murder rate declined from a high of 10.17 per 100,000 in 1980 to a low of 4.45 per 100,000 in 2015 (see Figure 1). The 1975-2015 rate of murder committed by foreign-born terrorists was 0.026 per 100,000 per year, spiking to 1.047 in 2001. Zero Americans were killed in a domestic attack committed by foreign-born terrorists in 30 of the 41 examined years. In the 14 years after 9/11, only 3 years were marred by successful foreign-born terrorist attacks. Figure 1 shows a single perceptible blip for terrorism on the 9/11 attacks and a flat line otherwise.

#### Methodology

This analysis focuses on the **41-year period** from January 1, 1975, to December 31, 2015, because it includes large waves of Cuban and Vietnamese refugees that posed a terrorism risk at the beginning of the time period and bookends with the San Bernardino terrorist attack. It identifies foreign-born terrorists who were convicted of planning or committing a terrorist attack on U.S. soil and links them with the specific visa they were first issued as well as the number of people they individually murdered, if any, in their attacks.[10](https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/terrorism-immigration-risk-analysis#cite-10) This report counts terrorists who were discovered trying to enter the United States on a forged passport or visa as illegal immigrants. Asylum seekers usually arrive with a different visa with the intent of applying for asylum once they arrive, so they are counted under the asylum category. For instance, the Tsarnaev brothers, who carried out the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15, 2013, traveled here with a tourist visa but their family immediately applied for asylum, so they are included in that category. Next, information on the individual terrorists, their visa types, and number of victims is compared with the estimated costs per victim and the total number of visas issued in each category. Where conflicting numerical estimates exist, the highest plausible figures are used with the intent to maximize the risks and costs of terrorism in terms of human life. The appendix lists all of the terrorists identified. Finally, other costs of terrorism, such as property damage, losses to businesses, and reduced economic growth, are considered. Only three terrorist attacks committed by foreigners on U.S. soil have created significant property, business, and wider economic damage: the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 9/11 attacks, and the Boston Marathon bombing. The costs of the government’s responses to terrorism are excluded. his analysis is concerned primarily with the cost of human lives taken in terrorist attacks.

#### Your claim is way overblown—more European citizens commit terrorist attacks than refugees. Crone 17:

Manni Crone, DIIS, xx-xx-xxxx [European citizens, not refugees, behind most terrorist attacks in Europe, https://www.diis.dk/en/research/european-citizens-not-refugees-behind-most-terrorist-attacks-in-europe, 1-1-2018]//DW

In the period **between January 2016 and April 2017, four asylum-seekers were involved in terrorist incidents, but no actual refugees**. Moreover, in the second half of 2015, **European foreign fighters who had joined Islamic State in Syria managed to travel along migration routes to reenter Europe undetected**, sometimes posing as refugees. Exploring these incidents in a policy-oriented context, this report suggests that engaging with the vulnerabilities of the EU’s Schengen border policies and management will be central in addressing the challenges arising from the intersection of migration with terrorism. The report identifies vulnerabilities in EU border management and proposes ways forward for the EU and its member states. The aim of the report is not to produce a reliable threat assessment, but to inform and qualify policy debates on the links between migration and terrorism, as well as to point out possible solutions.

#### Turn-restricting migration breeds terrorism while there is virtually no threat to accepting them. Dearden 16:

Lizzie Dearden, Independent, 10-24-2016 [Anti-refugee laws increase terror risk, UN report finds, http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-crisis-terrorism-link-migration-un-expert-report-no-evidence-isis-uses-route-human-rights-a7377961.html, 1-1-2018]//DW

**A United Nations investigator** has **warned that moves to crackdown on migration may worsen the risk of more attacks** in Europe while breaching [refugees](http://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Refugees)’ fundamental rights. Ben **Emmerson, the Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism** and human rights, **found “little evidence” that Isis and other terror groups** [**use refugee flows**](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/paris-attacks-some-jihadists-took-advantage-of-refugee-crisis-to-slip-into-europe-french-prime-a6741466.html) **or that asylum seekers are prone to radicalisation**. Delivering a [report](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/285/61/PDF/N1628561.pdf?OpenElement) to the UN General Assembly in New York, he said: “While **there is no evidence that migration leads to increased terrorist activity, migration policies that are restrictive or that violate human rights may in fact create conditions conducive to terrorism**. “Overly-restrictive migration policies introduced because of terrorism concerns are not justified and may in fact be damaging to state security.”

### AT: 18% NYU Study

#### The study is utter cheese. It says

The results indicate that **a 1% increase in the size of a country’s** 2005 **refugee** 22 **population creates a corresponding 18% increase in terrorist attacks committed by *groups based in that country***; these results are significant at the .01 level

**The refugees are not the ones committing terrorism. It is the groups in the country. The study studies war-torn countries such as Syria so obviously more terrorism increases the refugee population, meaning that it’s reverse casual. Moreover, Spain doesn’t have terrorist groups who will increase terrorism so that study doesn’t apply.**

#### The study CONCLUDES that countries should take in more refugees to help alleviate their sufferings.

### AT: Veto EU Membership Regardless

#### Only unilateral secession causes Spain or other countries to veto—other countries won’t mess around if split is negotiated. Pinnington 17:

Rebecca Pinnington, Express.co.uk, 10-11-2017 [Catalonia referendum SABOTAGE: Spain 'would VETO independent region joining the EU', https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/865244/catalonia-catalan-independence-referendum-spain-veto-eu-membership, 1-5-2018]//DW

Yesterday, Catalan president Carles Puigdemont [told the regional parliament](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/864679/catalonia-independence-spain-catalan-leader-carles-puigdemont-announcement-live-updates): “Spain made us small, but Catalonia is a European affair.” However Catalan separatists hoping to remain a member of the EU will be disappointed, as they will have to go through a long application process that would most likely be blocked by the Spanish parliament. Any EU27 state has the right veto a new member joining the bloc - and experts say Spain would “certainly” exercise its power over [Catalonia](https://www.express.co.uk/latest/catalonia). Ian Bond, the Director of Foreign Policy at the Centre for European Reform, told Express.co.uk “**Spain would certainly veto” Catalan membership if Mr Puigdemont unilaterally declared independence.** Mr Puigdemont has not yet unilaterally declared independence, and has instead [suspended his declaration](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/864880/Catalonia-independence-declaration-on-hold-crisis-ensues) pending talks with the Spanish authorities. However Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy shows no sign of willingness to negotiate with Catalonia, and continues to insist the referendum was not legitimate, as calling the vote did not follow processes laid out in Spain’s constitution. This makes it all the more likely Mr Puigdemont will unilaterally declare in the coming weeks - which would make a Spanish veto inevitable if it tried to join the EU as an independent state. Mr Bond added: “I suppose **the picture might change if there were a negotiated solution**, but that seems a remote possibility at present.” 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.

#### EFTA Solves 100% of the EU harms—Catalonia would join. The board wants them.

### AT: Spain Solves

#### This definitely isn’t true as the CREAF evidence indicates that over the past 50 years, Catalonia has already has a 2 degree C increase in temperatures which is unprecedented.

#### Spain’s economy is in shambles right now and they can’t afford to give green tech funds to Catalonia.

### AT: China Can Lead

#### China is a poor leader—authoritarian regime hurts legitimacy of Paris deal.

Overall, Europe needs the climate regime as much as the climate regime needs Europe. Indeed, the EU is currently suffering from internal divisions with the rise of populist Eurosceptic movements. Climate change represents a salient issue with the potential to enhance European unity, since most member states agree that action should be taken. Moreover, if the EU succeeds in enacting ambitious environmental legislation, this will attract green investments and international entrepreneurs, helping to consolidate the economic recovery. Likewise, climate diplomacy has also provided EU external relations with a palpable success. Regardless of weaknesses in other areas, climate negotiations represent an opportunity for the EU to bolster its presence on the global stage. Conversely, **the climate regime needs the EU because** otherwise, following US disengagement, **China risks filling in the vacuum on its own and becoming the main power. If an authoritarian government comes to dominate the global climate regime, this might impact its legitimacy in the long run**. Thus, **EU leadership is necessary to balance China's power and infuse democratic values** into the climate regime. This is especially true since the EU, due to its very nature, is ideally positioned to contribute. Climate negotiations do not require any sort of hard military power, but rather subtle diplomatic skills and 'soft power'. As an archetypical normative power, the EU can successfully rely on tools such as multilateral diplomacy to shape the international climate agenda and become the guardian of the Paris Agreement.

### AT: EU Can’t Solve

#### EU has the skills necessary—diplomacy and soft power means it can succeed

Overall, Europe needs the climate regime as much as the climate regime needs Europe. Indeed, the EU is currently suffering from internal divisions with the rise of populist Eurosceptic movements. Climate change represents a salient issue with the potential to enhance European unity, since most member states agree that action should be taken. Moreover, if the EU succeeds in enacting ambitious environmental legislation, this will attract green investments and international entrepreneurs, helping to consolidate the economic recovery. Likewise, climate diplomacy has also provided EU external relations with a palpable success. Regardless of weaknesses in other areas, climate negotiations represent an opportunity for the EU to bolster its presence on the global stage. Conversely, the climate regime needs the EU because otherwise, following US disengagement, **China risks filling in the vacuum on its own** and becoming the main power. **If an authoritarian government comes to dominate the global climate regime, this might impact its legitimacy in the long run**. Thus, **EU leadership is necessary to balance China's power and infuse democratic values into the climate regime**. This is especially true since the EU, due to its very nature, is ideally positioned to contribute. **Climate negotiations** do not **require** any sort of hard military power, but rather **subtle diplomatic skills and 'soft power'. As an archetypical normative power, the EU can successfully rely on tools such as multilateral diplomacy to shape the international climate agenda and become the guardian of the Paris Agreement**.

#### Historical precedent proves that countries model the EU in regards to climate policy.

### AT: GDP Loss

#### Renewable Energy massively increases GDP worldwide—pretty recent evidence. Guerrini 16:

Federico Guerrini, Forbes, 1-25-2016 [Doubling The Share Of Renewable Energy By 2030 Could Increase Global GDP By $1.3 Trillion, https://www.forbes.com/sites/federicoguerrini/2016/01/25/doubling-the-share-of-renewable-energy-by-2030-could-increase-global-gdp-by-1-3-trillion/, 1-13-2018]//DW

Economic growth and environmental sustainability have often been seen as mutually exclusive. It seemed like countries could not really boost their GDP without sacrificing a bit of sustainability. A recent [report](http://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/IRENA_Measuring-the-Economics_2016.pdf) by the Abu Dabhi based International Renewable [Energy](http://www.forbes.com/energy/) Agency (IRENA), tells a different story. According to the research, **doubling the current share of renewable energy in the global energy mix would increase global GDP by up to 1.1 per cent, roughly US$ 1.3 trillion, by 2030**. And it would reach that goal while increasing, at the same time, global welfare and quality of life. To better highlight the scale of the financial impact, researchers point out that the amount would be more than the combined economies of Chile, South Africa and Switzerland as of today. “The recent Paris Agreement sent a strong signal for countries to move from negotiation to action and rapidly decarbonise the energy sector,” said Adnan Z. Amin, IRENA Director-General in a [statement](http://www.irena.org/News/Description.aspx?NType=A&mnu=cat&PriMenuID=16&CatID=84&News_ID=442). “This analysis provides compelling evidence that achieving the needed energy transition would not only mitigate climate change, but also stimulate the economy, improve human welfare and boost employment worldwide.” Clearly, not everyone would gain economically, from such a transition: some sectors, like construction and engineering would benefit most, thanks to the increased demand for investment goods, growing, researchers say, between 1.3% and 2.4%. Conversely, fossil fuel industries, extraction, oil refineries and distribution chains would decrease the value level of their output. Doubling share of renewables in the energy mix, to 36%, could indeed more than halve global coal imports and reduce the oil and gas sector’s imports by 7%. This would lead to a reduction in total fossil fuel imports of USD 104 billion in 2030, the report says. Some countries also would benefit more than others: Japan would see the largest positive GDP impact (2.3 per cent) but also Australia, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, South Africa and South Korea would see a significant gain of more than 1 per cent each. In terms of employment, while China would still hold the leadership as the largest renewable energy employer in the world India, Brazil, Indonesia and the US would also become key employers.

### AT: Poor Econ=No Funds for Green Tech

#### Paris climate accord funds are binding—countries have to use them on green tech.

### AT: Green Energy = Job Loss

#### Turn: Renewable energy creates more jobs than fossil fuels—much more labor intensive. Kats 16:

Greg Kats, GreenBiz, 12-5-2016 [How many jobs does clean energy create?, <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/how-many-jobs-does-clean-energy-create>, 1-10-2018]//DW

International studies also find large differences in labor intensity of clean energy relative to fossil fuels. For example, a 2014 U.K. Energy Research Center report, ["Low Carbon Jobs,"](http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/publications/low-carbon-jobs-the-evidence-for-net-job-creation-from-policy-support-for-energy-efficiency-and-renewable-energy.html) found that the average **employment creation for fossil fuels is 0.14 jobs per Gigawatthour** (coal 0.15, gas 0.12), that **the average across all renewable energy is 0.65 jobs/GWh, and that the average across both renewable energy and energy efficiency is 0.80 jobs/GWh**. This [broad government study](http://www.edie.net/downloads/Low-carbon-jobs-Net-job-creation-for-energy-efficiency-and-renewable-energy/63) finds that **renewable energy creates 4.3 times as many jobs as coal and 5.4 times as many as natural gas. It also finds that job creation from clean energy generally (renewables plus energy efficiency) is 5.3 times greater than from coal and 6.7 times greater than from natural gas. Renewable energy and energy efficiency clearly are several times more labor-intensive than fossil fuels. Clean energy jobs also generally are more distributed and are largely higher quality jobs**. For these reasons, the ongoing shift to clean energy is very good news for employment and workers, and any politician interested in creating jobs should embrace and support the clean energy transition.

#### Turn: Europe also proves that renewable energy creates more jobs. Patel 17:

Prachi Patel, IEEE Spectrum: Technology, Engineering, and Science News, 1-26-2017 [For U.S. Jobs Creation, Renewables Are a Better Bet Than Coal, https://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/renewables/for-us-jobs-creation-renewables-are-a-better-bet-than-coal, 1-10-2018]//DW

For jobs creation, the new Trump administration would do well to take a fresh look at clean energy rather than focusing only on fossil fuels. The solar power sector employed twice as many workers in 2016 than power generation from coal, gas and oil combined, according to a [U.S. Department of Energy report](https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/2017%20US%20Energy%20and%20Jobs%20Report_0.pdf)on employment in energy and energy efficiency. The solar workforce was about 374,000-strong, making up around 43% of the total employees in the power generation field. Wind power employed 101,738 workers, an increase of 25%. Coal, gas and oil-fired generation together accounted for just over 187,000 jobs, or 22% of the workforce. A majority of fossil fuel energy jobs are in mining and extraction rather than power generation, but these jobs are declining. Coal mining reached its peak employment in 2012, and now employs around 53,000. Oil and gas extraction jobs reached a peak in 2014 with 541,000 jobs, and in mid-2016 had 388,000 workers. According to a [report from the Environmental Defense Fund](http://edfclimatecorps.org/nowhiringreport) (EDF) **solar jobs are growing at a** [**rate 12 times faster**](http://www.forbes.com/sites/edfenergyexchange/2017/01/24/as-trump-signals-rollback-on-environmental-regulations-new-jobs-report-indicates-thats-a-bad-idea/#7e1520256161) **than the rest of the U.S. economy.** Plus **they are “generating more jobs per dollar invested**–more than double the jobs created from investing in fossil fuels.” What’s more, many of these renewable energy and energy efficiency jobs are local, pay well, and can be found in any state, says Liz Delaney, a program director at EDF. Jobs in renewables and energy efficiency are also growing, unlike those in fossil fuels. The DOE report says that wind and solar jobs increased by 32% and 25% respectively between 2015–2016. **The energy efficiency sector is projected to have the highest growth this year at 9%, with employers expecting to hire 198,000 more people in 2017**. “The main factor behind this growth is the economic drivers,” Delaney says. She points to dropping wind and solar prices, and the fact that businesses are recognizing that energy-efficiency measures are a cost-effective way to save money. “Whether or not you’re an environmentalist this just makes good business ense,” she says. President Trump’s plans to roll back environmental regulations, advance oil pipelines, and open up federal land for drilling and mining might add jobs in the energy industry. But in the end, market forces will play a big role in whether he can deliver on the promise of bringing back fossil fuel energy jobs. Reviving coal sector jobs will be especially hard. The DOE report says that most of the 26 GW of utility-scale power generation capacity that will be added in the next few years will be solar (9.5GW), natural gas (8GW), and wind (6.8GW). Coal-fired power generation in the U.S. has declined by 53% between 2006 and 2016, the DOE report says. That’s mainly because of cheap and cleaner natural gas, the share of which grew by 33% in that decade (solar generation grew 5000%). Fracking and newer drilling techniques have led to a big enough surge in natural gas production that supply now exceeds demand. The costs of solar and wind also continue to plummet. Even if President Trump can delay coal power plant retirement, the job payoff will be small, according to the [Christian Science Monitor](http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Inhabit/2017/0124/Behind-Trump-pipeline-orders-a-pledge-to-deliver-energy-jobs). The coal industry might have better long-term success if it was made cleaner using [carbon capture and storage](https://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/green-tech/clean-coal/carbon-capture-is-not-dead-but-will-it-blossom) technologies. From that CSM article: “Any attempt to bring coal back that doesn’t recognize the concerns that others have isn’t going to work,” says Richard Reavey, vice president of public affairs for Cloud Peak Energy, a Wyoming-based coal company. **Germany’s switch to renewables** as part of the country’s bold plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2020 **is expected**, in the long run, **to** [**save the country 149 billion euros**](https://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/renewables/germany-aggressive-switch-to-renewables-will-save-us-149-billion) **while creating 430,000 additional jobs.**

#### Empirically proven false—green energy generates jobs 12x as fast. Samuelson 17:

Kate Samuelson January 27, 2017, Fortune, 1-27-2017 [Renewable Energy Industry Creates Jobs 12 Times Faster Than Rest of U.S., http://fortune.com/2017/01/27/solar-wind-renewable-jobs/, 1-8-2018]//DW

**The** [**solar and wind industries**](http://fortune.com/2016/11/28/clean-green-renewable-solar-wind-energy-industry-donald-trump/) **are each creating jobs at a rate 12 times faster** **than that of the rest of the U.S. economy**, according to a [new report](http://edfclimatecorps.org/sites/edfclimatecorps.org/files/the_growth_of_americas_clean_energy_and_sustainability_jobs.pdf). The study, published by the Environmental Defense Fund’s (EDF) Climate Corps program, says that **solar and wind jobs have grown at rates of about 20% annually in recent years, and sustainability now collectively represents four to four and a half million jobs in the U.S., up from 3.4 million in 2011**. The renewable energy sector has seen rapid growth over recent years, driven largely by significant reductions in manufacturing and installation costs. Building developers and owners have been fueled by state and local building efficiency policies and incentives, the report explains. But, these gains are in contrast to Trump’s support for fossil fuel production, his climate change denial and his belief that renewable energy is a “bad investment”. “Trump’s current approach is basically ignoring an entire industry that has grown up over the last 10 years or so and is quite robust,” Liz Delaney, program director at EDF Climate Corps, told [Business Insider](http://uk.businessinsider.com/solar-energy-job-growth-2017-1?utm_content=buffer6c57c&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer&r=US&IR=T).

#### Green energy empirically creates more jobs—China proves.

Natasha Geiling, No Publication, 3-27-2017 [Clean energy employs more people than fossil fuels in nearly every U.S. state, https://thinkprogress.org/clean-energy-more-jobs-than-fossil-fuels-32f615915399/, 1-10-2018]//DW

Nationally, **clean energy jobs outnumber fossil fuel jobs by more than 2.5 to 1**, according to a [new Sierra Club analysis](https://www.docdroid.net/G6njmYC/sierra-club-clean-energy-jobs-report-final-1.pdf.html) of Department of Energy jobs data. And when it comes to coal and gas — two sectors President Donald Trump has promised to bolster through his [upcoming executive order](https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-03-26/trump-said-to-issue-far-reaching-reversal-of-obama-climate-push) on energy regulation — clean energy jobs outnumber jobs dealing with those two fossil fuels by 5 to 1. “Right now, **clean energy jobs already overwhelm dirty fuels in nearly every state across America**, and that growth is only going to continue as clean energy keeps getting more affordable and accessible by the day,” Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune said in a statement. “These facts make it clear that Donald Trump is attacking clean energy jobs purely in order to boost the profits of fossil fuel billionaires.” According to the Sierra Club’s analysis, nearly every state in the country has more jobs in clean energy than fossil fuels — just nine states have more jobs in fossil fuels than in clean energy. Some of largest discrepancies between clean energy jobs and fossil fuel jobs were in states like Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, where jobs in renewable energy “vastly exceeded jobs in the fossil fuel industry,” according to Sierra Club’s analysis. Many of these places also happen to be states that helped Trump win the presidential election in November. Clean energy jobs have seen incredible growth in recent years, with solar and wind jobs growing at a rate [12 times faster](http://www.businessinsider.com/solar-energy-job-growth-2017-1) than the rest of the U.S. economy. According to a 2015 report from the Environmental Defense Fund, renewable energy jobs in the United States enjoyed a 6 percent compound annual growth rate between 2012 and 2015. **Fossil fuel jobs**, by contrast, **had a negative 4.5 percent compound annual growth rate** over the same time period. And, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the nation’s fastest growing profession over the next decade is likely to be a [wind turbine technician](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-maintenance-and-repair/wind-turbine-technicians.htm). Despite strong national growth, however, the United States still lags behind both China and Brazil when it comes to the total share of renewable jobs globally. **Renewable energy employs** [**8.1 million people worldwide**](http://www.irena.org/News/Description.aspx?NType=A&mnu=cat&PriMenuID=16&CatID=84&News_ID=1450), according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) — and 3.5 million of those jobs are located in China. **The Chinese government has already announced plans to invest heavily in the renewable energy sector in the next three years, aiming to create 13 million more renewable energy jobs by 2020.**

#### There are ways of solving lost jobs – EU uniquely good at this. Bowen 15

Alex Bowen and Karlygash Kuralbayeva of Grantham Research Institute, 3-xx-2015 [, http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Looking-for-green-jobs\_the-impact-of-green-growth-on-employment.pdf, 1-10-2018]

One potential benefit of a transition to green growth is the creation of jobs. The generation of green jobs has been one of the more popular promises of climate change and other environmental policies. However, there are different ways of assessing the employment consequences of such policies. One approach is to focus on categorising existing jobs that help provide environmental and resource management services. European Union members in particular are making progress on this front. There is some evidence that such jobs are growing in number – a bit faster than employment as a whole – but from a low base. But with climate change mitigation measures strengthening around the world, it is important for national statistical agencies to get a better grasp on what is happening to employment (and GDP) in these industry sectors, so that they can alert policy-makers to the extent of structural change that such policies are inducing.

### AT: Warming Doesn’t Exist

#### There is a unanimous consensus that warming is real. Powell 15:

Powell, 15 – [James Lawrence, Ph.D. in Geochemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is executive director of the National Physical Science Consortium, Special Inquirer, “The Consensus on Anthropogenic Global Warming”, vol. 39.6, November/December 2015, <http://www.csicop.org/si/show/the_consensus_on_anthropogenic_global_warming>, 7/18/16]//DW

If scientists do not endorse the ruling paradigm, can we still quantify the extent of a scientific consensus? Yes, we can. The articles that turned up in the Cook et al. search were not drawn at random but appeared because they answered the search topics “global warming” or “global climate change.” The authors in the Cook et al. database were writing about AGW. Would they have written about a theory that they believe is false yet never say so? We can get a further clue using the research category classification that Cook et al. provided. Of the 7,970 “no position” articles, 56.8 percent were on the impacts of global warming, 18.4 percent on mitigation, 17.1 percent on measurements and modeling methods, and 7.7 percent on paleoclimatology. Would authors write about those aspects of global warming if they believed that AGW is false yet never say so? What would be the point? We know from the history of science that the most important advances come when stubborn facts overthrow the ruling paradigm. This is how scientific reputations are made. It is why we remember Alfred Wegener and not his opponents. A scientist who has evidence that AGW is false will be eager to say so and to present that evidence. Who among us would not love to be that scientist! Putting all this together, I argue that we can judge the extent of the consensus by the number of articles that explicitly reject AGW. Cook et al. found seventy-eight, 0.7 percent, that did so. From that one can infer that **the authors of 99.3 percent of the articles in the Cook et al. database accept AGW**. This would be the average over the twenty years of their survey. More recently, the percentage of acceptance has grown even higher. I used the Web of Science to review the titles and abstracts of peer-reviewed articles from 2013 and 2014, adding the search topic “climate change” to “global climate change” and “global warming.” Of 24,210 abstracts, only five—one in 4,842 or 0.021 percent—in my judgment explicitly rejected AGW. Two of the articles had the same author, so **four authors of 69,406 rejected AGW. That is one in 17,352, or 0.0058 percent. This result would allow the claim that 99.99 percent of scientists publishing today accept AGW**. To be conservative, I prefer to say above 99.9 percent. Excluding self-citations, only one of the five rejecting articles has been cited and that article only once. Remember that the 99.9 percent figure does not represent what we usually mean by consensus: agreement of opinion. Rather it is derived from the peer-reviewed literature and thus reflects the evidence therein. It tells us that there is virtually no publishable evidence against AGW. That is why scientists accept the theory. The consensus on anthropogenic global warming is not 97 percent. Instead, **publishing scientists are close to unanimous that “global warming is real, man-made, and dangerous,**” as President Obama put it.

### AT: Ice Age

#### No, an Ice Age is not coming. Budamir 16:

Budamir 15 [Ivan Budamir, Newswire, July 19, 2015, "No, an Ice Age is Not Coming, Expert Says", <http://newswire.net/newsroom/news/00089576-no-winter-is-not-coming-experts-said.html>]//DW

British solar scientists created a model of Sun’s activity that showed 60 percent decrease. However, experts warn that if this is to be true, not only that the River Thames could freeze, but it would be the end of mankind.¶ “A decrease in solar output of 1 percent would be a very big deal for the climate system. A 60 percent decrease would end all life on Earth, forever probably,” James Renwick, a professor at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand and an expert in atmospheric physics, told Newsweek.¶ “I am rather surprised no one has commented on this yet or pointed out how unlikely it is,” Professor Renwick added.¶ The decrease noted in the original report was a reference to solar flares or sunspots, not the sun's total output.¶ Professor Renwick explained that findings of Professor Valentina Zharkova, who analyzed three solar activity cycles that cover a period from 1976 to 2008, are valid. However, the data were misinterpreted, as **there will be no decrease in solar activity**. The data only showed solar cycle may decline by 60 percent during this period, and that is not the same.¶ According to Professor Zharkova, who researched convex fluids deep within the Sun’s layers, magnetic wave components appear in pairs, originating in two different layers in the Sun's interior. Both cycles have an 11-year frequency, but are "slightly different, and offset in time."¶ The thing is, the Zharkova’s team was analyzing the sun’s 11-year cycles from a purely astronomical perspective, and the press release said nothing about its effect on Earth.¶ Professor Renwick explained that during an 11-year period in the 2030s, the two magnetic waves that produce sunspots will almost cancel each other out. The material ejected from the sun could drop by 60 percent compared with the previous cycle.¶ According to Professor Renwick, **this 60 percent decrease in sunspots will lower the Sun’s output roughly 0.1 percent. That figure is not worrying**, especially giving the effects of heating the Earth’s surface by CO2 pollution. ¶ “**The levels of CO2 and other greenhouse gases are so much higher now that temperatures would not drop much below where they are today**, according to Professor Renwick.¶ “**That drop would last only until 2050 or so**. Then we'd have a bounce upwards again,” he concluded.¶ In the 1900s, when the river Thames froze, the event was not a wide-ranging or worldwide event. Even the 'Little Ice Age', which lasted from 1300 to the mid-1600s, was more the result of a persistent 'polar express' than world climate change.

#### We’ve already emitted enough to stop an ice age. Cook 11:

(John Cook, Climate Communication Fellow for the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland, citing a variety of peer reviewed papers, “ Are we heading into a new Ice Age?” 9/1/11 <http://www.skepticalscience.com/heading-into-new-little-ice-age-intermediate.htm>)//DW

However, our climate has experienced much more dramatic change than the Little Ice Age. Over the past 400,000 years, the planet has experienced ice age conditions, punctuated every 100,000 years or so by brief warm intervals. These warm periods, called interglacials, typically last around 10,000 years. Our current interglacial began around 11,000 years ago. Could we be on the brink of the end of our interglacial? Figure 3: Temperature change at Vostok, Antarctica (Petit 2000). Interglacial periods are marked in green. How do ice ages begin? Changes in the earth's orbit cause less sunlight (insolation) to fall on the northern hemisphere during summer. Northern ice sheets melt less during summer and gradually grow over thousands of years. This increases the Earth's albedo which amplifies the cooling, spreading the ice sheets farther. This process lasts around 10,000 to 20,000 years, bringing the planet into an ice age. What effect do our CO2 emissions have on any future ice ages? This question is examined in one study that examines the glaciation "trigger" - the required drop in summer northern insolation to begin the process of growing ice sheets (Archer 2005). **The more CO2 there is in the atmosphere, the lower insolation needs to drop to trigger glaciation**. Figure 3 examines the climate response to various CO2 emission scenarios. The green line is the natural response without CO2 emissions. Blue represents an anthropogenic release of 300 gigatonnes of carbon - we have already passed this mark. **Release of 1000 gigatonnes of carbon (orange line) would prevent an ice age for 130,000 years. If anthropogenic carbon release were 5000 gigatonnes or more, glaciation will be avoided for at least half a million years**. As things stand now, the combination of relatively weak orbital forcing and the long atmospheric lifetime of carbon dioxide is likely to generate a longer interglacial period than has been seen in the last 2.6 million years. Figure 4. Effect of fossil fuel CO2 on the future evolution of global mean temperature. Green represents natural evolution, blue represents the results of anthropogenic release of 300 Gton C, orange is 1000 Gton C, and red is 5000 Gton C (Archer 2005). So **we can rest assured, there is no ice age around the corner**. To those with lingering doubts that an ice age might be imminent, turn your eyes towards the northern ice sheets. If they're growing, then yes, the 10,000 year process of glaciation may have begun. However, **currently the Arctic permafrost is degrading, Arctic sea ice is melting and the Greenland ice sheet is losing mass at an accelerating rate. These are hardly good conditions for an imminent ice age.**

#### An ice age isn’t coming – the temperature change would be minimal – prioritize the negative effects of warming which happen first. Bailey 15:

Bailey 15 – [Daniel, science degrees in Earth Science, Cartography and Remote Sensing at Central Michigan University and staff writer at Skeptical Science, Skeptical Science, “Are we heading into a new Ice Age?”, 7/6/15, <https://www.skepticalscience.com/heading-into-new-little-ice-age-intermediate.htm>, 7/25/16]//DW

Just a few centuries ago, the planet experienced a mild ice age, quaintly dubbed the Little Ice Age. Part of the Little Ice Age coincided with a period of low solar activity termed the Maunder Minimum (named after astronomer Edward Maunder). It's believed that a combination of lower solar output and high volcanic activity were major contributors (Free 1999, Crowley 2001), with changes in ocean circulation also having an effect on European temperatures (Mann 2002). Could we be heading into another Maunder Minimum? Solar activity is currently showing a long-term cooling trend. 2009 saw solar output at its lowest level in over a century. However, **predicting future solar activity is problematic. The transition** from a period of 'grand maxima' (the situation in the latter 20th century) to a 'grand minima' (Maunder Minimum conditions) **is a chaotic process and difficult to predict** (Usoskin 2007). Let's say for the sake of argument that the sun does enter another Maunder Minimum over the 21st century. **What effect would this have** on Earth's climate? Simulations of the climate response if the sun did fall to Maunder Minimum levels find that **the decrease in temperature from the sun is minimal** compared to the warming from man-made greenhouse gases (Feulner 2010). **Cooling from the lowered solar output is estimated at around 0.1°C (with a maximum possible value of 0.3°C**) while the greenhouse gas warming will be around 3.7°C to 4.5°C, depending on how much CO2 we emit throughout the 21st century (more on this study...). However, **our climate has experienced much more dramatic change than the Little Ice Age. Over the past 400,000 years, the planet has experienced ice age conditions, punctuated every 100,000 years or so by brief warm intervals**. These warm periods, called interglacials, typically last around 10,000 years. Our current interglacial began around 11,000 years ago. Could we be on the brink of the end of our interglacial? How do ice ages begin? Changes in the earth's orbit cause less sunlight (insolation) to fall on the northern hemisphere during summer. Northern **ice sheets melt less during summer and gradually grow over thousands of years. This increases the Earth's albedo which amplifies the cooling, spreading the ice sheets farther**. This process lasts around 10,000 to 20,000 years, bringing the planet into an ice age. What effect do our CO2 emissions have on any future ice ages? This question is examined in one study that examines the glaciation "trigger" - the required drop in summer northern insolation to begin the process of growing ice sheets (Archer 2005). **The more CO2 there is in the atmosphere, the lower insolation needs to drop to trigger glaciation.** Figure 4 examines the climate response to various CO2 emission scenarios. The green line is the natural response without CO2 emissions. Blue represents an anthropogenic release of 300 gigatonnes of carbon - we have already passed this mark. Release of 1000 gigatonnes of carbon (orange line) would prevent an ice age for 130,000 years. If anthropogenic carbon release were 5000 gigatonnes or more, glaciation will be avoided for at least half a million years. **As things stand now, the combination of relatively weak orbital forcing and the long atmospheric lifetime of carbon dioxide is likely to generate a longer interglacial period than has been seen in the last 2.6 million years**. So we can rest assured, **there is no ice age around the corner. To those with lingering doubts that an ice age might be imminent, turn your eyes towards the northern ice sheets. If they're growing, then yes, the 10,000 year process of glaciation may have begun. However, currently the Arctic permafrost is degrading, Arctic sea ice is melting and the Greenland ice sheet is losing mass at an accelerating rate. These are hardly good conditions for an imminent ice age.**

### AT: CO2 Good

#### The benefits from CO2 are short lived and don’t outweigh the negative effects of climate. Ellison 16:

Ellison, 2016 - [Jake, News Producer at SeattlePi, SeattlePi, “CO2 is making Earth greener; too bad about the rising seas”, 4/26/16, <http://www.seattlepi.com/local/science/article/CO2-is-making-Earth-greener-too-bad-about-the-7376684.php>, 7/24/16]//DW

The beneficial aspect of CO2 fertilization in promoting plant growth has been used by contrarians, notably Lord Ridley (hereditary peer in the UK House of Lords) and Mr. Rupert Murdoch (owner of several news outlets), to argue against cuts in carbon emissions to mitigate climate change, similar to those agreed at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP) meeting in Paris last year under the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). "The fallacy of the contrarian argument is two-fold. First, **the many negative aspects of climate change, namely global warming, rising sea levels, melting glaciers and sea ice, more severe tropical storms, etc. are not acknowledged**. Second, **studies have shown that plants acclimatize, or adjust, to rising CO2 concentration and the fertilization effect diminishes over time**," says co-author Dr. Philippe Ciais, Associate Director of the Laboratory of Climate and Environmental Sciences, Gif-suvYvette, France and Contributing Lead Author of the Carbon Chapter for the recent IPCC Assessment Report 5.g

#### All plant CO2 studies are done in artificial conditions—real-world tests prove this argument false. Mittelstaedt 09:

Mittelstaedt 9 (Martin, The Globe and Mail’s environment reporter, The Globe and Mail, 3-31, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/archives/article743395.ece>, 7-3-11)//DW

Scientists have made another worrisome discovery, this time about carbon dioxide itself, the main greenhouse gas, which is vital for plant development. It had been assumed in the 1980s, based on greenhouse experiments, that an atmosphere richer in carbon dioxide would stimulate plant growth, raising some crop yields by as much as 30 per cent. That is part of the reason why, up until now, few people worried much about agriculture and global warming. It was thought that, while climate change might wreak havoc on ice-dependent polar bears and low-lying coastal cities, it held a verdant lining for farmers. But **new research** published last year **based on experiments in the U.S., Japan, Switzerland and New Zealand found the beneficial effects of carbon dioxide were** vastly **overrated when crops were grown in the more realistic setting of open farm fields, rather than in greenhouses. Corn yields didn't rise at all, and the rise in wheat and rice yields was less than half previous estimates**.

### AT: SO2 Turns

#### Turn: Fossil fuels produce large amounts of SO2 causes warming. Ward 09:

Ward 09 [Peter Ward, Teton Tectonics, March 2009, "Sulfur dioxide initiates global climate change in four ways", <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/222512220_Sulfur_dioxide_initiates_global_climate_change_in_four_ways>]//DW

Global climate change, prior to the 20th century, appears to have been initiated primarily by major changes in volcanic activity. Sulfur dioxide (SO2) is the most voluminous chemically active gas emitted by volcanoes and is readily oxidized to sulfuric acid normally within weeks. But **trace amounts of SO2 exert significant influence on climate.** All major historic volcanic eruptions have formed sulfuric acid aerosols in the lower stratosphere that cooled the earth's surface ~ 0.5 °C for typically three years. While such events are currently happening once every 80 years, there are times in geologic history when they occurred every few to a dozen years. These were times when the earth was cooled incrementally into major ice ages. There have also been two dozen times during the past 46,000 years when major volcanic eruptions occurred every year or two or even several times per year for decades. Each of these times was contemporaneous with very rapid global warming. **Large volumes of SO2 erupted frequently appear to overdrive the oxidizing capacity of the atmosphere resulting in very rapid warming**. Such warming and associated acid rain becomes extreme when millions of cubic kilometers of basalt are erupted in much less than one million years. These are the times of the greatest mass extinctions. When major volcanic eruptions do not occur for decades to hundreds of years, the atmosphere can oxidize all pollutants, leading to a very thin atmosphere, global cooling and decadal drought. Prior to the 20th century, increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) followed increases in temperature initiated by changes in SO2.By 1962, **man burning fossil fuels was adding SO2 to the atmosphere at a rate equivalent to one “large” volcanic eruption** each 1.7 years. Global temperatures increased slowly from 1890 to 1950 as anthropogenic sulfur increased slowly.Global temperatures increased more rapidly after 1950 as the rate of anthropogenic sulfur emissions increased. By 1980 anthropogenic sulfur emissions peaked and began to decrease because of major efforts especially in Japan, Europe, and the United States to reduce acid rain. Atmospheric concentrations of methane began decreasing in 1990 and have remained nearly constant since 2000, demonstrating an increase in oxidizing capacity. Global temperatures became roughly constant around 2000 and even decreased beginning in late 2007. Meanwhile atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide have continued to increase at the same rate that they have increased since 1970. Thus **SO2 is playing a far more active role in initiating** and controlling **global warming** than recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. **Massive reduction of SO2 should be a top priority in order to reduce both global warming and acid rain**.

#### CO2 Causes Warming even with Aerosols—CO2 just lasts so much longer. Crutzen 07:

(Fred, and Paul Crutzen, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany. An atmospheric chemist who won the Nobel Prize in 1995 for his work predicting the destruction of the ozone layer, Crutzen pioneered thinking about stratospheric chemistry, the role of man-made aerosols in shading the planet, and "nuclear winter," and coined the term "Anthropocene." John Mercer, formerly of Ohio State University, Columbus., Mercer also pioneered research on tropical glaciers. Drew Shindell, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York. An ozone-layer expert and climate modeler, Shindell is doing groundbreaking research on unexpected links between the upper and the lower atmosphere, revealing how the stratosphere can amplify small changes in surface temperature, “With speed and violence: why scientists fear tipping points in climate change,” pg online @ http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/wsav.pdf //DW

Still the world didn't take much notice. I asked Andreae about this strange indifference. "It's always amazing," he e-mailed me, "how many people don't see how important this issue is for the future development of the climate system." The discussion at the Dahlem meeting had rather changed his worldview, he said. "Before the Dahlem meeting, I was becoming kind of climate complacent, in the sense that I was convinced of coming global warming, but felt that it was going to be a couple of degrees and we could deal with that. Also, I felt that the aerosols were doing us a favor in slowing and reducing warming. But after it, I came to realize that the aerosols brake will come off global warming, and also that the aerosol cooling introduces a great uncertainty about climate sensitivity. I'm now in a situation where, as a human being, I hope that I'm wrong as a scientist. If we are right with our current assessment, there are really dire times ahead." Models are only models, of course. But **whatever the precise scale of the current aerosol effect, it would be quite wrong to imagine that it can carry on protecting us from the worst as global warming gathers momentum**. That is because aerosols and greenhouse gases have very different life spans in the atmosphere. **Aerosols stay for only a few days before they are washed to the ground in rain**. By contrast, **carbon dioxide has a life span of a century or more. If,** for the sake of argument, **we stuck with current emission levels of both aerosols and carbon dioxide**, the aerosol levels in the air would stay the same. **There would be no accumulation and no increase in the cooling effect.** But **carbon dioxide levels would carry on rising and produce ever greater warming**.

### AT: Germany Not a Good Example

#### Germany is fake—can’t meet targets. Hockenos 17:

Paul Hockenos, Foreign Policy, 11-14-2017 [Germany Is a Coal-Burning, Gas-Guzzling Climate Change Hypocrite, http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/11/13/germany-is-a-coal-burning-gas-guzzling-climate-change-hypocrite/, 1-12-2018]//DW

**Germany’s image as** selfless **defender of the climate**, which was once largely deserved, **is now a transparent fiction**. G**ermany has fallen badly behind on its pledges to sink** its own greenhouse gas **pollutants. In fact, Germany’s carbon emissions haven’t declined for nearly a decade** and **the German Environment Agency calculated** that **Germany emitted** 906 million tons of CO2 in 2016 — **the highest in Europe** — compared to 902 million in 2015. And 2017’s interim [numbers](https://www.cleanenergywire.org/news/germanys-energy-use-and-emissions-likely-rise-yet-again-2017) suggest emissions are going to tick up again this year. Germany is now in serious danger of hitting neither its 2020 nor its 2030 emissions targets, the very benchmarks that it browbeat other nations into adopting at previous climate conferences. **Germany is now in serious danger of hitting neither its 2020 nor its 2030 emissions targets, the very benchmarks that it browbeat other nations into adopting at previous climate conferences.** Leading German think tanks agree that Germany can’t, at its current rate, slash emissions enough in the next two years to reduce its carbon output by 40 percent (compared to its 1990 levels) or 55 percent by