

Jackie and I negate the resolution Resolved: Spain should grant Catalonia its independence.

Our first contention is the far-right.

[Barriaux in 2017](#) explains that

Unlike other European countries such as France or Germany, **Spain's far-right** is very much on the margin and **has been hugely fragmented since the start of the 1980s,** says Jordi Borrás, a photojournalist who has long studied the issue.
[As a result,] The country's national parliament has not had any far-right lawmaker since 1982.

This disunity allows more moderate parties like Rajoy's Popular Party to capture most of the far-right vote.

[Torres 2017](#) details

If that is to happen, the right-wingers will not only have to overcome their own strategic shortcomings and stop the infighting. They must also cope with **the biggest factor that limits** ^{their} **[far-right parties is]** ^{growth:} **the ruling Popular Party's largely unchallenged hegemony among far-right Spaniards. It is estimated that more than 80 percent of people who describe themselves as far-right voted for Rajoy in the past two national elections.**

The status quo allows Rajoy to appeal to both moderates and far-right voters, keeping far-right parties from gaining political power while still negotiating with Catalonia.

Unfortunately, granting Catalonia independence makes the far right even stronger

[Kingsley 2017](#) writes

Much would depend on how Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy responds to the Catalan question, said Antonio Roldán, a lawmaker for Ciudadanos, a party that was founded in opposition to Catalan secessionism. **If the response [from Rajoy against the Catalans] is perceived to be too meek, "there is definitely more probability of a party appearing from the extreme right that defends far-right nationalism,"** he said.

The impact is increased xenophobia.

[Buck 2016 explains](#)

HSM and its members **[the far-right] advocates [for] a strict Spaniards-first policy, and** have launched a string of demonstrations and stunts to publicise their cause. The group **wants refugees out of Spain, and Spain out of the EU.** Their food aid is available to Spanish nationals only.

[Newton 2017 confirms](#)

These groups wish to preserve the cultural purity of white-majority regions and are sometimes considered Islamophobic.

Our second Contention is Spain's pain.

Catalonia currently makes up 20% of Spain's economy, meaning that a split would increase unemployment in two ways.

The first is through membership in financial organizations.

[CNN in 2017](#) explains that

But there are many unanswered questions -- including continued membership in the European Union. **If Catalonia was forced to independently apply for EU membership, it would have to convince all of the bloc's current members to agree -- including Spain.** "We currently see **[Because of this, there is] no practical way for Catalonia to become an independent country within the EU**, as most supporters of independence want," economists at Berenberg Bank wrote in a research note. **Dropping out of the bloc would likely raise the cost of exporting goods produced in Catalonia to EU members and other nations.** "It [and it] would join the small list of countries that are not World Trade Organization members, meaning it would face significant trade barriers," said Stephen Brown, an economist at Capital Economics.

[BBC in 2017](#) explains that

The French government has said it will not recognise Catalonia if it declares independence from Spain and such a move will mean expulsion from the EU.

This means that import prices will go up, as companies struggle to maintain profit margins with new tariffs.

More importantly, businesses may decide to relocate from Catalonia to other EU countries in order to be in the Eurozone and avoid tariffs.

[Erickson from the Washington Post](#) concludes that because of worries about Catalan membership in financial organizations,

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.

As companies leave Catalonia, unemployment increases, which is why Badcock from the Telegraph explains that as a result of the Catalan crisis, 15,000 people have become unemployed.

Second is through a loss of tax revenue.

[Bosch 2017](#) explains that

Spain would lose about 16 billion euros yearly in the case of a split, as Catalonia would no longer have to pay taxes to Spain. This would then result in a loss of about 2 percent to the Spanish GDP (gross domestic product)

As the government is unable to finance public works projects, subsidize businesses, and generate economic growth, unemployment increases.

This is why [Sanchez in 2012](#) confirms that

a 1 percent decrease in GDP has been associated with a slightly less than 2-percent-age-point increase in the unemployment rate.

The impact is saving lives.

Unemployment directly leads to the loss of life because unemployed people often don't have the money to access critical medical services and resources, which is why [Patrick Leahy from the Huffington Post](#) explains that unemployment increases the rate of mortality by

279 percent among men and 107 percent among women.

Thus, we negate.