

We affirm: “Resolved: Spain Should Grant Catalonia its independence.”

- A. Our framework for this round is Wilsonianism; whoever can best align with its tenets should win this debate. Judges, this framework is the most appropriate for today’s debate because Wilsonian Idealism requires that morality, democracy, self-determination and peace are the aims of foreign policy. In today’s tumultuous world, this framework is increasingly applicable.

A. Contention I: The EU Version 2.0

1. **The current standard for secession is unacceptable.** [Larison of the University of the Chicago](#) writes in 2014 that the past events of Kosovo now serves as the precedent for secession, with Russia now using it to justify the illegal annexation of Crimea. Larison warns that the justification of illegal warfare to secede may hold into the future, endangering stability. Even worse, [The LA Times \(2017\)](#) writes that in recent years, nationalist movements have been growing in regions such as Scotland, Flanders, Corsica and N. Italy.

2. **Granting Catalonia independence changes the European paradigm on secession in two ways:**

- a) **First, the accompanying Constitutional Crisis in Spain galvanizes policy action to change EU policies on secession.**

- (1) [Varoufakis of Handelsblatt Global writes in 2017](#), “A constitutional crisis in a major European Union member state creates a golden opportunity to reconfigure the democratic governance of regional, national, and European institutions, thereby delivering a defensible, and thus sustainable, EU.”

- (2) Fmr. European Affairs Minister Yves Gounin furthers that bilateral Catalan secession would compel the EU to value pragmatism over dogma, changing the rules of the outdated Prodi Doctrine.

- b) **Second, future secessionist movements will follow Catalonia’s code of conduct.**

(1) [Parrara \(2017\)](#) of the Associated Press reports that Catalan leader Charles Puigdemont has vowed peaceful secession.

(2) Varoufakis furthers that amiable secession, through a grant, would set a code of conduct for future secession of other states, making future secession peaceful and preserve stability in the EU if other movements emerge.

3. The first impact is reducing violence. Huang of New York University writes in 2017 that separatists often use violence to achieve political goals. Indeed, [Boyle \(2006\) of Cornell University](#) finds that cultural concentration raises the probability of separatist conflict by 12%, and the occurrence of economic and political exclusion raises it by 24%. Even worse, separatist conflicts risk sparking conflict. Newman (2002) furthers that internal conflicts permanently scar health, education, and economic infrastructure, making it impossible for areas to recover. 90% of casualties in these internal conflicts are mostly innocent women and children. To top it off, Prof. [Sorens \(2014\) of Dartmouth College](#) explains that secessionist conflicts are often drawn out for longer periods of time than others, with governments and separatists unable to negotiate. Thankfully, Sorens finds that providing legal frameworks for succession historically reduce violence on net, because both sides are incentivized to utilize electoral and legislative means.

4. The second impact is multipolar security. As [Marsili \(2017\)](#) explains, more multipolarity in a new transnational Europe “represents a powerful blueprint for a new multipolar world order, one where [...] nations are no longer pitted one against the other but work through consensus and the rule of law to reach mutually beneficial solutions.” [As the Brookings Institution finds in 2012](#), the US withdrawal from Europe makes it necessary for multipolar cooperation to deter threats.

B. *Contention 2: Fighting Fascism.*

1. **The Spanish crackdown on the Catalan movement is eroding democracy.** [Vice \(2017\)](#) reports that the Spanish government is suppressing civil liberties. [Malcolm \(2017\) of the Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) writes that the Spanish government blocked Internet access. Also, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, government Internet censorship is prohibited.
2. Rajoy is seizing on the crisis to consolidate power and pander to the Spanish far-right. [Greer \(2017\) of the University of Michigan](#) explains that Rajoy is choosing a confrontation strategy to strengthen his Partido Popular Party, because it frames political conflict around nationalism and unity, rather than the prevalent problems of inequality, unemployment, and the economic downturn.
3. Thankfully, affirming stops this rise of fascism. [Prof Hennessy of UC Berkeley in 2017](#) writes that supporting Catalonia is critical to ending fascism in Europe and its toxic ideological infrastructure.
4. **The impact is lifting the political smokescreen.** *The Nation* (2017) reports that the conflict has been used by the Spanish government to distract from government corruption, constitution court collusion, and other scandals eroding at democracy. By ending the conflict through an independence grant, both sides will experience democratic renewal.