

We affirm **Resolved: Spain should grant Catalonia its independence**

## **Contention 1: Spains unreasonable actions**

**Spain is robbing, suppressing, and exploiting Catalans.**

Pablo **Beramendi**, Council on Foreign Relations, writes on Sept. 29, **2017**

**Supporters of the referendum**, in contrast, argue that they **are challenging the constitution**, saying, **Madrid gave us no other option to facilitate the mandate we have from the Catalan people**. They also argue that some of their actions are not illegal under a more flexible interpretation of the norms. Moreover, diehard **supporters of Catalan independence would say this is [another] chapter of aggression by the Spanish state against Catalan autonomy: they rob us, they suppress us, they exploit us, and it's time to break the chains.**

### **History of linguistic genocide attempts**

Josep **Desquens**, B.A. in Business Administration, Master's in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University, Programme Manager at the European Union, provides historical context as he wrote in **2003**

Unlike many nations in Europe that have flourished due to the creation of a nation-state, **Catalonia exists despite a unitary and centralist Spanish state that has repeatedly tried to eliminate it as a separate cultural entity**. In this context, the mainstream Catalan nationalist movement - in particular, since the end of Franco's dictatorship's attempt at linguistic genocide - has traditionally focused on cultural and linguistic promotion. At the same time, it has allowed a damaging fiscal relationship with Spain to develop that might have led to a civil uproar in other countries. **Years of permanent centralism have atrophied the perception of reality of many Catalans, making them accept this administrative relationship as perfectly normal even when it goes against their interests. Today, culturally-focused policies are insufficient. Catalan politicians need to ensure the continuity of the culture and language, but they also need to inform Catalans openly that they are paying a high price to be part of a unitary Spanish state.** They have to make all Catalan citizens aware of the fact that, in the name of a questionable solidarity, the current fiscal imbalance results in serious public under-investment that will hurt their economy. And, more importantly, they need to tell them that this is a problem that affects all Catalans equally: first-generation and tenth-generation Catalans; Catalan-speakers, Spanish-speakers and Arabic-speakers; employers and employees; men and women; students and retirees. **It is urgent that Catalans realize that only with a new administrative structure can Catalonia be competitive in the international markets and guarantee better public services, modernization of its infrastructure,**

**social cohesion and economic growth.** Among all possible options, it is independence that makes more sense economically, particularly in the context of globalization and the European Union. Why? Impact: **Quality of Life improvement**(1), secession would guarantee that the existing unfair fiscal imbalance would be eliminated. (2), an independent Catalonia would result in a smaller more efficient public administration. (3), a Catalan state would still have access to international markets in a free-trade world. (4), full independence would mean a direct voice in the international forums that so much influence their lives.

### **dividing up into smaller nation-states provides better outcomes for diverse populations**

Marian L. **Tupy**, policy analyst at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, writes in **2017**

**Prior to the rise of the European nation states in the 16th and 17th centuries, Europe was sub-divided into hundreds of different states and statelets.** Germany alone consisted of over 300 different political entities prior to Napoleon's consolidation of the territories in 1806. **These states offered their residents different sets of rights and responsibilities. They competed with one another in terms of policies, including religious tolerance and taxation. In fact, it was this territorial disunity that, scholars argue, enabled Europe to zoom past heavily centralized China to become the world's leading economy.**

## **Contention 2: Spain violence towards catalonia**

**Spain and Catalonia are at an impasse; the two options are granting Catalonia independence and violence**

Pablo **Beramendi**, Council on Foreign Relations, writes on Sept. 29, **2017**

**A showdown looms between Spanish authorities and the prosperous northeastern region of Catalonia over a planned October 1 referendum on independence. While some residents of the linguistically and culturally distinctive region have long pushed for secession, the current impasse has its roots in 2010, when a constitutional court overturned an agreement granting the region a degree of autonomy while the central government imposed austerity measures amid economic crisis.**

## **Violence has harmed nearly 1,000 in recent months; there are 2.3 million people's lives at stake in Catalonia**

Kaitlyn **Schallhorn**, Reporter for Fox News, writes in on December 4. **2017**

**Catalonia's parliament voted for independence after an Oct. 1 referendum with about 90 percent of the 2.3 million people who voted choosing independence, according to Catalan officials.** However, fewer than half of the eligible voters participated in the highly contested referendum. **About 900 people were treated for injuries after voting turned violent when Catalan civilians and Spanish police clashed.** **Andrew Dowling, an expert in Catalan history at Cardiff University in Wales, said that an independence declaration by the Catalan parliament is symbolic without border and institutional control and no international support.** **PRO-INDEPENDENCE CATALANS: 'I'VE NEVER FELT SPANISH'** **The declaration "will see the fracture between hardliners and the pragmatic people in Catalonia who are already seeing an economic fallout," Dowling told The Associated Press. But Spain's Constitutional Court officially annulled the Catalan independence vote on Nov. 8.**

## **Granting Catalonia independence solves tensions that would result in violence**

Marian L. **Tupy**, policy analyst at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, writes in **2017**

For most Europeans, Spain without Catalonia is as strange of a concept as the United Kingdom without Scotland. But, **independence can be a good way to lower tensions between peoples who no longer wish to remain a part of the same political entity and an excellent way to increase inter-jurisdictional competition, thereby allowing for greater institutional experimentation.**