This is a book about the role of culture in social change and the Spanish transition to democracy after Franco. After Franco’s death in 1975, Spain witnessed an extraordinary “period of consensus,” unique in its own history. Laura Desfor Edles takes a distinctively culturalist approach to the “strategy of consensus” deployed by the Spanish elite at this time, and uses systematic text interpretation (with a particular focus on Spanish newspapers) to show how a new symbolic framework emerged in post-Franco Spain which enabled the resolution of specific events critical to the success of the transition. In addition to uncovering underlying processes of symbolization, she shows that politico-historical transitions can themselves be understood as ritual processes, involving as they do (to use Victor Turner’s model) phases and symbols of separation, liminality, and reaggregation.
Symbol and ritual in the new Spain
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Symbol and ritual in the new Spain

The transition to democracy after Franco

Laura Desfor Edles

University of Hawai'i, Manoa
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Abbreviations

AP  Alianza Popular, Popular Alliance
CCOO  Comisiones Obreras, Workers’ Commissions
CD  Coalición Democrática, Democratic Coalition
CDS  Centro Democrático y Social, Democratic and Social Center
CEDA  Confederación Española de Derechas Autónomas, Spanish Confederation of the Autonomous Right
CiU  Convèrgencia i Unió, Convergence and Union
CNT  Confederación Nacional de Trabajo, National Confederation of Labor
EDC  Equipo Demócrata Cristiano del Estado Español, Christian Democratic Team of the Spanish State
EE  Euzkadiko Ezkerra, Basque Left
ETA  Euskadi Ta Azkatasuna, Basque Homeland and Freedom
ETA-Berri  New ETA
ETA-Zarra  Old ETA
FAI  Federación Anarquista Ibérica, Iberian Anarchist Federation
FDC  Federación de la Cristiana Democrática, Federation of Christian Democrats
FPD  Federación Popular Democrática, Popular Democratic Federation
FRAP  Frente Revolucionario Antifascista Patriótico, Anti-fascist Revolutionary Patriotic Front
GAL  Grupos Antiterroristas de Liberación, Anti-terrorist Liberation Group
HB  Herri Batasuna, Popular Unity
HOAC  Hermandades Obreras de Acción Católica, Workers’ Brotherhood of Catholic Action
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDC</td>
<td>Izquierda Demócrata Cristiana, Democratic Christian Left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IU</td>
<td>Izquierda Unida, United Left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOC</td>
<td>Juventudes Obreras Católicas, Catholic Workers’ Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAS</td>
<td>Koordinadora Abertzale Socialista, Patriotic Socialist Coordinating Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOAPA</td>
<td>Ley Orgánica de Armonización del Proceso Autonómico, Organic Law to Harmonize the Autonomy Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC</td>
<td>Minoría Catalana, Catalan Minority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORT</td>
<td>Organización Revolucionaria de Trabajadores, Revolutionary Workers’ Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSE</td>
<td>Organización Sindical Española, Spanish Syndicate Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCE</td>
<td>Partido Comunista Español, Spanish Communist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDC</td>
<td>Pacte Democràtic per Catalunya, Democratic Pact of Catalonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNV</td>
<td>Partido Nacionalista Vasco, Basque Nationalist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POUM</td>
<td>Partido Obrero de Unificación Marxista, Workers’ Party for Marxist Unification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>Partido Popular, Popular Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSOE</td>
<td>Partido Socialista Obrero Español, Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSP</td>
<td>Partido Socialista Popular, Popular Socialist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSUC</td>
<td>Partit Socialista Unificat de Catalunya, Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTE</td>
<td>Partido del Trabajo de España</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEU</td>
<td>Sindicato Español Universitario, Spanish University Syndicate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCD</td>
<td>Unión del Centro Democrático, Union of the Democratic Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGT</td>
<td>Unión General de Trabajadores, General Workers’ Union</td>
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Acknowledgements

Like many first books, this book has had a long and seemingly endless gestation, during which time I have accrued enormous intellectual and emotional debts. Above all, I want to thank my mentor, Professor Jeffrey C. Alexander, for his intellectual inspiration and guidance, and unstinting support. In addition, I thank the other members of my doctoral committee: Jeffrey Prager, Duane Champagne, C. Brian Morris from the University of California, Los Angeles, and David Ringrose, from the University of California, San Diego.

A special thanks to Alfonso Pérez-Agote, both for inviting me into his home and to the Basque University when I first began this project, and for sharing his expertise and wisdom. Richard Gunther, Edward Tiryakian, and Juan J. Linz also all took the time to provide extensive comments and suggestions in the early stages of this research. A much belated thank you to them. My colleagues at the University of Hawai’i, Manoa, and Boise State University have been extremely understanding while I was writing this book. I especially thank Professors Kiyoshi Ikeda, Alvin So, and Michael Blain.

In the last few years, many people have read parts of this manuscript or helped make it better in some way. I especially thank Eric Rambo, Juan Amigo, and Josie Bilbao for their camaraderie and help. I also thank Valerie Bunce, Paul Manuel, and the participants of the 1994 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar on Democratization in Europe; José Alvarez-Junco, Joaquín Fernandez-Castro, and the Harvard-Tufts Iberian Study Group; Miguel Angel Centeno, Hank Johnston, José Rodríguez Ibañez, Benjamin Tejerina, John Torpey, and the anonymous Cambridge reviewers. A special thanks go to Martha Peach, the director of the library at the Instituto Juan March, for her friendly and timely assistance; as well as to Catherine Max and Andrew Humphrys, my exemplary editors at Cambridge University Press.
Financial support for my research was provided by the Del Amo Foundation of Los Angeles, the UCLA Graduate Division, and the University of Hawai‘i Research Council. Parts of the book were written as a participant in the National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar at Cornell University, and parts were presented at seminars at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University, the University of California, Irvine, and the University of the Basque Country. I thank those who invited me. I also thank the Centro de Arte Reina Sofía and the Artists’ Rights Society for providing the photograph and giving permission to reproduce Picasso’s Guernica.

Finally, I thank my parents, Janette and LeRoy Doty and Donald Desfor, for supporting me on my first Spanish journey; and my husband, Michael, who has been with me on my journey since then. I am also extremely indebted to my special family of friends in Madrid: Manuel Wilén, Rafael and Asunción Munguira Rubio, and Francisco and Conchita Pulido González. Their warmth and affection over the past fifteen years has been intimately entwined with my warmth and affection for, and understanding of, Spain.

Writing this book and returning (and returning) to Spain has not always been easy. This book is dedicated to Mike and Benny and Ellie for their love and good cheer, often in spite of tremendous inconvenience.