

Twentieth-Century Spain

This is a much-needed new overview of Spanish social and political history, which sets developments in twentieth-century Spain within a broader European context. Julián Casanova, one of Spain's leading historians, and Carlos Gil Andrés chart the country's experience of democracy, dictatorship and civil war, and its dramatic transformation from an agricultural and rural society to an industrial and urban society fully integrated into Europe. They address key questions and issues that continue to be discussed and debated in contemporary historiography, such as why the Republic was defeated, why Franco's dictatorship lasted so long and what mark it has left on contemporary Spain. This is an essential book for students as well as for anyone interested in Spain's turbulent twentieth century.

Julián Casanova is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Zaragoza and visiting Professor at Central European University, Budapest.

Carlos Gil Andrés teaches history at Rey Don García of Nájera.

Twentieth-Century Spain

A History

Julián Casanova
Carlos Gil Andrés

Translated by
Martin Douch



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-60267-0 — Twentieth-Century Spain
Julián Casanova, Carlos Gil Andrés
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107602670

© Julián Casanova 2014

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

Originally published in Spanish as *Historia de España en el siglo XX* by Ariel, 2009 © Ariel 2009

First published 2014

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Casanova, Julián.

[Historia de España en el siglo XX. English]

Twentieth-century Spain : a history / Julián Casanova, Carlos Gil Andrés;
translated by Martin Douch.

pages cm

ISBN 978-1-107-01696-5 (hardback) – ISBN 978-1-107-60267-0 (paperback)

1. Spain – History – 20th century. I. Gil Andrés, Carlos. II. Title.

DP233.C3813 2014

946.08–dc23

ISBN 978-1-107-01696-5 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-60267-0 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Key figures</i>	viii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiv
<i>Twentieth-century Spain timeline</i>	xvi
<i>Map 1 Spain and its autonomous regions</i>	xx
<i>Map 2 Autonomous regions in Spain and the date of the approval of their statute of autonomy</i>	xxi
Introduction	1
Part I The monarchy of Alfonso XIII	7
1 The legacy of a century	9
2 The ‘revolution from above’	35
3 The crisis of the Liberal regime	59
4 The Primo de Rivera years	84
Part II The Second Republic	105
5 A parliamentary and constitutional republic	107
6 A republic beleaguered	127
7 1936: the destruction of democracy	147
Part III The Civil War	159
8 Spain split in two	161
9 Politics and arms	183

vi Contents

Part IV Franco's dictatorship	217
10 Franco's peace	219
11 'The spiritual reserve of the world'	249
12 The death throes of Francoism	270
Part V Transition and democracy	289
13 The Transition	291
14 Democracy	328
Conclusion: the balance sheet of a century	355
<i>Guide to further reading</i>	360
<i>Index of names and authors</i>	370

Illustrations

1	Traffic in the streets of Madrid, 1930	<i>page</i> 26
2	Alfonso XIII, King of Spain (1886–1931)	36
3	Spanish troops in Morocco, 1921	72
4	Crowds in the street celebrating the proclamation of the Second Republic, 1931	114
5	Inmates in the Porlier jail, Madrid, 28 September 1940	224
6	The historic meeting between Franco and Hitler, 23 October 1940	232
7	The División Azul (Blue Division), 25 March 1942	234
8	A ration book, 1940	236
9	Crowds gathering in the street to see Franco's funeral cortège, 23 November 1975	294
10	Cover of the Spanish Constitution, approved in a referendum in December 1978	316
11	Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero in the Spanish Parliament, February 1981	324
12	Felipe González of the Socialist Party was proclaimed prime minister of Spain in December 1982	330
13	Spain joined the European Economic Community on 1 January 1986	334
14	Prime Minister José María Aznar with former prime ministers Adolfo Suárez, Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo and Felipe González in 1997 at Moncloa Palace	343

Key figures

Alcalá Zamora, Niceto (1877–1949). A liberal politician during the Restoration. In 1930, following the fall of Primo de Rivera's dictatorship, he declared himself to be anti-monarchist and took part in the San Sebastián Pact. After the municipal elections of 14 April 1931 he headed the first provisional government of the Republic. He was president of the Second Republic between 1931 and April 1936. At the end of the Civil War, he was forced to go into exile, firstly in France and then in Argentina, where he died.

Alfonso XIII (1886–1941). King of Spain between May 1902 and April 1931. He was the posthumous son of Alfonso XII and María Cristina von Habsburg, who was regent on his behalf until he reached the age of majority. He was a monarch who played an active role in politics, favouring the interests of the privileged classes and the army, and incapable of guiding the political regime of the Restoration towards a true democracy. In 1923 he acknowledged Primo de Rivera's *coup d'état* and backed the dictator. In 1931, disapproval of the monarchy became clear in the municipal elections, in what was an unquestionable plebiscite in favour of a republic. The king was forced to accept the situation and go into exile.

Arana, Sabino (1865–1903). A nationalist politician who founded the Partido Nacionalista Vasco (PNV) in 1895. The basic idea behind its ideology, 'God and the old laws', demonstrated its identification with the *fueros* (regional law codes and privileges), traditional Catholicism and anti-liberalism. The movement called for the independence of *Euskalerría*, a group of Basque territories united by language, race and faith. The development of Basque nationalism is linked to the defence of tradition within the conflictive context of industrialisation in Vizcaya.

Azaña, Manuel (1880–1940). Intellectual, writer and main republican leader in the 1930s, minister of war, prime minister (October 1931 to September 1933) and president of the Republic from May 1936. Crossed into France when the defeat of the Republic was imminent, resigned and died in Montauban in November 1940.

Aznar, José María (1953–). Conservative prime minister of Spain for two terms (1996–2004). In 1989 he refounded the right-wing party Alianza Popular under the name of Partido Popular (PP). During the next few years, as secretary general of the PP, he was able to improve the party's election results. He came to power in 1996 with the support of the nationalist parties. In 2000, in the midst of an economic boom, he won an absolute majority and directed Spanish politics in the first four years of the twenty-first century.

Calvo Sotelo, Leopoldo (1926–2008). Prime minister between February 1981 and October 1982. He came from a traditional Catholic and monarchist family. In the early years of the transition to democracy he was a member of the Unión de Centro Democrático (UCD) governments led by Adolfo Suárez. Following Suárez's resignation and Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero's attempted coup (*el 23-F*), he became prime minister until Felipe González's socialists won the elections.

Canalejas, José (1854–1912). A liberal politician and prime minister between 1910 and 1912. He was the foremost leader of the Partido Liberal in the early years of the twentieth century. His political and social reforms, which aimed to lead the Restoration regime towards a system of democracy, met many obstacles. He was assassinated in a terrorist attack.

Carrillo, Santiago (1915–2012). Historic leader of the Partido Comunista de España (PCE). His political activism began in the final years of the Second Republic, when he became president of the Juventudes Socialistas Unificadas (United Socialist Youth). During the Civil War he was a councillor on the Junta de Defensa de Madrid. After the war, he went into exile, first in France and then in the USSR. In 1960 he became the secretary general of the PCE, a post he held until 1982, the final moment in the transition to democracy, and a period when he played an important role.

Companys, Lluís (1886–1940). A republican Catalan nationalist politician, very active in the early decades of the twentieth century for his opposition to the political regime of the Restoration and Primo de Rivera's dictatorship. In April 1931 he was elected as a councillor of the Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya. In October 1934, as president of the Generalitat de Catalunya, he proclaimed the Catalan state. In the spring of 1936, after a time in prison, he once again took on the presidency of the Generalitat, holding the post until the end of the Civil War. In 1940 he was arrested by the Gestapo in France and handed over to the Nationalist authorities. He was executed by firing squad in October the same year.

Dato, Eduardo (1856–1921). A Spanish politician and member of the Partido Conservador during the Restoration. He was a member of various governments until, in 1913, Alfonso XIII appointed him prime minister. He occupied this post on three occasions (1913–15, 1917 and 1920–1). He displayed a predisposition towards social and political reform, but he was unable to avoid the crisis of the monarchist–parliamentary regime. He was assassinated by Catalan anarchists in March 1921.

Franco, Francisco (1892–1975). An army general, he plotted and rose against the Republic, and on 1 October 1936 his fellow officers designated him head of the three branches of the armed forces, Generalísimo, and principal leader of Nationalist Spain against the Republic. He won the war and became dictator of Spain until his death on 20 November 1975.

Gil Robles, José María (1898–1980). Lawyer, Catholic politician and founder of the Confederación Española de Derechas Autónomas (CEDA). An advocate of a corporative and authoritarian state, he was the Republic's minister of war in 1935; he supported the military coup of 1936 and, once the war had started, Franco's cause, although from Portugal and without taking active part in the war.

González, Felipe (1942–). Prime minister (1982–96). He joined the Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) in 1966, became a member of its executive four years later and in 1974 was elected its secretary general. The undisputed leader of Spanish socialism in the two previous decades, he became prime minister following the landslide victory obtained in October 1982. He renewed his mandate in the three subsequent parliamentary terms, a long period which enabled him to advance his social democratic political programme.

Iglesias, Pablo (1850–1925). Historic Spanish socialist leader. Founder of the Partido Socialista Obrero Español in 1879 together with a group of Madrid printers. At the beginning of the twentieth century he was also president of the Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT). He was elected a councillor for Madrid in 1905. And in 1910, standing for the republican–socialist alliance, he won a seat in the Cortes. As the years went by, his name became a near-mythical symbol of socialism.

Juan Carlos I (1938–). King of Spain since 22 November 1975, proclaimed by the Francoist Cortes following the death of the dictator. Born in exile, but educated in Spain. Franco appointed him his successor in 1969. He took on dynastic rights in 1977, after they had been renounced by his father, Don Juan de Borbón. A year later, the referendum to approve the Constitution ratified parliamentary monarchy as

the state political system. Juan Carlos I's action in the unsuccessful 23-F 1981 *coup d'état* gave him legitimacy and popularity.

Largo Caballero, Francisco (1869–1946). Principal leader of the Partido Socialista Obrero Español and its trade union organisation UGT, he was minister of labour (1931–3) and wartime prime minister of the Republic between September 1936 and May 1937.

Lerroux, Alejandro (1864–1949). Republican leader, he was part of the republican–socialist coalition which took power in April 1931, but broke with this coalition in December of that year, and was prime minister during 1934 and 1935 together with the non-republican rightist party CEDA. He took no part in the Civil War.

Martínez Barrio, Diego (1883–1962). A republican leader and prime minister after the dismissal of Azaña in September 1933, he was Speaker of the Cortes in the spring of 1936 and throughout the Civil War.

Maura, Antonio (1853–1925). Leader of the Partido Conservador in the first two decades of the twentieth century. He was prime minister in 1903 and again between 1907 and 1909. He unsuccessfully tried to bring about reform of the political system from above. He was prime minister three more times (1918, 1919 and 1921), in much shorter and less stable terms of office, during the final years of the Restoration crisis.

Mola, Emilio (1887–1937). An army general and principal organiser of the July 1936 uprising, which he co-ordinated under the alias of 'El Director'. He accepted Franco as leader and died in a plane accident in June 1937.

Montseny, Federica (1905–94). An anarchist leader, she was minister of health in Largo Caballero's government, between November 1936 and May 1937, thus becoming the first female minister in Spain's history.

Negrín, Juan (1892–1956). A socialist leader and distinguished professor of physiology in the University of Madrid, having studied in Leipzig, Germany. Leader of the republican government from May 1937 onwards, he preached discipline and order on the home front and resistance to the end.

Pasionaria, la, Dolores Ibárruri (1895–1989). A communist leader, she became famous during the Civil War for her speeches defending the Republic and for her slogan '*No pasarán*' when Franco's troops were trying to take Madrid in the autumn of 1936.

Prieto, Indalecio (1883–1962). Reformist socialist political leader during the first third of the twentieth century. He was the driving force behind collaboration with the PSOE in the process that led to the

xii Key figures

proclamation of the Second Republic. He was minister of finance and public works in 1931, and during the Civil War he held two ministries in Largo Caballero's governments. When the war was over, he went into exile and was the principal socialist and republican leader.

Primo de Rivera, José Antonio (1903–1936). A prominent leader of the Spanish fascist movement. He was the eldest son of the dictator Miguel Primo de Rivera. In 1933 he founded the Falange. When the Civil War broke out, he was being held prisoner in Alicante, accused of promoting violence and preaching armed rebellion against the republican regime. He was shot on 20 November 1936. After the war, José Antonio became a mythical figure of the Francoist regime, and his name could be seen in squares and on church walls all over Spain.

Primo de Rivera, Miguel (1870–1930). A Spanish army officer who forged his career in military campaigns in Cuba, the Philippines and Morocco. In 1919 he attained the rank of lieutenant general. In September 1923, as captain general of Catalonia, he led the *coup d'état* that, with the support of the king, put an end to the parliamentary regime of the Restoration. In the following years he headed a military dictatorship which lasted until January 1930, when he left power as a result of his poor health and growing political and social opposition. Shortly afterwards, he died in Paris.

Rodríguez Zapatero, José Luis (1960–). Leader of the Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) and a socialist deputy in 1986. He was secretary general of the PSOE from 2000 onwards. After the socialist victory in the March 2004 elections he was appointed prime minister, a post he repeated for a second term until November 2011, when his position was weakened by the harsh effects of the international financial crisis.

Romanones, Conde de (1863–1950). Don Álvaro de Figueroa y Torres, Count of Romanones, was one of the foremost leaders of the Partido Liberal throughout the first third of the twentieth century. He was prime minister on three occasions (1912–13, 1915–17 and 1918–19). Mention of his name represents all the main characteristics of political cronyism and Spanish monarchic liberalism.

Serrano Súñer, Ramón (1901–2003). Leader of the Catholic right during the Republic, he managed to escape from prison in Madrid at the beginning of 1937 and became the principal champion of fascism in the zone ruled by Francisco Franco, his brother-in-law. It was he who was responsible for bringing together various factions into the unified FET y de las JONS, founded in April 1937.

Suárez, Adolfo (1932–). Prime minister (1976–81). His political career began under Franco with the general secretariat of the Movimiento.

From 1969 to 1973 he was director general of Radiotelevisión Española. After the death of Franco, he was a member of Arias Navarro's cabinet. In 1976 he was appointed prime minister by the king. He directed the political transition process at the head of the Unión de Centro Democrático (UCD), the party that won the 1977 and 1979 elections. He resigned in January 1981, shortly before the unsuccessful 23-F *coup d'état*.

Abbreviations

AC	Acción Católica
ACNP	Asociación Católica Nacional de Propagandistas
AIT	Asociación Internacional de los Trabajadores
AP	Alianza Popular
AVE	Alta Velocidad Española
CAMPSA	Compañía Arrendataria del Monopolio de Petróleos, SA
CC.OO.	Comisiones Obreras
CDS	Centro Democrático y Social
CEDA	Confederación Española de Derechas Autónomas
CEOE	Confederación Española de Organizaciones Empresariales
CESID	Centro Superior de Información de la Defensa
CiU	Convergència i Unió
CNT	Confederación Nacional del Trabajo
COAG	Coordinadora de Agricultores y Ganaderos
CSIC	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
CTNE	Compañía Telefónica Nacional de España
CTV	Corpo di Truppe Volontarie
EA	Eusko Alkartasuna
ENCASO	Empresa Nacional Calvo Sotelo
ENDESA	Empresa Nacional de Electricidad, SA
ERC	Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya
ETA	Euskadi Ta Askatasuna
FAI	Federación Anarquista Ibérica
FE	Falange Española
FET y de las JONS	Falange Española Tradicionalista de las Juntas de Ofensiva Nacional Sindicalista
FNTT	Federación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Tierra
FRAP	Frente Revolucionario Antifascista Patriótico

List of abbreviations

xv

FUE	Federación Universitaria Escolar
GAL	Grupos Antiterroristas de Liberación
GRAPO	Grupos de Resistencia Antifascista Primero de Octubre
HB	Herri Batasuna
HOAC	Hermandad Obrera de Acción Católica
INI	Instituto Nacional de Industria
IR	Izquierda Republicana
IRPF	Impuesto sobre la Renta de las Personas Físicas
IU	Izquierda Unida
JAP	Juventudes de Acción Popular
JOC	Juventud Obrera Católica
JONS	Juntas de Ofensiva Nacional Sindicalista
JSU	Juventudes Socialistas Unificadas
LOAPA	Ley Orgánica de Armonización del Proceso Autonomómico
LODE	Ley Orgánica del Derecho a la Educación
MCE	Movimiento Comunista de España
ONU	Organización de Naciones Unidas
ORT	Organización Revolucionaria de Trabajadores
OSE	Organización Sindical Española
PCE	Partido Comunista de España
PNV	Partido Nacionalista Vasco
POUM	Partido Obrero de Unificación Marxista
PP	Partido Popular
PSE	Partido Socialista de Euskadi
PSOE	Partido Socialista Obrero Español
PSP	Partido Socialista Popular
PSUC	Partit Socialista Unificat de Catalunya
PTE	Partido del Trabajo de España
RENFE	Red Nacional de los Ferrocarriles Españoles
SEU	Sindicato Español Universitario
TOP	Tribunal de Orden Público
TVE	Televisión Española
UCD	Unión de Centro Democrático
UGT	Unión General de Trabajadores
UMD	Unión Militar Democrática
UME	Unión Militar Española
UR	Unión Republicana
ZEN	Zona Especial Norte

Twentieth-century Spain timeline

- 10 December 1898** Treaty of Paris between Spain and the United States. Handover of Cuba, the Philippines and Puerto Rico, the last vestiges of the colonial empire.
- February 1902** First general strike in Spain.
- May 1902** Alfonso XIII comes of age and accedes to the throne.
- January 1903** Death of Práxedes Mateo Sagasta.
- January–April 1906** Algeciras Conference. Advance of Franco-Spanish colonialism in Morocco.
- July 1907** Foundation of Solidaridad Obrera.
- July 1909** *Semana Trágica* in Barcelona. The Lobo Gulley massacre.
- October 1909** Antonio Maura resigns as prime minister.
- November 1910** Foundation of the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT) in Barcelona.
- April 1912** Founding of the Partido Reformista.
- November 1912** Assassination of José Canalejas. Establishment of the Spanish protectorate in Morocco.
- April 1914** The Mancomunitat (Federation) of Catalonia is established.
- August 1914** Spain declares its neutrality in the First World War.
- February–March 1917** Strike at La Canadiense in Barcelona, which evolves into a general strike.
- July 1921** The Annual and Monte Arruit disasters.
- November 1921** Foundation of the Partido Comunista de España.
- September 1923** A *coup d'état* led by Miguel Primo de Rivera and the setting up of the Military Directorate.
- December 1925** Foundation of the Civil Directorate. Death of Pablo Iglesias.
- May 1926** End of the Moroccan war. Abd-el-Krim surrenders to France.
- July 1927** Foundation of the Federación Anarquista Ibérica (FAI) in Valencia.
- January 1930** The dictator Miguel Primo de Rivera resigns.
- 17 August 1930** Signing of the San Sebastián Pact.

- 12 December 1930** Republican uprising in Jaca led by the army officers Fermín Galán and Ángel García Hernández. Both are executed.
- 17 February 1931** Appointment of Admiral Juan Bautista Aznar as prime minister.
- 12 April 1931** Municipal elections which turn into a plebiscite between the monarchy and a republic.
- 14 April 1931** Republican candidates win in the large cities. Proclamation of the Republic in various parts of the country.
- 14 April 1931** Francesc Maciá proclaims the Catalan Republic.
- 28 June 1931** Elections for the Constituent Cortes, with a majority for the republican–socialist coalition.
- 9 December 1931** The Republic's Constitution is passed by the Cortes.
- 10 December 1931** Niceto Alcalá Zamora is chosen as president of the Republic by the Cortes.
- 10 August 1932** Failure of an attempted *coup d'état* by General José Sanjurjo.
- 9 September 1932** The Cortes pass the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia and the Agrarian Reform Act.
- 4 March 1933** Founding of the Confederación Española de Derechas Autónomas (Spanish Confederation of the Autonomous Right – CEDA).
- 7 September 1933** Niceto Alcalá Zamora dismisses Manuel Azaña and Alejandro Lerroux is commissioned by the president of the Republic to form a new government.
- 19 November 1933** New parliamentary elections with a majority for the CEDA and the Partido Radical.
- 27 April 1934** Alejandro Lerroux resigns as prime minister and Ricardo Samper is appointed to the post the following day.
- 4 October 1934** Alejandro Lerroux forms a new government.
- 5 October 1934** A general strike in Catalonia which unleashes the events of October 1934.
- 5–18 October 1934** Workers' uprising in Asturias which is crushed with harsh repression from the Africa Army.
- 17 May 1935** The Cortes pass the appointment of General Francisco Franco as chief of the General Staff.
- 16 February 1936** General election held in the Republic for the third time. Election won by the Frente Popular.
- 21 February 1936** Granting of amnesty to political prisoners.
- 8 March 1936** Generals opposing the Republic meet in Madrid. They decide to launch a military coup.
- 10 May 1936** Manuel Azaña is appointed president of the Republic.
- 13 July 1936** Assassination of José Calvo Sotelo.

xviii Twentieth-century Spain timeline

- 18 July 1936** Franco declares a state of war and pronounces himself in opposition to the government.
- 19 July 1936** Franco arrives in Tetuán and some of the peninsular garrisons join the coup. Formation of the José Giral government.
- 4 September 1936** Francisco Largo Caballero is appointed prime minister.
- 21 September 1936** Franco is named Generalísimo by the National Defence Council.
- 20 November 1936** José Antonio Primo de Rivera is executed by firing squad.
- 26 April 1937** Bombing of Guernica by the Condor Legion.
- 16 June 1937** POUM is declared illegal and its leader, Andreu Nin, is arrested and transferred to Madrid.
- 21 October 1937** Gijón and Aviles fall to Franco's troops, and the Republic loses control of the whole of northern Spain.
- 6 April 1938** Formation of the new Juan Negrín government.
- 25 July 1938 to 16 November 1938** Battle of the Ebro.
- 26 January 1939** Barcelona falls to the Nationalist forces.
- 29 March 1939** Madrid falls to the Nationalist forces.
- 1 April 1939** Franco announces the end of the war.
- 23 October 1940** Meeting between Franco and Hitler in Hendaye.
- 28 February 1941** Death of Alfonso XIII.
- 25 August 1948** Don Juan (Alfonso XIII's son) and Franco agree to bring Juan Carlos de Borbón to live in Madrid.
- 26 September 1953** Signing of the Pact with the United States.
- 14 December 1955** Spain admitted to the UN.
- 25 February 1957** Formation of a new government with 'technocrats'.
- 17 May 1958** A law governing the Fundamental Principles of the Movimiento.
- February 1959** Foundation of Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA).
- 9 May 1963** Setting up of the Public Order Tribunal (TOP).
- 28 December 1963** First Development Plan.
- 10 September 1968** Second Development Plan.
- 12 October 1968** Independence of Spanish Guinea.
- 22 July 1969** Franco nominates Juan Carlos de Borbón as his successor.
- 23 March 1972** Third Development Plan.
- 8 June 1973** Luis Carrero Blanco appointed prime minister.
- 20 December 1973** Assassination of Luis Carrero Blanco by ETA.
- 3 January 1974** Carlos Arias Navarro forms a government.
- 20 November 1975** Death of Franco.
- 1 July 1976** Carlos Arias Navarro resigns.
- 5 July 1976** A new government led by Adolfo Suárez.

- 15 December 1976** The Political Reform Act passed by referendum.
- 9 April 1977** Legalisation of the Partido Comunista de España (PCE).
- 15 June 1977** First general election won by the Unión de Centro Democrático (UCD).
- 25 October 1977** Signing of the Moncloa Pacts.
- 6 December 1978** The Spanish Constitution is passed by referendum.
- 1 March 1979** New elections again won by the UCD.
- 29 January 1981** Resignation of Adolfo Suárez.
- 23 February 1981** The 23-F *coup d'état*.
- 25 February 1981** Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo appointed prime minister.
- 30 May 1982** Spain joins NATO.
- 28 October 1982** The Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) wins the general election.
- 2 December 1982** First government of Felipe González.
- 1 January 1986** Spain admitted into the European Community.
- 12 March 1986** Spain's permanent membership of NATO approved by referendum.
- 22 June 1986** The PSOE wins general election again.
- 14 December 1988** General strike against the government's economic policy.
- 29 October 1989** The PSOE re-elected.
- 20 April 1992** The Universal Exposition in Seville.
- 25 July 1992** The Barcelona Olympic Games begin.
- 6 June 1993** Fourth victory of Felipe González with an absolute majority.
- 3 March 1996** The Partido Popular (PP), under Aznar, wins the general election.
- 12 March 2000** Aznar and the PP re-elected.
- 22 July 2000** José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero elected secretary general of the PSOE.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-60267-0 — Twentieth-Century Spain
 Julián Casanova, Carlos Gil Andrés
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Map 1 Spain and its autonomous regions

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-60267-0 — Twentieth-Century Spain
 Julián Casanova, Carlos Gil Andrés
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Map 2 Autonomous regions in Spain and the date of the approval of their statute of autonomy