SPAIN

Continent: Europe

Capital: Madrid

Population: 47.3 million

Area: 499,603 km^2

Life Expectancy (at Birth): 84

GDP (2021): 1,425,277 US$ Millions

Major Languages: Spanish (Castilian), Catalan, Valencian, Gallego (Galician), Euskara (Basque)

Governance System: Parliamentary democracy and Constitutional Monarchy

Select Global Rankings

Human Development Index: 27th

Human Freedom Index: 25th

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 38th

World Happiness Ranking: 29th

Soft Power 30 rank: 13th

Good Country Index: 13th

Elite Sport System Rankings

Global Cup Ranking:

Olympic Medals – Summer '20:

Per Capita Cup Ranking:

Olympic Medals – Winter '22:

Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: UEFA

Qualification: UEFA Group B winners

FIFA Ranking:

World Cup Group: E

World Cup Appearances: 15

Last World Cup Appearance: 2018

Best World Cup Performance(s): Champion (2010)

Spain in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Shaza Ahmed)

The Kingdom of Spain is located on the cusp of Europe and Africa, next to the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. This strategic location makes it a key political and cultural bridge across five continents. The country has a history of rule by the Romans and the Moors. The culture of Spain comes from the Castilians, Catalonians, Lusitanians, Galicians, Basques, Romans, Arabs, Jews, and Roma (Gypsies) among others. From the 16th to the 19th century, Spain had amassed a large empire overseas. In 1936-39, there was a civil war followed by decades long dictatorship of Francisco Franco. Since his death in 1975, Spain has decolonized and transitioned to democracy.

The country is a constitutional monarchy with a king that resumed power after the Franco dictatorship, however he supported primacy of the parliament. His heir and current king, King Felipe VI, has followed suit. As a parliamentary democracy, Spain also has a President who is chosen through parliamentary vote. The parliament has 350 elected representatives from Spanish constituencies. The current President is Pedro Sánchez of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE).

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Spain is a unitary state and has 17 regions with their own elected authorities, however there are concerns of [separatism](#) in Catalonia. There was a referendum deemed illegal in 2017 that backed Catalonia's independence from Spain. Madrid imposed rule on the region until regional elections in 2021 as a result. Spain has contested sovereignty with the United Kingdom (UK) over Gibraltar. It also has conflict with Morocco over the coastal enclaves Ceuta, Melilla, and Isla Perejil. Since 2008, Spain has emerged from the economic [recession](#) caused by the 2008 financial crisis. Youth unemployment remains high.

According to international standards for political rights and civil liberties, Spain is considered [free](#). Spain has competitive elections and peaceful transfers of power between rival parties.
Political corruption is a concern, but politicians responsible for it have been successfully prosecuted. The rule of law prevails.

Spain is part of the [European Union](#) and an active member contributing to policies on citizenship, cohesion, linguistic diversity, and counterterrorism. Spain also signed the Schengen Agreement that eliminated border controls between member states as part of a Border-Free Europe. Internationally, Spain is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations (UN), and a founding member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Spain maintains relations with Ibero-American and Caribbean countries given shared human, historical, cultural, social, political, economic and linguistic ties. Spain is one of the main investors in Ibero-America and has significant presence in their development and modernisation. Spain is the first country to be an [observer](#) state in the Pacific Alliance and is also an observer in the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Ibero-American Integration Association (LAIA), and the Central American Integration System (SICA).