

المناطق الانفصالية في أوروبا (منطقة كاتالونيا نموذجًا)

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The breakaway regions in Europe (Catalonia region as a model)

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ملخص البحث

تعاني القارة الأوروبية من وجود بعض الميول الانفصالية ، وتأثير المتغيرات العرقية والإثنية التي أدت إلى تبلور الصراعات الانفصالية ، مما أدى إلى نجاح بعضها في إقامة دول ذات سيادة ، بينما فشل الآخر في تحقيق ذلك. ركز البحث على أهمية مطابقة المعايير الجغرافية والثقافية والسياسية في نجاح الميول الانفصالية. كما ركزت على دور السياسات التي فرضتها الدولة الأم في كبح أو تفاقم الاتجاه الانفصالي ، في ظل مستوى الإنصاف في توزيع الثروة بين المناطق ، وما هي حقوق وواجبات تلك الأقليات المضطهدة والمضطربة. لذلك ركز البحث على تقديم نموذج للحركات الانفصالية في القارة الأوروبية التي تكون دولها ديمقراطيات ودول نظامية ، موضحاً أين تكمن المشكلة بالنسبة لتلك الأقليات التي تريد الانفصال.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المناطق الانفصالية ، أوروبا ، منطقة كاتالونيا

Abstract

The European continent suffers from the presence of some separatist tendencies, the effect of racial and ethnic variables driving the crystallization of separatist conflicts, led to the success of some of them in establishing sovereign states, while the other failed to achieve this goal. The research focused on the importance of matching geographical, cultural and political criteria in the success of separatist tendencies. It also focused on the role of policies imposed by the mother country in curbing or exacerbating the separatist trend, during the level of fairness in the distribution of wealth between the regions, what were the rights and duties of those persecuted and battered minorities. Therefore, the research focused on presenting a model for separatist movements in the European continent, whose countries are democracies and regular states, clarifying where the problem lies for those minorities that want to secede.

Keywords: The breakaway regions, Europe, Catalonia region.

- ***Introduction***

The separatist trends carry in their content the emergence of small and new states in the international community, it was like the so-called fragmentation and restructuring of the European continent. The stage of World War I and II and the Cold War represented the emergence of the so-called nation-state, because the ethnographic homogeneity of all countries is somewhat lacking, as it becomes clear that out of 190 independent states, 20% enjoy ethnic homogeneity and 40% are heterogeneous. It was mainly due to the movement of migration and movement between human groups over thousands of years, which created this mixture and ethnic diversity (Daha, 2020, pp.566-567).

Despite the efforts made by the European Union in its march towards integration and unity, what the world is witnessing in terms of groupings and blocs, whether economic or strategic, based on common interests. The phenomenon of separatist movements is emerging in Europe, announcing their desire for identity-based separation, by mobilizing and inflaming national and ethnic sentiments, such as (Catalonia in Spain, Scotland in the United Kingdom, Lombardy, Veneto in Italy, Flanders and others. Some see secession, as happened in Yugoslavia, as a demand for its usurped rights and as an encouraging step for separatist movements in other countries, this indicates the emergence of new frontiers and the creation of weak dwarf states (Ali, 2016, p.797).

The momentum of separatist calls in Europe has increased, since the financial crisis, from 2008 to 2020, demanders for independence from their countries increased in the European continent, especially with the austerity policies imposed by the European Union on the countries most affected by the financial crisis, although the small continent. The 50 sovereign states have long been witnessing separatist calls for regions within states,

while it is not considered a new event in Europe, except that with the economic crisis, demands for independence and secession fueled an upward trend, against the background of the deteriorating economic situation, in a manner that many observers believe, it may be the beginning of the crumbling of the continent. The collapse of its union in the thirties of the last century, following the founding of what was known as the Second Spanish Republic (1931), the central authority granted autonomy to three regions: Catalonia, the Basque Country, and Galicia, before the state was administered, later, by a system of autonomous regions, consisting of 17 regions, but before that, specifically during the reign of Francisco Franco (1936). The autonomy system was abolished in the three regions, then the events of the Spanish Civil War erupted, between 1936 and 1939, kills more than half a million people, before the matter was completely settled to Franco, and he would subject all of Spain to his rule, including the three regions in the thirties, since that time, even after the country was divided into autonomous regions, a prosperous economic society, achieve high results from indicators of prosperity and well-being. However, the tones of separation did not completely subside, and they surfaced from time to time, until the economic crisis emerged, after the justification was found, specifically in both Catalonia and Basque Country.

• **Research problem :**

1. Spain and the European Union fear the emergence of the so-called successive fall of other regions.
2. Spain and the Eurozone losing economic advantages.
3. In the event that separatist regions are allowed to emerge, a possible collapse of the European Union (the collapse of the pearl complex).

• **Hypothesis**

Evidence of what the problem presented in terms of clarifying the geopolitical importance of the region of Catalonia and its main role in supplying Spain with a percentage of 20% in supporting its economy and its role also in the Eurozone. Since it constitutes the economic weight of the region, and in the event of its stability, it will lose the most important economic region, lead to the emergence of similar cases, which will lead to the European Union losing its union and the collapse of a state, it was also expected that the European opinion will not recognize these dwarf states.

• **The first requirement:**

The role of the European Union in crystallizing the breakaway regions:

The first official recognition of the modern state appeared after the Treaty (and Tsvalya 1648) that ended the religious wars in Europe, and which drew the features of the new international order as its foundation (the nation state) and that the emergence of the nation-state in some European countries as a result of the process of social and economic development and political events, And then this political organization spread to the rest of the continent, so talking about the nation-state or the nation-state as a secondary-political form distinct from the forms that preceded it; The emergence of the nation-state did not come out of a vacuum. Rather, it was the result of profound transformations and conflicts that occurred within the structure of European society and its transformation into a modern capitalist society. The capitalist peoples were able to build their modern state after completing their national unity, and to establish representative, executive and bureaucratic institutions

that formed pillars and The foundations of this state and separating what is political from what is religious through weakening the authority of the Church and achieving the type of relative independence of the accumulated levels politically, culturally and economically (Al-Shaher, 2017).

After internal conflicts, the political features of the European continent were formed, as it contains 269 regions of different nature (economic - political - social - cultural) and the emergence of regions in Europe dates back to the year (1890), as these regions are the main nucleus in the formation of the European Union and that the region or region Older than the nation in terms of composition, and these regions found, in return, the unitary project of the nation, and that the existence of the nation with sovereignty and independence within the organization constitutes a source of many major problems for the political class, as it is forced to adapt quickly and quickly with the developments in the regional context, and undermine Political powers at the European level and the resulting political consequences limit local options for promoting a specific policy at the institutional level (Regionalism in History, 1890-1945, 2003, pp. 252-262).

The state was forced to re-adapt to its institutions as a result of its entry into the European Union system, as these changes affect the conservative political elites at the same level for the most protesting elites associated with nationalities trying to be independent from their countries, and the Maastricht Treaty of 1992 was a qualitative leap in the history of European integration and carries In itself changes and possibilities of shifting policies and influencing the relations between separatist states and nationalities, an event that showed that Europe in that period wanted to bypass the historical stage (the nation-state) to reach the stage of the melted European society, so it laid strong foundations for engineering the future of the European

continent, representing the Union Europeanism for that nationalism was a great project, established by the sovereign and independent states (Treaty on European union, 1992, pp. 11-50).

National entities without sovereignty were embodied through a set of regional and institutional structures within the mother country (and thanks to its historical path). They were able to form official relations with the European Union. The administrations of central powers and national minorities (regional national and regional ethnic), led to confusion between the concepts of (state and nation) and marginalization of the demands of nationalities that have historical roots older than the formation of the state itself. As for the repercussions left by the Maastricht Treaty on Spanish nationalism, it can be Summarize it with the following (Amzian, 2016, pp. 68-73):

1. The presence of Spain within the European Union has made its autonomous regions within the internal level more free than at the European level (for example, Catalonia achieved internal autonomy but failed to obtain the tacit recognition of the European Union for this autonomy) and thus it is considered a failure of the national project Catalanian.

2. The European Union does not deal with regional nationalism, but rather deals with a single nation that makes up the state, because this will create a fragmentation of the pearl complex (that is, the occurrence of a continuous fall) for fear of transferring the risks of secession to the rest of the member states of the European Union.

3. The treaty tried to create a vertical and horizontal relationship between the nationalities present in European countries and in Spain in particular (between nationalism and supranationalism) to reduce division and fragmentation.

As a result of the foregoing, a supreme advisory committee was established after the Maastricht Treaty (the Supreme

Committee for European Regions* is a political association representing regional groups in order to express its voice in drafting collective policies and laws. This treaty requires the Commission, Parliament and Council of Europe to consult the Regional Committee in every legal initiative affecting the regions. And local (regional) groups, which include economic regions, political regions, and cities. Thus, we find that the demands are of a national nature within economic, political, historical and cultural demands (that is, intertwined), although they do not have the authority to make decisions directly within the European Union. But it has a representative authority, as these regions can claim their rights within the institutions of the European Union by various legal means, and the Supreme Committee for European Regions is a political platform to deliver its voice to the European Union; if one of the regions has a major electoral boycott, which will increase its representation capacity within the institutions of the Union. The European Union, although it remains limited to the actual authority of the countries that make up the European Union, in that case, the European representatives must: They form a parliamentary bloc that tracks the specificities related to the regions in the face of posing major problems within the state level, but in the event that the representatives of the regions are included in political blocs (marginal political), they will have political weight that can play their role within the European Union, so the regions can participate in the European Union in several spaces of them (Amzian, 2016, pp. 93-94):-

1. The regions can easily present their demands and discuss them, through the European institutions.
2. Civil society organizations use the method of pressure, which affects the European Union.

3. It can be through the use of soft power in the media and rhetoric, or by developing relations between the region and one of the countries economically.

• **The second requirement:**

• **The breakaway regions in Spain.**

Spain was one of the countries of the European Union that suffers from the existence of movements in support of secession, as a result of the multiplicity of nationalities within a single state, as these nationalities feel that they do not belong to the mother country because they are nationalities that preceded the formation of the state and have their roots, historical and geographical depth, which make up what is known as national or ethnic regionalism. Spain adopted the slogan (the nation of nationalities) and relied on the law dividing the Spanish regions of the year (1833) into provinces and historical regions, many of which correspond to the so-called autonomous regions, as most of them retain their previous borders (historical and geographical boundaries together) and there are regions whose names have not changed, so they match With the name of the autonomous region, Spain has adopted the principle of constitutional consensus and emphasized the constitution that was drawn up in (1978) as the best solution to the identity claim of multiple nationalities within the Spanish state, as the Spanish government considered that the constitutional consensus would give it flexibility in dealing with multiple nationalities and protect it Dangers of separation, although it neglected multilingualism and imposed the Spanish-Castilian language, which generated a feeling of linguistic and ethnic persecution regardless. On whether or not it accepted the consensual

solution, it seems that the 1978 Constitution bore the seeds of division between the components of society. Those who belong to it, in fact, that these nationalities:

1. do not enjoy sovereignty, they are just cultural nationalities under the sovereignty of the basic nationalism (the Spanish nation).

2. No matter how many languages are there, the main language that should be in all areas (Castilian).

3. Spanish nationalism is the most Organized compared to others.(Jordi Pujol,2009,p. 29).

Not only is the region of Catalonia seeking secession or independence from the country to which it belongs, but it is only one region of a group of regions and regions that have a similar ambition in the countries of the European continent, which made Europe hold its breath while awaiting what is happening in Spain with caution, prompting it not to intervene and announce Any statement in this regard, what is happening in the region of Catalonia, located in northeastern Spain, does not concern the central government there only, but rather all the countries of the continent that are threatened by the danger of secession, what the Catalans feel in terms of cultural peculiarity independent of the rest of the country's regions, and the bitterness they feel They offer their best to the central government without benefiting from it (the raw materials they own, tourism revenues and the services sector benefit the central government of the state). The inhabitants of several regions in Europe, which seek secession and independence as well, Spain contain three regions. Enjoys self-rule and has a separatist ambition, including:-

• **Basque Country:**

It has several designations, including Scal, Heria, and Vasconia and all of these designations refer to the region divided between Spain and France, and it is located in the southwest of

the continent of Europe, southwest of France and to the north of Spain and is characterized by its mountainous nature formed from the Pyrenees Mountains, bordered on the north by the Cantabrian Sea From the south, the La Rioja region, and from the east, Navarra, and from the west, the Cantabria region, the Castile and Lyon region, with an area of approximately 20 km², 18 km², of which it is located within Spain and the rest is in France, and includes several Spanish provinces (Navarre - Alava - Gibosqua - Biscay - Laborde - Zuberua) (As for French, it includes) the maritime regions in the Atlantic Pyrenees in France, and this division left the continental Basque country in the north to depend traditionally on France, while the Basque country is dependent on the state of Spain, the region enjoys autonomy under the 1978 constitution and controls its internal wealth and collects taxes and The Spanish government maintains the central, foreign and defense powers, and the region ranks fourteenth over Spain in terms of area, its capital, Victoria, which is the largest financial hotspot in the European Atlantic axis and has a high NATO rate. C nationalism compared to the percentage of the population that represents 4.7% of the population of Spain (i.e. 3 million people), and they are divided between Basque French and Spanish) who have a distinct history, civilization and culture, and flourished in the export of iron to Britain (Ali, 2017, p. 810).

• **Galicia:**

It is located in northwestern Spain, bordered on the north by the Cantabrian Sea, on the south by Portugal, on the east by the region of Astorbas, Castile and Leon, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean (Anastazia Marinzal, 2014, p. 2).

The Catalan national movement is the most important and active separatist regional national movement in Europe, as

globalization led to the paths of European integration and led to the emergence of old nationalist tendencies present in all countries of the European continent, as (20) separatist regions emerged in the European continent Table (1) Map (2).

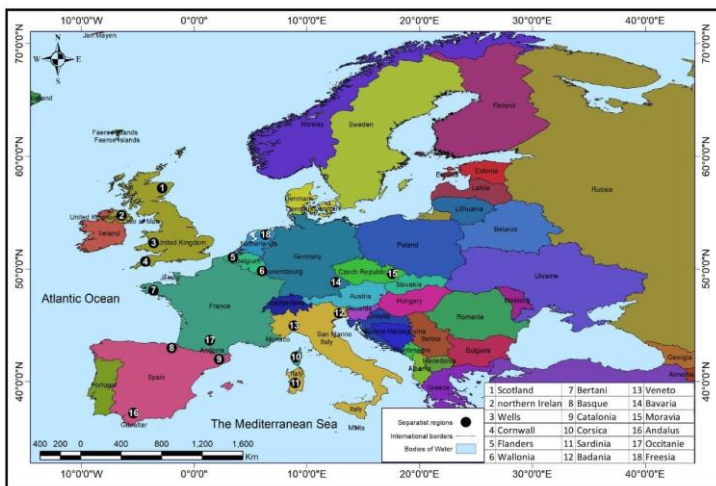
Table (1) the breakaway regions in European countries.

No.	Territory	description	No.	Territory	description
1	Scotland	The UK	11	Brittany	France
2	Northern Ireland		12	Occitanie	
3	Wells		13	Corksica	
4	Cornwall		14	Badania	Italy
5	Basque	15	Venezia		
6	Catalonia	Spain	16	Sardinia	Germany
7	Galician		17	Bavaria	
8	Istria		18	Freesia	Netherlands
9	Andalus		19	Greenland	Denmark
10	Moravia	Belgium	20	Moravia	Cech

Source: The researcher's work.



Map (1) Regions in Catalonia.



Map (2) of the breakaway regions of the European continent.

- **The secession of the territory of Catalonia, the supporting reasons.**

- **First: The cultural and historical factor of Catalonia.**

The cultural factor is the main factor in nurturing and developing a sense of territoriality that leads to the emergence of

separatist movements, and it is one of the basic foundations for the unity, homogeneity and integration of its children, and it is the source of coexistence between members of society, and on the contrary, cultural differences often lead to divergence and dissonance if they I found reasons that push society in this direction, as it is thus an important source of the state's power. The smaller the disparities, the greater the level of political and security stability, so the inhabitants of a particular region consider it their own and the land area to which they belong to their national borders is thus their national (and regional) personality as happened. In the regions (Catalonia - Basque Country - Istria - Galicia), it is noticed that the dual identity of the Spaniards is the result of cultural determinants that they derive from their regions, which led to the development of their loyalty to the regions to which they belong and reduced the national feeling and belonging to the center, which led to the creation of what is known as regionalism, and as a result Several factors, including the nature of the decentralized monarchy, Spain's non-participation in world wars, the Spanish people's lack of contact with wars with neighboring countries and other internal causes, and the External regionalism that did not lead to the refinement and dissolution of these nationalities within the framework of motherhood (Amzian, Previous source).

The weakness of the control of the center, despite the geometric ideal of the state of Spain and the centralization of the capital, Madrid, in the middle of this form, which necessitated it to be a strong state controlling all the parties of the state, not that Spain was excluded from this because of the historical overlap of nationalities that preceded the formation of the Spanish state and the national overlap with neighboring countries. This created the spirit of separatism in those regions and the emergence of what is called regionalism. Map (3), meaning that

the territorial boundaries of their regions were formed before the emergence of the state.



Map (3) The geometric shape of the state and the location of the capital.

With regard to the history of Catalonia as the influencing factor, we note: Catalan culture derives its identity from the Middle Ages through the historical periods until 2021, without this historically rooted culture, advocates of secession within Catalonia will not be able to prove their arguments, clarify their philosophy and make their voices heard about the lack of integration of their nationalism within the framework of nationalism. Castilian people were imposed on them under the Spanish constitution, and that the civilizational history of their culture is deeper than the history of the formation of the state itself.

The historical stages and their impact on the region of Catalonia can be summarized (Zia Marinzel, 2014, p. 5; pierre Vilar, 2011, p. 16-19):

1. The lands formed for the present-day region of Catalonia were the first part that the Romans occupied from Hispania, and after that they joined different kingdoms and authorities. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, these lands came under the control of the Visigothic kingdom. Then it became part of Islamic Andalusia after the control of the Moors in the year 718 AD, and the Frankish Empire was able to seize the lands of Catalonia again after it launched successive campaigns on the Muslim-controlled areas, beginning with the invasion of Roussillon in the year 760 AD and ending with the conquest of Barcelona in 801 AD. These campaigns expanded Christian areas of control in front of the Muslim provinces known as the Spanish Tigr.

2. With the passage of time, the Christians took control of those lands (which make up Catalonia), thanks not only to the Franks and their Spanish encroachment, but also thanks to the Kingdom of Aragon, and the Kingdom of Aragon took over (its administration is made up of: the Count of Barcelona and the King of Aragon and their loyalty to the Crown of Aragon) The rule of these lands at the time. The province of Barcelona contributed to the development of the Aragonese army, especially the navy, and as a result of being part of Aragon, the Catalan language flourished and spread further south with the annexation of new territories to the authority of Aragon such as Valencia, the Balearic Islands, Sardinia, Sicily, Naples and Athens, and the rulers of Barcelona were grateful for allowing the Kingdom of Aragon to allow the Catalan presence in their borders. The Catalan minority held on to their language and their culture flourished during the Middle Ages.

3. The marriage of Fernando II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile in 1469 AD supported the idea of a unified Spanish crown, as in 1492 the last Muslim principalities in the Iberian Peninsula, the Emirate of Granada, fell, and after the start of the

Spanish colonization of the Americas, the political power shifted from Aragon to Castile. The Kingdom of Aragon and the small province called the Port of Barcelona maintained their own laws and language (meaning Catalan and Aragonese language) for a long period of time.

4. Catalonia remained just a part of the Kingdom of Aragon until the advent of the new Bourbons, where they were able to secure the throne of Spain during the War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1714 AD) and transformed the provinces of the former Crown of Aragon into provinces belonging to the Crown of Castile after the war, and during the war, Catalonia supported one of the members of the family. Habsburgs of the Austrian branch (after perjury of allegiance to Philip V the first Bourbon ruler of Spain since 1702).

5. After the surrender of the Catalan forces on September 11, 1714 AD, Philip V enacted the decrees of Nueva Planta that banned Catalan rights and its political institutions in addition to merging the administration of Catalonia to become part of the Crown of Castile, and despite all these measures, the ruling of the House of Bourbon allowed the application of the Catalan civil law. The new king of Spain, Philip V, descendant of the House of Bourbon, stripped all of the ancient kingdoms of Spain of their privileges, including the Crown of Aragon and Catalonia, with the exception of the Basque Country. Following the example of France, Philip V unified the system of administration and legislation across Spain, introduced the Sally law to society, and founded the Spanish Royal Academy in 1714, and this led to the decline of the Catalan language as a language of literature or government dealings. Bourbon, Castile's monopoly on trade with the Spanish colonies in America, followed by a period of political and economic turmoil in the early nineteenth century as a result of the Naples war in

Spain, and in the latter half of the nineteenth century, Catalonia became an important industrial center.

6. Conducting self-government in 1932 in Catalonia, as during the first third of the twentieth century it enjoyed high powers sometimes, its powers were diminished like all other autonomous regions in Spain, and this continued until the Second Spanish Republic agreed to autonomy for the regions entrusted with it, and it included these Approval of autonomy for Catalonia and the official use of its language. In 1934 local elections took place and the Catalan leftist Republican Party, known as **(ESQUERRA REPUBLICANA DE CATALUNYA)** won a big victory, and the party's leader, Francisca Masia, announced the establishment of the Republic of Catalonia, but the republic did not last long, as he agreed three days later to Join the newly born Spanish Republic while retaining a form of autonomy. After the proclamation of the republic, King Alfonso VIII fled the country and lived in exile. Following in the footsteps of Madrid, Catalonia, the Basque Country and most parts of Spain fought hard to defend the Spanish Republic during the devastating Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), but with the supporters of the right-wing forces led by Francisco Franco and the defeat of the Spanish Republic, the autonomy dissolved (The independent state, historical reflections 64).

7. Life in Spain during the post-civil war years was harsh, as the country was devastated and deprived of international trade due to the movement of the provinces. Therefore, Catalonia suffered great suffering as a commercial and industrial center. The steps of economic reform were very slow, and the Spanish economy did not reach pre-war conditions (conditions of 1936) until the mid-1950s, and during the period from 1959 to 1974. Spain experienced the second fastest period of economic growth in the world in what was known as the Spanish miracle, and

Catalonia flourished as a result. Because of the prosperity of the conditions of Spain, as it is the most important tourist and industrial area in Spain, the page of dictatorial rule in Spain was turned with the death of Franco in 1975, and in 1978 Catalonia voted overwhelmingly on the new democratic constitution of Spain, which recognized its autonomy and its language.

8. Franco died in 1975 and Spain entered the stage of democratic transition, and political parties became active in Catalonia, where Barcelona witnessed in 1977 a huge demonstration in which one million people demanded freedom and the issuance of an amnesty for political opponents and the granting of autonomy for the region. The head of the local government of Catalonia in exile, José Tarradillas, returned to Catalonia in 1977 and announced the return of local government that includes Catalonia and Valencia and formed an interim government. He states that there was a Catalan government in exile and it was based in France throughout the reign of General Franco until 1977.

9. Restoration of Autonomy (1978). The period of "transition" to democracy allowed for the formation of a government for the region of Catalonia. On October 31, 1978, the Spanish constitution was adopted and opened the way for the regions to be granted autonomy, and in the following year, the Catalans agreed in a referendum on the new autonomy that was granted to them and includes powers in the sectors of education, health, language and cultural policy in particular, and by virtue of that a Catalan police was established and restored. The language of the region has its official status in the Castilla language.

10. Strengthening Autonomy (2006):

In March 2006, a new situation negotiated with the socialist government strengthened the autonomy of Catalonia. Parliament

approved this text, which defines Catalonia in the lead as “a nation”, and was immediately opposed by the Conservative Party led by Mariano Rajoy. September 2009, under the influence of the strengthening of autonomy, the village of Arnes organized the first symbolic vote for the sovereignty of Catalonia, followed by hundreds of municipalities.

11. Cancellation of the charter (2010-2012):

In June 2010, the Constitutional Court ordered the annulment of parts of the 2006 charter. It considered that using the term “nation” to describe a region “has no legal value,” and refused to use Catalan as a language that “has priority” in administrative bodies and media institutions. Hundreds of thousands took to the streets in Catalonia in July to demonstrate against what they described as the "insult" the court had directed at them. On September 11, 2012, more than a million people demonstrated on the streets of Barcelona to declare a new country, in an atmosphere of a serious financial crisis. in the country (Jaume Suau Puig, 2019).

12. Holding a symbolic referendum of 2014:

On November 9, 2014, 80% of Catalans declared their support for independence, in a symbolic vote that was considered unconstitutional and only 35% of the electorate participated in it (V́ctor Omar Dabbagh Rollán, 2016, pp. 562-564).

13. Events 2015:

On September 27, 2015, the independent parties won a majority of seats in the region’s parliament, which on November 9 launched a process on the path to an "independent Catalan state in the form of a republic", no later than 2017, and this decision was overturned by the Constitutional Court. January 2016, Carlos Bogdemont becomes president of Catalonia.

14. Referendum 2017:

On October 27, 2017, a month after a referendum was rejected by Madrid, in which about 42% of Catalan voters participated, of whom about 90% voted in favor of secession; The regional parliament approved Catalan "independence" in an unprecedented break with Spain, whose Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy responded by placing the region under the tutelage of Madrid.

15. The economic crisis that hit the European continent.

16. The Morona virus crisis, distorting the Catalan secession and the strategic challenge to Spain (Nicolás de Pedro, 2020, p 6; José María Caparrós-Lera , 2015, pp. 106-115).

• **Second: The economic factor:**

It was not possible to talk about separatist movements in isolation from economic factors. Regions rich in economic resources refuse to share that rich region with other groups of society and consider it a loss for their region and not a participation within one country. But if the region is home to a group that suffers from poverty, it will surely receive Blaming the state for its unfairness and in both cases, they seek to secede. Economic reasons stand at the forefront of the factors that push towards the acquisition of economic gains and refusal to waive their rights, such as the case in (Basque Country, Catalonia and Scotland), as Catalonia is the main engine of the Spanish economy As it constitutes 20% of the Spanish economy and is the second largest economic region, and it has enormous economic potentials that have enhanced the strategic value of the region according to its many advantages, (Table 2).

Table (2) vital signs of Catalonia and its comparison with Spain.

No.	Type of indicator	Index value		No.	Type of indicator	Index value	
		Catalonia	Spain			Catalonia	Spain
1	Population size in thousands	٧٦١٩	٤٦٩٣٥	14	Import million euros	٩٠٨٩٩	٣٣٠٦٣٦
2	Population density (people / km)	٢٣٧,٢	٩٢,٧	15	One million euros export	٧١٢٢٦	٢٩٣٤٥٩
3	Immigration rate	% ١٠,٤	% ٧,١	16	The gross domestic product is one million euros	٢٤٢٣١٣	١٢٠٢١٩٣
4	growth rate	% ٠,٤ -	١,٢ - %	17	Agricultural production of one million euros	٤٦٨١	٥٠٩٦٦
5	Births	٤٤,٨	٧٠,٩	18	Unemployment rate	% ١١,٥	% ١٥,٣
6	Deaths	٨,٨	٩٠,١	19	Proportion of employees	% ٧٢,٩	% ٧٦
7	The number of employees in thousands	٣٧٦٤	٢٢٦٠,٧	20	Renewable energy consumption	% ٨,٥	% ١٧,٥
8	The rate of economic activity	% ٧٦,٨	% ٧٣,٧	21	Greenhouse gas emissions	١١٦,٠	١٢١,٨
9	Percentage of agricultural workers	% ١,٧	% ٤,٢	22	Drop out	% ١٧	% ١٧,٩
10	percentage of workers in the industry	% ٢٥	٢٠,٤ %	23	Holders of higher degrees	% ٤٧,٣	% ٤٢,٤
11	Percentage of service workers	% ٧٣,٣	% ٧٥,٤	24	Below the poverty line	% ٢٤,٧	% ٢٦,١
12	Poverty risk	% ٢١,٣	٢١,٥	25	Material	% ٦,٥	% ٥,٤

	rate before social transitions		%		deprivation		
13	Spending on education is one million euros	۳۲۷۶		26	The percentage of spending on internal education	۱,۴۷	۱,۲۰

Generliat de Catalunya , lnstitut dEstatica de cataunya, 2020.

• **The fiscal crisis of Spain and Catalonia.**

To fully understand the efforts made by Catalan secessionists to divulge the economic benefits of independence and their acceptance by the majority of Catalan society, one must firstly consider two exceptional phenomena in Spain's economic development over the past 20 years. The first is that from 1994 (the year when the early nineties crisis ended) to 2007 Spain enjoyed the longest and strongest span of economic growth in its recent history. The second is that since 2008 the country has been immersed in the severest and longest recession since, at least, the post-Civil War years. Although, naturally, despite the crisis, current income levels are higher than those of the 1990s, that sequence of fast and strong growth followed by an equally intense and prolonged recession has had very harmful political consequences for Spain. One of these consequences, in my view, is the emergence of secessionism in political factions which had previously not considered it and the subsequent rise in pro-independence sentiment in Catalan society. To grasp this contention, it is necessary to analyse in detail both the influence of economic expansion on public revenues and spending, particularly on those of the regions, as well as the devastating impact of the subsequent crisis on the public revenues of all areas of government. The basic relationship between the economic phenomena highlighted, fast and prolonged growth followed by a sudden and longlasting recession, and the rise in

pro-independence sentiment are summarized below (José Luis Feito Higuera et al., 2014, p. 15).

• **Third: - The political factor:**

Political motives acquire great importance in the issue of calling for secession, when certain political movements do not obtain a popular base that qualifies them to achieve their political goals represented in participating in running the state, so they resort to consulting ethnic or sectarian feelings to achieve their goals, especially in societies of a pluralistic nature. If there is a focus on differences rather than similarities, then there are countries that suffer, to varying degrees, from the disintegration of their lands as a result of what the opposing forces produce in them. The value of these areas, and the political system is one of the main actors behind the Catalan demand for secession from Spain, and this can be summarized by the following points (Jean Claude Morera, 1993, pp. 65-68):

1. The nature of the decentralized monarchy, as the goal of the crown and the political class in Spain was to bring about reforms in the ruling system to become a constitutional monarchy (which is a form of sovereign ownership that exercises its powers in accordance with the constitution, whether written or not, and the king is in it as a neutral political president).

2. The slow pace of modernization in the political construction.

3. Spain's non-participation in world wars, and the absence of external threats threatening Spanish society, which did not affect the structure of Spanish society and did not dissolve differences in order for the nationalism of the mother country to prevail.

4. Lack of respect for national minorities, especially those that have an ancient civilizational history (that is, they have

historical roots) older than the formation of the Spanish nation, such as (Catalan - Basque - Galician).

5. The economic centralization that Spain enjoys. The region of Catalonia constitutes 20% of the state's economy now that it suffers from neglect. Therefore, the Catalans demand the transfer of power to the region.

6. Competitive federalism emanating from all seventeen regions, as they compete through random development to independence, as remittances move between the poorest regions.

7. The text of the Spanish constitution that the demand for a referendum can only be done within the limits stipulated in the 1978 and 2014 amended constitution, as it affirmed that Spain is the only sovereign country and has the right to take the decision not to divide, and that the region of Catalonia is part of Spanish territory and that sovereignty It is the responsibility of the Spanish people as a whole.

8. The Spanish state is going through a crisis of political legitimacy. Part of it is related to the issue of Catalonia, the relationship of Catalonia with the European Union, and fears of transferring the experience to the rest of the parts or regions in the European continent that suffer from a tense internal rift, as there are links between the national level and the European level, as its anchored Europe includes the European Union To mobilize and build the alliance between the local and foreign authorities (that is, it studies the levels progressively and clarifies the role of the European Union as an actor in the local secession processes and its role in making decisions related to the expansion of the European Union and the recognition of the small emerging countries (new) and their inclusion in the European Union. By submitting a petition to the European Union authorities about the difficulties in their countries, and sometimes it is through academics or media figures through soft

power means to convey their ideas, goals and ideology (Angela K. Bourne, 2014, pp. 94-120).

9. The first democratic constitution for Spain was written, which represents the outcome of a political effort for all colors of the political class, including the parties hostile to the Franco regime or the parties calling for the Franco regime (the nationalist conservatives), and after that year Spain was transformed into a constitutional monarchy, and the king was considered the leader of the state, and for Catalonia it was The new constitution is a great success in its quest for self-rule, as Article Two of the Constitution stipulates the basis of the unity of the Spanish nation, which is a single and indivisible land, and the homeland is a joint and indivisible right, and the autonomous regions are included within the regions formed by regional nationalities in the regions In accordance with Article 143 of the Constitution, the neighboring provinces that have common historical, cultural and economic characteristics, and the regions of the islands, in addition to the provinces that have a historical regional status, can form regional self-governing groups, and in accordance with the constitution, 17 regions have been created with expanded internal management powers with 3 historical regions. Enjoying self-rule.

10. The 1978 constitution did not stipulate that Catalonia represents an independent nation. When adding an amendment to the 2006 constitution, the additional annex to the constitution provided for autonomous regions to take decisions in matters pertaining to the region. A special law was established for each autonomous region.

11. The law granting autonomy to Catalonia 1932 was approved and amended in 1979 after that a distinct region, unlike other autonomous regions in Spain, which have greater rights than they do with regard to education and health.

12. The Maastricht Treaty is considered a hotbed for regionalism in Europe, in terms of the establishment of the Regional Committee, the principle of delegation and the promotion of European citizenship in addition to the cultural protection of the regions by providing financial aid with the possibility of using the national regions for semi-diplomatic forms of work. In the event of the separation of Catalonia and its accession to the North Atlantic Treaty A strong drive to ensure the security of small countries, as the left European market represents a space to achieve economic security for the future state of Catalonia.

- **Obstacles to separation:**

Despite the Catalan demands for secession from Spain, the referendum events that took place in 2014 and 2017, and the increasing number of those calling for secession, there are obstacles that limit the realization of this Catalan dream, which were:

1. Political obstacles:

The region of Catalonia does not possess many powers to make decisions, because the European Union has restricted the powers of the regions to take important strategic decisions. The rest of the European regions (in the light of the chessboard), as if they were watered from the same cup that you want to apply to the Middle East region.

2. Economic constraints:

The costs of independence for Catalonia Table 3 provides a summary of the economic costs of independence estimated by various authors. Before evaluating this data a few points should be made on the nature of these costs. Firstly, these are the economic costs of independence for Catalonia. The costs that this independence would generate for the rest of Spain are not

calculated. That is why all these costs would need to be increased due to the negative impact that the economic decline of the rest of Spain would have on the independent Catalonia. Secondly, what I attempt to assess is the short-term economic cost. Although in economics short and long-term are logical categories, they inevitably have chronological dimensions which, albeit not very precise, are clearly different in each case. The macroeconomic long-term normally refers to a country's growth potential, to the average annual growth rate during very long periods. The short-term is a concept which barely stretches to a decade. For example, the current economic crisis would fall within the short-term phenomena. As indicated in the second section, the crisis has been with us five years and the total decline in GDP in Spain since 2008 has been around 7%. This is the time frame in which the studies and arguments on the economic costs of independence to Catalonia must be set. Falls in GDP looked at here would occur with greater or lesser annual intensity during, say, a five-year period. What has not been addressed here or in any other study to date is the impact that Catalonia's independence would have on its long-term growth potential. That is, once Catalonia reaches its GDP trough caused by independence, during the next thirty or forty years, would it have a higher or lower growth in its per capita income than it would have had if it had stayed as part of Spain? The evidence of the past thirty or forty years suggests that Catalonia would struggle to do better outside than inside of Spain. Furthermore, the economic policies implemented by governments dominated by proindependence factions in Catalonia since 2003, and this would be the political class that would govern an independent Catalonia, are far more harmful for long-term growth than those implemented by the rest of Spain. Turning to the short term costs, the recent crisis is a good reference for gauging the impact of the possible independence of Catalonia on the standard of

living of its inhabitants. If the cumulative fall in GDP since the start of this great recession in 2008 has been around 7% and has led to an almost fourfold increase in the unemployment rate (from 7% to 27%) and a tripling of debt levels, as well as tax increases and cuts in public spending, it is easy to imagine the consequences that falls in GDP equal to or higher than that figure would have on Catalonia. As table 9 shows, most of the studies conducted to date forecast falls of more than 7%, some three times higher than this figure. Note also that short-term falls in the GDP of Catalonia of less than or around 2% would be the lower limit of the range of estimates. It will be shown how these more optimistic estimates do not consider, as will inevitably happen, that Catalonia's independence will involve its immediate exit from the EU and the euro and that these forecasts are more long-term than the others, so they are not incompatible with sharp falls in GDP during the first few years of independence.

	EU		Spain (excluding Catalonia)	
	NPV* of GDP, 2015-2030	Cumulative GDP, 2015-2030	NPV of GDP, 2015-2030	Cumulative GDP, 2015-2030
Reference, in bn Euro 2004	163299.6	210032.6	10715.6	13856.5
S01, in bn Euro 2004	163197.2	209906.8	10495.3	13582.5
S01, % change from reference	-0.1	-0.1	-2.1	-2.0
S02, in bn Euro 2004	163147.3	209844.1	10442.4	13518.3
S02, % change from reference	-0.1	-0.1	-2.5	-2.4

Table (3) Economic damage to the European Union and Spain without Catalonia.

Rym Ayadi, Leonidas Paroussos, Kostas Fragkiadakis, Stella Tsani, Scenarios of Macro-economic Development for Catalonia on Horizon 2030 “Economic effects of a potential secession of

Catalonia from Spain and paths for integration with the EU”.(Final Report , 2015 p 133).

Cultural obstacles: On the cultural level, the first important obstacle is the lack of recognition of the Catalan language as an official language within the European Union, although it is the seventh most widely spoken language in the European Union (the number of speakers is 12 million people), but it is treated marginally.

3. Future scenarios for the region of Catalonia:

The demands of the Catalans are increasing for secession as a result of the exacerbation of the financial crisis that the Opinian countries in general and Spain in particular were exposed to. Separation, from the above, three scenarios (future visions) can be developed for the situation of the Catalonia region :

1. The first scenario: the secession of the region of Catalonia and the formation of their own state, in the event that the European Union accepts its joining the Union and recognizes Catalan nationalism and their language (which is unlikely to happen) based on the fact that the European Union fears the transmission of the separation infection in the rest of Spain or other European countries that It contains regions similar to the case of Catalonia.

2. The second scenario: the continuation of the territory of Catalonia within the territorial scope and geographical space of the State of Spain, according to the 1978 Constitution, which stipulates that the region of Catalonia is an integral part of Spanish territory and that the decision to partition is in the hands of the government, not the regions.

3. The third scenario: a special situation, and that is to place the region of Catalonia within a special system, given the advantages that the Catalonia region enjoys that make it a distinct region in Spain and the European continent (especially since

Catalan nationalism includes nearly 12 million people in all countries of the continent)

From the researcher's point of view, I recommend the second scenario according to several reasons, including.

That the region should remain within Spanish territory according to the 1978 Constitution, which provides for the protection of parts of the state and the non-acceptance of the partition of any part of it, and the abolition of the idea of secession not within what is permissible (autonomy that was granted GAM 1932):

1. Not allowing the separation to occur, for fear of a recurrence of the situation in Spain and in European countries (according to the theory of successive fall).

2. The survival of the region within the Spanish domain has an economic benefit for Spain, and it is not possible for Spain to allow its secession and the loss of those economic advantages (especially since the region constitutes 20% of the Spanish economy).

The lack of recognition of the Catalan language on the European Union's scale is a marginalization of it, so how does the Union allow its secession, and how can the Catalans remain within a domain that does not recognize their nationality.

- **Conclusions**

1. The 1978 Constitution is a basic building block for Catalan autonomy, but it contains within it some provisions recognizing self-control by the Spanish government.

2. The Catalan people have an ethnic culture and a history older than the Spanish nation.

3. The economic factor had the most prominent role in activating and inflaming the Catalan problem.

4. The economic damage to Spain and the Eurozone was more severe in the case of Catalonia's independence.

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✚ The Higher Committee for Regions includes (344) members who are elected every five years. Its office is concerned with implementing the political program of the Regional Committee. Four European political parties represent the office. The office consists of 60 members with a president and his deputy who are elected every two years and also includes a mini committee. Amsterdam has become necessary to consult this body in several areas, including (economic and social coordination, transport, education, health, cultural dimension, social policies, environment and economic composition according to sectors).