

POLITICS

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have lead to the declaring of such a party illegal, however, not in Spain.

Nevertheless, this not the last link that the PSOE had with terrorism. For example, during the 2004 election campaign they used the al-Qaeda Madrid train bombings, where 193 people died and over 2.000 where injured, that occurred three days before the election as an electoral argument against the incumbent conservative government.

In 2011, the PSOE pressured the Constitutional Court to legalize the political arm of the terrorist group ETA lead by Arnaldo Otegi, who had been sentenced to

prison for being part of the terrorist group and taking part in several terrorist attacks such as the kidnapping of entrepreneur Luis Abaitúa. This political arm of ETA was previously banned by the Supreme Court but finally legalized in the Constitutional Court with 6 votes in favour and 5 against.

In 2016 Pedro Sanchez, whose doctoral thesis has been accused to be plagiarized, won a motion of censorship against a functional government of Mariano Rajoy with the support of the Catalan coup perpetrators and with those who have blood on their hands, the political arm of ETA. The main

arguments for this censorship, that led to 3 years of unstable government, was the corruption case of the party of Mariano Rajoy known as ‘Gürtel’, which supposed a loss to public finances of €120M. This amount, although high, is less than a tenth of what the PSOE was responsible for losing

All in all, we can say that the history of the PSOE is the history of a criminal party, from its establishment to the present day counting among its crimes death threats, murders, coups, electoral fraud, alliances with terrorists and being the most corrupt party in Europe.



The logo of the PSOE // Wikipedia

Spain’s New Government: A Progressive Coalition

Politics writer **Julio Perez** gives insight on the outcome of the Spanish elections.

POLITICS

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These past weeks mark a turning point for Spanish politics. After two general elections, a majority was finally agreed in the parliament to form a government. The self-named progressive government is a coalition of the Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party, or PSOE, (social democrats) and Unidas Podemos (left-wing), who have agreed on a program based on social justice, democratic rights, and a sustainable economy.

This government is the result of the past November elections, which saw the rise of the far right and a victory for PSOE that still did not give them a majority. This led, in less than 24 hours, to an agreement between Pedro Sanchez (PSOE)

and Pablo Iglesias (Unidas Podemos); even though April elections attempts to form a coalition had been fruitless. The partners still did not sum up the required number of seats and had to unite with other smaller parties to gain a majority. These agreements made the PM investment ceremony that followed one of the most polemic in modern

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Spanish democracy, with right-winged parties rejecting the legitimacy of the democratically elected government.

Broadly speaking, the government’s program is of a classic social democratic character. The coalition is conscious of the climate crisis with one of their main goals being to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the implementation of the UN’s 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Culturally, their aim is to challenge the conservative paradigm by making policies that will secure rights conquered by popular movements in the recent years, such as the feminist or LGBT+ collectives. In this sense they have created the ministry of equality and plan on reinforcing the gender violence law. On the economic side, their fundamental axis is the restoration of public services and spending, which had been cut to minimums in the previous

legislatures, and defending workers’ rights and their material conditions. They have already started working on this by increasing the minimum salary, reinforcing trade unions, and regulating the housing market in certain areas. Geographically, the government’s greatest challenge is to deal with the depopulation of rural areas, which they plan on solving with the restoration of public transport and economic incentives that will encourage migration to the countryside.

This is the first coalition government in the history of Spanish democracy, the first one with members of Unidas Podemos, a party born out of popular movements, and the first elected left government in Spain in nearly a decade. Although the coalition may not bring radical change to the country, it serves as a historical reference for a period where the far right rises and the market “frees” itself more than ever from

the hands of politics. As deputy MP Pablo Iglesias said, “politics is the art of riding contradictions” and even though this gov-

ernment will encounter many, it will still try to pose an alternative for the post-democratic spectre that is haunting Europe.



Pedro Sanchez, leader of the PSOE // Wikipedia