

# Return of civil society - the emergence of democratic Spain

Harvard University Press - The Return of Civil Society — Víctor M. Pérez



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## The Power of Civil Society in a Post

The communist government was not strong enough to crush Solidarity but neither was Solidarity ready to take more coercive actions to reach for power. The Cortes, under the presidency of Fernández-Miranda, debated this law throughout the month of November; it ultimately approved it, with 425 votes in favor, 59 against, and 13 abstentions. The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy offers a powerful criticism of the inconsistencies of representative democracy.

## Spanish transition to democracy

Con el establecimiento de estos sistemas participativos se acuñaba un nuevo concepto con entidad propia en los países citados: transición a la democracia. Until the second half of the 1970s, social groups that opposed the communist government were not united and their activities were not well coordinated. Good neighborly relations with Germany, Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania, oftentimes despite a difficult history and problems with Polish ethnic minorities in those countries, were established surprisingly quickly.

## The Power of Civil Society in a Post

Despite the increased violence by the ETA and GRAPO, for the Constituent Cortes were carried out in June 1977. It offered covert teaching of alternative history, literature, philosophy, sociology, and economics in private apartments and church buildings.

## The Return of Civil Society (May 1993 edition)

From this moment, it was possible to begin the electoral process the second part of the Suárez program, which would serve to elect the members of the , the body that was to be responsible for creating a democratic constitution. Solidarity always pursued its political objectives with a high degree of nonviolent discipline as well as self-imposed limitations. Consequently, hundreds of Solidarity leaders were rounded up and detained and all legal opposition organizations closed down.

## Spanish transition to democracy

Rather than fearing, dismissing, or repressing their critics, leaders must engage with them, especially the most vulnerable.

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