

Spain and the unification of Europe after the Cold War

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Introduction

During the 1990s, Spain was navigating a rapidly evolving Europe. The country had already begun the transition to democracy with the end of Franco's regime in 1975. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communist regimes then marked a turning point in European history.



This presentation explores:

- What was happening in Spain during the 1990s (politically, economically, and socially)
- How Europe began to reunify after decades of division
- The role Spain played in shaping—and being shaped by—the new European order

An overview of Spain in the 1990s



GOVERNMENT

Parliamentary monarchy under King Juan Carlos I.
The monarch is the head of state, while executive power lies in the elected government.

ELECTED GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister Felipe González from the Socialist Party since 1982.
Prioritizing modernization, social reform, and deep European integration.



An overview of Spain in the 1990s



DEMOCRACY

The democratic transition began after Franco died in 1975.
Adoption of the 1978 Constitution and stable institutions by 1990.



GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

Accepted into NATO in 1982 and the EEC in 1986.
By 1990, fully aligned with Western Europe and supportive of EU integration.

An Overview of the European context in the 1990's

Europe in 1990 was undergoing rapid transformation, marked by the collapse of communist regimes, the reshaping of national borders, and growing ambitions for a more unified political continent.

End of the Cold War

- Eastern Bloc Regimes were collapsing
- Ending decades of East-West division

German Reunification Begins

- West and East Germany began reuniting
- Questions about European unity

Toward a Political Europe

- Evolving EEC shift
- Going toward a more integrated and politically unified Europe

The Fall of the Eastern Bloc



- ... Solidarity movement wins
- ... with Austria
- ... st, fall of the Berlin wall (Nov 1989)
- ... revolution ends communist rule



- ... to support and help communist governments in power.
- ... s more freedom and stops military support for those governments.
- ... ge without fear of Soviet intervention.
- ... s more difficult to control Easter European countries



- ... at home
- ... n republics: Lithuania, Georgia...
- ... vements

The Fall of the Berlin Wall

- One-party communist state under Soviet influence
- Economic struggles and growing public unrest
- Mass protests in late 1989 (e.g. Leipzig demonstrations)
- Government resigned; border opened in Nov 1989

East Germany



- Democratic and capitalist
- Strong economy and EEC/NATO member
- Support peaceful reunification
- Chancellor Helmut Kohl

West Germany



- March 1990: Free elections in East Germany
- July 1990: Currency union (East adopted West mark)
- October 3, 1990: Official reunification
- Result: One Germany, stronger but politically sensitive in Europe

Reunification process



Backing Unity in Post-Cold War Europe

Diplomatic stance

Spain supported German reunification without hesitation, unlike other more cautious stances like France or UK

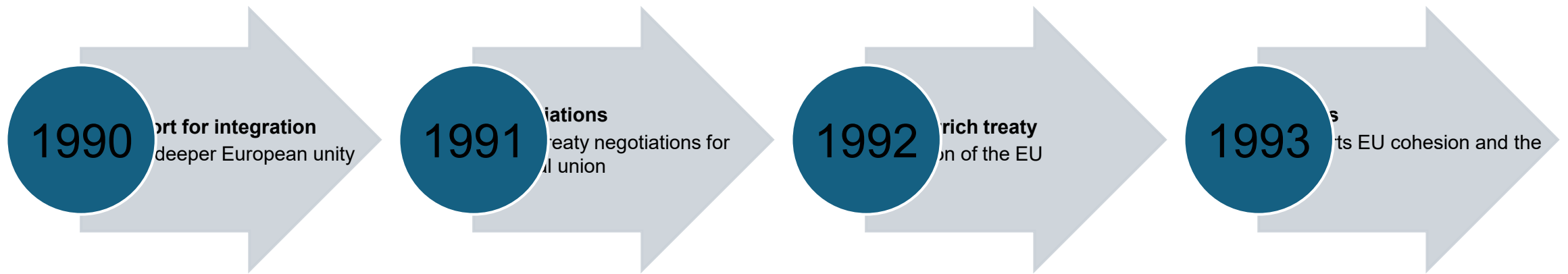
Democratic credibility

Spain's recent democratic transition positioned it as a credible voice for change in Europe

Pro-European Identity

Spain viewed European integration as a natural path, aligning its future with a stable European Union

Spain's road to political Europe



**TOOLS OF
DIPLOMACY**

HOW WAS THE EU FORMED?

**with
Sebastian Mallaby**



Thanks for your attention!



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