

# The Separatist Movements in The North West of The Mediterranean Basque Region as Model

Vian Ahmed Mohamed

College of Education for Women, University of Baghdad, Iraq

## Abstract

The European continent suffers from the presence of some separatist tendencies, as it becomes clear the impact of racial and ethnic variables driving towards the crystallization of separatist conflicts that led to the success of some of them in the establishment of sovereign states, while the other failed to achieve this, the research focused on the importance of matching geographical, cultural and political criteria. In the success of separatist trends, he also focused on the role of the policies imposed by the mother state in curbing or exacerbating the separatist trend through the level of justice in the distribution of wealth between the regions, and what are the rights and duties of those oppressed and abused minorities, so the research focused on presenting a model of separatist movements in the continent. The European countries, whose countries are democratic and regular states, and to clarify where lies the problem of those minorities who wish to secede, and despite the efforts made by the European Union in its march towards integration and unity and the gatherings and blocs witnessed in the world, whether economic or strategic, which are based on Common interests. And the emergence of the phenomenon of separatist movements in Europe, declaring their desire for secession based on (regional identity) by mobilizing and fueling national and ethnic sentiments such as (Basque - Catalan - Galicia in Spain and Scotland in the United Kingdom, Lombardy and Veneto in Italy, Flanders and others, some of them see separation along the lines of What happened in Yugoslavia as a claim for its usurped rights and as an encouraging step for separatist movements in other countries.

**To cite this article:** Mohamed, V, A. (2021) The Separatist Movements in The North West of The Mediterranean Basque Region as Model. *Review of International Geographical Education (RIGEO)*, 11(7), 4094-4107. Doi: 10.48047/rigeo.11.07.376

**Submitted:** 07-06-2021 • **Revised:** 21-07-2021 • **Accepted:** 02-08-2021

## Introduction

All studies shed light on the separatist tendency of marginalized groups within the state, but it is important to note that the dominant or influential group (political or economic) can demand secession. For example, the central secession of the Czech Republic from Slovakia, the secession of Serbia after re-centralization under Serbian hegemony, the secession of Slovenia and Croatia from Yugoslavia, the separatist trend is also linked to regions with economic and political influence. As is the case in the province of "Quebec" in Canada, where the ethnic awakening led to the crystallization of movements calling for the separation of the region rich in natural minerals such as: uranium, copper and timber, and this division is divided into: Ethnic movements that seek to advance the affairs of the region and seek to expand the scope of the participation of French Canadians in managing Canadian affairs, which is led by the Liberal Party, As for the separatist ethnic movement that calls for secession, it is represented by the "Quebec Liberation Front". In France, we find the problem of the ethnic groups that inhabit the provinces of Brittany, the Basque Country and Corsica, which calls for autonomy and taking into account its cultural specificity within the French state. In fact, these provinces were not fused within the framework of the French national culture, there have also been regions that want to secede in Spain, such as Catalonia, And the Basque region as a research topic (1).

**Research problem:** According to the context of scientific research, there may be a main question or a main problem from which secondary problems arise. And the main question is (in light of the emergence of divisive situations, what is the future of the European continent)

- 1- What is the reason for the emergence of separatist movements in the northwestern Mediterranean?
- 2- What is the role of the European Union in the growth of separatist movements?
- 3- Does the 1976 constitution have a role in the emergence of separatist movements in Spain?
- 4- What is the reason for the weakness of centralization in controlling the parties?
- 5- What is the position of the regional and local powers on the divisive situations?
- 6- What is the future vision for the European continent?

**Research hypothesis:** In the light of the foregoing formulation of several questions, we can say (in the event that one of the regions succeeds in achieving his dream of division, which will lead to the emergence of similar cases and the collapse of the European Union)

- 1- The economic crisis that afflicted most European countries is a major reason for the emergence of separatist movements.
- 2- The ambiguity of the role of the European Union at times restricts the powers of the regions and at other times supports the demands of these movements, but it does not want to recognize them as sovereign states, there is fear from the European Union countries of the transmission of the infection of secession to the rest of the Union countries, similar to the chessboard theory, as happened to the countries of the Soviet Union, as well as in Yugoslavia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia
- 3- The main reason for the emergence of divisive movements in the five regions in Spain is the 1976 constitution and the undermining of the validity of those regions.
- 4- As a result of cultural and historical differences, this led to the emergence of the so-called regionalism of these movements, which distanced them from links with the center and weakened the authority of the state, which used useless means to solve these cases.
- 5- The regional powers have a role and a position in feeding divisive situations.
- 6- There are several scenarios that can be put in place, including:  
the possibility of the collapse of the European Union in light of the chessboard (sequential fall) or the situation remaining as it is, and another sees the use of violence against separatist movements.

**Research Methodology:** The research relied on several methods to achieve the goal of the research

**The historical method:** to study the foundations that led to the emergence of separatist movements.

**The regional approach:** to study the geographical components of the regions that wish to secede, including the Basque Region.

**Analytical approach:** which depends on analyzing the geopolitical components that the region enjoys, and whether they help it to secede or not.

**The forward-looking approach (future),** by giving a future vision of the European Union or the situation of Spain, similar to the separatist cases.

**Structure of the research:** The research was divided into several demands.

The first requirement: the collapse of European integration.

The second requirement: separatist models of the northwestern Mediterranean.

The third requirement: the geopolitics of the Basque Region.

Fourth requirement: Motives for secession in the Basque Region.

The fifth requirement: the regional position on the secession of the Basque Region and the future vision.

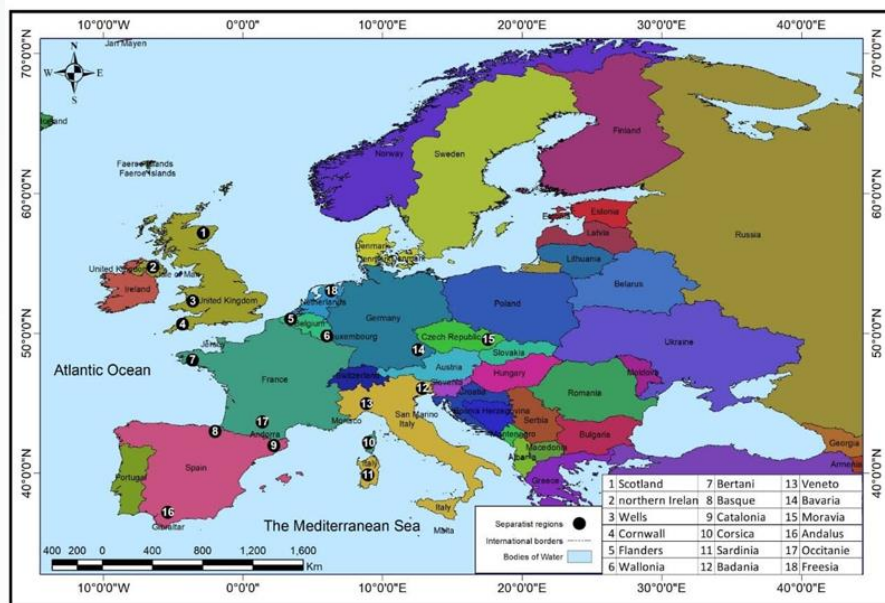
### **The First Requirement: The Collapse of European Integration.**

The idea of European integration goes back to centuries before, when Europe was suffering from fragmentation, division, and wars, which led to the collapse of many of its countries that ruled half the area of Europe, including the Western Roman Empire, and witnessed wars and bloody conflicts, the German philosopher Immanuel Kant pointed out that "the only solution to end all these conflicts and tendencies will be achieved only in the event that all European princes and nobles feel that his kingdom depends to a large extent on cooperation with his neighbors," and when we return to the beginnings of building the European Union, we find that there are two visions (the first) aimed at promoting the establishment of an integrated supranational Europe, which is only a strategic entity and a large market. The other goal was to encourage the establishment of the European Union in the first place for the purpose of cooperation in the fields of defense and Foreign Affairs, Technical and Scientific Cooperation (2). Although the theoretical framework of European integration was built on the claim that it is a political project that seeks to restore harmony and calm to Europe and bring its peoples separated by wars and World War II, the reality confirms that European integration and European unity are built on economic foundations that began with the Marshall Plan, Then the coal and steel union, then the financial union, then the European Common Market project until the announcement of the European Union in the early nineties of the last century. Economic and financial factors were the most visible aspects of European integration, the most significant of which were the single European currency, the euro, and the central bank. The emergence of integration following World War II in order to cleanse Western Europe's collective consciousness of nationalism and proceed toward a cooperative Europe in the hope of achieving confederal unity, The European Union is above all a set of rules that go beyond national borders, that is, that goes beyond the framework of the member states and sets a framework for it, and according to current expectations, the European Union may disappear, but the euro remains as the only currency that is a legal given in an economic unit representing 300 million people, this is due to the ongoing economic stagnation in the Eurozone (1), the emergence of new problems on more than one level and in more than one country, and thus the future of continued integration between the powers of the European Union is at stake, especially in the face of some countries threatening secession, which is likely to happen with new scenarios that may occur (3). The thing that is likely to happen is the possibility of the occurrence of new scenarios that may reach the limit of the fading of the structure of the European Union in the medium and long term. The reason for these problems is due to some eventual variables and another due to the accumulation of those problems that have not been successfully resolved by the countries of the euro area, which can be resolved through The economic crisis, the emergence of national separatist movements and the influx of immigration to Europe all weakened the burdens of the European Union (4), Globalization led to the paths of European integration and led to the emergence of the old nationalist tendencies present in all the countries of the European continent, as ten secessionist regions emerged in the northwest of the Mediterranean from a total of twenty regions in the whole continent, Spain's share was the largest in terms of the number of regions wishing to secede, by (five regions) / table (1) and map (1)

**Table (1)**  
The separatism regions in Northwest Europe

Region Name	Country	Region Name	Country
1 Basque	Spain	6 Brittany	France
2 Catalonia		7 Occitanie	
3 Galicia		8 corsica	
4 Istria		9 Badania	
5 Andalus		10 Veneto	

**Map (1) Of the Separatism Regions of The European Continent**



**Source:** Prepared by the researcher.

Through table (1) it becomes clear to us the regions that wish to secede from their countries in the western Mediterranean, while map (1) indicates the regions wishing to secede in the European Union countries, and thus threaten the unity of the European Union, which may cause the collapse of the European Union, therefore, ethnic groups strive to achieve several goals, and they struggle with the mother state to achieve this, so we find that their highest desire is to achieve separation and the formation of their own entity (that guarantees freedom for their national rights). In fact, this goal constitutes a threat to the security, stability and unity of the state. Therefore, the central state tries in various ways and means to preserve the unity of its territory and prevent similar cases within its territory, which will surely transmit infection to neighboring countries, fragment the region and form small states. The state rejects all solutions and demands offered by those ethnic groups and movements calling for secession because the idea of self-rule may lead to the fragmentation of the state. The demands for self-rule may turn into demands for secession, and this is also done with the support of external parties, and on the other hand, the idea of unifying the state without taking into account the ethnographic diversity within The state causes many problems, so the issue has to do with how to deal with those minorities (5). The separatist movements aim to perpetuate the fragmentation of the national movement, and try to embody it realistically because of the lack of coexistence with others in the same political community, which does not meet its demands and aspirations, which results in harming its own interests and private gains, with the continued failure to respond to its demands, it has a growing call for secession and demands for autonomy and complete separation from the mother state and joining another political entity, especially in the case of these movements being concentrated in one geographical area, away from the center of the state, and the presence of basic requirements for the establishment of an independent state, such as population and cultural components, and among the most prominent

examples of these movements are the separatist movement "ETA" in the Basque Country in Spain and Catalonia, the separatist movement in France and Italy, including the separatist movement in South Sudan and the "Francisque Quebec" movement in Canada (6).

## **The Second Requirement: Models of Separatist Movements in The Northwest of The Mediterranean.**

The economic crises faced by the European Union, especially in recent years, have fueled the deep division in some regions of European countries that suffer from ethnic and cultural diversity as a result of the historical legacy of these multiple nationalities, and as a result of the failures of governments to accommodate those divisions. These divisions have created deep doubts about the union's growing dream of convergence in Europe, which is based on a common system of governance, which allows for more effective decision-making. Likewise, these divisions prevent the implementation of the reforms needed to stimulate economic growth, although it is still too early to rule out the prospects of progress towards increased European integration, and when it comes to the cohesion of the European Union, more defections may be better than one. When economic considerations alone dominate the discussion, Northern Europe, obsessed with austerity, was blind to Keynesian considerations (compatible with Keynesian ideas), whilst southern Europe, eager for fiscal room to make demand-promoting and job-creating structural changes politically feasible, was at odds. Then the situation became so heated that some respectable observers suggested creating a "North Euro" for the area around Germany, and a "Southern Euro" in the Mediterranean (it was not clear to which of the two regions France might belong). In a Eurozone with this specification, the European Central Bank would have split in two, and the Euro in the North would have risen in value. Uncertainty about the exchange rate would have re-emerged, not only between the two-euro bodies, but also, before long, within the "northern" and "southern" regions, given the general lack of trust in the concept of a monetary union. Germany will play an even bigger role inside the northern bloc, and it is apparent that this will lead to new problems.

### **First: - French separatist movements:**

Language is one of the main issues in France, which causes a separatist tendency, and this is because the language has a close relationship with the race and culture of the population, as is the case in Corsica, which is characterized by a strong geopolitical unity, and this is due to its linguistic cohesion, especially at the beginning of the nineteenth century, when France worked to make Education is free and compulsory. The population in the south and in the region of Brittany and Alsace spoke different languages, while in the West Brittany the Bretonian was the spoken language and it was a Celtic language. As for Alsace, they spoke Alsatian, which is a Germanic language, and in the north of Lorraine the German language prevails, As for the Flemish language, it was spoken in the northern French administrative region, while the Corsican language was widespread on the island of Corsica (7), and as a result of the strategic location of this island, it threatens the French unity with secession, because the history of the island gave it an advantage because it is the only region in the world that has been listed as a country with Sovereignty by the international community, which was approved by the Constitution of 1755 before it joined France in 1981. Thus, its residents do not feel loyalty to France and that they possess a culture and history completely different from the rest of the peoples of the region, and their demands for secession continued (8).

### **Second: - Italian separatist movements:**

Italy extends in the middle of the Mediterranean in the central peninsula between the Balkan Peninsula and the Iberian Peninsula, and Italy extends in the form of a long leg in the north until it reaches the southern slopes of the Alps, followed by Sicily, Sardinia and other islands, and two dwarf states (Vatican / San Marino). Its beaches are 8500 km long, and the furthest point from the sea is 280 km (9), It is clear from the study of Italian history that the northern regions are characterized by prosperity, unlike the southern regions, which suffer from deterioration and the spread of the mafia, in addition to the class and cultural difference that generated the emergence of separatist tendencies in Italy, which was helped by the longitudinal form of the state and the weakness of the control of the center, also, the existence of the pope's state (the

Vatican) and the dominance of the church made it weaker in the cohesion between the parts of the state, where the church states eventually spread from south to north, and from Rome to the Adriatic and the Po plain, Italy was divided into two halves, with the Pope's state acting as a barrier between them. Until today, we can see a difference in the geopolitical aspect that rules the northern part by active aristocratic and bourgeois classes, as opposed to the southern section, which was characterized by the presence of a sectorial system (10).

### **Third: - Spanish separatist movements:**

Geographical unity is one of the factors that lead to the interdependence and cohesion of national groups, and the thinker "Moyer" emphasized this by saying: "It is the outstanding nations in the international community that have the greatest ability from geographical unity, and they owe their existence to this fact." But the sense of nationalism remains the master of the situation, despite the existence of geographical barriers between many regions, and an example of this is the growth of Spanish nationalism on the Iberian Peninsula despite its geographical separation from the rest of Western European countries in the Pyrenees, Hence, the common element between nationalism and ethnicity is the group's sense of unity of belonging, distinction, and the desire to gather, as ethnicity has become a nationalism that transcends the members of the group, the feeling of the desire to gather and join the mother state and integrate into it (11), Spain is one of the countries of the European Union that suffers from the presence of movements supporting secession, as a result of the multiplicity of nationalities within one state, as these nationalities feel that they do not belong to the mother state because they are nationalities that preceded the formation of the state and have their roots and their historical and geographical depth, forming what is known as national or ethnic regionalism, and thus adopted Spain is the emblem of (the nation of nationalities), and it adopted the Spanish Territory Division Act (1833) into historical provinces and regions, many of which correspond to the so-called autonomous regions, as most of them retain their previous borders (historical and geographical borders together), and there are areas whose names have not changed, so they coincide with the name of the autonomous region. Spain relied on the principle of constitutional consensus and emphasized the constitution that was established in (1978) as the ideal solution to the claim of identity for the multiple nationalities within the Spanish state. The Spanish government considered that the constitutional consensus would give it flexibility in dealing with multiple nationalities and protect it from the dangers of secession. Although it neglected linguistic pluralism and imposed the Castilian Spanish language, which generated a feeling of linguistic and ethnic persecution, regardless of whether it accepted a consensual solution or not. It seems that the 1978 constitution carried with it the seeds of division among the components of society when the Spanish government approved and recognized the nationalities (Basque - Catalan - Galicia), In reality, it recognizes the constitutionality of these many nationalities, which account for the biggest shares of their constituents. In fact, these are the nationalities: (12)

- 1- They do not have sovereignty; they are just cultural nationalities subsumed under the sovereignty of the basic national (the Spanish nation)
- 2- No matter how many languages there are, the main language that should be in all fields is (Castilian).
- 3- Spanish nationalism is the most organized compared to others.

### **The third requirement: the geopolitics of the Basque Region**

The Basque Country is located at latitude 43 in the far west of the Pyrenees Mountain range. It also overlooks the Gulf of Biscay and has several names, including Skal, Heria, and Vasconia, all of which refer to the region divided between Spain and France. It is located in the southwest of Europe, south of West of France and to the north of Spain. It is characterized by its mountainous nature consisting of the Pyrenees Mountains. It is bordered to the north by the Cantabrian Sea, to the south by the region of La Rioja, to the east by Navarre, and to the west by the Cantabria region, the region of Castile and Leon, its area is approximately (20 km<sup>2</sup>), 18 km<sup>2</sup>, of which is located within Spain and the rest is in France. It includes several Spanish provinces, namely (Navarre - Alava - Gibusqua - Biscay - Labourde - Zuberoi). As for the French, it includes (the marine areas in the Pyrenees-Atlantic in France, leaving this division The continental Basque country in the north is traditionally dependent on France, while the Basque country depends on the State of

Spain. The region enjoys self-governance under the 1978 constitution and controls its internal wealth and tax collection. The Spanish government retains central and external powers and defense, the region occupies the fourteenth place over Spain in terms of area, with its capital, Victoria. Which is the largest financial center in the European Atlantic axis and has a high rate of national product compared to population ratio, which represents 4.7 percent of Spain's population (2,170,868 people), and they are divided between Basques, French, and Spaniards) who have a distinguished history, civilization, and culture, and flourished with exports of Iron to the United Kingdom (13) ,the Basque Country is notable for its geopolitical significance due to its location at the crossroads of Spain and Europe. The strong flows observed by the transit corridors to Europe and the rest of the peninsula reflect its strategic location. The Basque Country has been the natural transit route between Spain and northern Europe for centuries due to its geographical location and the availability of natural ports and navigable estuaries. The non-tariff policy in that society promoted free trade, as trade in northern Spain was concentrated in the ports of (Bilbao and San Sebastian) on the Atlantic front and located on the so-called highway in the European Sea from Western Europe linking Portugal and Spain with the North Sea (14), Among the geographical features of the region: - (15)

- There are two distinct marine fronts (Canterbis and Mediterranean), where the population and industry are concentrated in the first and less in the second.
- The northern region of Oiscal Hereia-Aparaldi constitutes 15% of the area of Spain, and the southern region of Ecualdí, which includes both Eucalyptus and Navarra, 85%.
- The French part of the region does not enjoy administrative independence, unlike the Spanish side, which enjoyed autonomy for a period of time.
- The majority of the population is concentrated in medium and small urban areas. The population of the region, according to the 2019 census, is (2170868 people) divided between France and Spain, and their language is Basque, and they have their own traditions that are not similar to those of France or Spain.

**Table (2)**

General data for the Basque Country (for 2019)

	item	value		item	value
1	space	20 thousand km <sup>2</sup>	<b>9</b>	GDP per capita in euros compared to the European Union	<b>110.2</b>
2	population size	2170868 people	<b>10</b>	GDP per capita in euros compared to the European Union	<b>94.2</b>
3	growth rate%		<b>11</b>	The unemployment	<b>9.8%</b>
4	deliveries %	<b>%7.88</b>	<b>12</b>	The percentage of employees	<b>%57.8</b>
5	deaths %	<b>%9.98</b>	<b>13</b>	exports	<b>0.4</b>
6	industry	<b>1.1</b>	<b>14</b>	imports	<b>0.4</b>
7	Farming	<b>0.6</b>	<b>15</b>	Services	<b>2.5</b>
8	Building	<b>3.1</b>	<b>16</b>	economic growth rate	<b>7.5</b>

**Source:** Statistical Group for the State of Spain.

1-España en cifras 2019 General del Estado: <http://publicacionesoficiales.boe.es>

2-SÍNTESIS DE LA ECONOMÍA VASCA





was formed in 1952 by university students with the aim of liberating the Basque Country from French and Spanish control and establishing the Basque National State, and the initials of the phrase ETA mean "Basque homeland and freedom ETA." The declared goal of this movement is the secession of the Basque Country, and the movement is still calling for independence.

3- The Spanish Constitution of 1978 did not use the concept of administrative decentralization, but rather emphasized the concept of autonomy for the different national groups. According to the 1978 Constitution, the Basque Country is the most autonomous region. Article 143 of the Constitution stipulates that the neighboring provinces that enjoy historical and cultural specificity are entitled to the islands and provinces that constitute a historical entity may enjoy self-government within the framework of exercising the right of self-government stipulated in Article 2 of the same constitution. Voting in self-government is delegated to all concerned provincial councils or the regional coordination body, as well as to two-thirds of the municipalities to which they belong, in order to represent at least a majority of voters in each province or island, and the conditions must be met within six months. It may be resubmitted after five years (18).

4- The emergence of the so-called administration of regions in the European Union, which is also a stumbling block in the exercise of the right of regions to vote and express themselves.

5- Under the 1978 constitution, the Basques received long-awaited privileges from executive, judicial, and other administrative powers at the level of sectors and competencies to run institutions, unlike the other 17 regions and the two cities of Melilla and Ceuta, to which the constitution granted a system of independence, which the constitution gave it a relatively different autonomy regime, which left an obsession with ETA for the purpose of obtaining secession.

#### • Economic motives represented by (19)

1- In view of the region's important geo-strategic location represented in linking the roads (Spain and Europe), as the region is a land bridge linking them, which indicates the economic recovery in the Basque Country, the region is known for intense mobility, as flights with Cantabrian reach 60,258 daily trips, This is largely due to the numerous flights that swing between Eastern Cantabrian and Greater Bilbao, as well as trips with Burgos 55,971 flights per day, particularly intensive with the town of Miranda per day and the province of Trevino, in order of importance with France (25,746 flights), Navarre, 23773, and La Rioja. The 19,838 flights from the Basque Country to other locations, as well as the cause for this displacement outside, show that the region is supported by a dense high-capacity road network and an airport network.

2- The Basque Country suffered in the period between 1981-1991 with limited energy, and that period was a difficult stage in the Basque Country, although on the political and economic level the Basque government was formed and the system of self-government became effective. But in terms of energy, the region suffered from obsolete production conditions and infrastructure, and in this context, there was a clear need for a policy.

3- The starting point came in the form of support for the industry by converting it towards more efficient industrial equipment, and as part of an economic restructuring program, launching campaigns and support programs aimed at promoting and rational use of energy that were under the auspices of the Center for Energy, Development and Mining, which was established in 1981, the diversification strategy focused on natural gas As a main alternative to oil derivatives, which at that time constituted 62% of the demand, This means strengthening the gas infrastructure, and introducing new technology such as heat and co-generation (or co-generation). Another milestone came with the establishment of the Gas Association in Euskadi in 1983. The first gas network was in Vitoria Gasteiz, and the development of the offshore gaviota gas field between 1987 and 1992 m, which helped to accelerate the expansion of the gas industry in the Basque Region.

4- It contributes to 10.7 percent of the total industrial GDP in Spain, which is a large proportion for a region that constitutes only 1.5 percent of the area of the Spanish state.

### **The Fifth Requirement: The Regional Position on The Secession of The Basque Country and The Future Vision.**

The position of the European Union and France on the secession of the Basque Country can be clarified as follows:

**(a) The position of the European Union towards the secession of the Basque Country.**

□ Concerning the European Building Unit as an indivisible block:

The European Union has a position on the Basque issue; The Basque country is one of the regions of Spain, the latter has been a member of the European Union since 1986, and it is natural that all its problems are primarily related to the European Union, as it is part of the structure of the Union, Secession was seen by the international system and the European Union, regardless of whether it was an internal affair; And that there must be motives for secession, because cases of decolonization or foreign slavery are seen as exceptions, not models that can be applied in the case of (authoritarian or democratic), there are examples of non-colonial countries that successfully separated from their countries, and they are rare, such as (South Sudan, Eritrea, East Timor and Montenegro) as indicated in Article 40 of the Treaty of the European Union (which obligates it to respect the territorial integrity of member states and their constitutional systems.

□ The European Union's economic interest in the Basque region may be the most compelling evidence for this, as waste generation in the Basque economy accounts for up to 7% of total raw material consumption, or 2.4 million tons per year. In contrast, productivity grew over a few years only to create 5.1 to 9.2 euros per kilogram of resources utilized, showing a sector with enhanced environmental efficiency, The circular economy is also a priority in the European Union through the newly published European Commission plan for Europe towards a circular economy "The Zero Waste Program for Europe", promoting the circular economy means discovering new solutions and business opportunities that require cooperation between the public and private sectors in order to prepare manufacturing, products, consumption Its purpose is to go beyond what would end life in the Basque Autonomous Region not only to increase value by as much as 10 points, but to enhance the value of new materials ("recycling") that generate business initiatives (20).

□ The purpose of unification in protecting minority languages is to minimise conflicts and divisions, to safeguard linguistic, ethnic, and religious minorities, and to contribute to a more peaceful Europe, which is important for stability.

□ The regional tendency, or as it is called "sub-nationalism of the state" or regionalism, such as that we see in the Basque Country, has become increasingly widespread, even with the increase of state sovereignty over supranational institutions such as the European Union.

□ In the case of the independence of the Basques, it does not need to submit an application for accession to the Union based on two basic arguments for the Basque countries, the first: - that the Basque country became a member in 1986 AD because it was officially considered part of Spain, since then it has fully complied with all the obligations required of it as a member of the European Union. Secondly: - - In terms of logistics, allowing the membership of the European Union to separate (the Basques from Spain) will not cause any significant financial pressure on the budget of the European Union.

□ There is something that negates the two arguments, which are stumbling blocks that prevent the region from succeeding in its aspirations: - The European Commission's attempt to expand the number of seats in the Spanish Parliament with the aim of participating in the Basque Country, and in the event that accession is allowed, it must also be for each member state, such as the Regional Committee, and with the introduction of a state New member, the need to re-allocate Union funds in Spain to the Basque Country, requires European decisions, the reallocation of funds must now be budgeted with the approval of the Council of the institution that represents national interests and Spain is likely to oppose the reallocation strongly.

□ These obstacles illustrate the desire of the European Union in general and Spain in particular not to allow the region to secede. When the Vienna Convention of 1978 was concluded, it did not ratify the secession of any region. (21)

**(B) France's position on secession**

France formed a barrier to the Basque Country and its ambitions, as it deprived it of exercising its administrative rights, which is known as the IOS system (fueros). The Basque Country does not have administrative independence. After the French Revolution, it was incorporated into the state of Lower Pyrenees in addition to the provinces of Berne. Currently, the majority of political and social forces are calling for an administratively independent body within France, and France has exploited the Basque division (7 provinces), between it and Spain, considering that it is not right to deal between these provinces, and the reason according to them is the borders; This is what happened when the Basque Nationalist Party of the Spanish Basque Country wanted to support

the EAJ.

The legal system for minority languages in France is the subject of controversies; on the one hand it is opposed by those who favor a proactive policy of defending and promoting regional languages in the name of identity and pluralism, and on the other hand those who fear that the liberalization of these languages in the public sphere is an opportunity to increase sectarianism, which endangers the principle of equality and forms the debate on the problem of ratification of the European Charter for Minority Languages of 1992, which France signed in 1999. The ratification of the European Charter provided an opportunity for the State Council and the Constitutional Council to draw up a list of obstacles, as they subject regional languages to a system of restrictions. On the one hand, the requirements of Article 9 that make it possible to use a language other than French before criminal, civil and administrative courts cannot be applied, and not to ignore the obligations of Article 2 of the Constitution (which recognizes French, the language of the Republic), and on the other hand, if the choice of some marginal measures stipulated in Article 10 regarding the use of regional or minority languages by administrative authorities and public services does not contradict the Constitution, this option would not allow the consistency exemption for the policy that would have had to be implemented in Part Two, which consists of encouraging the use of these languages. These elements are confirmed by the Constitutional Council in its 1999 resolution. The Constitutional Council considers that the common provisions of the European Charter for minority or regional languages, in so far as they grant specific groups of speakers of minority languages within the "regions", the principles of constitutionalism violate constitutional rights to the republic's indivisibility, equality before the law, and unity that contradict the French people. Also, these provisions with the first paragraph of Article Two of the Constitution because they tend to recognize the right to practice a language other than French, not only in private life but even in public life. The clash between the Charter and the Constitution raises two main features.

**The first feature:** tends to exclude any idea that tends to grant specific rights to groups, that France does not recognize the existence of groups in its territory, i.e., ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and the concept it defends is an individual and universal one. This is what prompted the Constitutional Council, in the name of the principle of the indivisibility of the Republic and the unity of the French people, to refuse to recognize the "Corsoille" people's law within France, and according to what the legislator stated that the "Corso" people are made up of the French people, this contradicts the Constitution, which only defines the French people without discrimination in origin, or race or religion.

**The second feature:** stems from the need to utilise the French language in the public domain, a commitment that dates all the way back to 1992, when Article 2 of the Constitution was enacted, which states that the language of the Republic is French, this obligation implies, for example, that no claim written in a regional language can be accepted by any judicial authority, and accordingly France seems to block everything that would push the region to secede and oppose even the European Union (22).

### (C) A future vision for the Basque Country after the referendum

**The first scenario:** Staying within the framework of Spanish national unity: This was based on several foundations, including the attempt to end the state of violence between ETA and the central government, with the aim of ending the series of torture and killings and the state of instability within the region, and try to reach a state of understanding between the parties of conflict.

**The second scenario:** - the continuing state of violence between the region and the central government that refuses to recognize the rights of the Basques' demands, and this is the result of several obstacles that hinder the achievement of independence, including internal ones represented by the presence of opponents within the region itself, and others represented within Spain and France against the secession of the region, Another represented at the regional level opposition to the European Union as a result of the economic advantages that it enjoys.

### **The third scenario: Secession and the formation of an independent state.**

The researcher's vision is that the region is likely to remain within the framework of Spanish unity, but with an attempt to expand the circle of parliamentary representation and give rights to the region in a way that guarantees the security and stability of the region, for fear of the development of a state of division for other regions, including Catalonia, Galicia and other European regions, which is likely to cause the collapse of European unity.

### **Conclusions:**

- 1- The Basque Country possesses an important geopolitical location, and possesses a distinct culture, history and language, which made it suffer from a lack of harmony with the two states between them.
- 2- As a result of Franco's unconscious rule, which led to the obliteration of the identity of the autonomous regions, including the Basques, which helped exacerbate the intensity of conflicts within Spain.
- 3- The role of the European Union in quelling any case of division, in order to preserve the unity of the European Union and not to repeat or appear similar cases.
- 4 - The Spanish Constitution is the basic building block for creating conflicts within the state.

### **Margins**

1- Hanan Abdel-Razzaq, The impact of the ethnic security predicament on the internal stability of the state; A study of the Spanish model since 1936, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Mohamed Khider - Biskra - 2017, p. 134.

2 - A group of researchers, The future of the European Union in light of the growing nationalism, the Democratic Center for Strategic, Political and Economic Studies, Berlin, London, 2018, p. 141.

3 - The future of the European Union is at stake in internal and external crises, Al-Arabi newspaper, issue 10064, Monday 10/12/2015 year 38, p. 7 Available at the link: [http://alarab.co.uk/?id=63792\(2016/07/17\)](http://alarab.co.uk/?id=63792(2016/07/17))

4 - Manuel Fondevila Marón , Los referéndums de secesión en la Unión Europea y sus consecuencias para los entes descentralizados de los estados miembros , REAF-JSG 30, diciembre 2019, p. 231-269.

5 - Separatist movements in the northwest of the Mediterranean, Catalonia as a model, p. 14. See also the Gaizka FERNÁNDEZ SOLDEVILLA , ulletin d'Histoire Contemporaine de l'Espagne 51 | 2017 Les forces politiques durant la Seconde République espagnole

6 - Shaaban Al-Taher Al-Aswad, Political Sociology: Minority Issues between Isolation and Integration, Cairo: Egyptian-Lebanese House, 2nd Edition, 2002, p. 38.

\* The island extends 183 km long, 83.5 km wide, and has an area of 8,700 km<sup>2</sup>, and is characterized by a very important strategic location as a result of its location in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, and thus is the intersection point of the most important trade routes.

7- Yves Lacoste, The Geopolitics of the Mediterranean, translated by Zahida Darwish, Al Kalima Press, first edition, 2010, p. 154.

8 - Yves Lacoste, *ibid.*, pp. 203-220.

9- Muhammad Abdul-Ghani Al-Saudi, Eurasia, Anglo-Egyptian Library, 2004, pp. 201-219

- Yves Lacoste, previous source, pp. 224-226.

10 -: Ismail Sabry Makled, International Political Relations: A Study in Origins and Theories, Cairo: Academic Library, 1991, p. 98.

Jordi pujol, << conclusions Jordi, Catalunya, Espanya, Una Crisi de project, Center Iona, Center d studio, Jordi pujol, 2009, p 29.

For more see, Salamani Mohamed Amziane, The Impact of the Integrative Experience of the European Union on the Catalan National Movement after the End of the Cold War, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Mouloud Mammeri University, 2016.

11 - Amna Muhammad Ali, Separatist Movements, "The Basque Country as a Model," Political and International Journal, College of Political Science, University of Baghdad, Sunnah, Issue, p. 810.

12 - Kalthoum Khelifi, Internal and Regional Pressures on the Basque Country in Spain, Master's Thesis (unpublished) Mohamed Boudiafa University, Algeria, 2018, p. 1

For more details, see (Get to know the Basque Country: A Journey into its Culture, History, Society, and Institutions, 2009).

- See Amina Muhammad Ali, previous source, p. 811 and beyond, and also Yves Lacoste, previous source, p.

13- Hoda Mamash, National Security and the Challenge of Sub-Identities: The Case of the Basque Country in Spain. Al-Bahith Journal for Academic Studies. Issue 12., 2018. <http://elbahith.univ-batna.dz/aEfASDoA.php?art=31>

14- The Constitution of Spain promulgated in 1978, including its amendments until 2011, p. 30. <https://www.constituteproject.org>

Also seen for

La Constitución Española - Tribunal Constitucional

<https://www.tribunalconstitucional.es>

- Kathloun Khelifi, a previous source, pp. 16-19.

- Javier Agirre orcajo, Economía circular en el país vasco proyectos de demostracion para la reutilizacion de materials, ver 02-06-2018.

<http://www.residourecurso.com/blog/wpcontent/upload/econocircular/>

- Kulthum Khelifi, pp. 68-74.

- Jaune Feliu, ANALYSIS OF CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND SPAIN 2007-2013 - STAKEHOLDERS AND TERRITORIAL IMPACT , European Journal of Geography Volume 4, Number 4: 33-46 December 2013 , Association of European Geographers.

<http://www.eurogeographyjournal.eu/articles/ANALYSIS%20OF%20CROSS->

[BORDER%20PROJECTS%20BETWEEN%20FRANCE%20AND%20SPAIN%202007-2013%20-20STAKEHOLDERS%20AND%20TERRITORIAL%20IMPACT.pdf](http://www.eurogeographyjournal.eu/articles/ANALYSIS%20OF%20CROSS-BORDER%20PROJECTS%20BETWEEN%20FRANCE%20AND%20SPAIN%202007-2013%20-20STAKEHOLDERS%20AND%20TERRITORIAL%20IMPACT.pdf)

## References

Ibtisam Wastani separatist movements in the northwest of the Mediterranean, Catalonia as a model, master's thesis (unpublished, Faculty of Law and Political Science, 2016.

Ismail Sabry Makled, International Political Relations: A Study in Origins and Theories, Cairo: Academic Library, 1991, p. 98.

Amna Muhammad Ali, Separatist Movements, "The Basque Country as a Model," Political and International Journal, College of Political Science, University of Baghdad.

Yves Lacoste, The Geopolitics of the Mediterranean, translated by Zahida Darwish, Al Kalima Press, first edition, 2010.

Hanan Abdel-Razzaq, The Impact of the Ethnic Security Crisis on the Internal Stability of the State; A study of the Spanish model since 1936, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Mohamed Khider - Biskra - 2017. .

The Constitution of Spain issued in 1978, including its amendments until 2011. <https://www.constituteproject.org>

Salamani Mohamed Amziane, The Impact of the Integrative Experience of the European Union on the Catalan National Movement after the End of the Cold War, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Mouloud Mammeri University, 2016.

Shaaban Al-Taher Al-Aswad, Political Sociology: Minority Issues between Isolation and Integration, Cairo: Egyptian-Lebanese House, 2nd Edition, 2002.

Kelthoum Khelifi, Internal and Regional Pressures on the Basque Country in Spain, Master's Thesis (unpublished) Mohamed Boudiafa University, Algeria, 2018,

A group of researchers, The future of the European Union in light of the growing nationalism, the Democratic Center for Strategic, Political and Economic Studies, Berlin, London, 2018. .

Muhammad Abdul-Ghani Al-Saudi, Eurasia, Anglo-Egyptian Library, 2004, pp. 201-219

The future of the European Union is at stake in internal and external crises, Al-Arabi newspaper, issue 10064, Monday 10/12/2015 year 38, p. 7 Available at the link: <http://alarab.co.uk/?id=63792> (2016/07) /17)

Hoda Mamash, National Security and the Challenge of Sub-Identities: The Case of the Basque Country in Spain. Al-Bahith Journal for Academic Studies. Issue 12., 2018. <http://elbahith.univ-batna.dz/aEfASDoA.php?art=31>

Manuel Fondevila Marón , Los referéndums de secesión en la Unión Europea y sus consecuencias para los entes descentralizados de los estados miembros, REAF-JSG 30, diciembre 2019.

Gaizka FERNÁNDEZ SOLDEVILLA , ulletin d'Histoire Contemporaine de l'Espagne 51 | 2017 Les forces politiques durant la Seconde République espagnole .

- Jordi pujol,<< conclusions Jordi, Catalunya, Espanya, Una Crisi de project, Center d studio, Barcelona, Jordi pujol, 2009.
- Javier Agirre orcajo, Economia circular en el pais vasco proyectos de demostracion para la reutilizacion de materials, ver 02-06-2018.  
<http://www.residourecurso.com/blog/wpcontent/upload/econocircular/>
- Jaune Feliu, ANALYSIS OF CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND SPAIN 2007-2013 - STAKEHOLDERS AND TERRITORIAL IMPACT , European Journal of Geography Volume 4, Number 4: 33-46 December 2013 , Association of European Geographers. <http://www.eurogeographyjournal.eu/articles/ANALYSIS%20OF%20CROSS-BORDER%20PROJECTS%20BETWEEN%20FRANCE%20AND%20SPAIN%202007-2013%20-20STAKEHOLDERS%20AND%20TERRITORIAL%20IMPACT.pdf>
- La Constitución Española - Tribunal Constitucional <https://www.tribunalconstitucional.es>
- CONTEXTO DE LA ECONOMÍA VASCA - Euskadi.eus <https://www.euskadi.eus>
- 1-España en cifras 2019 General del Estado: <http://publicacionesoficiales.boe.es>
- SÍNTESIS DE LA ECONOMÍA VASCA <https://www.euskadi.eus>