



FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

Spain

FREE

90
/100

<u>Political Rights</u>	37 /40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	53 /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

90 /100 **Free**

A country or territory's Freedom in the World status depends on its aggregate Political Rights score, on a scale of 0–40, and its aggregate Civil Liberties score, on a scale of 0–60. See the methodology.



Overview

Spain's parliamentary system features competitive multiparty elections and peaceful transfers of power between rival parties. The rule of law prevails, and civil liberties are generally respected. Although political corruption remains a concern, high-ranking politicians and other powerful figures have been successfully prosecuted. Restrictive legislation adopted or enforced in recent years poses a threat to otherwise robust freedoms of expression and assembly. The separatist movement in Catalonia represents a persistent challenge to the country's constitutional system and territorial integrity.

Key Developments in 2024

- Elections for regional legislatures were held in February, April, and May in Galicia, the Basque Country, and Catalonia, respectively. In Galicia, the conservative People's Party (PP) retained its absolute majority with 40 of 75 seats. In the Basque Country, the centrist Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) and the left-wing Basque party Euskal Herria Bildu each won 27 of 75 seats, followed by the regional branch of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) with 12; the incumbent coalition of the PNV and the Socialists ultimately formed a new government. In Catalonia, the PSOE won an absolute majority with 42 of 68 seats, eclipsing the Catalan separatist parties that had long governed the region.
- Parliamentary and judicial investigations continued to uncover evidence related to the former PP government's alleged use of law enforcement resources to surveil and disseminate compromising information about Catalan separatist leaders as well as the left-wing Podemos party.
- In May, the parliament granted final approval to a controversial amnesty law—backed by the PSOE-led government—that would excuse Catalan separatists for offenses associated with their drive for independence, including the organization of illegal referendums. The law excluded some crimes, such as terrorism and torture. The Constitutional Court had yet to complete its review of the legislation at year's end. In February, the parliament launched three investigative committees that the PSOE had agreed to establish in return for Catalan separatist parties' support in government formation in 2023; the panels were set to investigate possible abuses by the judiciary, among other topics, raising further concerns among judges and lawyers' groups about political pressure on the rule of law.

- In July, after reaching a political agreement on the matter, the parliament approved new members of the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ), which is responsible for appointing, transferring, and promoting judges. The council had been due for renewal since 2018, but political deadlock had forced the incumbent members to continue on an interim basis with limited powers, holding up key judicial appointments and creating scores of vacancies. A new president of the CGPJ and Supreme Court was chosen in September.

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For additional background information, see last year's [full report](#).

Political Rights

A. Electoral Process

A1 0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?

4/4

A2 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?

4/4

A3 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?

4/4

B. Political Pluralism and Participation

B1 0-4 pts

Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings?

4/4

B2 0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?

4/4

B3 0-4 pts

Are the people's political choices free from domination by forces that are external to the political sphere, or by political forces that employ extrapolitical means?

4/4

B4 0-4 pts

Do various segments of the population (including ethnic, racial, religious, gender, LGBT+, and other relevant groups) have full political rights and electoral opportunities?

4/4

C. Functioning of Government

C1 0-4 pts

Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government?

3/4

C2 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?

3/4

C3 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?

3/4

Civil Liberties

D. Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?

3/4

D2 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?

4/4

D3 0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination?

4/4

D4 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution?

3/4

E. Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly?	3/4
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E2 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights- and governance-related work?	4/4
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E3 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations?	4/4
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F. Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary?	3/4
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F2 0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters?	3/4
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F3 0-4 pts

Is there protection from the illegitimate use of physical force and freedom from war and insurgencies?	4/4
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F4 0-4 pts

Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population?

3/4

G. Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

G1 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education?

4/4

G2 0-4 pts

Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors?

4/4

G3 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?

4/4

G4 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation?

3/4



On Spain

See all data, scores & information on this country or territory.

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Country Facts

Population

47,780,000

Global Freedom Score

90/100 Free

Other Years

2024

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