

The Political Preferences on the Territorial Distribution of Power in Spain and on the Independence of Catalonia. The Contrasts between Spanish and Catalan Public Opinion

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Introduction

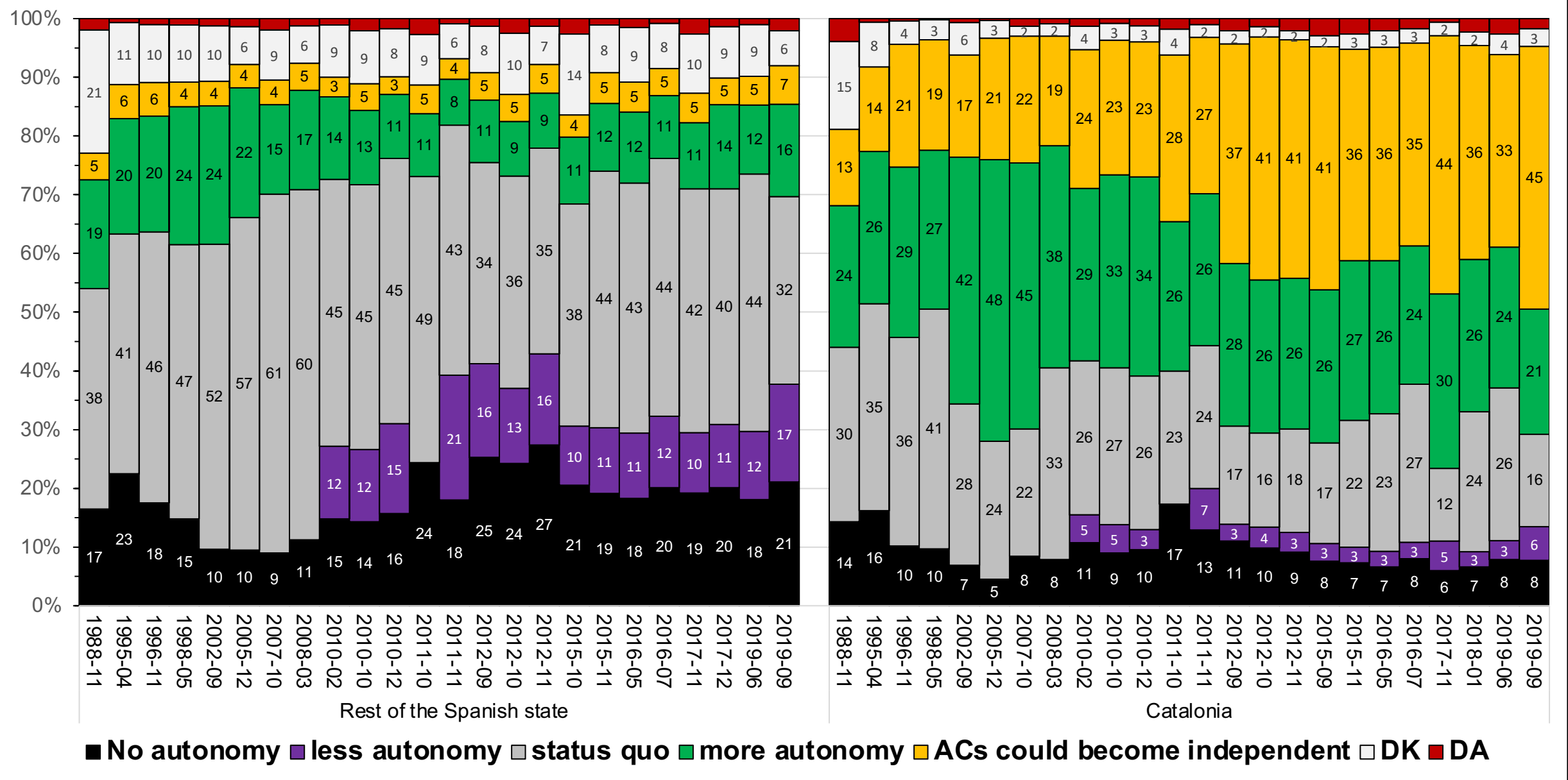
- Historical background. An old conflict and -by the moment- it's a permanent stalemate: Spain hasn't been able to become an uncontested nation-State for (almost) all its citizens, and Catalonia hasn't been able to achieve independence.
- Opinion polls: What do people think? Which could be the coordinates of the conflict about the territorial question in the Spanish State? Which could be the possible outcomes?
- Data in this presentation: from CIS and a survey by CEO (#952, 2019, N=3,600). It's the most complete one about the territorial issue that it has been conducted since the last CIS's Regional Barometre in 2012.
- It allows to assess the impact of the Catalan independentist process on the whole Spanish public opinion.
- There are big contrasts between the will of the whole Spanish citizenship and of the will of the Catalan citizenship (an structural minority in Spain). The opinions collected in the rest of the State (RoS) will be compared to those collected in Catalonia and to the whole Spain.
- Development: evolution of preferences about territorial organisation of the State; sociopolitical bases of each preference; the diversity of opinions about the alternatives about the Constitutional reform and some other more specific aspects linked to the territorial debate; and some final remarks.

What does Spain mean for you?		Spain	RoS	Cat
		3600	3041	559
	<i>My country</i>	49.0	53.6	24.0
	<i>A nation of which I feel member</i>	15.9	17.0	9.8
	<i>The State of which I am a citizen</i>	14.9	14.7	15.9
	<i>A State composed by several nationalities or regions</i>	13.0	11.0	23.8
	<i>A foreign State of which my country sould not be part of</i>	5.0	1.9	21.8
	<i>None of the previous answers</i>	0.9	0.6	2.5
	DK	0.6	0.4	2.0
Source: CEO #952 (2019)	DA	0.7	0.8	0.2

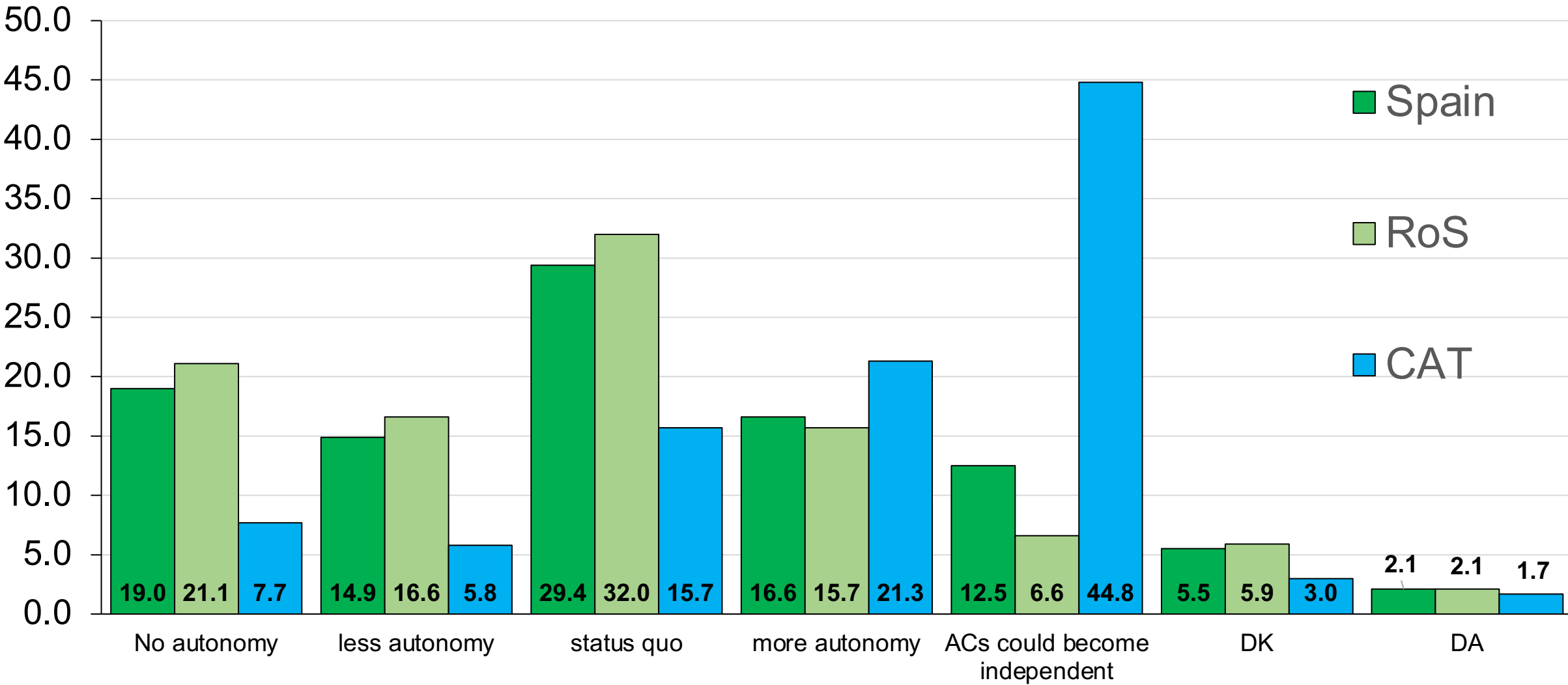
LEVEL OF DECENTRALIZATION of the Spanish State (0=max. Centr.; 0=max. Decentr.). Means.

	Spain	RoS	Catalonia
Perceived	5.40	5.62	4.27
Desired	4.99	4.56	7.18

Source: CEO, #952 (2019)



Preferences regarding territorial distribution of power in Spain (CEO #952, 2019)



Multinomial regression. Highest Average Marginal Effects (***) $p < .01$, ** $p < .05$ (baseline=Status quo) CEO #952

		No autonomy	Less autonomy	More autonomy	Could be indy
Variables (In parentheses, reference value)		19.0%	14.9%	16.6%	12.5%
Age group (18-24 years)	35-49 years	0.0673***	0.0467**		
	50-64 years	0.0542**	0.0679***		
	65 and more	0.0756***	0.0691***		
Language of Identification (Spanish)	Catalan			0.0550**	0.128***
	Basque			0.257***	0.102**
	Spanish & other				0.0552**
Religious Practice (once per week)	Never				0.0342**
Education (less than primary)	Secondary	0.0481**	0.0685***		
	Prof. Training		0.102***		
	University		0.137***		
Subjective National Identity (Spanish = Regional Identity)	Only Spanish	0.0841***			
	Reg.Id.>Spanish			0.0573**	0.0903***
	Only Reg. Id.				0.204***
	DK/DA				0.0964***
Ideology (Centre, 5)	Ext. Left (0-2)				0.0554***
Sympathy t./ Catalans (Medium, 5)	Very Low (0-2)	0.0675***	0.0526**		
	Very high (8-10)				0.0266**
Vote in General Election 2019 (Abstention)	PP		0.0974***		
	Cs		0.119***		
	Unidas Podemos			0.0973***	0.0618***
	Vox	0.254***			
	NSWP			0.138***	0.188***

Agreement or disagreement on several statements about territorial conflict	Spain	RoS	CAT	
To solve the territorial issue in Spain. Do you think a reform of the Constitution should be done to give more selfgovernment to the ACs?	Yes	45.4	40.5	71.9
	No	44.6	48.9	21.3
	DK/DA	10.0	10.6	6.8
The Constitution should recognize the right of selfdetermination of the ACs	Strong Agree + Agree	42.0	37.0	68.6
	Neither Agree or Disagree	9.6	10.2	6.1
	Strong Disagree + Disagr.	37.9	40.9	21.8
The Constitution should set that the official languages of the ACs have also an official and regular use at the central institutions of the State	Strong Agree + Agree	43.0	37.8	70.8
	Neither Agree or Disagree	10.4	10.8	8.2
	Strong Disagree + Disagr.	38.4	42.4	17.0
... set a funding system: the ACs collect all the main taxes, later they transfer part of them to the Central Government to finance the common expenses & interterritorial solidarity	Strong Agree + Agree	56.2	54.0	68.2
	Neither Agree or Disagree	10.4	10.8	8.1
	Strong Disagree + Disagr.	23.8	24.4	20.4
A referendum in Catalonia, so, the Catalans can decide which relationship between CAT and the Spanish State they want	Strong Agree + Agree	36.2	29.8	70.9
	Neither Agree or Disagree	6.3	6.4	5.4
	Strong Disagree + Disagr.	51.8	57.3	21.5
A referendum in whole Spain, so, the whole Spanish citizens can decide which relationship between Catalonia and the Spanish state they want	Strong Agree + Agree	44.6	46.3	35.9
	Neither Agree or Disagree	7.4	7.3	7.7
	Strong Disagree + Disagr.	41.9	39.9	53.1

		Spain	RoS	Cat
And, personally, would you be in favour or against Catalonia were independent ?	I would be in favour	19.1	13.6	49.3
	I would be against	70.4	75.8	41.2
	DK	6.6	6.6	6.6
	DA	3.8	4.0	2.9
If a legal and agreed referendum were finally held on the independence of Catalonia, and a clear majority of Catalan citizens opted for independence, would you, personally, accept or not accept the result of such referendum ?	Yes	53.3	48.2	81.2
	No	39.9	44.3	15.6
	DK	4.9	5.5	1.6
	DA	1.9	2.0	1.6
Source: CEO, #952 (2019)				

Final remarks