

## SPANISH 19th CENTURY

### SUMMARY

- In the course of the 19th Century, feudal structures (Ancien régime) disappeared and a new liberal system was established: different constitutions will set up people's sovereignty, separation of powers and civil rights, with the universal male franchise since 1890 definitely.
- Population grew from 10 until 17 millions of inhabitants, but death rate remained high till last third of the century (30,4 ‰). Coastal and industrializing regions received population, inland Spain followed depopulating (rural exodus).
- Economy suffered transformations, but not so many as in the powerful countries: industrialization will be localized (Basque Country, Catalonia, Madrid) and transport system, a disaster; agriculture won't be transformed.
- As a consequence, still a society of poor peasants and landowners, with a weak bourgeoisie and not many workers.
- Reasons for the backwardness of the country:
  - Political instability: French invasion, three civil wars, military coups, six kings, four Republic presidents, five constitutions (and three more in rough!).
  - Colonial empire was lost (no money, no trade, no raw materials...).
  - Science and inventions were disregarded, illiteracy was general and clerical obscurantism dominated the culture.

### CHARLES IV (1788-1808)

- He stopped enlightened reforms because the danger of the French Revolution.
- His prime minister, Manuel Godoy, will be allied of Napoleon, that wanted the Spanish fleet to join the French against England. Both were defeated in TRAFALGAR, a disaster for the links with the American empire.
- By the Treaty of Fontainebleau (1807), Spain and France agree on invading Portugal (English allied), but French army occupied Spain and Spanish people rose up (MOTÍN DE ARANJUEZ, 1808).
- King deposed Godoy and abdicated in favor of Ferdinand.

### JOSEPH I BONAPARTE (1808-1813)

- Being confronted Charles and Ferdinand, Napoleon called them to Bayonne (France) and got Spanish crown in favor of his brother, Joseph.

- But Spanish people neither accepted the foreign king nor the invader army and rose up (Madrid, MAY 2, 1808).
- Independence war started.
- Joseph I was a reformer supported by moderate liberals (afrancesados).
- Spain had the first “constitution” (Bayonne Statute, 1808): in fact, a royal charter without people’s sovereignty.

### **INDEPENDENCE WAR AND SPANISH LIBERAL REVOLUTION**

- French invasion led Spanish people to fight. Every province organized a Defense Board (Junta), because Joseph I was not accepted. Regular army got English help and also people made up guerrillas.
- The war was bloody and Napoleon wasted his best troops in it.
- The Central Supreme Board (Junta Suprema Central) assumed the power and called the parliament in Cadiz, that French army hadn’t been able to occupy.
- The CORTES DE CÁDIZ represent the starting point of our bourgeois revolution, because coming deputies were mainly reformer and liberal.
- They approved **1812 Constitution** to abolish Ancien Régime:  
People’s sovereignty, separation of powers and civil rights, even the right to vote for all men aged 25 or more, and the freedom of printing.  
Feudal manors, guilds and Inquisition were abolished.

### **FERDINAND VII, THE DESIRED (1814-1833)**

- He was a disaster for the country.
- His reign had three periods:
  - .A) 1814-1820, as an absolute king, he abolished the constitution, created the police and persecuted liberals. Spain begins to have exiled people.
  - .B) 1820-1823: a coup d’état led by general Riego restored the constitution. He was a commander in the hardly joined army to fight against American liberal creoles, ready to board in Seville. Ferdinand swears the constitution. He lies and calls the Holy Alliance for help. The French 100.000 Saint Louis’ sons invade Spain.
  - .C) 1823-1833 (The Ominous Decade), again as absolute king. Spain loses the empire, where liberal and nationalist revolution wins. The state is in bankruptcy.

At the end, he had to abolish Salic Law because he only had two daughters. His brother Charles didn’t accept it and the First Carlist War starts (1833-1839).

## **ISABELLA II**

### **(1833-1868)**

- Because she was three year old, her mother first and later general Espartero were regents.
- The Carlist were absolutist, so the queen (her mother) looked for the liberal support. Carlist were stronger in the North (here, peasants were landowners and very traditionalist), but at the end they were defeated.
- In politics, a liberal system was established, but very unstable because liberals will be divided in two parties, and both will like to impose their constitution: Moderate party (high bourgeoisie) and Progressive party (urban middle class, craftsmen).
- Government got money nationalizing and selling uncultivated lands from monasteries and councils (DESAMORTIZACIÓN by Mendizábal and Madoz progressive ministers). So, bourgeoisie became landowner and peasants remained poor.
- It was also the time of first industrialization, very located in Basque Country, Catalonia and Madrid. The railroad started (Barcelona-Mataró) surrounded by speculation and dirty business.
- Educational situation was pathetic: 6000 villages without school, 10 universities with no more than 6200 students in total and 56 public libraries.

## **THE REVOLUTIONARY SIX-YEAR PERIOD**

### **(1868-1874)**

- Scandals, corruption, lovers... brought the queen into discredit. Finally, 1868 GLORIOUS REVOLUTION sent her to exile.
- Progressive, democrat, radical and republican parties will rule the country in the middle of division.
- First, the regent Serrano and the parliament looked for a king and Amadeo of Savoy was elected. Prime minister Prim was killed, carlists came into war again (the third time). The king resigned.
- REPUBLIC was proclaimed. A new constitution would try to organize Spain as a federal state, but republicans were divided and they had no time: eleven months and four presidents, a war, cities that declared their independence...
- General Pavía staged a coup and the army will restore the Bourbons to the throne.

## **ALFONSO XII (dead in 1885) AND MARIA CHRISTINA**

### **THE RESTORATION (1874-1902)**

- Bourbon's monarchy restoration was due to a double action, military (a coup of General Martínez Campos) and political: CÁNOVAS (moderate, onward conservative) reached an agreement with SAGASTA (progressive, onward liberal) to share the power by turn and to approve a moderate and ambiguous Constitution (1876).
- Liberals will develop conservative policies, e.g. universal male franchise.
- All the elections will be rigged.
- Other instruments to get the power controlled: the army, the Church, the local political bosses (caciques).

■Main problems: excluded parties (democrat, republican), Catalonia and Basque Country's nationalism (Basque Country lost its charters due to carlist defeat), labor movement (PSOE was founded in 1879) and the END OF COLONIAL EMPIRE: war with USA for Cuba (1898).

### **ALFONSO XIII AND PRIMO DE RIVERA'S DICTATORSHIP (1902-1931)**

.1898 was a total disaster: economically, morally... Spain was the first European country losing its empire!

.Parties' turn in power remained until 1917 with two new leaders, Maura (conservative) and Canalejas (liberal). Some weak reforms were adopted.

.Barcelona's Tragic Week (1909) was a people's revolt against compulsory mobilization of reservists to go to war in Morocco (a new colony). Maura's government crashed it with army.

.1917, a triple crisis: military (officers wanted higher wages), political (Catalan parliamentaries wanted autonomy) and social (general strike because prices' increasing).

.A lot of strikes and Annual Disaster (1921, a battle with 10.000 casualties in Morocco) led general PRIMO DE RIVERA to stage a coup (1923). The king accepted it.

.DICTATORSHIP (1923-1930) made public works (reservoirs, roads...), but 1929 economic crisis affected the country, getting the conflicts worse. As a consequence, the dictatorship's failure will be the monarchy's end.