



Mediterranean Politics >

Volume 22, 2017 - [Issue 4](#)

639 | 2 | 5
Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

Profile

Spain: The Forward March of Podemos Halted?

Richard Gillespie

Pages 537-544 | Published online: 04 Oct 2016

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2016.1241611>

Check for updates

Sample our
Politics & International
Relations Journals
**>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days**

Full Article

Figures & data

References

Citations

Metrics

Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

Abstract

Impressive electoral performances by Podemos in its first European, municipal and regional elections have not been sustained in the Spanish general elections of December 2015 and June 2016. In the context of government austerity policies and systemic political crisis, this radical left populist party has certainly attracted much support among youth and disadvantaged sectors, and had a great impact on Spain's political life, yet so far Podemos has not managed to become the main alternative to the conservative Popular Party. Its alignment with the old United Left has proved unproductive and controversial. There have been tensions between the organizational centralism of the Podemos leadership and a desire for more decentralized expressions of radical politics in places such as Catalonia, as well as more generally from defenders of citizen politics or the original protest orientation of the party. For some currents of the left, Podemos has become too electorally oriented. Other critics point to a failure to

reconcile left-wing objectives with the desire to capitalize on initial transversal appeal, extending beyond the traditional support base of the radical left. None the less, with Spain in a period of political stasis, there are still opportunities for Podemos to play a more influential role in the future, if it can address the challenges it faces without suffering schisms in the process.

Acknowledgement

The author is grateful to Paul Kennedy for feedback on the initial draft of this profile.

Notes

1. The idea of a *sorpasso*, referring to an 'overtaking' of a rival party, became widely used in the European political lexicon during the 1970s, with speculation that the Italian Communist Party might finally overtake the Christian Democrats.

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
2

Information for

Authors

R&D professionals

Editors

Librarians

Societies

Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

Open access

Overview

Open journals

Open Select

Dove Medical Press

F1000Research

Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources
by email

 Sign me up

  

  

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions

Accessibility



Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG