# WHY COULD SPAIN'S ELECTION CHANGE HOW PEOPLE REMEMBER FRANCO'S RULE?




## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Spain is voting in a general election that could bring a far-right party into national government for the first time since the country returned to democracy after the death of General Francisco Franco in 1975. The election has been called early by Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, partly because other parties rejected his plans to deal with rising housing costs. Polls suggest that the conservative People's Party could need support from Vox, a far-right party, to form a government. Franco ruled Spain as a dictator from 1939 until his death, limiting political freedom and imprisoning opponents. After 1975, Spain moved towards democracy, but arguments about Franco's legacy, immigration and national identity remain powerful. Many voters are mainly concerned about rent and living costs, yet the election has also raised questions about how long countries remember dictatorships and how easily political ideas from the past can return in new forms.

## WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

Spain's election connects a modern political contest with the long shadow of dictatorship. It shows that the end of a dictatorship does not make its ideas disappear immediately. Memories of repression, democracy and national identity can continue to influence elections decades later, especially when people feel worried about housing, immigration or the cost of living.

## THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

**"Why can a dictatorship still affect politics many years after it ends?"**

**Source:** The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/nov/28/spain-vote-election-could-far-right-power-first-time-franco