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The Fight for Independence: Catalan Political Institutions and Their Affect on Catalunya's Movement for Independence

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Oral Presentation O2.3

**THE FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE:
CATALAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR AFFECT ON
CATALUNYA'S MOVEMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE**

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The movement for independence within Catalunya has been gaining notice in the last 16 years. Yet, the movement towards independence has not progressed as much as expected. From the transition to democracy after General Francisco Franco died and his 35-year dictatorship came to an end, Catalunya quickly became a multiparty government. With multiple political beliefs spreading across the region, the movement for independence is inhibited since each political party has its own plan for Catalunya's political future. The division of political parties in combination with the Spanish government, who strongly opposes the idea of an independent Catalunya, has deterred Catalunya from making any progress towards independence in recent years, even after the multiple referenda that have been held around the region. Through comparison of party platforms this research analyzes how the political parties in Catalunya cannot agree on how to move forward to gain independence, even though a majority of the community would like to achieve independence. It also shows how the Spanish government has utilized their power to interfere with the movement's progress.