BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF CATALONIA
Preface

In the mid-19th Century, when those involved in the Catalan Renaissance proposed revitalising the Catalan identity, damaged by so many years of anti-Catalan centralism, one of its most important objectives was to bringing Catalonia’s past back to life. Thus, studies of history gained an important place in cultural and political life. It was at the time a matter of overcoming the silence with which Spanish governments since 1714 had treated Catalan culture, and therefore the country’s history, in both cultural and educational spheres.

Something even more serious, from the perspective of neglect and repression, was to occur after the defeat of 1714. From 1939, Franco’s regime was even more cruel to Catalonia. It was no longer simply a matter of silence about all matters concerning Catalan history, language and culture, but unbridled and systematic persecution. Things changed with the arrival of democracy and the creation of the autonomous region in 1978 and 1980. Things changed, but not far enough: there are still failings, and ignorance of the history of Catalonia continues among many groups of people in the country. Just when it appeared that, under the guidance of the education ministry of the various Generalitat governments since 1980, the history of Catalonia was to definitively recover its rightful place, a new centralist and anti-Catalan sentiment from the Madrid government has led to meddling in the Catalan education system. Therefore anything which contributes to remedying this lack of knowledge and to countering this new attack which, as I have explained, the education system has not solved, must be welcomed. It is from this perspective that the summary of the history of Catalonia written by our friend Joan Amorós cannot be seen as anything but extremely positive. It is not addressed at specialists but, rather more importantly, at all those citizens of Catalonia and around the world, who are interested in finding out where we come from; that Catalonia was an independent country for many centuries, that we had our own self-governing institutions, a different legal system from our neighbours and Courts which created the laws of the country; and that all of this was lost through a war, whose winners annihilated the state structure of Catalonia and put an end to the country’s independence. Given that since 1714 the Catalan people has never been able to express its opinion on whether or not it wishes to return to the situation before the defeat, it is indeed legitimate to maintain that, in a way, Catalonia continues to be an occupied country.

300 years after this major defeat, in spite of the progress made, the task of fighting for the survival of our nation has not ended, and it requires the highest level of commitment from those of us who wish to make Catalonia a country just like the rest of the countries in the world. Along these lines, 2014 could mark a decisive milestone in our national history. It is in the hands of the Catalan people, no one else.

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Introduction

The purpose of this brief summary is to provide information about the history of Catalonia, highlighting its key aspects, so that you can see the context in which the contributions recorded in this book were developed.

In fact, this history is a series of «successes», «declines» and «recoveries». By means of its «successes» and «recoveries», the nation has made significant contributions to humanity and has survived until today.

Its history can be divided into the following periods of time: firstly the «Prolegomena», from prehistory to the Muslim invasion. Then came «the genesis and consolidation of identity» from the beginning of the reconquest to Peter I the Catholic. Then the first decline arrived with the Battle of Muret and the ruin of the incipient Occitan-Catalan state and with this, clearly, the first recovery embodied by the conquest of Mallorca and Valencia and the Mediterranean expansion. We then move on to the second decline, a long period including the destruction wreaked by the last epidemic of the Black Death, the Catalan Revolt (with separation of the territories of Roussillon and part of Cerdanya) and the War of the Spanish Succession (with the loss of national freedoms), to naturally move on to the second recovery, which included all of the promising Catalan Renaissance period, an nineteenth century cultural movement promoting revitalisation of the Catalan language and culture which was destroyed by the third decline, a period covering the whole Franco period when the harshest persecution of history was experienced by the people and culture. We then reach the last quarter of the 20th century and the first years of the 21st century, the third recovery? This phase began with the progressive restoration of the self-government institutions which still continues today.

The people must now make their own history.

Indeed, this is a key time, as positive consolidation of the European Union and greater respect for individual and collective rights are creating a more promising context.

In the geographical region there is a axis of economic development, which includes all of the north-western Mediterranean. Within this band, Catalonia and the Occitan-Catalan area will continue to be increasingly significant.

In this new millennium, the possibility of initiating a third recovery is within our grasp; this will represent a definitive success and cancel the effect of the previous declines permanently.

Achieving this is down to nothing more than us and the effort we put in.

Through this summary, we wish to pay tribute to the great historian Ferran Soldevila. We hope that reading it will help us, as Catalans, to reflect and decide to make this third recovery truly effective. For those from the rest of the world, we hope it will help you understand more easily the desires of our people.

Greek Colonisation

Between the 8th and 6th centuries BC, the Greeks settled in various locations on the coast of Catalonia. These include in particular Rhode (Roses) and Emporion (Empúries). The influence on Iberian culture was significant.

The Iberians

Iberian culture reached its apogee between the middle of the 5th century and the 3rd century BC.

It was characterised by an intensification of urban life, the use of iron as a basic metal, the manufacture of ceramics, the adoption of a specific writing system, notable contributions to sculpture and painting, the appearance of a monetary economy and the cremation of the dead. It extended through the Mediterranean basin from Murcia in what is now the south of Spain to the mouth of the Rhône River.

A very important aspect of the region’s geography, which has had an important influence on
our history, is that the Eastern Pyrenees are not a barrier.

Their crossing points, including the Alberes passes, the Coll de la Perxa and even the Coll de la Quillana, are easy to cross year-round. This has meant that over time a single civilisation has been able to extend on either side of the Pyrenees.

They built major communication routes, such as *via Augusta* and *via Domitia*. They founded, or refounded, towns and cities (including Tarraco, known today as Tarragona, Barcelona and Valencia) and urban life underwent a major expansion.

### The Carthaginian Invasion

In their fight against Rome during the Punic Wars, the Carthaginians invaded the domains of the Iberians towards the end of the 3rd century BC. The Carthaginian General Hannibal conquered many of the Iberian tribes after attacking and destroying Sagunt (219 BC).

The Romans landed in Empúries (218 BC), and then expelled them from all areas.

### Romanisation

Between the latter part of the 3rd century BC and the end of the 2nd century BC, the Romans dominated all the areas where Catalan and Occitan are spoken today.

They brought their language and law, and developed agriculture, livestock farming, industry (mainly linen) and trade. They brought their art (a reflection of Greek art), and were responsible for great public constructions: amphitheatres, theatres, circuses, baths, bridges, aqueducts and other structures.

### Christianisation

Indigenous religions disappeared as a consequence of the Roman influence, with its worship of the Roman gods and the emperors. Later, this also disappeared with Christianity’s increasing dominance. The Christian lifestyle quickly took root in Catalan territory and was fully consolidated between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. Persecution and martyrdom were common initially, until the Roman Empire accepted the new religion.

The ecclesiastical hierarchy imitated the empire’s organisational structure and divided Christians into parishes, dioceses and archdioceses, most of which have survived until today.

### Visigoth Domination

The Visigoths were the most civilised of the Germanic barbarians.

At the beginning of the 5th century they occupied much of what is today known as Occitania and also the Iberian Peninsula.

The first capital was in Toulouse of Languedoc, but later when they were expelled by the Franks, it was moved to Narbonne, then to Barcelona and finally to Toledo.
In the lands where Catalan is currently spoken, and in Septimania (Occitania), there were many revolts and attempts to create a kingdom outside the control of the Toledo monarchy.

**Muslim Invasion and Domination**

The Muslims invaded the Iberian Peninsula and southern Gaul at the beginning of the 8th century but in Occitania and Old Catalonia the domination did not last long. This domination was important because, along with the reconquest, it led to the appearance of independent Christian states.

At the same time, Catalonia was the focal point for passing on the advances of Arab culture to the rest of Europe.

**Reconquest**

With the Muslim invasion, many inhabitants of Catalonia fled to territories that were still free, and then to Occitania, from where their descendants would return once the Franc reconquest began.

It should be noted that the Franks were responsible for the reconquest of the Occitan lands and Catalonia, and the Visigoths for the rest of the Iberian Peninsula.

The Franks’ reconquest reinforced the connections between Catalonia and the other Occitan territories, and led to full incorporation into the heart of Europe. It was started in Poitiers by Charles Martel in 732. Narbonne was reconquered in 759, Girona in 785 and Barcelona in 801.

The reconquered territories were set up as counties and repopulated by the residents of Occitania; this is why many place names are repeated on either side of the Pyrenees.

Catalonia participated directly in the administrative, social and ecclesiastical organisation, and in the cultural renaissance, as promoted by Charlemagne. Unlike other Iberian territories, as a result of belonging to the Carolingian Empire feudalism was fully developed.
The Catalan countdoms. Wilfred the Hairy

The first Catalan countdoms were Roussillon, Cerdanya, Empúries, Urgell, Osona, Girona and Barcelona. Pallars and Ribagorça belonged to the counts of Toulouse.

Wilfred the Hairy (870-897), related to the house of the Counts of Carcassonne, Count of Barcelona, Besalú, Cerdanya, Girona and Urgell (appointed by Frankish king Charles II the Bald), repopulated the centre of Catalonia. He founded the glorious House of Barcelona, which in the end reigned over all Catalan-speaking countries, a large part of Occitania, Aragon and also the islands of Sicily and Sardinia.

Legend has it that he was responsible for the Catalan flag.

He founded the monasteries of Santa Maria de Ripoll and Sant Joan de les Abadesses.

Abbot Oliba and the institution of Peace and Truce. Ramon Berenguer I and the Usages

In 1027, Oliba, bishop of Vic and abbot of Cuixà and of Ripoll, from the synod of Touluges established the Peace and Truce of God, to stop the ongoing feudal battles of the early middle ages. The institution was then extended throughout feudal Europe.

The Catalan counts gradually separated from the Franks, after which Ramon Berenguer I (1035-1076) and his wife, Almodis (daughter of the counts of Limousin), assisted by a board of magistrates and lawyers, promulgated the Usages, the first known feudal legal code in the world. They represent a pact-based conception of power relations, in which the actions of the count are limited by the customs and rights of the country. In fact, they are the first constitutional charter of Catalonia (ratified one hundred and sixty years before the English Magna Carta was promulgated).

Ramon Berenguer I extended his domains throughout western Catalonia and incorporated into the House of Barcelona the counties of Carcassonne and Rasès, and various lands and castles within the counties of Toulouse and Foix in the Narbonne regions, Comenge and Sabartès.

In around 1058, the song Cançó de Santa Fe was written in a language straddling Languedoc and Catalan. In the following century, some fragments of the Fòrum Iudicum and Homilies d’Organyà were written in Catalan.

Ramon Berenguer III and the Union with Provence

Ramon Berenguer III continued the expansion of the House of Barcelona through the neighbouring lands of Occitania. On his marriage to Douce, Countess of Provence in 1112, this beautiful Mediterranean country was incorporated into his domains.

He was also responsible for the restoration of Tarragona in 1118 and went on expeditions to the Balearics and to Valencia, although in these cases his conquests were short-lived.

Ramon Berenguer IV and the Union with Aragon

In order to defend itself against the threat of being annexed by the kings of Castile, Aragon approached Catalonia.

The marriage of Peronella, daughter of Ramiro II the Monk, king of Aragon, to Ramon Berenguer IV, was agreed and took place in 1137.

Neither Catalonia nor Aragon wanted to become involved in the life of the other and, with great respect for each other, maintained their own institutions under a single monarch.

Ramon Berenguer IV completed the reconquest of Catalonia, liberating Tortosa (1148), Lleida, Fraga and Mequinensa (1149), Miravet (1152) and Prades and Ciurana (1153) from Saracen power.

The expansion of the House of Barcelona through Occitan Lands

In the time of Alfons I of Catalonia and Aragon (1162-1196), in addition to Provence the counties or viscounties of Carcassonne, Rasès, Lauraguès,
Territories under the jurisdiction of the House of Barcelona, at the beginning of the 13th century.

Bearn, Bigorra, Millau, Gavaldà, Carladès, Montpellier and Foix were connected to the House of Barcelona.

All of these territories and other Occitan lands were closely connected to Catalonia through linguistic and cultural links. The poetry of the troubadours flourished on both sides of the Pyrenees, as did Romanesque art.

**Peter I the Catholic and the Battle of Muret**

By then Albigensian or Cathar heresy had spread throughout the Languedoc. A major crusade was planned to combat it, which would in fact disguise the French appetite for invasion. Most of the crusaders were French; Simon of Montfort was the leader.

Peter I tried to stop the crusade by all diplomatic means. Seeing that all his efforts were in vain, he took up arms to help the counts of Toulouse, Foix and Comenge, who had previously been in vassalage to him.

In September 1213, a great battle took place close to Muret and the king was killed. His death led to the ruin of the incipient Occitan-Catalan state.

**James I and the Conquest of Mallorca and Valencia**

James I the Conqueror was born in Montpellier and had a difficult childhood due to the premature death of his father. His education was entrusted to the Templars.

In an assembly in Barcelona in 1228, when he was just twenty years old, he decided to conquer Mallorca. On 31 December 1229 the city of Mallorca was conquered, with the rest of the island following shortly afterwards. Ibiza was conquered in 1235 and Menorca, a tributary state of James I since 1231, was conquered definitively in 1287 during the reign of Alfons II.

James I began the conquest of the Valencia in 1232. The Muslims of the city of Valencia surrendered on 28 September 1238 and the king made his triumphant entry on 9 October.

James I also conquered Murcia in 1266, but he handed it over to his son-in-law, Alfonso the Wise, King of Castile.

In 1258, James I signed the Treaty of Corbeil with Louis IX, King of France, through which James I renounced his rights to the Occitan lands. In exchange, the French renounced their theoretical rights to Catalonia from the Carolingian time.

**Peter II the Great**

After the end of the great reconquest by James I, Catalonia’s count-kings began the great Mediterranean adventure.

Peter II the Great (1276-1285) went to the aid of the Sicilians; they had revolted against Charles of Anjou and the French, who had invaded the island. The revolt, which broke out in 1282, is known by the name of Sicilian Vespers. The Sicilians offered the crown to Peter the Great who, along with his host, freed the island from the power of the French.

Charles of Anjou issued him a personal challenge in Bordeaux, but it was a trap. Despite this, Peter II, in disguise, went to Bordeaux and left evidence of his presence.

The French later invaded Catalonia, but they were beaten back by sea (in the battle of the Formigues Islands by the admiral Roger de Llúria) and by land (in the battle of the Coll de Panissars) and had to return to France with the dying king.

Roger de Llúria gave a now-famous response to the emissaries of the King of France, who re-
quested that he grant a truce: «No vessel will travel by sea if does not bear the flag of Peter II, no fish will swim in the sea if on its tail it does not have the coat of arms with the four bars of His Highness, King of Catalonia, Aragon, Valencia and Sicily».

In the time of Peter II the Great, the Catalan Courts took form and were allocated specific powers (1283): they were the first European parliament.

**Mediterranean Expansion**

The treaty of Anagni, brought about by Pope Boniface VIII to end the battles between the Catalans and Angevins (of the House of Anjou) in the Mediterranean, gave James II the Just (1291-1327) the investiture of Sardinia and Corsica, but he returned Sicily to the Anjous.

Yet the Sicilians did not accept this and nominated as their king Frederic, brother of James II, who at that time was governor of the island. Helped by the Almogavers (warriors who fought under the flags of the kings of the House of Barcelona), they fought against the Angevins until victory was achieved with the peace of Caltabellotta (1302).

Thus the House of Barcelona continued to reign in Sicily, which was reincorporated into the general domains of the Catalan-Aragonese Crown in the time of King Martin the Humane.

After these actions the Almogavers, who had fought alongside Frederick of Sicily, went to the aid of the Emperor of Constantinople to fight against the Turks, and won great victories, led by Roger de Flor.

Despite this, a powerful party was formed amongst the Greeks who envied the Almogavers, and Roger de Flor and many of his knights were killed at a banquet.

The Catalans, led by Berenguer of Entença and Bernat of Rocafort, were strong at Gallipoli and started a terrible war against the Greek Empire, known as the Catalan Vengeance. This led to the conquest of the duchies of Athens (1311) and Neopatria (1318), which belonged to the House of Barcelona until 1388 and 1390 respectively.

In 1323, towards the end of the reign of James II, his son Alfons (who in 1327 would succeed him with the name Alfons III the Benign) led a great expedition and conquered the island of Sardinia, which from then formed part of the Catalan-Aragonese Crown.

**Flourishing art, literature and sciences**

While Catalonia and the other Catalan-speaking countries were developing their national institutions, their culture was also developing in all fields of human knowledge, and came to occupy very important position in medieval civilisation.

**Institutions**

The most important institution in the different countries in the Catalan-Aragonese confederation was the Courts, which had legislative, administrative, economic and judicial powers.

Another fundamental institution, which with time gained political and governance responsibilities, was the Generalitat, created in Catalonia and also in a stable form in Valencia and Aragon by Peter III the Ceremonious in 1359. Its origin lay in the committees designated by the Courts, with members representing the three «branches» of which they were composed (military-nobles, ecclesiastics and royal-bourgeoisie of the cities).
**Sciences**

Three well-known figures of the 13th and 14th centuries were: Saint Ramon of Penyafort in matters of jurisprudence (he advised Saint Peter Nolasc about founding the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy), Ramon Llull in the field of philosophy and Arnau de Vilanova in the fields of theology and medicine.

Mallorcan cartography is also globally recognised: Abraham Cresques was the most famous Catalan cartographer.

**Education**

The main universities were those of Montpelier (especially for medicine), Lleida and Perpinyà (Perpignan), and later Barcelona and Valencia.

**Literature**

In the 12th–13th centuries, the poetry of the troubadours flourished within all of the Occitan-Catalan region. The most significant were Marcabrá, Bernat de Ventadorn, Berenguer of Palol, Guillem of Berguedà, Guillem of Cabestany and Guillem of Cervera, but there were many others.

During the 14th Century the Floral Games (Jocs Florals) were introduced to Toulouse in Languedoc (1323) and Barcelona (by King John I, in 1393), to provide continuity to Troubadour poetry.

Catalan literature gained strength with the writing of the four great chronicles by James I, Bernat Desclot, Ramon Muntaner (who narrated the Catalan expansion throughout the Mediterranean) and Peter the Ceremonious, and Lo Somni by Bernat Metge (13th and 14th centuries), Ti rant lo Blanc by Joanot Martorell and the poetry of Ausiàs Marc (15th century).

There were also dramatic performances of note, such the play the Mystery of Elx.

**Law**

Catalonia developed its own legislation based on Roman and Canon law.

Various compilations were also made, such as the Llibre del Consolat de Mar, a maritime code which was adopted by many European countries for several centuries.

**Arts**

Romanesque and Gothic architecture (in its Catalan version, often with internal buttresses) are the most notable styles of the period, with an influence on churches and cathedrals, but also on civil and military buildings.

Some of the most significant examples in the field of Romanesque art are the monasteries of Sant Miquel de Cuixà, Sant Pere de Rodes, Santa Maria de Ripoll, Sant Joan de Boí, Santa Maria and Sant Climent de Taüll and Santa Eulàlia d’Erill la Vall.

The monasteries of Santa Maria de Poblet and Santes Creus (where the most important Catalan kings, James I and Peter II the Great respectively are buried), are essentially a demonstration of the transition from Romanesque to Gothic.

The Drassanes (shipyard) in Barcelona is one of the most important civil Gothic-style buildings in Europe.

**Extinction of the Catalan Dynasty, the Compromise of Caspe and the enthronement of the Trastamara Dynasty**

When Martin the Humane died with no direct descendant and without leaving a will, the parliaments of Catalonia, Valencia and Aragon had to be brought together in a general parliamentary session to elect a new sovereign. Castilian interference in Aragon and Valencia and the involvement of Benet XIII (the Aragonese schismatic pope) meant that the delegates designated by the General Parliament chose the Trastamara Ferdinand of Antequera, infante of Castile, over James of Urgell, great-grandson of Alfons III the Benign.

And so the Compromise of Caspe ended over five centuries of the Catalan dynasty of the House of Barcelona, descended from Wilfred the Hairy.

The different mentality of the new dynasty clashed with the temperament of the Catalan people, and for the first time a distance was created between the monarchy and the people.
**Conquest of Naples**

Alfons IV the Magnanimous conquered Naples in 1443, and thus the domains of the Catalan monarchs reached their maximum size.

Yet Alfons the Magnanimous coveted new lands and tried to influence the Balkan countries in the Adriatic strip, and various African regions in battles and wars disproportionate to the forces of his kingdoms. Catalonia, already in a precarious situation due to the destruction wreaked by the Black Death and the «Remences» civil war, which had decimated the population, was weakened further.

**The Preponderance of Barcelona**

Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, and seat of the Royal Catalan-Aragonese Court, was always at the forefront of the movement for land and sea expansion. The city set up its own institutions for governing the municipality, such as the Consell de Cent (approved by James I in 1265) and the «carreratge» law (to extend its privileges to other locations of the Crown).

The *taula de canvi*, the first European institutional bank, was created by Barcelona’s Consell de Cent (Council of One Hundred).

Trade was the basis of Barcelona’s greatness, and maritime trade was especially important. Large shipyards were built, and the Consell de Cent appointed consuls of Barcelona in all the countries in which Catalonia had commercial interests.

**Mallorca, Valencia, and the «Kingdoms of the sea»**

**Mallorca**

The Balearic Islands were conquered and populated by Catalans. Initially they did not have their own court and sent representatives to the Catalan Courts.

On the death of James I, the Balearic Islands, together with the counties of Roussillon and Cerdanya and the Domain of Montpellier, formed the lands of the monarchs of Mallorca, although as feudal subjects of the Catalan monarchs. In 1344 Peter III the Ceremonious reincorporated these lands into Catalonia.

**Valencia**

Valencia, conquered by the Catalans and the Aragonese, was peopled mostly by Catalans. The new realm had its own Court and Generalitat.

Alfons IV the Magnanimous greatly favoured the city of Valencia, which at that time reached its greatest material and intellectual splendour.

In 1474 the first book in Catalan was printed in Valencia: *les Trobes en llavor de nostra dona Santa Maria*.

**«Kingdoms of the sea»**

Sicily, Sardinia and Naples constituted the «kingdoms of the sea».

**Sicily**

Sicily was governed by a viceroy and had a parliament, also composed of three branches, and a council very similar to that of Catalonia.

**Sardinia**

Like the Balearics, Sardinia was predominantly conquered by the Catalans. Many Catalans moved there and even today, Catalan is spoken in the city of Alghero. It was governed by a viceroy and sent representatives to the Catalan Courts. Alfons IV the Magnanimous granted it its own courts.

**Naples**

In Naples the regime from before the conquest (1443) was maintained. Many Catalan customs were introduced in Naples and Catalan was the official language in the Chancellery.

**Athens and Neopatria**

These duchies were governed by a vicar general. The Usages were law and Catalan was the official language.

**The catholic monarchs and the discovery of America**

The Trastamaras often had issues with the Catalans concerning tax collection. After a period of
revolts against King John II, which left Catalonia in ruins, the throne was occupied by Ferdinand II
the Catholic (1479-1516), who married Isabel of Castile. The two crowns were combined but
continued to be independent, without joint governance bodies. Despite this, Ferdinand and
Isabel spent more time in Castile than in any of their other realms, and to an extent used it as a
base for their actions.

The falling population levels, caused by the Black Death, also left Catalonia and the other king-
doms of the Catalan-Aragonese Crown in a position of inferiority compared to Castile, which
had serious consequences.

When Queen Isabel died (1504), Ferdinand II mar-
rried Germaine of Foix and had a son with her. Yet
this son, heir of the Catalan-Aragonese Crown,
died shortly after birth, making Ferdinand’s heir
his grandson Charles, son of Joanna of Castile and
Philip the Handsome of the Habsburg dynasty.

During the time of Ferdinand II, the second re-
bellion of the Remences occurred in Catalonia,
when these rural serfs wished to be freed from
the payment of redemption dues if they left the
domain in which they were registered. The king
finally resolved the situation through an arbitra-
tion sentence, called the Sentence of Guadalupe,
which was a compromise between the requests
of the serfs and the claims of the nobility.

It was also in the time of Ferdinand II that the dis-
covery of America occurred with significant par-
ticipation by Catalonia in its financing. During this
whole process the initiative was taken by Ferdi-
nand II and a document as essential as the capita-
lations of discovery, signed by Joan de Coloma,
secretary of the Catalan-Aragonese Council and
Royal protonotary. Although the Catalan origin of
Christopher Columbus has not been definitively
proved, it is increasingly difficult to deny.

The Catalan–Aragonese Confederation
under the monarchs of the Habsburg Dynasty

The House of Austria was represented in the His-
panic kingdoms by Charles I, Philip II, Philip III,
Philip IV (Philip I, Philip II, Philip III in the Catalan-
Aragonese confederation) and Charles II. Catalo-
nia fell into decline. Despite this, it continued to
maintain and defend its institutions and called for
authorisation for direct trade with America, which
it was denied at all times.

In the Mediterranean, Catalonia still had a
strong participation in the Battle of Lepanto
against the Turks, which ended in a great victory
(1571). The figure of the Catalan Lluís de Requesens was key to attaining the victory.

The Catalan Revolt, Guerra dels Segadors

The minister of Philip III (IV of Castile), the
Count-Duke of Olivares, wished that all the king-
doms of which Spain was composed be subject
«to the laws of Castile, without discrimination».

In the meantime, Europe was rocked by the
Thirty Years’ War, between the houses of the
Habsburgs and of France.

The Catalans tended to take part in very few of
the wars undertaken by the monarchy, as they
were considered to be Castile’s military actions.

Due to this war, the Spanish army was stationed
in Catalonia for fourteen years. The soldiers
committed all kinds of abuse, until the Catalans,
who were tired of requesting that they with-
draw, and led by Pau Claris (president of the
Generalitat), took up arms and vanquished the
Spanish Army in the Battle of Montjuïc (1641).

After various vicissitudes and battles, a peace
settlement was reached in 1652, through which
it was established that Catalonia’s privileges and
constitutions would be maintained.

The Catalan popular song «Els segadors» dates
to this time; it later became the national anthem
of Catalonia.

The Treaty of the Pyrenees (1659), which ended
the Thirty Years’ War, represented the separation
of the territories of Roussillon and part of Cerda-
nya (today located in France) from the rest of Cat-
alonia (despite the protests of the Catalans, who
had nothing to do with the war that was settled).
Decline

As a result of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492, the trade in the Mediterranean moved to the Atlantic. This greatly affected the economy of the Catalan-speaking countries and Aragon, as they were denied direct trading with the American possessions of the crown (which despite the decisive participation of Catalonia in the discovery were considered to be exclusively owned by the Kingdom of Castile), and its much smaller population meant that Catalonia could do little to combat this.

During the 16th and 17th centuries the nobility was gradually denatured as it mixed with the noble houses of Castile; it stopped using its own language and followed the court, though this was confined to the ruling classes and did not spread to the masses.

Due to economic hardship, banditry rose in the Catalan countryside.

All genres of literature fell into decline as Catalan was no longer the vehicular language of culture and Castilian cultural models dominated. Literature in Catalan did not disappear altogether, but most Catalan writers used Spanish. In the field of science the Valencian Lluís Vives (1492-1540) stands out for his philosophical, pedagogical and legal works.

In the 17th century Baroque art appeared in churches and in the houses of nobles.

Fortunately during the 16th and 17th centuries there was a strong migratory stream from Occitania, which contributed to redressing the demographic situation of Catalonia and the subsequent economic revival.

War of the Spanish Succession
Eleventh of September

Under the governance of the House of Habsburg, Catalonia and the other countries of the Catalan-Aragonese Confederation kept their institutions. Charles II was the last king of the House of the Habsburgs; he died without leaving a descendant and appointed as his successor Philip of Anjou of the French House of Bourbon, but the Archduke Charles of Austria went to war to recover the crown. England and Holland fought alongside him, as did Catalonia and all of the Catalan-Aragonese confederation, since the absolutist nature of the Bourbon king endangered all of their rights and liberties.

In the Iberian Peninsula, the war was won by Philip of Anjou (Philip V), who first conquered Valencia (Battle of Almansa in 1707) and then Aragon (removing all rights and liberties).

It was in this situation that the Emperor of Austria died and the Archduke Charles took his place. To prevent the union between Austria and the kingdoms of Spain, the allies abandoned him. In Utrecht in 1713 the peace settlement was signed, leaving the Catalans in the hands of Philip V. The island of Menorca was ceded to England and all of the kingdoms «of the sea» were lost. Neither the archduke, the emperor nor the English upheld their pact with Catalonia.

Despite being abandoned by its allies, Catalonia decided to resist until the end. Under siege from all sides by Spanish and French troops, Barcelona lasted almost 14 months, leading to great admiration for the city throughout Europe.

Finally, on the eleventh of September 1714, Barcelona fell after one of the most heroic sieges in history. Notable figures in Barcelona’s defence were the leader of the Municipal Council, Rafael Casanova, and the General Antoni de Villarroel.

Just a few days later Cardona fell and the following year was the turn of Mallorca, which had provided supplies to the city of Barcelona several times during the siege.

From this time, heavy repression began and, with the Nova Planta Decree pronounced by Philip V, all of Catalonia’s institutions were closed down and official use of the Catalan language was banned.

The existing Catalan universities were closed and they were replaced by the newly created university in Cervera. All teaching had to be in the Spanish language.
Catalonia under the Monarchs of the House of Bourbon

Beginning of Economic and Commercial Recovery

When the War of the Spanish Succession ended, Catalonia started to work on its economic recovery. The bourgeoisie became the guiding force for life in the Principality. An important factor in this re-emergence was the concession made by Charles III to Barcelona and other Catalan ports, allowing them to trade directly with America (1778).

In this period several institutions were created, such as the Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres (dedicated to the art of writing) (1729), the Academy of Natural Sciences and Arts (1770), the Academy of Practical Medicine, the College of Surgery of Barcelona, the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Societies of Friends of the Country, which were a great boost to the arts, sciences and trade. There was strong development of the textile industry, which included the production of threads and cotton and woollen fabrics.

The expulsion of the Jesuits decreed by Charles III affected the University of Cervera, which began to decline. Barcelona began its claim to restore its university, which it did not achieve until 1842.

In Northern Catalonia, an important figure was the great scientist and politician Francesc Aragó (1786-1853), lecturer at the Paris Polytechnic. He contributed to studies on light refraction and electromagnetism.

In the art world, the painter Antoni de Viladomat (1678-1755) should be noted.

The French Revolution and Napoleon

In 1789, during the reign of Charles IV of Spain, revolution broke out in France, leading to abolition of the monarchy and establishment of a republic. In Catalonia there was great sympathy with the French Republic.

The French Revolution was, however, reversed and Napoleon appeared, appointing himself emperor. Charles IV and his son Ferdinand granted him their rights to the crown of Spain. Napoleon separated Catalonia from Spain and annexed it to the French Empire. Catalonia fought to break away. The Battle of the Bruc (1808) and the resistance in Girona are examples of the heroic acts of this struggle. Under threat in other parts of Europe, Napoleon finally withdrew his troops from Spain and agreed with Ferdinand VII to put an end to French interference.

From Ferdinand VII to Alfonso XIII

The reigns of Ferdinand VII and of Isabel II of Spain were periods of internal civil unrest between liberals and absolutists, which also affected Catalonia.

An important figure in these struggles was the Catalan general and liberal progressive Joan Prim who, with the idea of establishing a constitutional monarchic regime, dethroned Isabel II and placed Amadeus of Savoy (1870) on the throne.

During this period the Spanish crown lost all of its colonial empire.

When General Prim was assassinated, and Amadeus later renounced the throne, in 1873 the First Spanish Republic, with federalist ideals, was proclaimed. Its first two presidents, Estanislau Figueres and Francesc Pi i Margall, were Catalan. The Republic did not last long, and the following year the Bourbon Dynasty was restored with Alfonso XII, succeeded by Alfonso XIII.

In Catalonia federalist ideologies dominated, and as the industrial revolution took place, a strong workers’ movement began to emerge, inspired by international anarchy.

Catalan Renaissance, La Renaixença

Economic and Industrial Renaissance

From the second half of the 18th century, all the inventions of the Industrial Revolution were adopted in or adapted to Catalonia, and strong textile and metallurgical industries were consolidated.
In the field of communications, the first railway on the Iberian Peninsula was opened between Barcelona and Mataró in 1848. One of the most important inventions was the work by Narcís Monturiol, who in 1859 invented the submarine *Ictíneo*.

The economic success in Catalonia led to Barcelona hosting the Universal Exposition in 1888.

**Literary Renaissance**

The Catalan literary and historiographical renaissance was based on romanticism, inspired by the glorious past of the middle ages.

Bonaventura Carles Aribau, with his *Oda a la patria* (1833), is considered to be the first leader of the Catalan Renaissance. He was to be followed by a large number of poets, writers and historians, such as Joaquim Rubió i Ors, Jacint Verdaguer (whose most significant poems were *L’Atlàntida* and *Canigó*), Àngel Guimerà (most notable play *Terra baixa*), Joan Maragall (author of, amongst other poems, the *Cant Espiridual*), Teodor Llorente, Miquel Costa i Llobera (author of *Pi de Formentor*), Joan Alcover (author of *La Balenguera*) and Josep Torras i Bages (author of *La tradició catalana*).

All Catalan-speaking regions contributed to this resurgence, even the faraway Alghero on the island of Sardinia.

As a result of this increase in activity, several years later the 1 Congrés Internacional de Llengua Catalana (First International Conference of the Catalan Language) was held in 1906 and the Institut d’Estudis Catalans was founded in 1907 by Enric Prat de la Riba.

The Catalan Renaissance went hand in hand with that of Provence. Víctor Balaguer and Jacint Verdaguer had a close relationship with Frederic Mistral, who had a significant influence on Catalan writers and intellectuals. Mistral (author of *Mireia*) was also the creator of the cultural association Felibritge and of the anthem of Catalan-Occitan brotherhood, *Cant de la Copa*.

**The Standardisation of Catalan**

The great writers of the time contributed to the gradual standardisation of the language, but it was above all Pompeu Fabra (1868–1948) who definitively laid down the rules of modern Catalan at the Institut d’Estudis Catalans, with his *Normes ortogràfiques* (1913), *Gramàtica Catalana* (1918) and the *Diccionari general de la llengua catalana* (1932). These rules were also accepted in the País Valencià and the Balearic Islands.

These rules were also used as inspiration for the Occitan grammarian Loïs Alibert to standardise contemporary Occitan. His *Gramàtica occitana* was published for the first time in Barcelona in 1935 by the Oficina de Relacions Meridionals of the Generalitat.

**Artistic Renaissance**

The neoclassical style of the 18th century continued into the first part of the 19th century. It then gave way to realist romanticism and later to realism and naturalism.

Some of the most notable painters include Marià Fortuny, Joaquim Vayreda, Ramon Casas, Santiago Rusiñol, Joaquim Sorolla and Isidre Nonell. Sculptors include Marià Benlliure, Agustí Querol, Josep Llimona, Josep Clarà, Aristides Maillol, Enric Casanovas and Pau Gargallo.

In the field of architecture, modernism became popular, with important architects such as Elies Rogent, Antoni Gaudí (best known for the temple of La Sagrada Família in Barcelona), Lluís Domènech i Montaner (Palau de la Música Ca-
talana in Barcelona) and Josep Puig i Cadafalch (Casa de les Punxes in Barcelona). In the last phase, well into the 20th century, an important figure was Josep Lluís Sert, co-founder of the GATCPAC architectural group, for progress in contemporary architecture.

Ildefons Cerdà, town planner, designed the Eixample district of Barcelona, and created a new model of city.

In the music field, a strong popular choir movement appeared, encouraged by Anselm Clavé (1824-1874). The conservatory of the Liceu was founded (1838) and the Orfeó Català was created by the master Millet (1891). Prominent composers of the day include Isaac Albéniz, Enric Granados, Amadeu Vives (composer of L'emigrant, a choral work with text by the poet Jacint Verdaguer), Antoni Nicolau, Enric Morera and Pau Casals (world-renowned cellist, composer of El pessbre, nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and well known for his speech at the United Nations in 1971, praising the Catalan nation and encouraging the struggle for peace and freedom in the world).

A Strong Associacionisme Movement
During this period, scientific, cultural and civic entities flourished around the Catalan-speaking countries, giving a strong boost to national awareness-raising and knowledge of the country. These include, amongst many others, the Cercle del Liceu (1847), the Cercle de Lectura de Reus (1859), the Ateneu Català (1860), the Cercle Literari de Vic (1860), the Acadèmia Bibliográficomariana de Lleida (1862), the Centre Català (1880) and the Centre Excursionista de Catalunya (1890).

Social Struggles
The gradual industrialisation of the country opened the way to a large working class.

The first major strike was that of 1855 against the installation of modern machinery, which was attacked for taking work from the workers. In 1868 the first anarchist cells were created.

In 1869 the workers' society «Les tres Classes del Vapor» (The three types of steam) was founded, from which would later emerge the Partit Democràtic Socialista and the Unió General de Treballadors.

In 1890 International Workers' Day was celebrated for the first time on 1 May. In 1909 a revolutionary general strike was declared in Barcelona and other Catalan locations, as an expression of the popular discontent caused by the war against Morocco; it is known as the Tragic Week. There was rioting and severe repression by the army.

In 1910 the Confederació Regional del Treball was created in Barcelona, later to be called the Confederació Nacional del Trebal (CNT). It played an important role in social struggles until the May Days of 1937 and the fall of the Second Republic (1939).

As a result of the confrontations, the leaders Francesc Layret (1920) and Salvador Seguí (1923) died in bloody attacks.

In 1922, the Unió de Rabassaires was created in the countryside.

Political Change
Political Catalanism began in the wake of the publication of the Diari Català (1879), the first daily newspaper in Catalan language, the meeting of the I Congrés Catalanista (1880), foundation of the Centre Català (1882) and the holding of the II Congrés Catalanista (1884), which condemned Catalans being members of Spanish general parties. It continued with the submission of the Memorial de Greuges to Alfonso XII (1885), a report concerning the discrimination against Catalonia, and with the appearance of Lo catalanisme, the first systematic exposition of Catalanist doctrine, by Valentí Almirall (1886).

Later, in 1891, the Unió Catalanista was created; the famous Bases de Manresa document was presented at its first assembly, claiming an autonomous regime for Catalonia (1892).

In 1901 the Lliga Regionalista was created with Lluís Domènech i Muntaner, Doctor Bertomeu Robert, Enric Prat de la Riba and Francesc Cam-
bó. Its mouthpiece was the newspaper La Veu de Catalunya.

To defend the rights of Catalonia, and faced with the central government’s Law of Jurisdictions, which meant that any offence against the unity of the nation was subject to military jurisdiction, the movement Solidaritat Catalana was created. It brought together various Catalanist tendencies and achieved a landslide victory in the 1907 general elections.

From the Mancomunitat of Catalonia to the Second Republic

Mancomunitat of Catalonia

After a long negotiation process with the Madrid government, Enric Prat de la Riba, who was already president of Barcelona Provincial Council, managed to unite the four Catalan provincial councils and set up the Mancomunitat of Catalonia (1914). Prat de la Riba’s work was of great merit, both in terms of culture and the creation of infrastructures. In 1917 he died at Castellterçol, Catalonia, and was replaced by Josep Puig i Cadafalch.

Meanwhile, various figures in the Lliga, including Francesc Cambó, were involved in governance of the monarchy with barely any compensation for Catalonia. In 1922 the Conferència Nacional Catalana was held in Barcelona, leading to the founding of a new nationalistic party, Acció Catalana, which triumphed in the elections of June 1923.

The Dictatorship of General Primo de Rivera

The dictatorship of General Primo de Rivera (1923-1930) dissolved the Mancomunitat of Catalonia and damaged Catalan language and culture. There were frequent conspiracies and plots, the most notable of which was by Francesc Macià who, from Prats de Molló (1926) in the French part of the Pyrenees, tried to cross the border and free Catalonia from the dictatorship.

From the Catalan Republic to the Restored Generalitat

After the fall of Primo de Rivera, municipal elections were called in April 1931. Acció Catalana, together with Acció Republicana, formed Acció Catalana Republicana or Partit Republicà Català, which, together with Estat Català and other groups, created the party Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya, which under the leadership of Francesc Macià won a landslide victory at the elections.

Around Spain, other republican and socialist parties triumphed, leading to the proclamation of the Republic (14 April). Before this, on the same day, Francesc Macià had proclaimed the Catalan Republic. Shortly after negotiation with the representatives of the Spanish government, the Catalan Republic became the restored Generalitat of Catalonia, of which Macià was the first president.

A Statute of Autonomy was drawn up, which was approved widely with a plebiscite in 1932. Several months later, after difficult negotiations, the Spanish Courts voted for it.

The Balearic Islands and the Valencia worked on drawing up their own statutes of autonomy, but did not manage to establish them.

Advances in Cultural and Scientific Spheres

During this period and until the end of the Second Republic, major advances were made in the fields of culture and science, with an explosion in architectural modernism, opening the way for noucentisme.

The graphic arts and other minor art forms received a major boost.

All branches of industry, which was mainly involved in processing, began to diversify and grow.

Postmodernist or noucentist writers appeared: Josep Carner, Joaquim Ruyra, Guerau de Liost, Eugeni d’Ors, Josep M. López-Picó, Joaquim Folguera, Mercè Rodoreda (author of Mirall Trencat
– A Broken Mirror and La Plaça del Diamant – The Time of the Doves and Antoni M. Alcover (author of Rondaies mallorquines and initiator of the exhaustive dictionary of the Catalan language: Diccionari català-valencià-balear, later finished by Francesc de Borja Moll). Later the neopopularism of Sagarra emerged, and on the back of a bit of attention from Carles Riba (a poet), a new boost was given to the novel with Miquel Llor and Joan Puig i Ferreter.

Another great writer and journalist of these times was Josep Pla (1897-1981).

Many magazines and newspapers were published in Catalan. A particularly important example was the prestigious magazine Revista de Catalunya, edited by Antoni Rovira i Virgili (who was also author of the Història nacional de Catalunya). Also of note are La Paraula Cristiana edited by Carles Cardó, Criterion, on philosophy, and the scientific journals Ciència and Monografies mèdiques.

Many Catalans of the time created civic or cultural foundations and organisations to help move towards full consolidation of Catalan culture. Some of the most important were the Fundació Bernat Metge (which translated Greek and Latin classics into Catalan) and the Fundació Bíblica Catalana.

Other notable figures of the period are Ferran Soldevila, who was commissioned by Francesc Cambó to write the famous Història de Catalunya (History of Catalonia); Josep M. Batista i Roca, who introduced the scouting movement to Catalan-speaking countries and founded the Minyons de Muntanya, in 1927; and Manuel Sanchís Guarner, philologist and historian, who in 1931 published the book La llengua dels valencians and later collaborated in completing the Diccionari català-valencià-balear.

Batista i Roca also encouraged the creation of the association Palestra, an entity federated with other cultural organisations in the Balearic Islands and the País Valencià.

At the same time, important figures appeared on the artistic scene, creating new pictorial styles, such as surrealism. The most significant of these were Dali with the work Els rellotges tous (The Persistence of Memory), and Joan Miró and his La masia (The farm) and Dona i ocell (Woman and bird).

Finally, in the field of medicine the surgeon Josep Trueta i Raspall is famous for his treatment of fractures and for his book The Spirit of Catalonia, originally written in English during his exile in the United Kingdom. Likewise, Ignasi Barraquer was innovative in the field of ophthalmology, applying new techniques which were recognised around the world.

The Civil War and Franco’s dictatorship

All of this economic and cultural expansion was interrupted by the rise of General Franco against the Second Spanish Republic. After a fratricidal war lasting almost three years, Franco’s victory abolished the Statute and deprived Catalonia of all of its institutions and freedoms. The official and public use of Catalan was prohibited throughout Catalan lands.

Major persecution of Catalan culture and all notable members of the many existing institutions was undertaken. Tens of thousands of Catalans were forced to go into exile. The last president of the Generalitat, Lluís Companys, was executed by firing squad, and for nearly forty years the Catalan people suffered from the worst persecution ever recorded.

Despite everything, through external and internal resistance and the patriotic efforts of many people, Catalan culture survived, although very damaged.

Just as after 1714, despite obstacles of all kinds, during this period the Catalan people concentrated on their day-to-day work and duties, creating thousands of new businesses and hundreds of thousands of new jobs, which generated a strong current of immigration to Catalonia (much larger than had occurred in the first third of the century).
The restoration of democracy

After the death of General Franco in 1975, President Josep Tarradellas returned from exile and the institution of the Generalitat was restored. Since the Statute of Autonomy was reinstated in 1980, the Parliament of Catalonia re-established and the governance of the Generalitat gradually consolidated, a slow process of national recovery has begun, one fraught with difficulties due to the neocentralism of the Spanish state and the economic stranglehold it has on Catalonia.

Epilogue

The Catalan people have participated demonstrably in the progress of Europe with successive contributions throughout its history. They have overcome periods of great difficulty which have set the country back, yet despite everything, the contributions of previous generations have always served as a springboard to rebound from difficult situations and attain more prominence.

Moreover, in the last hundred years, Catalonia has contributed more than anyone to the progress of the whole of Spain. The time has therefore come for this important contribution to be recognised, and not senselessly drained from the economy. It is also time to keep moving towards greater levels of self-management of resources and infrastructure in order to increase the wellbeing of the people and allow contribution and solidarity to continue to grow.

Catalonia cannot continue to suffer the massive annual fiscal plundering (almost €16.5bn in 2010, 8.5% of GDP) which reduces the resources available for stimulating creativity and innovation and increasing the wellbeing of its people (especially the young, retired and unemployed) and for housing the influx of immigrants from around the world.

If Catalonia had full control of its resources, it would be one of the top countries in Europe in income per capita. Its families would be in a much better position to pay mortgages, pensions would be more in line with the average standard of living; the welfare state would have a greater coverage; homes, schools and universities could...
be better equipped; savings levels could be increased and, therefore, purchasing power, and so on. Likewise, self-management would enable major cuts in both income and corporation tax, as well as higher quality services. For companies, this would translate into a greater ability to compete globally and create jobs.

Nor can the country continue to suffer continual attacks on the character traits which give its people a distinct national identity.

Catalonia must be able to freely exercise the right to decide its political future as another — fully recognised — member state of the European Union.

Following incorporation into the European Union and the progressive internationalisation of the Catalan economy, this is a crucial moment in time.

Current generations, including recent arrivals from around the world, must keep in mind the challenges of globalisation, where success can only derive from full commitment to the six factors of excellence: R+D+4i (Research, Development, Innovation, Identity, Impact and Infrastructure).

The identity factor includes creativity, self-affirmation, intellectual capital, social and cultural values and brand or product image.

The impact factor covers internationalisation, network connectivity, strategic partnerships and the capacity to contribute/compete in a globalised world.

The infrastructure factor takes into account educational, logistical, technological and financial aspects.

The identity factor is particularly important, both for companies and countries, in order to create a strong and united civil society to overcome the poverty-creating currents of uniformisation.

Catalans must therefore be aware of the need to achieve the levels of self-governance necessary for Catalonia to occupy its rightful place in Europe. Otherwise, it may be forced to take a major backwards step.

As stated in the Introduction, the Catalan people have within their grasp the possibility of beginning this new millennium with a *Third Recovery*, representing a definitive *success* for the Catalan people.

Geographically, Catalonia occupies a strategic position in southern Europe and has socioeconomic, linguistic, cultural and historical links with a wide zone that could be called the «Central Latin Mega-Region» (a mega-region identified by economists of global repute, such as Kenichi Ohmae and Richard Florida, as one of the world’s major economic mega-regions), in which there is excellent potential for economic and social development due to the emergence of the Mediterranean region.

This emergence is based on the growing socioeconomic relations between the European Union and Asia and North Africa which, due to
significant logistical flows, precisely end up in the Mediterranean (see appendix V).

Additionally, in this mega-region, called Barcelon by Richard Florida, two of the great vectors for progress in the European Union come together: the FERRMED corridor (rail corridor from Scandinavia, the Rhine, the Rhone and the Western Mediterranean, which includes all the locomotive economic regions of the European Union and goes into North Africa) and that of the Mediterranean (which goes from the Middle East to the Iberian Peninsula, and is a channel for the highest intercontinental traffic in the world).

The European Union is moving towards a new socioeconomic dimension focused on three major emerging vectors of progress: the aforementioned FERRMED (or EULER), the Mediterranean, and the Eurasian (which goes from the United Kingdom to the countries of the East).

The crossing place of these vectors is where there are the best conditions for all aspects of development.

The area of the South of England, Benelux, the North of France and the north-western part of Germany is the crossing point of the FERRMED and Eurasian vectors, and the Central Latin Europe (south-east France and the eastern part of the Iberian Peninsula, to which the north-western part of the Italian peninsula should be added) is where the FERRMED and Mediterranean vectors converge.

Barcelona is the seat of the Permanent Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean. Catalonia must take advantage of this great opportunity.

The time has come, therefore, for Catalan civil society — as it did so masterfully during the Renaissance — to engage and lead projects affecting Europe and the whole of Union for the Mediterranean, which, by definition, will benefit its people enormously. A new scale must be achieved with suitably universal contributions.

Catalans must be capable of promoting and developing projects which situate the country, and all the surrounding region, within the upper echelons of world progress.

All this must be done without forgetting about what is needed to give its people the right to decide its future.

If it wants, Catalonia can do this with the participation in these inspiring projects by every kind of entity and enterprise and everyone living and working here, without exception.

Finally, it is only right and proper to pay homage to that multitude of people, both of Catalan roots and those hailing from around the world (who have made the country their own and have fully integrated), who through their efforts have contributed and continue to contribute to the fact that together, despite the current challenges, we can now look to the future of Catalonia with hope.
Appendix I

Genealogy of the House of Barcelona (878-1410)
Appendix II

Genealogy of the House of Trastamara (1412-1555)

Appendix III

Genealogy of the House of Habsburg (1516-1700)

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF CATALONIA
## Presidencies and presidents of the Generalitat of Catalonia (1359-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>President/Partnership</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Berenguer de Cruïlles</td>
<td>1359 - 1362</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Romeu Sescomes</td>
<td>1363 - 1364</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Ramon Gener</td>
<td>1364 - 1365</td>
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<td>Bernat Vallès</td>
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<td>Joan I d’Empúries</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Guillem de Guimerà i d’Abella</td>
<td>1376 - 1377</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Galceran de Besora i de Cartellà</td>
<td>1377 - 1379</td>
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**Presidents of the Mancomunitat of Catalonia**

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**Presidents of the restored Generalitat of Catalonia**

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<td>Josep Irla i Bosch (in exile)</td>
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<td>129</td>
<td>Artur Mas i Gavarró</td>
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The period of governance from 1367-1375, resulting from the Vilafranca Court resolution to suspend members of the court resident in Barcelona, has not been included in this list.

Source: Generalitat de Catalunya
The demographic and socioeconomic position of Catalonia, the Catalan-Speaking Countries and the «Barcelona-Lyon» mega-region within the European Union

**Demographic Position**
Within the whole of the European Union of 28:
- Catalonia occupies 17th position (compared with each of the existing states)
- The Catalan-speaking countries occupy the 9th position
- The mega-region «Barcelona-Lyon» occupies 6th position.

**Socioeconomic Position**
Despite the fiscal drainage it suffers, Catalonia is one of the most dynamic economic regions of the European Union of 28. In contribution of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) it occupies 12th position, and all Catalan-speaking countries, 8th position.

The economic mega-region called Barcelona-Lyon by Richard Florida (which includes the Catalan and Occitan-Speaking Countries plus the French Provencal region of Rhône-Alps) holds 5th position in the EU, according to the ranking established by Richard Florida himself generating economic activity in the European mega-regions, based on spatial techniques and statistics and on light-based regional product (LRP).

In his book *Who's Your City?*, Richard Florida (New York, USA, 2008) states that «The binational mega-region Barce-Lyon claims some 25 million people who churn out $610 billion in LRP. While Northern Europeans have long vacationed in this region, job seekers are increasingly relocating there as well. A high-ranking minister of trade from The Netherlands confided privately to me that she is nervous about losing Northern European companies to the sunbelt’s climate, physical beauty, and talent pools.»

In fact, this mega-region is continuing to expand, in terms of territory and of population, leading to over 30 million inhabitants in 2014 and to its moving up a position in the wealth ranking.
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