

## Spain's foreign policy towards Latin America during the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco (1939-1975)

With the loss of the colonial empire in America in 1825 began the collapse of Spain and loss of its position as a world power. After the the war against the United States in 1898 Spain lost its last possessions in the Western Hemisphere. During the II Republic 1931-1936 a group of conservative monarchist created the idea of Hispanidad, whose principal author was Ramiro de Maeztu, demanding the restoration of mystical "spiritual empire" of Spain in America. This political thought had the biggest impact on the spanish foreign policy towards Latin America during the dictatorship of Francisco Franco 1939-1975 and emerged from semi peripheral position of Spain in the international system and was deigned to rebuild its influence among former colonies in America in order to regain the former status of Spain in the international arena.

The first chapter describes the development of the Spanish colonial empire in the new world, the period of wars for independence and the evolution of the relationship between Spain and Latin America in the nineteenth century, illustrating the importance of the region for the spanish history.

The second chapter presents in the early twentieth century, after losing the 1898 war with the United States, the creation of two ideological currents, which had an impact of Latin American policy - conservative panhispanism applied during the dictatorship of general Primo de Rivera and progressive hispanism, that was used during the Second Republic. It also presents the thought of Hispanidad created by Ramiro de Maeztu in his work "The Defense of Hispanidad" and other theorists of *Acción Española* newspaper, as well as ideologues of extreme right and Spanish fascism. The third chapter describes the final phase of conceptualization of the Hispanidad policy towards Latin America and the attempt of its implementation. First during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), and than during the Second World War (1939-1945).

The fourth chapter presents a difficult period of Francoism during the post-war isolation (1945-1957) and the adaptation of the concept of Hispanidad in the new conditions of the international system.

Chapter five presents the consequences of free-market economic reforms carried out by economists of Opus Dei for Latin American policy during a thaw in relations with the West (1957-1975).

The conclusion summaries the evolution of the policy toward Latin America at the various stages of Francoism Regime and presents a new approach to the region in the early days of restitution of the monarchy and during the begining of the democratic transformation.

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