

DISCUSSION PAPERS

IMMIGRATION POLICY IN SPAIN FROM A PROGRESSIVE ANALYSIS AND CRITIQUE

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Abstract



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Abstract

This study presents an analysis of the evolution and outcomes of immigration policy in Spain since the year 2000. It explains how immigration policy was until very recently shaped by the consensus between political forces, and how the existence of incentives to use immigration for electoral purposes represents both a threat to the Left in holding on to its traditional electorate, and an opportunity for the Socialist Government to highlight its very considerable successes both in the management of flows (reduction in illegal immigration) and the definition of an integration policy with very clear and ambitious targets. In this last regard it explains how Spain's position is from a European perspective more than acceptable, and how, although the available data suggest that, at least until recently, immigrants have found themselves in a position of absolute disadvantage in comparison with the native population, the situation gives less cause for concern from a relative perspective. The study offers some advice in simplifying the discourse on immigration and responding to the criticisms which may arise in party political competition.

To read the full document (in Spanish) go to:

http://www.fundacionideas.es/sites/default/files/pdf/DD-La_politica_de_inmigracion_en_Espana-Pol.pdf



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