

<Intro The U-S has been a democracy since its inception... but for other countries this hasn't always been the case... Spain has seen various forms of government over the years, And as Sabrina Maggiore explains, for Spain, its authoritarian past hasn't been forgotten... >

Nat:*** Birds chirping/wailing ****

Sabrina: In the Sierra de Guadarrama mountains just outside of Madrid its usually fairly quiet. But not lately... at the valley of the fallen the number of visitors is on the rise and a new tour group has just arrived.

Nat: ***women talking: * bueno donde está mi grupo...***

Sabrina: The valley has always been controversial... it is the final resting place of one of the most controversial leaders in the history of Spain—and the centerpiece of a debate that is stirring up emotions that go back nearly a century.

Nat: ****Spain's dictator generalissimo Franco heads to celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of the Spanish revolution. ****

Sabrina: Franco ruled Spain for 70 years, a reign that was marked by severe cuts in civil liberties and a crackdown on political opponents.

Nat:

*** Archival Audio: The Spanish people have no choice, they bow to Francisco Franco****

Suarez-Carreno: You didn't have freedom for expression, for speech
We didn't have freedom for meetings,

Louis Suarez-Carreno was part of a rebel organization during Franco's dictatorship. He spent nearly 3 years in prison for belonging to the organization and speaking out against Franco's regime.

19:08

Suarez-Carreno: you were interrogated and you were tortured and subject to different kinds of pressure and violence.

Sabrina: Suarez-Carreno was released from Prison following Franco's death in 19-75

Nat: ***Españoles...Franco ha muerto....***

He witnessed first-hand Spain's difficult transition to Democracy

34:30

Suarez Carreno: we still have lots of wounds that have not been healed. There are many people that were treated unjustly.

During the transition, the government passed an amnesty law that prevented war criminals and Franco collaborators from being prosecuted. But With an official policy of forgiving and forgetting, Suarez-Carreno says, there wasn't any accountability for the atrocities that had been attributed to Franco.

Suarez-Carreno This particular guy is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people whose only crime was to defend democracy, freedom, liberty and social justice. There were lots of different forms of crimes that were never not only taken into trial but even, they were never known, they were never published...

Nat: **** Spanish legislators voted on Tuesday to exhume the remains of Francisco Franco ... the countries longtime dictator...***

Sabrina: In many ways, a new plan to move Franco's remains is now reopening those old wounds.

David Carro is a professor of Spanish sociology. He says while the burial site of Franco – the valley of the fallen --is officially a monument to honor victims on both sides of the Spanish civil war-- the site is seen by many as one that honors Franco's regime.

14:40 **Carro**: El Valle de los Caidos is –a monument for celebrating Franco but at the same time it's a symbol for all the people who died during the civil war...- And this is a tricky sentence.

Sabrina: The Government is adamant that any monument to honor a dictator is contradictory to the country's democratic values and believes removing Franco's remains is necessary... But the move is unpopular in Spain, especially among young Spaniards who want to put Spain's authoritarian past behind them.

Nat: *** Franco doc: Francisco Franco came to power and stayed to power through his control of the Spanish army... but for Franco the army is not only a political weapon, it is a way of life. ***

Juan Chicharro is President of the National Foundation of Francisco Franco, an organization that works to promote the memory of the dictator.

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Chicharro: They say there was no freedom. Okay its true. Freedom was different, but history must be studied from the point of view of the time.

Chicharro—and others in the country-- view Franco as a nationalist who saved Spain from communism and poverty. He says exhuming Franco is a misguided attempt to erase history.

5:44

Chicharro: History is what is history. History can't be changed.

Sabrina: But the battle right now is over the future—the future resting place of Franco's remains, pitting the government of Spain against the family of Franco.

David Carro: The problem is now the family is free for putting the rest of the dictator in any catholic church and they have chosen the cathedral of Madrid in front of the royal palace in the center of the city.

Sabrina: The families plans sparked protest in the country among individuals who believe moving Franco's remains to a public space in the center of the city is worse than leaving him in the valley of the fallen...

Suarez Carreno: People in this city, we were shocked when this was proposed by the Franco's family and we would be very shocked if the Spanish church will allow it. I hope the Spanish government will not.

Spain's government has since said it won't permit Franco's remains to be removed
But Government officials have promised to Exhume Franco by the end of this year...
exhumation...

So far, the archbishop of Madrid says he will not try to prevent Franco's exhumation from the basilica in the valley of the fallen, and also says he won't try to stop Franco's heirs from burying the dictator in the crypt of the Cathedral in Madrid...

The situation has grown increasingly complex... and the Spanish government is running out of time to find another solution...

... In Madrid, Sabrina Maggiore N-C-C News.