

If Catalonia Splits?

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Now why would Catalonia want to extricate itself from adorable Spain, a monarchy set up by a fascist dictator who was himself set up by two not so adorable dictators – Hitler and Mussolini? And which has a government led by the People’s Party – one of the mildest of the falangist strains created by five of Franco’s fascist ministers.

It also has a wonderful Constitution that was approved in 1978. It came about in this way: The post-Franco fascist regime said to the masses – We have a massive all-powerful police state which can easily keep you enslaved for generations, so let’s make a deal. You forgive us and our fascist and Nazi allies for the 500,000 deaths you caused for wanting to be free, and allow us to keep everything we’ve stolen while in power, and we will share with you the shittiest form democracy our fascist minds can think of. And all of the political factions from right to left, including the “communists”, crawled to the trough and began feeding, and politics flourished while the evils of the recent past thrived in its interstices.

Madrid sent thousands of national police and civil guard to arrest and beat up those organizing the independence vote. They also confiscated ballot boxes and shut down voting places but more than two million out of a total population of seven million still managed to vote for independence.

The Catalan leader said he might declare independence but that is unlikely unless the Catalan masses take charge. The EU will not recognize an independent Catalonia as a member. The Catalan ruling class will not will not freely submit to the loss of established money streams.

Tens of thousands of Basques demonstrated their support for Catalonian independence. The Galicians are also said to be desirous of independence. Capitalism is now in its broken egg stage. All the central banks and international financial organizations have only succeeded in boiling the egg rather than reconstituting it. Independence is at least a sign of life, a new beginning.

Real personal income excluding transfer payments has increased since November 2015 (22 months) has increased only 1.7%. That’s total. Annually it’s less than 1%. In the prior 22 months ending in October 2015 it increased 9% or 5% annually.

The BLS lowered the Establishment Survey jobs report for July from 209,000 to 138,000. August upped to 169,000. Six month moving average through December 139,000 with September's minus 33,000 it would be 153,000. Close to the lowest average gain since the recovery. But the Household Survey reported a gain of 935,000 jobs. Why the discrepancy? Were employers reporting fewer employees while more persons interviewed said they had jobs? No problem for the markets – they blamed it all on hurricanes ignoring the prior months and an expectations of the lowest corporate earnings report since 2011. Incidentally, how could ADP count 140,000 while the BLS couldn't locate enough to get into the plus column?

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