



The construction of a myth. Suárez in the Portuguese and Spanish press (1984-2014) [

Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales,
2022-12-19

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Analítica

The former Prime Minister of Spain, Adolfo Suárez, has become one of the founding myths of Spanish democracy in recent years. In spite of leaving the government in 1981, in great disrepute, when the former president died he was presented in all the media as the true architect of the Transition to democracy, and as a model of political virtues. In this paper we aim to study the construction of the narrative about Suárez and his memory after his departure from government. To do so, we have chosen five dates that we believe can clearly show such path: his resignation; his actions in the 23F; his definitive resignation from politics with the CDS; the awarding of the Prince of Asturias Prize; and his death. For the analysis we have chosen the newspapers with the highest circulation in Spain and Portugal between 1981 and 2014. We have intended to carry out a comparative study to see whether the memory of Suárez also changed abroad. After our analysis, we have been able to verify that the steps in the construction of the myth began a few weeks after his departure, almost through the back door of politics, in the 23F coup d'état. His departure from politics allowed his figure to be appreciated without partisanship, and then the recognition and awards came. His death, in the midst of the political crisis, increased the value of his figure, which was also influenced by the nostalgia for the Transition as a period of harmony and consensus and the need for symbols of unity among Spaniards

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Título: The construction of a myth. Suárez in the Portuguese and Spanish press (1984-2014) [electronic resource]

Editorial: Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales 2022-12-19

Tipo Audiovisual: Adolfo Suárez Transición prensa memoria Adolfo Suárez democratic transition newspapers memory

Variantes del título: La construcción de un mito. Suárez en la prensa portuguesa y española (1981-2014)

Documento fuente: Historia y Política; Vol. 48 (2022); 109-141

Nota general: application/pdf text/html text/xml

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Lengua: Spanish

Enlace a fuente de información: Historia y Política; Vol. 48 (2022); 109-141 Historia y Política; Vol. 48 (2022); 109-141 1989-063X 1575-0361

Otras relaciones: <https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/HPOL/article/view/85298/4564456562253> <https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/HPOL/article/view/85298/4564456562254> <https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/HPOL/article/view/85298/4564456562255> /*ref*/Almuiña, C. (1989). Prensa y opinión pública. La prensa como fuente para el estudio de la masonería. En J. A. Ferrer Benimeli (coord.). Masonería, política y sociedad (vol. 1) (pp. 245-280). Zaragoza: Centro de Estudios Históricos de la Masonería Española. Bazán Franco, F. (2014). Análisis crítico de los discursos editoriales de La Vanguardia, El País y Diario 16 durante las elecciones generales (1977, 1979 y 1982) de la transición española (1975-1982) [tesis doctoral]. Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Disponible en: <https://bit.ly/3LwmNQs>. Bellido Peris, F. (2016a). La Transición televisiva. Adolfo Suárez y la personificación de la reforma política. IX Encuentro Internacional de Investigadores del Franquismo 80 años de la Guerra Civil Española. (pp. 227-234). Granada: Fundación Estudios Sindicales y Cooperación de Andalucía. Bellido Peris, F. (2016b). Operación Palace: el 23-f y las nuevas prácticas de memoria. Revista Internacional de Historia de la Comunicación, 6, 103-123. Bellido Peris, F. (2019). La televisión toma la palabra. La transición española. Historia, memoria y medios de comunicación [tesis doctoral]. Universitat de València. Disponible en: <https://bit.ly/3BDVyi7>. Bertrand, R. (2015). Historia global, historias conectadas un giro historiográfico? Prohistoria, Políticas de la Historia, 24, 3-20. Checa Godoy, A. (1999). Del clavel al euro. 25 años de prensa en Portugal. Revista Ámbitos, 2, 109-125. Disponible en: <https://doi.org/10.12795/Ambitos.1999.i02.07>. Cordero Pérez, J. (2018). Los gobiernos de Adolfo Suárez en la prensa británica. Oviedo: Ediciones de la Universidad de Oviedo. De la Gala Morales, E. (2017). La visión actual de la transición democrática a partir del tratamiento de la muerte de Adolfo Suárez en los diarios digitales españoles. En Actas del XIII Congreso de la Asociación de Historia Contemporánea. La Historia: lost in translation? (pp. 2083-2096). Cuenca: Ediciones Universidad de Castilla La Mancha. Díez Miguel, D. (2015)

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