



# **Constructing Democracy in Southern Europe: A comparative analysis of Italy, Spain and Turkey (Democratization Studies)**

*Lauren M. McLaren*

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Why are some regimes democratic while others are not? Specifically, how have Spain and Italy managed to become democratic while Turkey, which shares many similar characteristics, has not?

Spain, Italy and Turkey have shared common historical features which would have been disruptive to any new democracy; however they represent a wide array of democratization experiences. Providing a comparative case study analysis, this book offers some clues as to the reasons for successful transitions to democracy. This is done through a range of variables which include:

- the degree of 'stateness' problems
- learning from previous experiences with democracy and authoritarianism
- economic development
- the procedures used for designing the new rules of the regime
- the existence or absence of 'civil society' and the connection between society and political institutions
- the democratic rules themselves
- the professionalization of the military
- the influence of external factors on democratic consolidation.

By examining these variables across the three countries, Lauren McLaren narrows the range of possible explanations for differences in democratic consolidation. The book will be of particular interest to students and researchers of European Politics and Democratization Studies.

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