



TORTILLAS AND TURMOIL: FIRST SPANISH REPUBLIC, 1873

Everyone always talks about the Second Spanish Republic, but have you ever asked yourself what about the first one? The nineteenth century was truly a chaotic period in the history of Spain. Over the course of those 70 years Spain experienced a war of independence, multiple civil wars, the total collapse of their empire, and constant government instability. By 1868 Spain had finally had enough of the Bourbon monarchs and overthrew Queen Isabella II. The following year a new constitution was implemented, and the search for a new monarch began. Amadeo I, Duke of Aosta, was chosen as the new king but, following 3 chaotic years, he has abdicated, declaring Spain to be 'ungovernable'. In the face of the monarchical failures a republic has been declared and it is up to the members of the Cortes Generales to bring stability to Spain. The odds are certainly stacked against them, Spain is currently embroiled in a civil war that has left the Northern regions out of the control of the government, and one of the last colonies is fighting for independence. To add to their problems the state is massively in debt and the army is on the verge of collapse. None of these problems will be easy to solve, and the government lacks a formal constitution on which to base their power. Do you have what it takes to make the Spanish republic work?

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