

A historical black and white photograph of a narrow street in Urgel, Spain. The street is cobblestone and flanked by tall, light-colored buildings with arched doorways and windows. In the center, a woman in a dark, long dress and a white headscarf carries a small child in her arms. Two other children are walking in the foreground. A sign on the right wall reads "CENTRO INDUSTRIAL Y OBRERO". A circular sign on the left wall has some text, including "EXPENSIÓN".

Spain: present challenges and past perspectives

What can the archives show us about climate change, health, and migration?

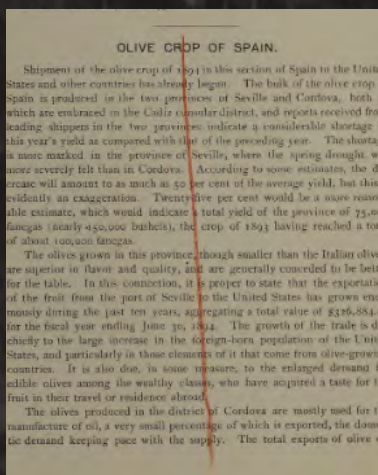
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A Street in Urgel (Spain), Santa Maria de las Canonigos. F. H. Deverell, *RGS Images Online*, 1886. Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*

The impact of climate change

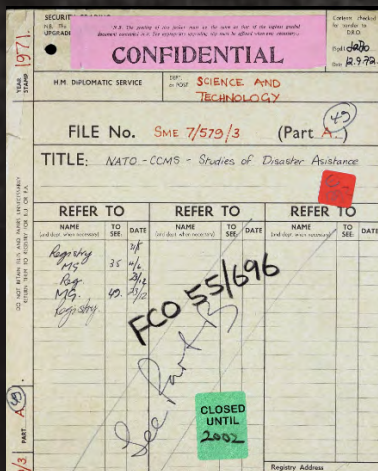
Spain is witnessing an increase in temperatures in its major cities. Moreover, excessive and extended summers threaten the region with heatwaves, increased rainfall intensity, wildfires, and other extreme weather events that impact its agricultural sector. In late 2024, torrential rainfall led to a series of disastrous flash floods, underscoring the pressing need to address climate challenges.

WHAT RESOURCES CAN RESEARCHERS FIND ON WILEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES?



Warm winters are affecting olive crop yields, resulting in poor harvests and increased consumer costs. Miscellaneous reports from 1859-1906 discuss the important role of Cadiz, Spain, known for its olive groves, and discuss historical crop shortages.

Italy, Spain etc: Miscellaneous. *Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Miscellaneous Reports Collection, 1859-1906.* Source: *Environmental Science and History archive*



In 1970, a NATO committee commented on upcoming plans to discuss flood mitigation. Part of the proposed agenda included operational techniques tested within the meteorological service, like predicting snowmelt and wind forecasts.

NATO Committee on Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS): studies of disaster relief, R. P. Flower, Umberto Vattani, et al., *the National Archives (...)*, 1970. Source: *Environmental Science and History archive*

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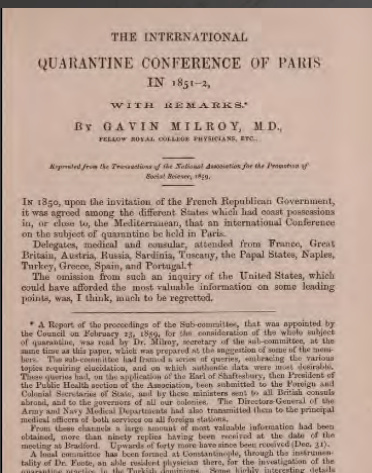
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The Blue Basin - Trinidad. *RGS Images Online, 1920.*
Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*

The state of health

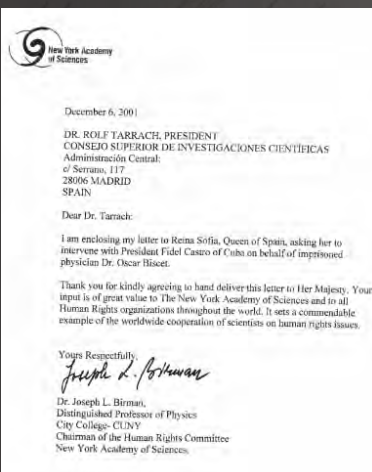
Spain leads the European Union in life expectancy, averaging 83.2 years. However, the country faces mental health challenges which have spurred the development of the Mental Health Action Plan 2022-2024, enhancing access to care and community-based support. Additionally, recent legal reforms reflect Spain's commitment to sexual and reproductive rights, providing increased protections and resources.

WHAT RESOURCES CAN RESEARCHERS FIND ON WILEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES?



Sea and river ports have historically been hot spots for spreading disease, as discussed in a monograph from The International Quarantine Conference of Paris in 1851. Delegates from Spain noted the status of the spread of Cholera.

The International Quarantine Conference of Paris, with Remarks, Gavin Milroy, 1859. Source: Royal College of Physicians archive.



Letters to Reina Sofia, queen of Spain, urged for her intervention in a human rights case concerning Cuban physician Oscar Elias Biscet, imprisoned by Fidel Castro. Biscet participated in the study of Rivanol, a contraceptive drug, and was banned from practice after claiming it was being used to keep Cuba's birth rate low

Biscet, Oscar Elias (Cuba), Dr. Joseph L. Birman, Joseph L. Birman, et al., Records of the Committee on the Human Rights of Scientists, 1999-2001. Source: The New York Academy of Sciences.

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Reply from La Coruna (Corunna) Spain, Official Proceedings Of The Royal College Of Physicians Of London, 1829. Source: The Royal College of Physicians

The evolution of migration

Spain is one of the top destinations for immigration, ranked fourth on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) list for countries with the highest rate of permanent migrants. While the largest immigrant groups hail from Morocco, Columbia, and Venezuela, in 2024 Spain offered temporary protection to over 200,000 citizens fleeing the war in Ukraine.

WHAT RESOURCES CAN RESEARCHERS FIND ON WILEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES?



An 1898 atlas outlines the global population of the time, breaking the stats down by region. Spain was noted as having a population of 2,444,816 citizens, or 6 inhabitants per square mile.

The Citizen's Atlas of the World containing 120 pages of maps and plans with a descriptive gazetteer and geographical statistics *Atlases, World*, [1898]. Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*.

1 Nation, state and identity at international borders

Thomas M. Wilson and Hastings Donnan

According to some scholars, we are living in a world where state borders are increasingly obsolete. This view holds that international borders are becoming so porous that they no longer fulfil their historical role as barriers to the movement of goods, ideas and people, and as markers of the extent and power of the state. This wicking away of the strength and importance of international borders is linked to the predicted demise of the nation-state as the pre-eminent political structure of modernity. The threatened passing of the state, in turn, heralds the weakening of most of the world's existing political, social and cultural structures and associations. As a result, the role of individuals in these structures is called into question, especially in terms of their loyalties and identities. In line with this fall-off in the determinative power of traditional political statuses is the rise of the new politics of identity, in which the definitions of citizenship, nation and state vie with identities which have acquired a new political significance, such as gender, sexuality, ethnicity and race, among others, for control of the popular and scholarly political imaginations of the contemporary world. Moreover, these processes are supposedly accelerating, continually shifting the ground upon which nation-states once stood, changing the framework of national and international politics, creating new and important categories of transnationalism, and increasing the significance and proliferation of images and a host of other messages about the relevance of 'other' world cultures in the everyday lives of us all.

It is the goal of this book to return to the seemingly self-evident proposition that the deterritorialisated nature of post-modernity is only one interpretative slant on politics and power in the contemporary world. On its own, the study of the new politics of space and place, identity and transnationalism is incomplete. The balance must be

Who are the Basque borderlanders? How was migration characterized on the Mediterranean shores of Spain in the 20th century? These questions are answered by Thomas M. Wilson and Hastings Donnan as they discuss the state of porous borders and how they impact identity.

Border Identities Nation and State at International Frontiers, *Thomas M. Wilson, Hastings Donnan, (...) Collection*, n.d. Source: *The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*

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Spain and Portugal. *Map*, [1922].
Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*