

Artículo: "The parliamentary opposition in Spain: Theory and practice", Rivista di Diritti Comparati, por Manuel Fondevila Marón.

En este artículo, el Profesor Fondevila analiza la dialéctica gobierno-oposición en España, poniendo especial énfasis en la última década, en la cual, se ha experimentado un cambio en el sistema de partidos que supuso el fin del bipartidismo. Este análisis se hace desde el estudio de los instrumentos que la normativa brinda a la oposición, pero, también, del empleo que, en la realidad, se ha hecho de dichos instrumentos, y las posibilidades actuales de garantizar la alternancia entre los dos grandes partidos.

Descargar imagen



The parliamentary opposition in Spain:
Theory and practice¹

Manuel Fondevila Marón

TABLE OF CONTENTS: 1. The lack of a constitutional statute for the opposition in Spain. – 2. An implicit constitutional statute? – 3. The tools of the parliamentary opposition – 3.1. Parliamentary tools to control the government. – 3.2. The parliamentary opposition before the Constitutional Court. – 3.3. The lack of coordination mechanisms between the parliamentary opposition and the general opposition. – 4. The change in the party system and the new government-opposition dialectic. – 4.1. The end of the two-party system. – 4.2. Political polarization and fragmentation: the difficulties involved in governing from the right.

1. The lack of a constitutional statute for the opposition in Spain.

Unlike its neighbours France and Portugal (as well as other countries such as Colombia and Ecuador), the opposition in Spain lacks a legal statute. Only in the Autonomous Community of Catalonia is there a statute for the leader of the opposition². This does not mean to say, of course, that the opposition in Spain does not enjoy constitutional-legal protection. As observed by constitutional scholar Giuseppe de Vergottini – and irrespective of whether this expression means something beyond democracy, pure and simple – Spain cannot be considered a regime with a ‘incarnated opposition’³. One of the higher values of the Spanish legal system is