POLI 203
Library Workshop

MICHELLE LAKE
POLITICAL SCIENCE, SCPA, FPST AND GOVERNMENT
PUBLICATIONS LIBRARIAN
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Performed an exact title search

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Independence referendums in Catalonia and Scotland:
Catalonia and Scotland are two Western European regions that have been involved in a process of referendums lately.

While the process is accepted by the central government in the UK, in Spain it is not. What factors explain this difference?
Background Information

Country Reports – give you the political structures, international relations, conflict situations and economic overview of a country, ALSO: more keywords!!!

Country Profiles
Economist Intelligence Unit
Key concepts & Keywords

Catalonia AND independence AND referendum

Scotland AND independence AND referendum

AND limits your search, by adding AND in between words, you are telling the database that all those word MUST appear
Key Concepts & Keywords

Independence OR ...

Referendum OR ....

OR expands your search,
By adding OR between two synonyms,
you are telling the database that EITHER of those words can appear
Synonyms or related terms

Independence OR Sovereignty
Autonomy
Self-determination
Self-government
Nationhood
Separation
Secession

Referendum OR Vote
Plebiscite
Key Concepts & Keywords

Scotland
AND (referendum OR vote)
AND (independence OR sovereignty)
Avoid searching with non-essential or non-specific words

- Effects
- Impact
- Consequences
- Influence
- Results
- Importance
- Significance
- Cause
- Analysis

Each author may use different linking words when discussing similar topics.

You don’t want your search to be limited to those books and articles that only contain the word “effect” or “consequence”
Why Books?

1. Books have broader themes than journal articles, you can get a good overview of a topic from a book.

2. Books can provide additional keywords and subjects.

3. Books may be required in your assignments.
How do I know if the book is scholarly?

Publisher: If the Publisher is a university press, then the book is likely scholarly.

References & citations: Scholarly books will have an extensive Reference list /Bibliography or Endnotes / Footnotes.
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Database Searching: Political Science Complete

Use the Thesaurus to look up your terms and add them to your search. Divide up your keywords using AND.
Searching for journal articles in the databases

Limit to Scholarly articles

Narrow your search by adding more subjects

Subject
- spain (57)
- catalonia (spain) (39)
- autonomy (political science) (35)
- nationalism (31)
- autonomy & independence movements (28)
- catalonia (spain) -- politics & government (21)

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Self-determination and the Use of Referendums: the Case of Scotland.

Authors: Casanas Adam, Elisenda
Document Type: Article
Subject Terms: *NATIONAL self-determination
*CONSTITUTIONAL law
*REFERENDUM
*NATIONALISM
Geographic Terms: SCOTLAND
Author-Supplied Keywords: Independence
Referendum
Scotland
Self-determination
Abstract: The Scottish Nationalist Party's majority in the 2011 Scottish parliamentary elections opened up a wide and interesting debate on the variety of options for Scotland's constitutional future (ranging from the status quo through a variety of intermediate options to full independence), and with it, also the innovative possibility of a multi-option referendum, reflecting the preferences of the people of Scotland. However, while the UK Government agreed that the future of Scotland's place within the Union was for the people of Scotland to vote on, it strongly contested the Scottish Parliament's competence to legislate for the referendum, thus ensuring a role for itself and the UK Parliament in its design. After a period of negotiations, the UK and Scottish Governments signed the Edinburgh Agreement on the 15th October 2012, enabling the Scottish Parliament to legislate for a single question referendum, and expressing their commitment to work together in the interests of all involved. This article begins looking at the background, legal framework and negotiations leading up to the Edinburgh Agreement. It then argues that, while the Agreement is notably significant and has allowed for the smooth and fast development of the process so far, by excluding the possibility of including a third option of 'more devolution' on the ballot paper, it is having a series of negative consequences for the current debate, namely that it is more limited, confusing and uncertain, and largely unbalanced in favour of the 'no' side. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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Length: Scholarly articles, in the social sciences, are usually 15+ pages long.

How do I know if the article is scholarly?

Author Credentials: Scholarly articles are written by faculty and university researchers, and their university affiliations should be identified and easy to find.
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Political autonomy and independence: Theory and experimental evidence
Klaus Abbink, Jordi Brandts
First Published March 19, 2015 | Research Article

Abstract
We use a game-theoretical model and results from laboratory experiments to study the process by which subordinated regions of a country can obtain a more favorable political status. In our theoretical model a dominant and a dominated region first interact through a political process. This process involves two negotiations, one at the level of the country as a whole and one at the level of the subordinated region. If the political process succeeds, then the new autonomy level is implemented. If this process fails, then both regions engage in a costly political conflict in which both sides can spend resources to win the upper hand. We show that in the subgame-perfect equilibrium of our game the voting process leads to an intermediate arrangement acceptable for both parts so that the costly political struggle never occurs. In contrast, in our experiments we observe frequent fighting involving high material losses.

Keywords
Secession, collective action, independence movements, laboratory experiments, rent-seeking

1. Introduction
Many countries consist of several parts or regions with populations that have different interests or identities. Often one of the parts of the country is politically...
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