

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-basque-civic-movement-and-nonviolent-resistance-to-etas-terrorism/>

This video is a transcription of a conversation discussing a study on the Basque civic movement and its impact on violent conflict in the Basque Country, Spain. The dialogue features a researcher, Javier, who elaborates on the motivations and context for his research.

Key points from the discussion include:

1. **Motivation and Context**: The researcher aims to analyze civil resistance against the terrorist organization ETA, focusing on how civic movements can be studied in contexts of non-state violence.
2. **Literature Review**: The existing literature on civil resistance primarily focuses on non-democratic regimes; however, there is an emerging interest in how communities respond to non-state violence. The researcher seeks to fill this gap by examining civil resistance against ETA.
3. **Methodology**: The study involved literature reviews, interviews with over 40 activists and leaders from various civil society organizations, and analysis of archival materials, including internal communications and survey data.
4. **Historical Context**: The civic movement in the Basque Country emerged in the late 1990s, fueled by the peace movement of the 1980s and a political agreement among Basque democratic parties to challenge ETA's violence. A significant event that catalyzed this mobilization was ETA's kidnapping of a local councillor in 1997, which led to massive civic protests.
5. **Findings**: The key findings indicate that the civic movement significantly contributed to delegitimizing ETA through the promotion of democratic norms, sustained civil resistance during politically sensitive periods, and helped preserve social cohesion in the face of violence.
6. **Conclusions and Implications**: The study suggests that civil society organizations play a crucial role in promoting non-violence and democratic values over the long term. Future research is proposed to assess the conditions under which these findings hold true in different contexts, emphasizing the need for a comparative analysis with other regions, including Northern Ireland.

The conversation highlights the complexities of civic resistance movements and their effects on societal conflict dynamics, positioning them as crucial players in peacebuilding processes.