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## 2 **Spain's football success puts** 3 **nationalists in the shade**

4 (original at [http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/11/spain-world-](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/11/spain-world-cup-final-catalonia-basques)  
5 [cup-final-catalonia-basques](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/11/spain-world-cup-final-catalonia-basques))

6 They call it "the red effect". It has spread down Spanish streets on the  
7 torsos of hundreds of thousands of fans wearing the shirt of the national  
8 soccer team, La Roja or "The Red", and threatens to over-run even the  
9 most obdurately separatist corners of the country. On nights when the  
10 team notches up another World Cup victory it turns into a musical chant:  
11 "I am Spanish! Spanish! Spanish!" they shout joyfully.

12 Spaniards cannot recall an outpouring of national pride similar to that  
13 provoked by the country's first-ever appearance in the World Cup final.  
14 Not since the Spanish civil war have there been so many flags in the  
15 streets. Indeed, Spain's red and gold flag still reminds some people of the  
16 civil war of the 1930s, more particularly, of the 36-year dictatorship of  
17 Francisco Franco. Few countries in Europe, except Germany, have such an  
18 instinctive mistrust of patriotism.

19 Such demonstration of national pride also raises challenging questions  
20 about Spain's vision of itself. This is a "nation of nations" according to  
21 some, who see Catalonia and the Basque country as unrecognised nations  
22 which, like Scotland, deserve their own football teams. Spain oppresses  
23 other nations, according to separatists, who viscerally dislike the red and  
24 gold Spanish flag.

25 Yet, the flag has now even begun to appear on Barcelona balconies.  
26 Something, undoubtedly, is changing. Some analysts say clever  
27 marketing, with the team referred to by the colour of its shirt rather than  
28 the name or flag of Spain, has eased acceptance. Others simply say  
29 everyone wants a piece of the team's success.

## Questions

- 1) What is the 'red effect'? (line 6)
- 2) What is the cause of the red effect?
- 3) Give synonyms to 'outpouring' (line 12).
- 4) Why was the Spanish flag disliked in places like Catalonia or the Basque country?
- 5) Why is the attitude towards Spanishness changing in these places now?
- 6) When was the last time there were so many Spanish flags in the streets?
- 7) Are the hardcore nationalists in favour of a united Spanish football team?
- 8) Do you think that patriotism can influence the performance of national sporting teams? Do you think that good performance of national teams in sporting competitions can make people proud of their country? Would you say that national sport teams are an important part of a national identity? Did you follow the World Cup?

## Vocabulary

**notch up (or down)** (line 10) – to move up or down by *notches* (steps, degrees); to record by notches (that is by making cuts in a stick)

**have mistrust** (line 18) – not have enough confidence or faith in something or somebody

**(Un)recognised** (line 21) – the state in which a specific legal situation has (not) been acknowledged or accepted in a formal way

**ease acceptance** (line 28) – make it easier for people to accept something, to facilitate the endorsement of something, to make approval of something less difficult

You can find additional explanation and more examples to help you understand and use English words and phrases at <http://dictionary.reference.com>, <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>, or <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Přejeme Vám mnoho studijních úspěchů.

Tým jazykové skupiny Spěváček:

