



GALIZA

**A people with a past,
fighting for a future
of freedom**

► Panoramic view of the Quintana Square,
Galizan National Day 1995.

The Galizan nation

Located in the extreme northwest on the Atlantic seaboard of the Iberian Peninsula, Galiza has been officially recognised as a nation since 1933 by the 9th Congress of European Nationalities, affiliated with the League of Nations. Galiza has all of the objective characteristics that define it as a nation, with a long – albeit hidden and twisted – history of its own, marked by the steadfast pursuit of the recognition of our right to be free as a people.

The Kingdom of Galiza was the first ever to be founded in Europe, even before the fall of the Roman Empire, with a thriving independent life and huge political and cultural sway throughout the Peninsula in the Middle Ages. It was in the ancient Roman province of Gallaecia that the language we call Galizan and internationally known as Portuguese first emerged in the 8th century.

As of the 15th century, Portugal became an independent kingdom in its own right and Galiza fell under the control of, first, Castile and, later, the Spanish State, with the denial of the rights of the nations within it continuing to this day.

Galiza has always been a nation rich in economic resources. Farming and agriculture continue to play a key role as one of the backbones of our economy and our dairy and logging sectors are second to none in the whole of the State. Our long-standing seafaring tradition has also made Galiza a leading

producer of fish and seafood, boasting one of the largest fleets in Europe. The electricity we generate has historically served to industrialise other parts of the State, notably Madrid (which does not produce any) and we export 40% of all the energy we produce, suffering the social and environmental consequences that it causes.

But none of this wealth and productive potential have given rise to an industrial and economic fabric designed to serve the interests of Galiza. Our political dependence and our inability to govern ourselves have stunted our economic growth, turning a land rich in resources into an impoverished country.

However, the process of colonisation and assimilation has been powerless to thwart the drive for Galizan sovereignty. The Galizan people has kept its language alive and from the 19th century, it began to self-organise through the national liberation movement represented by Galizan nationalism.



► Singing the national anthem in the Quintana Square, Galician National Day 2005.

Galizan nationalism is the democratic response by our people to the ongoing economic dependence and the cultural and political oppression of Galiza that hold back the progress and the well-being of the Galizan people.

What is Galizan nationalism?

This response was steadily building up since the 1960s through patriotic forces, following on in the footsteps of the Language Brotherhoods and the Galizanist Party.

Galiza has a long-standing tradition of social, worker and peasant struggles, resisting the attacks on our environment and the plunder of our natural resources, in defence of our language and culture and in favour of democratic freedoms and national rights.

Galizan nationalism is therefore a driving force behind social organisations, ranging from environmentalism, feminism, LGBT rights, students'

rights, the defence of our language and the labour movement in all of which Galizan nationalism plays an active role.

The stated basic principle of self-organisation of the Galizan people finds its concrete political expression in the Galizan Nationalist Bloc (BNG), with the labour rights of the working class represented by the Galizan Inter-Union Confederation (CIG), the leading trade union in the country, working in tandem with the strong grassroots movement committed to the defence of our culture and language.



► Iconic picture taken at the Galizian National Day demonstration used in several Galizian nationalist publications.

What is the Galizan Nationalist Bloc?

The Galizan Nationalist Bloc (BNG) was founded in 1982 as a Patriotic Front, culminating the process of restructuring popular Galizan nationalism and since 1990 it has its own youth organisation, Galiza Nova.

The BNG is a nationalist organisation that defends National Sovereignty and the social emancipation of the Galizan nation to become a sovereign, democratic, secular and republican state: the Republic of Galiza.

Today the BNG enjoys broad-based social support and is well represented at the institutional level by our elected councillors and mayors throughout the nation. It also holds a large number of seats in the Galizan parliament, with elected members in the Spanish and the European Parliaments.

In 1999, the BNG set up the Galiza Sempre Foundation, with two key objectives, namely the

promotion of critical thinking regarding the socio-economic, political and cultural situation of Galiza and the preservation and dissemination of the historical memory of Galiza with a special emphasis on Galizan nationalism.

In its quest for a new political culture based on diversity, the Foundation extends its scope of action beyond Galiza, maintaining ties with left-wing, pro-sovereignty organisations throughout the Spanish State via the Sovereignty Forum and the Coppieters Foundation, bringing together parties committed to the defence of a Europe of the Peoples and the right to self-determination.



► Voting at the Founding Assembly of the BNG held in the city of A Coruña in 1982. Photo Xan Carballa.

The BNG is both a patriotic and an internationalist force that defends the right of all peoples around the world to be free and to decide for themselves and expresses its complete solidarity with all nations fighting for their freedom.

The BNG, an internationalist and anti-imperialist political force

It is an anti-imperialist force that rejects the domination of one nation over another, combating all forms of oppression, opposing all kinds of imperialist political and military interference or intervention and defending international relations based on cooperation.

It considers the defence of world peace, disarmament and the disbanding of aggressive military

blocks a priority, defending a peaceful and just resolution to international conflicts.

The BNG upholds human rights, actively combating all kinds of discrimination as a core value, whether it be based on an individual's origin or ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or of any other kind.