THE DYNAMICS OF POST-DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION
TRIPARTISM. COMPARATIVE LESSONS FROM SPAIN AND
POLAND.

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The article compares the role and legacies of tripartism during and after democratic transitions in Spain and Poland. In both countries, it emerged after a negotiated transition from dictatorship, but it was poorly institutionalised. While in both countries it has been widely criticised for falling short of ‘neocorporatist’ levels of governance, it has been considered to have ‘foundational’ function in stabilising both political and economic transition, and despite its limitation, it endured for decades in the frequent, if not regular, practice of negotiating ‘social pacts’. Given that it has long survived democratic transition, it is interesting to ask how this specific historic kind of tripartism has changed its functions over time. The comparison keeps the origins of corporatism (democratic transition followed by European integration) constant (in fact, Polish Round Table negotiators in 1989 were directly inspired by the Moncloa agreements and the transición pactada), while contrasting the economic system of origin, to identify some structural constants in the evolution of tripartism.