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# MARA AND PARACUELLOS – INTERPRETATIONS OF SPANISH POLITICS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE COMICS

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## ABSTRACT

After a Civil War and a 40-year long dictatorship, Spain went through a political transition to democracy in the last half of the 1970s. It was a period of unrest and insecurity, and all media participated in the debates about what to do with the authoritarian regime, its institutions and its supporters. Although a relatively new phenomenon in Spain at the time, many comics for an adult audience participated in these debates, representing most often the radical left. Some of these comics criticised what they and many others considered a lack of a real rupture with the dictatorship. The article presents an analysis of two of these comics, *Paracuellos* by Carlos Giménez and *Mara* by Enric Sío. It argues that the comics, through representations of place and institutions such as the family and the Catholic Church, question the political transition, implying that it is a continuation of the dictatorship. The comics, their perspective and their time are further discussed within the framework of present-day memory debates in Spain.