

Historical Background of (specific region)'s Government

Historical Background of the Government in the Iberian Peninsula (Spain & Portugal)
(A concise, easy-to-read outline for students)

1. Pre-Roman Foundations

Period	Political Structure	Key Points
Pre-Celtic & Celtic Tribes (c. 800 BC - 218 BC)	Tribal chieftainships; loose confederations	• Tribes such as the Lusitanians , Celtiberians , and Iberians governed themselves through local councils (councils of elders, warlords).
Phoenician & Greek Colonies (c. 1100 BC - 200 BC)	City-state colonies with elected magistrates	• Gadir (modern Cádiz) and Emporion (Empúries) introduced concepts of urban administration and trade regulation.
Carthaginian Influence (c. 300 BC - 206 BC)	Military-controlled territories	• Carthage installed strategoi (governors) to manage resources for the Punic wars.

2. Roman Era (218 BC – 5th c. AD)

1. Conquest & Provincial Organization

- **Hispania Citerior & Hispania Ulterior** ? later split into **Baetica**, **Lusitania**, **Tarraconensis**, **Gallaecia**.
- Provinces governed by **imperial legates** (legati) appointed by the emperor.

2. Administrative Innovations

- **Roman law** (Lex Romana) unified legal practice.
- **Municipia** and **coloniae** granted local self-government (magistrates, city councils).
- **Taxation** system (tributum, annona) created a fiscal base for the state.

3. Legacy

- Road network, Latin language, and juridical concepts persisted long after the fall of Rome, forming the backbone of later medieval kingdoms.
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3. Visigothic Kingdom (5th?–?711?AD)

Government

Aspect	Description
Royal Authority	King ruled as <i>rex</i> with support of a council of nobles (the <i>senate</i>).
Legal Code	Lex Visigothorum (or <i>Liber Judiciorum</i>) blended Roman law with Germanic customs; applied to all subjects.
Church Influence	The Visigothic Church (later aligned with Rome) became a key political player, especially after the conversion of King Reccared I (587?AD).
Capital Shifts	From Toledo (political center) to Seville (briefly) before consolidating in Toledo.

4. The Islamic Al?Andalus (711?–?1492)

1. Umayyad Emirate ? Caliphate (756?1031)

- Governance by **emir** (later **caliph**) supported by a **diwan** (bureaucracy).
- Introduction of **Sharia** courts alongside **dhimmi** (non-Muslim) communal autonomy.

2. Taifas (Independent Kingdoms) – 1031?1085

- Fragmented rule; each taifa had its own **qa?i** (judge) and **wazir** (minister).

3. **Almoravid &