Spain and the Bologna Plan: A Modern Day Controversy

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Communication and International Affairs
The Problem
The Bologna Declaration

- July 19, 1999 Bologna, Italy
- 29 European Ministers of Education
- 2010: 47 Participating Countries
Goals of the Bologna Plan

► Promote Student and Professional Mobility
► Achieve a European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by 2010
► Implement a European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)
► Compete with top higher education systems in the world: U.S. and Asia
Controversy

- Change in degree structure
- Cultural Implications
- Fear of Privatization
Higher Education in Spain before Bologna

1983: Three-cycled degree system

- **Diplomado (3-5 years)**
- **Licenciado (1-2 years)**
- **Doctor (3 years & Thesis)**
Higher Education in Spain Today

Graduado → Master → Doctor

http://www.universidad.es/degrees/the_spanish_university_system
Controversy

► Change in degree structure

► Cultural Implications

► Fear of Privatization
Conclusion

► 3 main sources of controversy

► Prime Minister Zapatero plans to increase the number of university scholarships available to students

► Controversy can result in compromise and growth for the future