

# How is Spanish soccer like GOP economics?

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## *USA Today:*

The past year has been a triumphant one for Spanish soccer.

The national team won the World Cup. Barcelona, whose players largely stocked the national team, took the Union of European Football Associations Cup, the most prestigious competition in club soccer. The Spanish under-19 team won the 2011 World Cup for the fifth time. And everywhere in the world, Spanish-style soccer was admired for its emphasis on teamwork, passing the ball and talented players working seamlessly together.

There's just one problem: This year Spain's professional soccer league almost closed down. Some 200 Spanish players weren't paid for several months; by the time a deal was reached, they were owed roughly \$70 million in back pay. And about half of Spain's 40 professional soccer teams are in bankruptcy.

The problem? Think of it as an exercise in Republican economics. That's right: If you want to see what's wrong with the way the United States has been handling economic policy, tax policy and employment policy, largely under the guidance of first the George W. Bush administration and more recently the Republican leadership in Congress, you need look no further than the sad story of Spanish soccer.

Read the whole story: [USA Today](#)