

In 1952 my mother who had Spanish nationality married my father in London and got British nationality. Would my mother have been obliged to renounce her Spanish nationality when marrying my father?

Great and very precise question — because the answer depends on the nationality rules **in force in 1952**. Let's go step by step.

1. Spanish nationality rules before 1978

- The applicable law at the time was the **Spanish Civil Code (Código Civil)**, as modified by the **Nationality Law of 1889 and later reforms**.
- Under that law, **Spanish women who married a foreigner automatically lost their Spanish nationality** if they acquired their husband's nationality by virtue of the marriage.
- This was based on the doctrine of “unity of nationality in marriage.”

2. Your mother's situation in 1952

- She was **Spanish by origin** (through her father).
- She married your British father in London.
- By the British nationality law of the time, foreign wives of British men often **automatically became British citizens** upon marriage.
- Because of that automatic acquisition, under Spanish law of the 1950s, your mother would have been considered to have **lost Spanish nationality** at that point.

3. But things changed later

- The **1978 Spanish Constitution** (Article 11) and later reforms corrected this discriminatory rule.
- The law now recognises that **Spanish nationality of origin can never be lost**, except by express renunciation before Spanish authorities.
- Many women who “lost” nationality in the 1950s–1970s were later recognised as **still Spanish by origin**.
- In fact, the Spanish Constitutional Court and later reforms confirmed that the old automatic loss was unconstitutional in spirit.

4. Practical effect for your mother

- Even if she was treated as having lost Spanish nationality in 1952, she would have automatically **regained recognition as Spanish by origin** after 1978, unless she formally renounced it before a Spanish authority (which very few did).

- So at the time of her death (2022), she would still have been **Spanish by origin**, with all the consequences for inheritance law (*legítima*).



✅ **Conclusion:**

Yes — in **1952**, your mother would have been considered under Spanish law to have lost Spanish nationality when she became British through marriage.

But — because she was **Spanish by origin**, she later **regained it automatically** after Spain's legal reforms. Unless she expressly renounced it before a Spanish consulate or registry (unlikely), she **died still being Spanish**.

