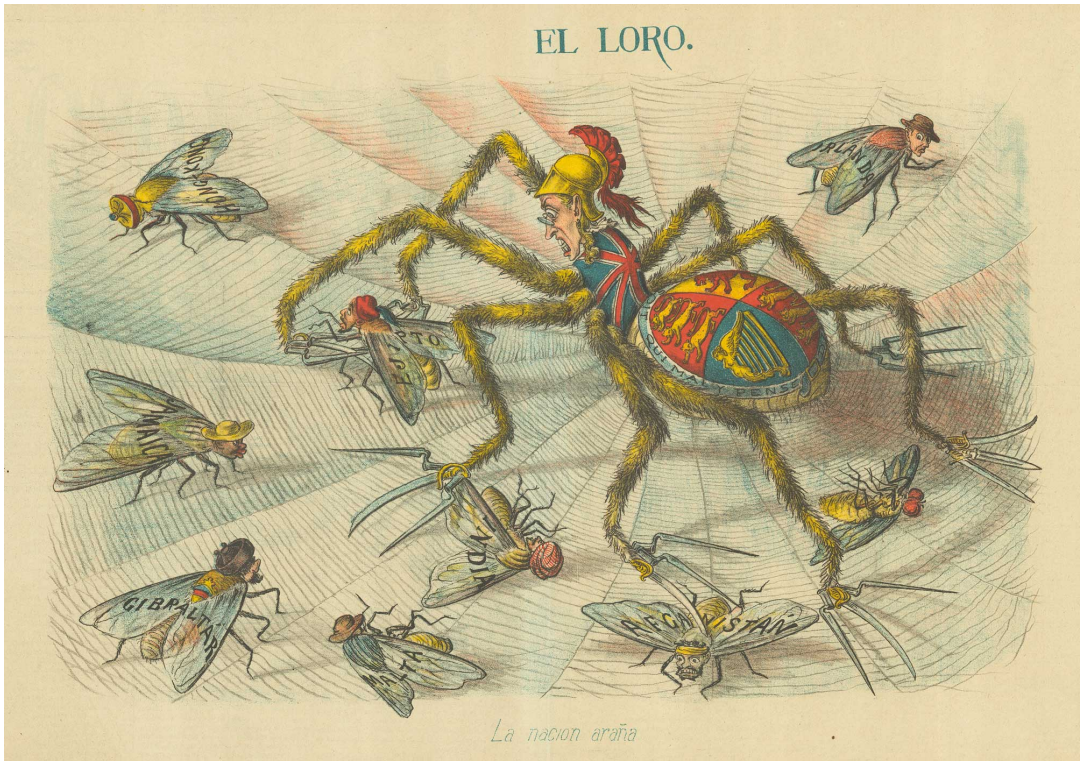
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A Spanish satire as Britain seized the Suez Canal

Anonymous.
El Loro. La nacion araña. [The Spider Nation.]

Barcelona: V. Perez, 1883. 4pp. newspaper, complete, double page chromolithograph with wood-engraved heading on verso.

£900

A scarce newspaper publication with a large cartoon depicting Britain as a spider, wearing glasses and a Romanesque helmet, a Union-Jack on its thorax and the Royal Arms on its body, with swords and bayonets at the end of each leg. It bears down on a fly with a human head marked 'Ejipto', one of nine flies caught in a large web. Others are marked Ireland, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Gibraltar Malta, India and Afghanistan. After a revolt the Ottoman Khedive (viceroy) invited the British Army in to help him keep control of Egypt in 1882. This allowed Britain to control the economically-vital Suez Canal, much to the dissatisfaction of the French (the major shareholders in the Suez Company) and the rest of Europe. 'El Loro' (the Parrot) described itself as a 'Periodico Poliíco Ilustrado'.

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