Spain of Philip II

Philip II's El Escorial

AP European History • The Spain of Philip II • J.F. Walters, G.W. Whitton & M.A. Prokosch

Spain of Philip II: Essential Questions

1. How did Charles V’s decision to split his empire affect Philip II?

2. What was Philip II’s religious background and how did it impact his rule?

3. What was the nature of Spain’s economy and military in the 16th century?

4. What was El Escorial? Why did Philip build it? How does El Escorial reflect Philip II's wider religious and political goals?

5. Why did Philip II question the allegiance of Spain’s Moriscos?

6. What was the Price Revolution and how did it impact Spain?

7. What were the background, causes, nature and results of the Revolt in the Spanish Netherlands?
Background to Philip II: Charles V

• Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor & King of Spain

✓ sought a “Universal Catholic Church” in Europe:
  maintain the Roman Catholic Church as Europe’s only faith
  ➡ fought Muslim Turks of the Ottoman Empire in Central and Eastern Europe
  ➡ battled Protestants in various ways throughout his reign, but ultimately made concessions to the Lutherans at the Peace of Augsburg (1555), which ended the Schmalkaldic Wars

✓ Charles abdicated in 1556
  ➡ divided his vast empire into two parts (see next slide)
  ➡ Charles retired to a monastery, where he spent the final two years of his life

Background to Philip II: Division of Charles V’s Empire

• Ferdinand I, brother of Charles V

✓ received the Holy Roman Empire (Austria, Bohemia, Hungary, etc.)

✓ capital city: Vienna, Austria

✓ this branch of the Habsburgs became known as the “Austrian Habsburgs”

• Philip II, son of Charles V

✓ received Spain, the Spanish Netherlands, Milan, Naples and the Spanish “New World”

✓ capital city: Madrid, Spain (a city built new by Philip)

✓ this branch of the Habsburgs became known as the “Spanish Habsburgs”
Spain of Philip II

*Journal 14/A: Philip II took upon the leadership of a vast Catholic counter-offensive.*

—Palmer Chapter 14 • pp. 121-30—

*Directions: Using sentences or detailed bulleted notes, identify & explain the evidence Palmer uses to support the thesis listed above.*

Philip II: Personal & Religious Background

**personal background**
- son of Charles V
- native Spaniard who spoke Castilian Spanish and preferred to be in Spain
- married to Mary Tudor (“Bloody Mary”) from 1554-58
- sought to carry out his father’s wishes to build the kings of Spain a burial tomb

**religious background**
- fanatical Catholic
- like his father, Philip sought a Universal Catholic Church
- was the most powerful Catholic political leader during the time of the Catholic Reformation

*Philip II*
Philip II: General Overview

- **Spanish economy was strongest at the beginning of Philip’s reign**
  - Spain benefitted from its enormous colonial empire (the “sun never set on the Spanish Empire”)
    - Spain established the *encomienda* (plantation) system in its colonies to grow and harvest sugar cane, tobacco, coffee; shortage of labor in Latin America led to Spain’s importation of slaves from Africa (the slave trade was known in Spain as the “*asiento*”)
    - Spain imported vast quantities of gold and silver from Latin America
  - Spain benefitted from talented artisans and craftsmen, many of whom were *Moriscos* (Christians of Muslim roots) or *Marranos* (Christians of Jewish roots)
- **Spain had one of the world’s strongest militaries**
  - powerful army
  - Battle of Lepanto (1571): Spanish navy along with that of its allies defeated the Ottoman Empire’s powerful Mediterranean fleet
  - contributed to Spain establishing a colonial empire in Latin America and Asia

Philip II: El Escorial

- **background**
  - Philip's father Charles V had requested that Philip build the Spanish Habsburgs a burial tomb for the kings of Spain
  - Philip decided to build not only a burial tomb but also monastery and royal residence in the granite mountains of Spain outside the new capital city of Madrid; he called it El Escorial (“the slagheap”)
  - dedicated El Escorial to Catholic saint St. Lawrence because Spain had won a military victory over arch-rival France (Battle of St. Quentin) on the feast day of St. Lawrence in 1557
- **Escorial’s design**
  - constructed primarily of granite
  - austere design: simple and monastic (in fact, it served as a monastery)
  - layout: in the shape of a grill to honor St. Lawrence, a 3rd-century Catholic martyr who was burned alive on a grill; grill motif also exists on door handles and in other places at Escorial
  - apart from the library, basilica and royal tomb, there is little ornamentation at Escorial
  - Philip II kept his vast collection of holy relics —thought to be the largest in the world at the time— at Escorial
  - Philip built a bedchamber near the high altar of the basilica, making it more convenient for him to pray
Exam Skills (ES): Synthesis

*In what ways did El Escorial embody the values and goals of the reign of Philip II?*

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Philip II: The Allegiance of the Moriscos

- obsessed with religious unity, Philip doubted the allegiance of Moriscos to the Catholic religion
- Philip attempted to suppress the customs of Moriscos
  - banned the Arabic and Berber languages and banned Moorish dress
  - required Moriscos to adopt Christian names
  - Morisco children were to be educated only by Catholic priests
- Revolt of the Moriscos (1567-70)
  - Moriscos in and around Granada declared their independence and repudiated Christianity
  - Philip II ordered troops to crush the revolt in 1570
- Results
  - Moriscos were dispersed from Granada to other parts of Spain until they were eventually expelled from Spain altogether by Philip's son, Philip III, in 1609
  - campaign against the Moriscos had the long-term effect of hurting Spain as it drove out many of Spain's most talented artisans and craftspeople

Philip II: The Price Revolution

- Price Revolution: rapid rise in the price of goods in Western Europe, most notably in the period from c. 1500 to 1650
- causes of the Price Revolution
  - increase in the production of native silver bullion in Europe in the latter part of the Middle Ages
  - vast influx of gold and silver bullion to Europe from Latin America (ex. from what is today Mexico & Bolivia) by the Spanish “Treasure Fleet”
  - growth in population led to a rise in demand for goods
  - shortage of goods contributed to a rise in prices
- results
  - led to an inflation where the price of goods rose approximately six-fold in 150 years
  - many merchants took out loans knowing that it would be easier to pay-off in light of the inflationary economic climate
  - inflation contributed to economic instability and a shortage of goods in Spain (and also in the Italian states)
Journal 14/B: The Netherlands’ revolt against Philip II was political and religious at the same time; as the years went by it became more and more an economic struggle.

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Philip II: The Revolt in the Spanish Netherlands (Dutch Revolt)

• background

✓ geographic: an area in the “Low Countries” of Europe controlled by the Spanish Habsburgs (today it would comprise the countries of Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands)

✓ economic: wealthy due to international trade, shipping and banking
  ➡ major trading centers: Amsterdam, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Brussels
  ➡ major industries: fishing, banking, finished woolen & linen products and shipping

✓ languages
  ➡ northern provinces: spoke regional dialects of German, either Flemish or Dutch
  ➡ southern provinces: spoke a regional dialect of French called Walloon

✓ religion
  ➡ northern provinces: Calvinism had taken root alongside Catholicism
  ➡ southern provinces: Catholicism remained the primary religion
Philip II: The Revolt in the Spanish Netherlands (Dutch Revolt)

• political causes: political tensions

✓ Philip II and Spanish administrators were viewed as foreigners by the people of the Spanish Netherlands (unlike Charles V, who was Flemish)

✓ traditional privileges (taxation & law-making) of the Dutch nobility were removed by Philip II, which increased Dutch resentment against Spanish authorities

• religious causes: sowing the seeds of religious conflict

✓ Protestantism, especially Calvinism, had taken root in the northern provinces of the Spanish Netherlands; this development would prove to be a contentious issue for Philip II, a fanatical Catholic

✓ Catholicism: remained the dominant faith in the southern provinces of the Spanish Netherlands

Philip II sent in the Spanish Inquisition to weed out Protestants in the Spanish Netherlands

✓ many Dutch nobles revolted against what they regarded as Philip's violation of their traditional privileges and autonomy

✓ The Iconoclast Fury (1566): some Calvinist preachers sparked anti-clerical (anti-Catholic) riots, inciting people to invade churches and destroy symbols of Catholicism, including stained glass windows, gold chalices, images of saints, and other objects of "popery"

✓ William the Silent (1553-84), Prince of Orange, emerged as the leader of the anti-Spanish movement; Calvinist

Philip II: The Revolt in the Spanish Netherlands (Dutch Revolt)

- **Philip’s reaction to the Dutch Revolt: the Duke of Alba**
  - Philip sent the Duke of Alba, a fanatical Catholic, to the Spanish Netherlands to crush the revolt
  - Alba established the Council of Troubles, which had unlimited powers to arrest and execute those accused of heresy and/or resistance
  - Protestants referred to Alba as the “Iron Duke” and his Council of Troubles as the Council of Blood
  - more than a thousand people were executed and thousands more injured in the course of Alba’s time in the Spanish Netherlands; he also levied new taxes and confiscated property

The Duke of Alba

- **in the course of the Dutch Revolt, a rift developed within the Spanish Netherlands**
  - northern provinces: Protestant states declared their independence
    - northern provinces allied together as the “United Provinces of the Netherlands” (often shortened to United Provinces or The Netherlands)
    - United Provinces renounced their allegiance to Spain
    - United Provinces were led by William the Silent (House of Orange)
    - United Provinces sought religious toleration
  - southern provinces: Catholic states remained with Spain
    - reunified with Spain by forging an agreement whereby Spain returned traditional privileges to the southern provinces in exchange for their allegiance to the Spanish crown
    - Catholicism guaranteed as the only religion in this part of the Spanish Netherlands
Philip II: The Revolt in the Spanish Netherlands (Dutch Revolt)

- Dutch Revolt: short-term developments
  ✓ warfare waged in the Netherlands between 1579 and 1609, until a truce was reached in 1609
  ✓ United Provinces received support from England and France, each of whom had their own political and/or religious reasons for being involved in the conflict
  ✓ Philip launched the Spanish Armada against England in 1588, but it failed to overthrow Elizabeth I and end English influence in The Netherlands
  ✓ Philip II died in 1598, having failed to accomplish many of his goals

- Dutch Revolt: long-term developments
  ✓ Philip III and Philip IV carried on Spain’s attempt to regain control of The Netherlands
  ✓ Dutch independence became one of the political and religious causes of the Thirty Years’ War (1618-48)
  ✓ eventually The Netherlands was recognized as an independent country by the Peace of Westphalia (1648), which ended the Thirty Years’ War
  ✓ NOTE: The Dutch often refer to the entire fight for independence as the Eighty Years’ War (1568-1648)

Additional Notes
Sources

- **Wikipedia.com (en.wikipedia.com).**