**Absolutism - Philip II of Spain**

**Biographical Information:**

1. A Brief history/overview of the Monarch
   a. **Born:** May 21st, 1527 in Valladolid, Spain
   b. **Died:** September 13th, 1598 in El Escorial
   c. The son of the Holy Roman Emperor **Charles V** and **Isabella of Portugal**
   d. Brother-in-law to **Queen Elizabeth I**
   e. **King of the Spaniards** from 1556-1598 and **King of the Portuguese** from 1580-1598.
   f. Had 4 wives:
      i. The first wife was his cousin, **Maria of Portugal** whom he married in 1543.
      ii. The second wife was **Mary I of England** whom he married in 1554.
      iii. The third wife was **Elizabeth of Valois** whom he married in 1559.
      iv. The fourth wife was **Anna of Austria** whom he married in 1570.
   g. **Religion:** Catholicism; known for being a devout Catholic
      i. Philip II succeeded in exterminating Protestants in Spain.
      ii. Champion of the Roman Catholic Counter Reformation
      iii. Organized a huge naval expedition against Protestant England in 1588.
   h. Introduced the Spanish inquisition to the New World.
      i. Was known for taking a great deal of time to arrive at any decisions - this was due to a combination of his mistrust of his own judgment and the advice given by his advisors; many also believe he had a “chronic” lack of self-confidence.

2. A brief history/overview of the nation they ruled over
   Philip II was the King of Spain and Portugal (1956 - 1981). He governed Spain in its so called “Golden Age”. While he was ruling however there was an economic decline. Bankruptcy was a big problem and it included the disaster of the Spanish Armada. The death (August 1578) without heirs of his nephew, King Sebastian of Portugal, opened up the prospect of Philip’s succession to Portugal.

3. A map that illustrates the territory they ruled over (You might consider multiple maps if their territory changed over the course of their reign
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4. Timeline - How long did their reign last AND how long did Absolutism last in the country

King of Spain: 16 January 1556 – 13 September 1598
King of Portugal and the Algarves: 17 April 1581 – 13 September 1598
King of England and Ireland: 25 July 1554 – 17 November 1558

Absolutism: Philip believed in the divine right of monarchs and used this to justify a number of immoral and illegal acts (ordering murders). He developed a system of regional self-government with viceroyes (a ruler exercising authority in a colony on behalf of a sovereign) answering to him and he ruled as an absolute monarch.

5. Major Events - Information, Facts & History on the Life of King Philip II of Spain

- King Philip II of Spain was born at Valladolid in Spain on 13 Sep 1598. He was son of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and Isabella of Portugal
- 1543: Philip married his cousin, Maria of Portugal
- 1545 July: Maria of Portugal, wife of Philip II of Spain, died in childbirth, when their son Don Carlos (1545-1568) was born
- 1554 July 25: Philip II of Spain married Queen Mary I (Mary Tudor) of England. Mary was eleven years older than Philip. The English Parliament refused to crown him jointly with Mary so he had little power in England
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- Shortly after their marriage Queen Mary I announced she was pregnant but it was a false pregnancy
- Mary was besotted with Philip. At his request she reconciled, at the insistence of Philip, with her sister Princess Elizabeth
- 1556 January: Philip II was crowned King of Spain after Charles V abdicated to retire to a monastery (Philip had already been given Naples, the Netherlands, Sicily and Milan by his father)
- 5 Feb 1556 Henry II of France and Philip II of Spain signed the truce of Vaucelles between France and Spain
- 10 Aug 1557 Spanish and English troops in alliance defeated the French at the Battle of St. Quentin.
- 1558 November 17: Queen Mary I died. Philip then tried to persuade her sister the Queen of England, Elizabeth I, to marry him - his plan failed
- 3 Apr 1559 Philip II of Spain and Henry II of France signed the peace of Cateau-Cambresis
- 1560 January: Philip married Elizabeth of France
- Jan 1567 The persecution of Christian Moors who lived in Spain
- 1567: King Philip II sent the Spanish army to put down the Protestant uprising in the Netherlands
- 1569 King Philip II forms an inquisition in South America
- 1571 Spanish navy destroys Turkish navy in the Mediterranean
- 1581 Philip II, King of Spain, becomes King of Portugal
- 1584 The El Escorial palace was completed near Madrid
- 1587 King Philip II obtains backing from Pope Sixtus V for his plans to invade England. The invasion is proclaimed a Catholic crusade
- 1588 August 8: The Spanish Armada of 132 ships is defeated by the English fleet of 34 ships and 163 armed merchant vessels under Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Francis Drake, and Sir John Hawkins (war between Spain and England continues until 1603)
- 1590-1598 Philip II becomes involved with a Spanish war against the Huguenots in France
- 1598 Philip of Spain died, September 13th
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5. Alliances (also consider marriages to other members of royal families)
   Philip II had alliances with Austria, England (under Mary I), Venice, Malta, Mary I. England became an enemy to him as soon as he got control of Portugal and he was rising in terms of Spanish power. England, The Netherlands and France became allies (with another) to eliminate Philip II. He got married 4 times: He married Maria Manuela of Portugal, Mary Tudor of England, Elizabeth of Valois and Anne of Austria.

6. Imperial reach (or overreach)
   - King of Spain and Portugal. From 1554 he was King of Naples and Sicily, and Duke of Milan.
   - During Marriage to Queen Mary, King of England and Ireland
   - In 1555 he was lord of the 17 provinces of Netherlands
   - His rule extended over the entire British Empire. This was the time when the expression “the empire on which the sun never sets.” (Includes Philippine Islands)
   - Spain reached the height of power under his rule

7. Why are they important? Why should we care?

Obituary:
King Philip of Spain was a man of great power who led his country to power of equal greatness. Some call him a gentleman full of Christian virtue, others call him a monster. Some would consider his devotion to Catholicism honourable; others would consider his persecution of Protestants despotic. There is no doubt his greatness is coloured by the deep red of bloodshed, but there is also no doubt that he was one of, if not the most, powerful European monarchs in an era of war and religious conflict.