

Absolute Monarchy in Spain

EMPIRE OF CHARLES V OF SPAIN



1. What areas does Charles V have direct control over?
2. What areas does Charles V have indirect control over?
3. Do you foresee any problems with him being able to govern such a large empire? Explain.

Spain's Powerful Empire. A devout Catholic, Charles not only fought Muslims, but also opposed Lutherans. In 1555, he unwillingly agreed to the Peace of Ausburg, which allowed German princes to choose the religion for their own territory. The following year, Charles V divided his immense empire and retired to a monastery. To his brother Ferdinand, he left Austria and the Holy Roman Empire. His son Philip II, inherited Spain, the Spanish Netherlands, and the American colonies.

Philip was shy, serious and--like his father--deeply religious. However, he could be aggressive for the sake of his empire. In 1580, the king of Portugal died without an heir. Because Philip was the king's nephew, he seized the Portuguese kingdom. Counting Portuguese colonies in Africa, India, and the East Indies, he now had an empire that circled the globe.

Philip's empire provided him with incredible wealth. By 1600, American mines had supplied Spain with an estimated 339,000 pounds of gold. Between 1550 and 1650, roughly 16,000 tons of silver were unloaded from Spanish galleons. The king of Spain claimed between a 1/4 and 1/5 of every shipload of treasure for himself. With this wealth, Spain was able to support a large standing army of 50,000 soldiers.

4. What did Charles V do with his empire?
5. What territory did Philip II add to empire when the king of Portugal died?
6. How did the Spanish colonies Spain? How did this help Philip become more powerful?

The Golden Century. The century from 1550-1650 is often called Spain's *siglio de oro*, or "golden century" for the brilliance of its arts and literature. Philip II was a patron of the arts and also founded academies of science and mathematics. Among the famous painters of this period was El Greco, meaning "the Greek". Born on the Greek isle of Crete, El Greco had studied in Renaissance Italy before settling in Spain. El Greco also influenced the work of Diego Valquez; he is perhaps known for his portraits of Spanish royalty. In *The Maids of Honor* he shows himself in the act of painting the portraits of several young girls.



ARTIST: EL GRECO



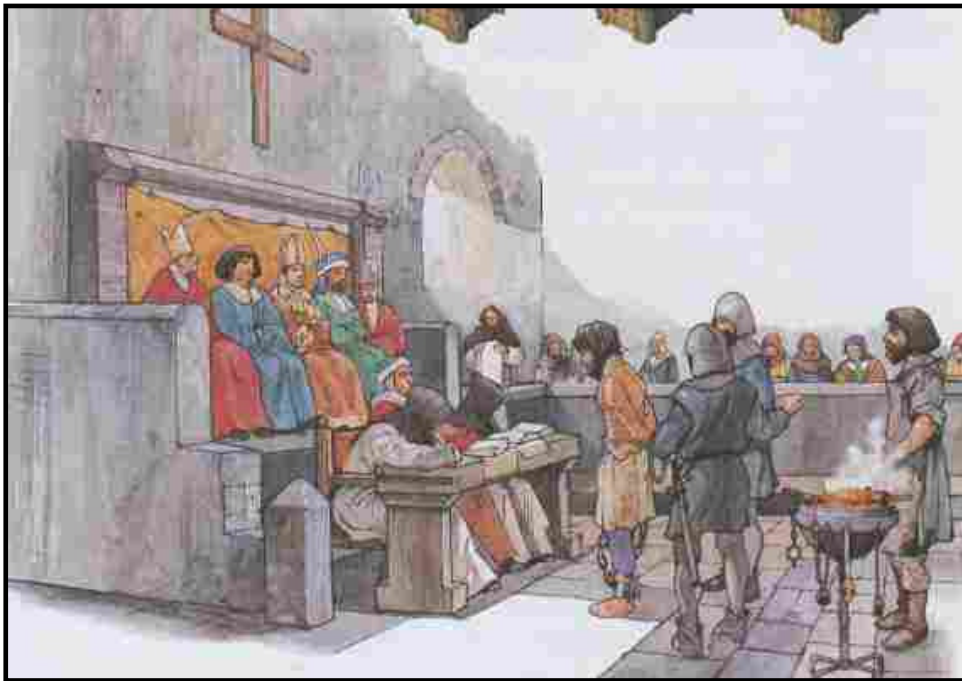
The Maids of Honor by Diego Valazquez

7. Why was 1550-1650 known as *siglio de oro*? What does that mean?
8. What themes do El Greco, and Velazquez display in paintings above?

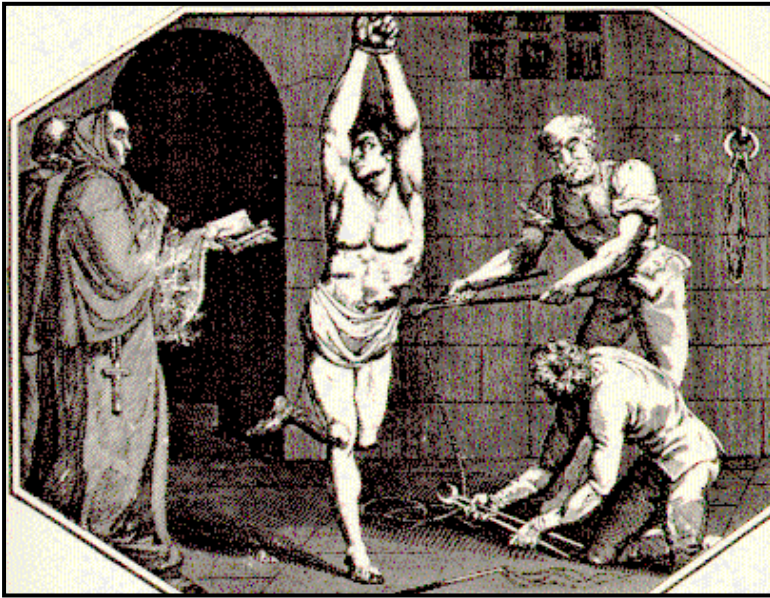
King By Divine Right. Like Ferdinand and Isabella, Philip further centralized royal power, making all parts of government responsible to him. He became an absolute monarch, and like other European rulers, Philip believed that he ruled by divine right. Partly as a result of the concept of divine right, Philip saw himself as a guardian of the Catholic Church. The great undertaking of his life was to defend the Catholic religion and turn the tide back against the Protestants in Europe. Within his own lands he enforced religious unity, turning against Protestants and other people considered to be heretics.

7. List three similarities that you see between Philip II and Louis XIV of Spain.

THE SPANISH INQUISITION



8. Describe what you think is happening in the picture.
9. Why do you think this person is being brought before the church officials?



10. According to these pictures what methods did Philip II and the Inquisition use to enforce religious unity under Catholicism?

