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# **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

## **UNIT 6. THE MODERN AGE I** **Spain in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries**

Exam Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# UNIT 6. THE MODERN AGE I

## Spain in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries

In this unit we are going to learn about:

1. Before the Modern Age...
2. The Modern Age
3. The Modern Age in Spain
4. The Reign of the Catholic Monarchs
5. The Discovery and Conquest of America
  - Consequences of the Discovery of America
  - Pre-Columbian Cultures: Aztecs, Mayas and Incas
  - The Conquest of America
  - Territorial Organization: Government and Society
6. The Spanish Empire in the 16<sup>th</sup> century
  - The reign of Carlos I
  - The reign of Felipe II
  - Territories and government
7. Society during the Modern Age
8. The Renaissance: a cultural rebirth

# 1. BEFORE THE MODERN AGE...

Historians have divided the past into five periods or ages. They are separated by important events that transformed people's way of life:

- Prehistory
- Ancient history
- The Middle Ages
- The Modern Age
- Contemporary Age

## PREHISTORY

Prehistory began when the first human beings appeared. It is the most extensive historical period. It is divided into three periods: the Paleolithic Age, the Neolithic Age, and the Metal Ages.

The first human beings were nomads. They hunted, fished and gathered fruit and vegetables from the land to survive. Later, they developed agriculture and farming. They became sedentary and built houses and villages.

They made tools out of stone and animal bones. They learned to make pottery and to work metals.

## ANCIENT HISTORY

Ancient history began around 5.000 years ago, when written language was invented. The first civilizations appeared during this period, such as the Egyptians, the Greek and the Romans. The Romans conquered the Iberian Peninsula between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC. They called it Hispania.

The Romans organize Hispania into provinces and imposed their customs and laws. Latin became the official language. They founded cities and introduced Christianity.

## THE MIDDLE AGES

The Visigoths, one of the Germanic peoples that came from northern Europe, invaded Hispania and established a kingdom on the Peninsula.

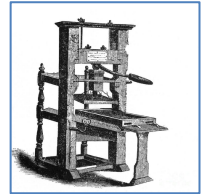
In 711, the Muslims conquered the Visigoth kingdom and founded Al-Andalus. The Christian kingdoms joined together to expel the Muslims and expand their territory. This is known as the Reconquest. It finished at the end of the Middle Ages, when the Catholic Monarchs conquered the Kingdom of Granada.

During this period, cities grew and castles and monasteries were built. There were two main artistic styles: **Romanesque** and **Gothic**.

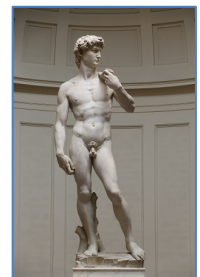
## 2. THE MODERN AGE

The Modern Age began in 1492 with the discovery of America and ended with the French Revolution in 1789. It was an era of great change. There were many important discoveries and inventions that changed people's lives:

- The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg around 1450 helped spread culture and knowledge.
- Major geographical discoveries. New technical advances in navigation let Europeans discover new lands.
- The development of trade. The discovery of new territories created more trade and introduced new crops that produced large economic changes.
- The emergence of absolute monarchies. European monarchs took power away from the nobles and created important positions in the government so that people could help them with the organisation of the country. In the Modern Age, the monarchs, not the nobles, controlled the country. They became very powerful, creating absolute monarchies.



- The division of Christianity. The Christian religion was divided into Catholics that obeyed the Pope and Protestants that followed the teachings of Luther.
- During this period, two artistic styles were developed: first, the Renaissance, and the Baroque. In Spain, the 17<sup>th</sup> century is known as Spain's Golden Age for its artistic and cultural splendour. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the ideas of the Enlightenment (La Ilustración) arrived in Spain.



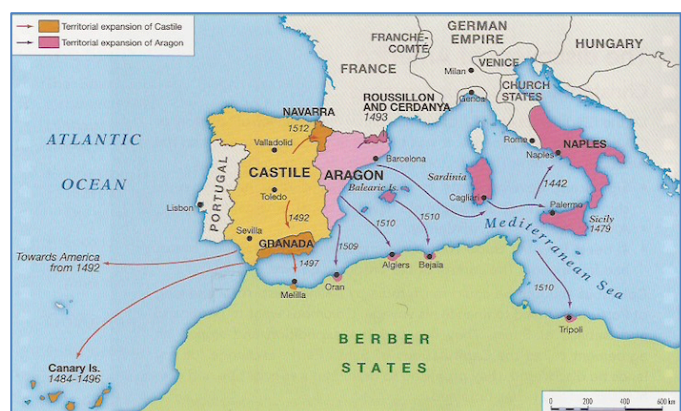
### 3. THE MODERN AGE IN SPAIN

In Spain, the **Modern Age** started not only with the Discovery of America, but also with the end of Al-Andalus, when the Catholic Monarchs Isabel I of Castilla and Fernando II of Aragón conquered Granada. The main characteristics of this period are:

- In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Catholic Monarchs increased the **power of the monarchy**. They took control of the army, economy and government. They built a strong unified army to fight for the country.
- In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Habsburg dynasty (Los Austrias) ruled Spain. The first kings, Carlos I and Felipe II were the most powerful kings of their times. They created a **great Empire** made up of the territories they inherited in Europe and the lands they conquered in America. This Empire started to weaken in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a new dynasty, the Borbones, began to reign.
- There was great artistic and cultural progress at this time, especially in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, called the Golden Age. During this period, artists like Diego Velazquez or the writer Miguel de Cervantes created their masterpieces.

### 4. THE REIGN OF THE CATHOLIC MONARCHS

The Catholic Monarchs, or Isabel I de Castilla and Fernando II de Aragón, married in 1469. Ten years later, they became the first sovereigns of the Spanish monarchy, although they governed their own separate territories - each with their own laws, institutions and currencies.



The Catholic Monarchs received this title from the Pope after conquering the Kingdom of Granada. During their reign, one of their main aims was to establish **political unity** by incorporating Navarra, Granada and Portugal into their territory. They also wanted to achieve **religious unity** and did so with measures like the **Inquisition** and the expulsion of all Jews and Muslims who didn't convert to Catholicism. They expanded their territory beyond Spain, through **strategic marriages** between their children and the rulers of other kingdoms.

The Catholic Monarchs strengthen their power by setting up **royal councils** (groups of professional advisers who assisted them with specific affairs or territories), like the **Council of the Inquisition**, whose aim was to punish people who didn't follow the rules established by the Catholic Church. The Catholic Monarchs also strengthened the **justice system** by creating royal tribunals called **Audiencias**, improved tax collection and maintained a standing **army** loyal to the Crown.



At the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Catholic Monarchs extended their territories.

- They **conquered Granada** in 1492, the Canary Islands in 1496 and the Kingdom of Navarre in 1512.
- They gained the **Kingdom of Naples** in Italy.
- They also conquered **Melilla** and other small territories in 1497.

The Catholic Monarchs financed **Christopher Columbus's** expedition. He was an Italian sailor and explorer who wanted to find a new sea route to Asia. Columbus discovered the American continent.

## 5. THE DISCOVERY AND CONQUEST OF AMERICA



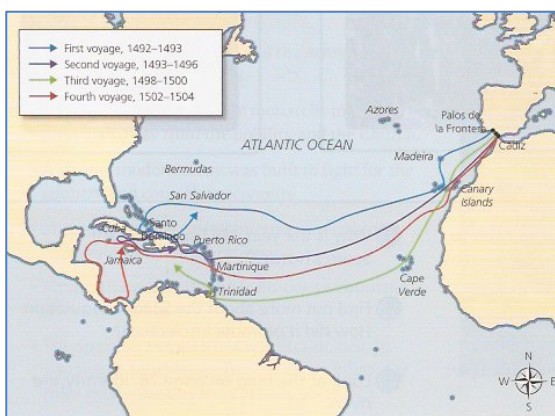
In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, many people thought the **world** was **flat**. Europeans only had information about Europe, North Africa and part of Asia. **Christopher Columbus** was convinced that the world was **round**. He thought he could reach Asia by sailing across the Atlantic to the west. After the king of Portugal refused to finance his

voyage, Columbus turned to Fernando and Isabel of Spain. They financed the expedition and signed an agreement called the **Capitulations of Santa Fe**. In exchange for any lands discovered, they promised to grant him a special title and give him part of any riches obtained.

The expedition, which consisted of **three caravels** (the **Pinta**, the **Niña** and the **Santa María**) and a crew of about 150 men, departed from the port of Palos de la Frontera in Huelva on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1492. They reached the island of El Salvador in the Bahamas on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1492. On their way back to Spain, they discovered Juana (now



Cuba) and Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic). Columbus, who thought he had reached **Asia**, called the new lands **the Indies**. Years after his death, an Italian sailor, **Amerigo Vespucci** proved that those lands were a new continent. The continent was called **America**.



Columbus organized three more **voyages** to explore these new lands, reaching Jamaica and Puerto Rico on his second voyage, Venezuela on his third, and Honduras on his fourth and final expedition. He died in 1506.

## 1. CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

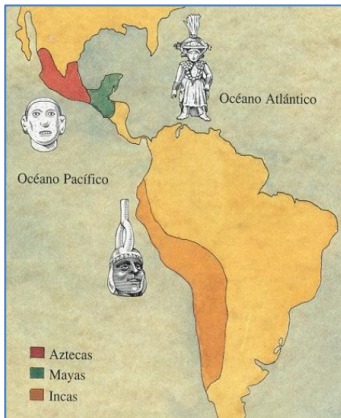
The discovery of America had many consequences:

- Spain conquered most of the American continent and became the most powerful empire in Europe.
- World trade increased. The Spanish **brought new products**, animals and plants to Europe such as potatoes, tomatoes, tobacco and cocoa. The Spanish also brought large amounts of gold and silver to Europe from America, which made them so powerful.
- Spain exported goods such as cloth, wool and leather, which meant that craftspeople also became richer. Spain also exported goods such as flour, cereal, oil and wine that could travel the long distance to America. Many farmers changed the way they farmed their land in order to produce these goods for export.
- The Spanish also brought their language and religion to America. This is why most of South America is Spanish speaking and Catholic.
- To exploit resources such as gold and silver from their new colonies, the Spanish forced the indigenous peoples into slavery. These conditions, and new diseases introduced by the Spanish, caused a drastic drop in indigenous populations.





## 2. PRE-COLUMBIAN CULTURES



When the Spanish landed in America, they found the continent inhabited by different groups of people. These people are known as pre-Columbian civilizations, because they lived on the American continent before Columbus arrived there. They were usually small tribes, but some groups had created big empires. The Spanish expeditions **invaded their territories**, imposing their language, culture, religion and customs. The main pre-

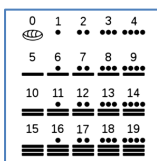
Columbian civilizations were the **Aztecs**, the **Mayans** and the **Incas**

### THE AZTECS

The Aztecs lived in the valley of Mexico. The emperor lived in the capital, Tenochtitlan. They were polytheistic, for example, they worshiped the god of the Sun and the god of war. Their life was centred around religion. To honour their gods, they built temples in the shape of a pyramid. Most Aztecs were farmers.



### THE MAYAS



The Mayas lived in the south of present-day Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. The capital was Chichen Itza. They were organized in independent and powerful city-states. Each city had a leader. They were polytheistic. The Mayas were scientifically advanced, especially in mathematics, medicine and astronomy. They were the only American civilization that developed an advanced writing system.

### THE INCAS



The Incas lived in present-day Peru, Ecuador and part of Bolivia. The capital was Cuzco and their language Quechua. The Incas built a system of roads and used llamas to transport goods. The Incas were polytheistic. They worshipped the Sun and the Moon.

### 3. THE CONQUEST OF AMERICA

After Christopher Columbus's first voyage, the Spanish quickly began to conquer the newly discovered lands. The people who conquered the lands were called **conquistadors**. The Catholic Monarchs offered conquerors the title of **governor** or **captain** and gave them extensive areas of land in the new continent. The most important expeditions were led by Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro.



- **Hernán Cortés** conquered the Aztec Empire and Mayan (Mexico) cities between 1519 and 1521.

- **Francisco Pizarro** conquered the Inca Empire (Peru) in 1533.



#### FERDINAND MAGELLAN and JUAN SEBASTIAN ELCANO

During the reign of Carlos I, Ferdinand Magellan and Juan Sebastian Elcano undertook an expedition that lasted for three years. This was the first expedition to sail around the world. He sailed across the Atlantic Ocean until he found a passage to the Pacific Ocean. It is now called the straight of Magellan.

### 4. TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

#### GOVERNMENT

Spain had to govern its new colonies and manage trade. The American territory was divided into **viceroalties**. Each of them was governed by a **vicero**y, who had extensive powers including judicial functions.

- The Council of the Indies was funded in 1524 as the governing body of Spain's colonies in the Americas. The council made laws and name governors for the colonies.

- The **Casa de Contratación** (House of Trade) was set up in Seville in 1503 to manage trade with the Americas and control the precious metals arriving from the colonies (The Spanish mined for silver and gold). It granted the city the exclusive right to trade with the New World.



- The colonies were split into the **Viceroyalty of New Spain** (Central America) and the **Viceroyalty of Peru** (South America). They were governed by viceroys.

## **SOCIETY**

Society was organized by race:

- The **Spanish** occupied government jobs and owned large properties.
- The **mestizos** were born from Spanish and native mothers. Some worked in important jobs, but others lived in poverty.
- The **Native Americans** were generally treated badly; they suffered many abuses and there were no laws to protect them.
- People were brought from Africa to work as **slaves**.



## 6. THE SPANISH EMPIRE IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> century, **Carlos I** and **Felipe II**, descendants of the Catholic Monarchs, ruled the **most powerful empire in the world**, with territories in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. However, near the end of the following century, the vast empire broke apart. Spain lost its superiority in Europe, and was attacked by other European countries.

### 1. THE REIGN OF CARLOS I (1516 - 1558)

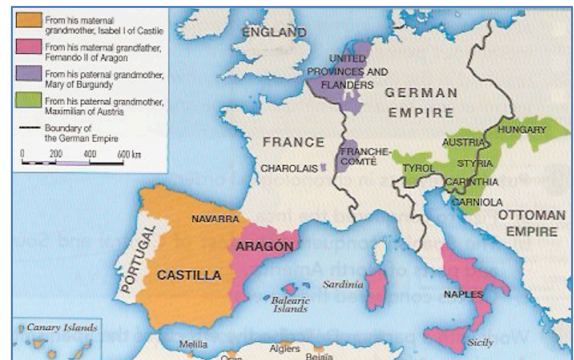


Fernando II and Isabel I 's policy of creating political alliances with other European countries through strategic marriages resulted in their grandson Carlos I, succeeding to the throne.

Carlos I was the first king of the Habsburg dynasty (Los Austrias) in Spain. He was born in Belgium and he inherited territories in the German Empire, that's why he was also called **Carlos V of Germany**. His personal and national motto was *Plus Ultra*, which means "Further Beyond".

When he became a king in 1516, he inherited:

- From his **maternal grandparents**, he inherited territories in Spain, Italy, America and North Africa. As King of Spain, he was called Carlos I.
- From his **paternal grandparents**, he inherited territories in the Netherlands, France and Germany. As Emperor of Germany, he was called **Carlos V**.



Before he died, he divided his empire into two kingdoms. He gave his German Empire to his brother Fernando. His son Felipe II, inherited his Spanish Empire, which included Spain, the Netherlands, Naples and Spain's possessions in the Americas

Carlos I was unpopular among his Spanish subjects. When he became king of Spain, he did not know the language or customs of the country. He had foreign counsellors who imposed heavy taxes. This led two rebellions in 1520: the **Comunidades** in Castilla, and the **Germanías** in Valencia. After this, the king decided to have Spanish counsellors.

However, Carlos I had conflicts abroad as well:

1. **Wars with France**: He spent many years fighting against **France** over the territories of Navarre and the north of Italy.
2. **The spread of Protestantism**: He was a defender of the Catholicism and he fought against **German Protestants** (Lutherans).
3. **The threat of the Ottoman Turks**: He also fought against the **Turks** who wanted to control territories in the Mediterranean, interfering in the trade between Italy and Spain.

#### MARTIN LUTHER: PROTESTANTISM

In 1520, **Martin Luther**, a German monk, separated from the Roman Catholic Church. This caused a great division within the Church.

## 2. THE REIGN OF FELIPE II (1556 - 1598)

In 1556, Carlos I was succeeded by his son Felipe II the most powerful king of his time. During his reign (1556 - 1598) he added to the territories in America, Africa and Asia. In 1561 he permanently established the Royal Court in Madrid. In 1580, he became king of Portugal. He faced threats abroad, including:

1. **War with France** over Italy, ending in a Spanish victory in the **Battle of San Quintín** (1557).
2. **The Ottoman Turks**, who were defeated the Turks in the **Battle of Lepanto** (1571).
3. **The Netherlands**. Felipe II fought a long war against the



Netherlands, who wanted independence. They broke free from Spanish rule in 1579.

4. **England.** English **pirates** helped the Queen of England and disrupted the trade with the Americas. In 1588, Felipe II tried to invade England with a fleet of warships called the **Spanish Armada** (*La Armada Invencible*). England defeated the Armada in 1588.

All these wars were very **expensive**, so the king had to use gold and silver brought from America to pay for them. The price of some products increased and the Spanish population became poorer.



### 3. TERRITORIES AND GOVERNMENT

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Spain became the **greatest world power**. Carlos I and Felipe II ruled and empire with territories all over the world.

The king was responsible for the army, institutions, taxes war and peace. Many counsellors helped the king.

The kings had a lot power, but there were some limitations on their power.

- There were **courts** in each kingdom that could accept or reject certain laws.
- Some kingdoms had **justice systems** to ensure the king kept the laws.

In 1561, Felipe II made **Madrid** the Capital of the Empire. The government and the court settled there.

## 7. SOCIETY DURING THE MODERN AGE

The structure of the society during the Modern Age was very similar to that of the Middle Ages. The Social structure was hierarchical. Social classes were based on status and wealth. Society was divided between privileged and the unprivileged class.

### PRIVILEGED CLASS

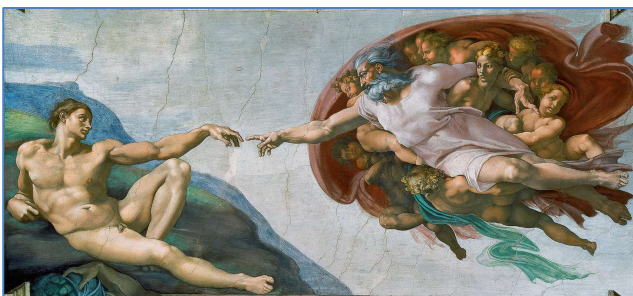
- **The king:** He had more power than ever.
- **The nobility.** They owned most of the land and helped the king with his government. They did not pay taxes.
- **The clergy.** They owned land and did not pay taxes.

### UNPRIVILEGED CLASS

- **The common people.** They made up the largest part of society. They had to pay taxes, but had no power.
  - **The burghess.** These people worked in trade, business and other professions. They lived in the cities.
  - **The artisans.** They started the first workshops during this time period.
  - **The peasants.** They were the poorest group. They owned little land and worked the fields of the nobility and clergy.

## 8. THE RENAISSANCE: A CULTURAL REBIRTH

### 1. THE RENAISSANCE IN EUROPE



The Renaissance was a cultural movement that developed in Italy before spreading throughout Europe and Spain. During the Renaissance, there was an explosion of new ideas in education and art. The artists, writers and scholars of the Renaissance looked for inspiration in **Ancient Greek** and **Roman works**. Many sculptures and paintings of the period depicted the ideal human

form, but Renaissance architecture emphasised straight lines and simplicity. **Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael** and **Jan van Eyck** created some of the greatest artworks of the period.

## 2. SPANISH RENAISSANCE



The Renaissance spread to Spain in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The beginning of the Spanish Renaissance coincided with the discovery of America, the unification of the Christian Kingdoms and the publication of the first grammar book of the Spanish language by **Antonio de Nebrija**.

### ARCHITECTURE

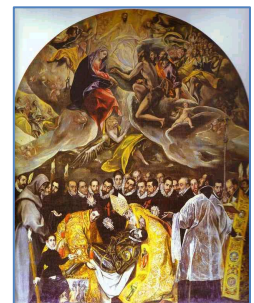
Two main styles emerged in Spain: **Plateresque** buildings had ornately decorated facades while **Herrerian** architecture, named after Spanish architect Juan de Herrera, was extremely simple and sober.

### SCULPTURE

Polychrome wooden sculptures depicted religious themes. Alonso de Berruguete was a notable Spanish sculptor of the period.

### PAINTING

**El Greco** was one of the most important figures of Spanish Renaissance painting.



El entierro del Conde Orgaz. El Greco

### LITERATURE

In Renaissance Spain, poetry and theatre gained popularity and picaresque novels and mystical literature flourished. Important works include the picaresque novella Lazarillo de Tormes and the writings of Teresa de Ávila (Santa Teresa de Jesus) and San Juan de la Cruz (mystic poets) and Garcilaso de la Vega, Fray Luis de León (poets)



## UNIT VOCABULARY

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