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# SOCIAL SCIENCE

## UNIT 6. THE MODERN AGE: THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

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

# UNIT 6. THE MODERN AGE: 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

In this unit we are going to learn about:

1. Before the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries....
2. The 17<sup>th</sup> century: the decline of the Spanish Empire
3. Felipe III
4. Felipe IV
5. Carlos II
6. The Golden Age
7. The 18<sup>th</sup> century: the Bourbon Dynasty.
8. Society.
9. The end of the Modern Age.
10. The Enlightenment

# 1. BEFORE THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES...

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

## 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.

## THE MODERN AGE

The Modern Age began in 1492 with the discovery of America. There were many important discoveries and inventions in this period, such as the printing press.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Habsburgo dynasty (Los Austrias) ruled Spain. The first kings, Carlos I and Felipe II, created a **great empire**, which 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.

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.

## 2. 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE DECLINE OF THE SPANISH EMPIRE

After the death of Felipe II in 1598, the Spanish Empire weakened and began to break up. Spain lost much of its power in Europe. This was caused by several factors:

- Spain was **constantly** involved in many **wars** over **territory** and **religion**. It suffered important defeats and lost part of its territories. By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Spain had lost some of its territories in Europe, including Portugal.
- Spain was **financially weaker**. The many wars were expensive. The kings spent large amounts of money paying their soldiers and the officials involved in the administration of the Spanish Empire. This left less gold and silver for other purposes. At the same time, there was less gold and silver arriving from America. In addition, **pirates**, often supported by France or England, attacked Spanish ships on their way back to Spain from America.

The **population of Spain decreased** due to **wars** and **famine** caused by poor harvests and plagues. Many people also emigrated to America to find a better life.

The population of Moriscos was increasing in Spain. Some Moriscos were successful merchants and shopkeepers. Due to this increase in power, the decision was made to **expel the Moriscos from Spain**. Many children were separated from their families, as their parents left Spain.

Three Habsburg kings ruled during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They were: **Felipe III** (1598 - 1621), **Felipe IV** (1621 - 1655) and **Carlos II** (1665 - 1700). These kings allowed **royal favourites** or **validos** to represent them and to control government. The **validos** or **royal favourites** became very powerful.

### 3. FELIPE III



When Felipe II died in 1598, Felipe III became King of Spain. He ruled Spain from 1598 to 1621. Under his rule, Spain started to lose power and influence in Europe.

Felipe III was not very interested in governing the country. His royal favourites, or **validos**, governed the country for him. They were people the king trusted. Felipe III most important favourite was the **Duque de Lerma**.

One of the most important events in his reign was the **expulsion of the Moriscos** in 1609. The Moriscos were Muslims who had been forced to convert to Christianity during the reign of the Catholic Monarchs. About 300.000 Moriscos had to leave their homes and their lands.

Spain also suffered a huge decline in its population and a farming crisis, especially in the regions of Aragón, Valencia and Murcia.

### 4. FELIPE IV



Felipe IV was a king between 1621 and 1665. His royal favourite was the **Conde-Duque de Olivares**. Olivares governed Spain. Under his government Spain was continually at war.

Spain fought the **Thirty Years' War (Guerra de los Treinta Años)** (1618 – 1648). This was a religious war between Catholics and Protestants in Central Europe. Spain was badly defeated in this war. Spain lost the Netherlands and other territories in Europe. This defeat marked the end of Spanish hegemony in Europe.

The Conde-Duque de Olivares tried to reinforce the king's power. This caused rebellions in Cataluña and Portugal. In Cataluña the rebellions were stopped. However, **Portugal** became an **independent** country in **1668**.

## 5. CARLOS II



Carlos II inherited the throne in 1665 when he was only four years old. His mother governed while he was a child. When he was old enough to rule, Carlos II was ill. His royal favourites, especially the **Duque of Medinaceli**, governed for him. He ruled between 1665 and 1700.

Carlos II died without having any children, so the Hapsburg dynasty in Spain ended in 1700 when he died. As Carlos II had no heir to the throne, many European monarchies fought to take over the Spanish Empire. This was called the **War of Succession**. After the war a new dynasty ruled in Spain: the **Bourbon dynasty** (Dinastía Borbón)

## 6. THE GOLDEN AGE

The Golden Age was a period of great achievements in Spanish art. During the Hapsburgs dynasty rule many great works of **art** and **literature** were created. Works of art were mainly **religious themes**, commissioned by the Catholic Church. The main style of the Golden Age was the **Baroque**. The Baroque style spread to Spain from Italy in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### 1. BAROQUE ARCHITECTURE

At the beginning of the Golden Age, buildings were plain with little decoration. Architecture changed during the Golden Age. Buildings had **richly detailed adornments** and lots of **curved elements** to give sense of **movement**. The new Churrigueresque style, named the Churriguera brothers, featured elaborately decorated facades. The *Obradoiro* façade of the Cathedral of Santiago and the Plaza Mayor in Madrid are fine examples.



## 2. BAROQUE PAINTING

The famous Baroque painters of the Golden Age were Diego de **Velázquez**, Bartolomé Esteban **Murillo**, Francisco de **Zurbarán** and José de **Ribera**.

The main features of their style were **realism** and the way in which they **transmitted emotion**. They also used **contrast between light and dark** so that figures seemed illuminated against very dark backgrounds. Some important artists were El Greco, Diego Velázquez, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo and Francisco de Zurbarán.

### Diego de Velázquez

Velázquez painted portraits of Felipe IV and the royal family, and historical scenes. Some of his best paintings are portraits of the royal children.



### José de Ribera

Ribera's painting style was called **tenebrism** because his paintings show a strong contrast of dark and light.



### Francisco de Zurbarán

Zurbarán specialised in **still life** and religious paintings of monks, nuns and martyrs.



### Esteban Bartolomé Murillo

Murillo is best known for portraits of women and children, as well as religious scenes.



### 3. SCULPTURE

Golden Age sculptures showed **expression** and **movement**. The most common medium was wood. You can see some of these sculptures in Easter processions. **Gregorio Fernández** and **Alonso Cano** were important baroque sculptors.

### 4. LITERATURE

During the Golden Age, brilliant writers created great literary works. The printing press, invented in 1450, helped to distribute their works.

- **POETRY.** Some famous authors are Luis de Góngora, Francisco de Quevedo and Lope de Vega.
- **THEATRE.** Some famous authors are Lope de Vega, Tirso de Molina and Calderón de la Barca.
- **NOVEL.** The most famous author of the period is **Miguel de Cervantes** who wrote *Don Quijote*. Another important author is Francisco de **Quevedo**.

#### MIGUEL DE CERVANTES AND DON QUIJOTE

Miguel de Cervantes was born in Alcalá de Henares. He was a soldier and fought in the Battle of Lepanto (Greece).

When he returned to Spain, his ship was attacked by pirates and Cervantes was made prisoner. He was a prisoner in Algeria for five years. He then returned to Spain.

Miguel de Cervantes is the most famous Spanish author in the world. He wrote *Don Quijote de la Mancha*. This famous novel has been translated into many different languages. In the book, Cervantes tells the adventures and journeys of Don Quijote and his friend Sancho Panza.



## 7. THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: THE BOURBON DYNASTY

The 18<sup>th</sup> century was a time of many changes in the political and social structure of Spain. The Spanish **economy improved** and the **population increased**, with many people moving to towns and cities.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a new dynasty ruled Spain: the Bourbons (Los Borbones). The Bourbons had new ideas about political organisation.

### 1. THE SPANISH WAR OF SUCCESSION

Carlos II died in 1700 leaving no heir to the throne. Two royal families claimed the Spanish throne: the French **Bourbons** and the Austrian **Habsburgs**. This dispute developed into the Spanish **War of Succession**, which lasted from 1701 until 1714. This war started as a **civil war** and then expanded into an **international war**.



The war ended with the signing of the **Treaty of Utrecht** (1713), and the Bourbon dynasty replaced the Habsburgs. **Felipe V** became the king of Spain, but in return he gave up his right to the French throne, guaranteeing there wouldn't be a union between Spain and France. Spain lost some of its territories in Europe. The Spanish territories in the Netherlands and Italy were given to Austria, and Gibraltar and Menorca were given to the British.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century had four Bourbon kings: **Felipe V** (1700 -1746), **Fernando VI** (1746 - 1759), **Carlos III** (1759 - 1788) and **Carlos IV** (1788 - 1808). Each of these kings had the ultimate power to make legal, social and educational reforms. This style of governing became known as enlightened despotism.

## 2. FELIPE V AND FERNANDO VI



In 1700, **Felipe V** became king. He was the grandson of the French king Louis XIV.

Felipe V established a new form of government called an **absolute monarchy**. This meant he had **unlimited power**, that is, he had all the powers of the State. He made important reforms, for example:

- He **centralised the power**, subjecting nearly all regions of Spain to the laws of Castille and abolishing the laws and institutions of Aragón, Cataluña, Valencia and the Balearic Islands. He kept the institutions of Navarra and the Basque Country.
- He made Spanish the only **official language**.
- He introduced the **Salic Law** of succession which excluded women from the Spanish throne.

**Fernando VI** became king after Felipe V. He continued the reforms and maintained his father's centralised government. He also built roads and canals. His reign was marked by neutrality and peace.

## 3. CARLOS III AND CARLOS IV

**Carlos III** and his ministers tried to **modernize** the country. Cities became more hygienic and safer thanks to new sewage systems, water systems, street lighting and pavement.



Carlos III created hospitals, libraries, botanical gardens and museums such as the Prado Museum. Streets became wider and fountains and monuments were built. Carlos III also supported the development of agriculture, industry and trade. He modernised the economy and public education and encouraged the study of science and the Arts. He also

made improvements to the city of Madrid, building la Puerta de Alcalá, El Jardín Botánico and el Museo del Prado. Under his rule, Menorca became part of Spain again.

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, **Carlos IV** became king of Spain. He was an unpopular king who left the government of the country in the hands of his minister **Manuel Godoy**. Godoy allied Spain with the French Revolution and later with Napoleon. This resulted in conflict with Great Britain, including disastrous **Battle of Trafalgar**, and in **Napoleon** eventually taking control of Spain.

## 8. SOCIETY

In the Modern Age, the society was divided into two groups, the privileged and the unprivileged. The nobility and the clerics were the privileged upper class. Although they had different levels of wealth, they had several privileges in common: they did not pay taxes; they held government positions, and they owned most of the land.

The unprivileged was made up of the middle class, who were the merchants and craftsmen, and the farmers.

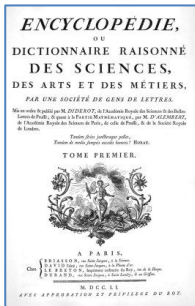
## 9. THE END OF THE MODERN AGE

Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Great Britain and Portugal disrupted trade routes between Spain and the Americas. Great Britain and Portugal wanted Spain to give up its monopoly on the colonies in the Americas, so that they could trade with them too. As a result of this conflict, there were various wars between Spain and these countries.

Wars had enormous costs. To pay them, kings raised the taxes. This made the Spanish people poorer. These difficulties led to protests. In 1808 the **Motín de Aranjuez** forced Carlos IV to abdicate. His son Fernando VII became the next king.

## 10. THE ENLIGHTENMENT

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there was a new cultural movement called the **Enlightenment**. This movement came from **France** and spread throughout Europe. The most famous thinkers were the French philosophers **Montesquieu**, **Voltaire** and **Rousseau**.



An important work of the Enlightenment was the *Encyclopaedia*. It represented the thoughts of the Enlightenment. It was said to contain all the knowledge of the time. Carlos III was an important precursor of enlightened ideas in Spain.

The Enlightenment was a cultural, scientific and political movement that emphasised:

- **Education and reason.** At the centre of the Enlightenment was a belief in **human reason** over religion or authority. People began to believe that they could improve their lives through education or involvement in politics
- **Science and technology.** Scientific institutions such as museums, observatories and academies were founded.
- **Democratic ideas.** The Enlightenment introduced democratic values that would eventually change how Europe was governed.

In Spain, the Enlightenment coincided with the reign of Felipe V and his successors: Fernando VI, Carlos III and Carlos IV.

### FRANCISCO DE GOYA

Francisco de Goya (1746 – 1828) is one of the most important artists in the world.

He was a painter at the Spanish **court**. He painted the **royal family** and **portraits** of Carlos III and Carlos IV. He painted festivals, but also painted scenes depicting the tragedy and suffering of war.



## UNIT VOCABULARY

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