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SOCIAL SCIENCE

UNIT 5. THE CONTEMPORARY AGE Spain in the 19th century

Exam Date: _____

UNIT 5. THE CONTEMPORARY AGE

Spain in the 19th century

In this unit we are going to learn about:

1. Before the Contemporary Age...
2. The Contemporary Age
3. Carlos IV
4. Fernando VII and Isabel II
5. The First Republic
6. The Restoration
7. The Industrial Revolution
8. Social Changes.
9. The labour movement
10. Art and Culture in the 19th century

1. BEFORE THE CONTEMPORARY 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 3rd and the 1st 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**.

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 16th and 17th centuries, the **Habsburg** dynasty ruled Spain. The first kings, Carlos I and Felipe II, created a great empire, which started to weaken in the 17th century. In the 18th century, a new dynasty, the **Bourbons**, began to reign.

During this period, two artistic styles were developed, first **Renaissance**, and then **Baroque**. In Spain, the 17th century is known as Spain's **Golden Age** for its artistic and cultural splendour.

In the 18th century the ideas of the **Enlightenment** arrived in Spain.

2. THE CONTEMPORARY AGE



We live in the Contemporary Age. This period of history began with the French Revolution (1789) and continues to the present day. The French Revolution meant the end of absolutism in France, the end of unlimited powers for the king and the beginning of new liberal

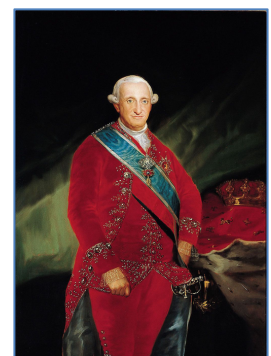
ideas (giving power to the people). Liberalism **Liberalism** is based on the idea that society is made up for free citizens who have rights and liberties (property, life etc).

At the same time, these changes meant that the gap between rich and poor widened.

3. CARLOS IV

Carlos IV came to the Spanish throne in 1788 just as the French Revolution was beginning.

In 1807, Carlos IV Prime Minister, Manuel Godoy, signed the Treaty of Fontainebleau with the Emperor of France, Napoleon Bonaparte. They agreed to invade Portugal and divide it between each other. Charles IV allowed him to go across Spain. However, France used this



alliance to achieve another objective - the invasion of Spain. The French broke the treaty, and invaded Spanish cities.

Carlos' son, Fernando VII, who was opposed to the agreement, led the Mutiny of Aranjuez (El Motín de Aranjuez) in 1808. It forced Carlos IV to abdicate in favor of his son who became **Fernando VII**. Napoleon then forced Fernando VII to abdicate and replaced the Spanish king with his brother, **Joseph Bonaparte**.

1. THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE (1808 - 1814)

The population of Madrid did not accept Joseph Bonaparte and rebelled against the French. This caused an **uprising in Madrid on 2nd of May 1808** and the War of Independence began. However, it was not only a war against France but also a **civil war** in Spain about who the monarch should be.



During the War of Independence, the Spanish population was divided into two groups:

- **Nationalists**: They wanted Fernando VII to return or another Spanish monarch. They were **Conservatives** that wanted to give all the power to the king.
- **Francophiles**: They were **Liberals** who wanted to write a constitution and limit the power of the king. They wanted Joseph Bonaparte, the French king.

With the help of the British, the French were defeated and in 1814, Napoleon recognized Fernando VII as King of Spain. This was the end of the War of the Independence and the return to the absolutism.

2. THE CONSTITUTION OF CADIZ 1812

During the war, Spain had two governments. There was a French government based in Madrid. It has headed by Napoleon's brother, Joshep I. There was also a Spanish government based in **Cádiz**, one of the few cities that the French didn't control. It represented Fernando VII.

In **1812** the Spanish government in Cádiz wrote a constitution called the **Constitution of Cádiz**. It was influenced by the ideas of the French Revolution. It was the **first constitution** in Spain and the most **liberal** of its time. It limited the king's power and established rights for citizens.



The Constitution established:

- National sovereignty: reduction of the power of monarchy.
- freedom of press
- equality for all
- voting right for all men over 18: ordinary people could vote, but only men
- freedom of expression
- a constitutional monarchy

However, it was abolished in 1814 when Fernando VII came to the throne. He restored the absolute monarchy.

4. FERNANDO VII AND ISABEL II

In 1814, Ferdinando VII returned as King of Spain. He abolished the Constitution of Cadiz and re-established and **absolute monarchy**. This caused political disorder and, as a result, most of the **American colonies became independent**. The reign of Fernando VII can be divided into three periods.

Absolutism 1814 - 1820

- Fernando's return to the Spanish throne was welcomed by the Spanish as it meant the end of the French occupation.
- He declared their constitution illegal in 1814.
- He became an absolute monarch.

Liberal Trienium 1820 - 1823

- Rafael del Riego lead a military rebellion.
- In 1823, Fernando VII revoked the constitution again after having gained the support of other absolutist regimes in Europe.

Ominous Decade 1823 - 1833

- Period of repressions.
- Problem of succession.

According to the law of succession at the time, only men could reign. The heir to the throne was supposed to be Fernando's brother, Carlos, but Fernando VII chose his eldest daughter, Isabel. Isabel was only three years old when her father died in 1833, so her mother Maria Cristina, and General Espartero ruled as regents until Isabel came to the throne at the age of 13 as Isabel II.

The beginning of the regency period was marked by civil wars known as the **Carlists Wars**. They were fought between two sides: those who supported the regent, and supporters of the late king's brother, Carlos. Those supporting Carlos were called **Carlists** and were in favour of the absolute monarchy.

During Isabel II's reign, Spain became a **parliamentary monarchy**. However, her reign was characterized by **political instability and conflict** which led to her exile in 1868.

With no monarch in charge, a provisional government drew up the Constitution of 1869, very similar to the Constitution of 1812.

5. THE FIRST REPUBLIC

In 1871, **Amadeo de Saboya** of Italy became king. However, since he was a foreign king, he did not have much support, and abdicated two years later.



In 1873, members of the Parliament proclaimed a republic, a form of government with no king. The **First Spanish Republic** also lacked support and failed a year later.

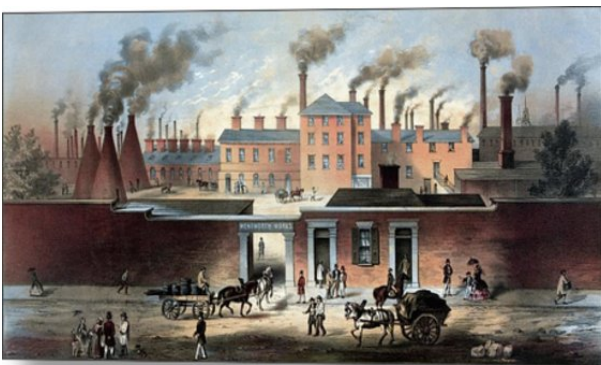
6. THE RESTORATION

In 1874, the son of Isabel II, **Alfonso XII**, was crowned King of Spain, a new historical period known as the **Restoration**, began.

At the end of the 19th century, Spain lost its colonies in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.



7. THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



During the early nineteenth century, many economic changes took place throughout Europe

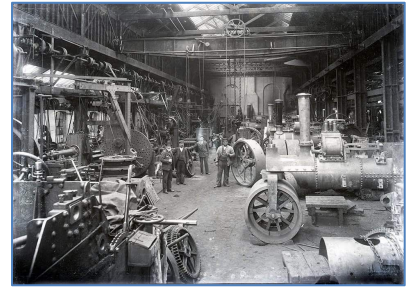
The Industrial Revolution started in Britain at the end of the 18th century and spread across Europe during the first part of the 19th century. In Spain, the Industrial

Revolution took place in the 19th century. **Factories** were built mainly in **Catalonia** and the **Basque Country**.



The most important invention was the **steam engine**. Steam engines burned fossil fuel (coal) to boil water, producing a new energy source: steam. Thanks to the steam engine, **trains** and **steamboats** were developed. This meant that people could travel further and faster on railways and ships.

The steam engine could also power other types of machines. These new machines allowed the **textile and metal industries** to advance dramatically and this meant that goods such as textiles could be mass-produced in factories. As a result, there was less work for craft workers and people moved to towns and cities to work in the factories.



As a consequence of the Industrial Revolution, many important economic and social changes took place. A society that was based on agriculture transformed into a society based on industrial activities. New technologies meant that more people became richer, but some people became poorer too.

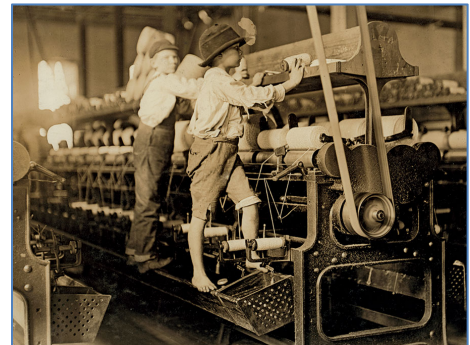
8. SOCIAL CHANGES

Society in the 19th century was divided into three social classes, based on wealth:

- The upper class consisted of the wealthiest people: nobles (aristocrats) who owned large areas of land, but now it also included **rich factory owners** and **bankers** (bourgeois).
- The middle class was made up of people like small merchants, small landowners, and professionals such as doctors, lawyers and engineers.



- **The lower class** was made up of poorer people such as peasants and factory workers.
 - **The peasants** (agricultural workers) who worked on the land of the large landowners.
 - **The factory workers** worked in exchange for wages. Their living conditions were very hard. They worked more than twelve hours a day for very low wages. They lived in underdeveloped neighborhoods with no electricity or running water. Many children worked in factories for wages even lower than those paid to adults. In order to protect their interests, demand improvements in their wages and working conditions, many workers formed groups known as the **trade unions**.



In the second half of the 19th century, with the **growth of cities** and industry, the first **cars** and **public lightning** appeared.

9. THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

Conditions for the working class in the 1800s were very bad. Low-paid workers in rural areas were unemployed for part of the year. Industrial workers were also badly paid and worked long hours in dangerous conditions.

Many workers started organizing themselves into associations (unions) to demand improvements in their wages and working conditions.

10. ART AND CULTURE

1. ARCHITECTURE



At the beginning of the 19th century, **neoclassical** architecture developed. Buildings were constructed in a similar style to that of Greek and Roman architecture, such as the Puerta de Toledo in Madrid. During this century, iron bridges were built and new types of buildings were created, such as railway

stations made of iron and glass.

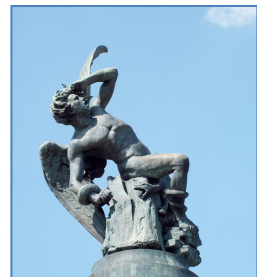
At the end of the century, a new architectural style, known as **Modernism**, was born. Modernist buildings show curved and wavy shapes that simulate forms of nature.

In Spain, the best-known modernist architect was **Antoni Gaudí**, creator of Casa Milá in Barcelona.



2. SCULPTURE

The transformation of cities influenced sculpture. During this century, squares, gardens and avenues were decorated with beautiful sculptures made mainly of stone.



3. PAINTING



At the beginning of the 19th century, **Francisco de Goya** was painter at the Spanish Court and painted portraits of Carlos IV and Fernando VII. However, he also painted popular scenes such as festivals and wine harvests. Goya is considered one of the greatest artists in history.

At the end of the 19th century, **Impressionism** was born. This art movement introduced innovative painting techniques. Impressionist painters put more emphasis on colour than drawing, as well as on the effect of light in landscapes. The most important impressionist painter was **Joaquín Sorolla**.



4. LITERATURE

During the 19th century, there were great writers in Spain, such as the playwright **José Zorrilla**; the poets **Rosalía de Castro** and **Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer**; and the novelists **Benito Pérez Galdós** and **Leopoldo Alas "Clarín"**.

At the end of the century, when Spain lost its last colonies, a group of writers known as the **Generation of '98** wrote pessimistically about the social and political situation of Spain. This group included writers such as **Pío Baroja**, Miguel de **Unamuno**, Antonio **Machado** and Ramón María del **Valle-Inclán**.

UNIT VOCABULARY

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