



0. PHILIP II and the ARMADA - Story Preface

1. PRINCESS ELIZABETH

2. PHILIP II: KING CONSORT of BRITAIN

3. ELIZABETH BECOMES QUEEN

4. THE TROUBLE WITH MARY

5. THE BABINGTON PLOT

6. A QUEEN LOSES HER HEAD

7. SIR WALTER RALEIGH

8. PHILIP II and the ARMADA

9. THE ARMADA SAILS

10. NEGOTIATIONS FAIL

11. BRITISH SHIPS

12. THE FLEETS ENGAGE

13. FIRE SHIPS and the BATTLE OF GRAVELINES

14. PARMA'S NO-SHOW

15. PUSHED TO THE NORTH SEA

16. ELIZABETH'S SPEECH to her PEOPLE

17. SAILING HOME by a NORTHERN ROUTE

18. SPANISH SHIPS on IRISH ROCKS

19. MISERY IN IRELAND

20. CELEBRATING THE VICTORY

21. THE DEATH OF RALEIGH

22. THE GOLDEN AGE

Philip II (of Spain) was married to Mary I (of England) between 1554-1558. During their marriage, Philip was also King of England. This image of the royal couple was likely created by the Lucas English School (probably after de Heere) while the two were husband and wife. Thirty years after Mary's death, while her half-sister Elizabeth was on the throne, Philip sent the Spanish Armada to invade England. Image online via Wikimedia Commons.

Philip (King of Spain) was fed-up with Elizabeth (Queen of Britain). Once friends and relatives (through marriage), the two were at odds over Spain's control of The Netherlands and England's pirates on the high seas.

Using treasures which her subjects "took" from Spanish ships, Elizabeth was helping Dutch rebels as they tried to end Spanish rule in the neighboring Low Countries. Philip wanted to stop the interference.

There were other issues. In the fall of 1581, Philip was angry because Elizabeth had imprisoned, then executed, Edmund Campion (a Jesuit priest accused of stirring-up rebellion amongst English Catholics). Dispatching Bernardino de Mendoza to chide Elizabeth, Philip instructed his ambassador to threaten war if such things continued.

The Queen was unimpressed with his words, prompting Mendoza to wonder aloud if:

It would be necessary to see whether cannons would not make her hear them better. (Quoted in With the Heart of a King by Benton Rain Patterson, page 222.)

Reminding Mendoza who was in charge in *her* country, Elizabeth was quick to respond. Was he trying to frighten, or threaten, her? If so, she'd have him thrown

into a place where he could not say a word.

By January of 1584, Mendoza was expelled from England, never to return. No Spanish ambassador replaced him while Elizabeth was alive. War, in Philip's mind, was becoming inevitable.

As he envisioned a fleet of ships to invade and conquer Britain, Philip was one of the most powerful rulers in the world. He personally planned the great Armada at El Escorial, the beautiful royal palace (which includes a basilica, royal tombs and more) northwest of Madrid.

The contrast between Spain and Britain, at the time, was remarkable. Although England's naval fleet was impressive (as Philip himself knew), it was not stronger than Spain's. And while Philip presided over vast territories (including lands in the "New World"), England was a small country with little wealth.

While most of Europe was Catholic (like Spain), England was Protestant (with few friends). Philip believed there was every reason for the *Empresa de Inglaterra* ("The England Expedition") to succeed.

The King's handpicked leader, Álvaro de Bazán, 1st Marquis of Santa Cruz, not only agreed with the concept of an Armada, he enthusiastically supported it. Santa Cruz, believing that Britain was Spain's most dangerous enemy at sea, began making plans and recommendations for the expedition. Then, in February of 1588, he died.

Philip appointed his cousin, Don Alonso Pérez de Guzmán (the 7th Duke of Medina-Sidonia) to replace Santa Cruz. A running dialogue ensued between the King (who believed his Armada could not lose) and the Duke (who was a sceptic from the beginning).

With the blessing of the Pope (then Sixtus V), Philip prepared for war. He perceived his reasons to be legitimate. Chief among them, according to a letter he sent his Papal ambassador (on the 2nd of January, 1586), were two issues:

The justification and purpose of the Enterprise has to be to reduce that kingdom [England] to the obedience of the Roman Church and to place the queen of Scotland in possession of [England's crown].
(Quoted by Patterson, page 226.)

Deciding that Mary, Queen of Scots would rule Britain (after his army successfully invaded the country and captured Elizabeth), Philip (ever the absolute monarch) also determined her successor. The Infanta, Isabel Clara Eugenia (Philip's daughter) - twenty-two years old when the Armada reached the eastern end of the English Channel in 1588 - would become England's Queen.

Events, however, did not proceed as Philip had planned.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PHILIP-II-and-the-ARMADA-Elizabeth-I-The-Golden-Age>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PHILIP-II-and-the-ARMADA-Elizabeth-I-The-Golden-Age>

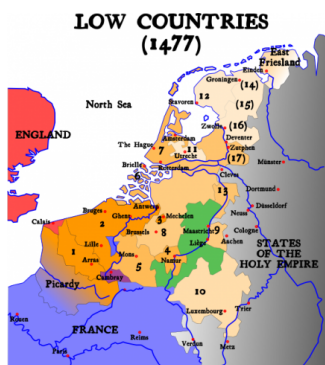
Media Stream



Dutch Rebels Resist Spanish Control

Image online, courtesy the rijksmuseum.nl website.

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The Low Countries

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Edmund Campion

Image online, courtesy the Parrish of [Blessed John Henry Newman](#) website.

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Bernardino de Mendoza

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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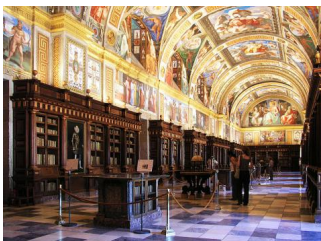
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El Escorial Palace

Image online, courtesy the [britishbattles.com](#) website.

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Inside Look at El Escorial

This photo was taken by Håkan Svensson in July, 2003. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Aerial View of El Escorial Palace

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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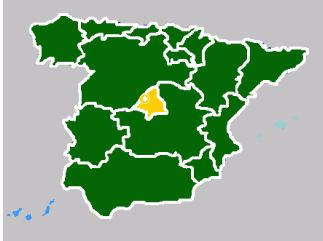
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The Basilica at El Escorial Palace

This photo was taken by Manuel González Olaechea in August 2006. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0.

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Map Depicting Madrid and El Escorial Palace

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Map Depicting Empire of Philip II of Spain

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Pope Sixtus V

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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The New World

Image online, courtesy the University of Texas at Austin, Perry Cantañeda Library, Maps Collection.

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Alvaro de Bazan, 1st Marquis of Santa Cruz

Image online, courtesy the [Centro Virtual Cervantes](#) website.

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Don Alonso Perez de Guzman

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Isabel Clara Eugenia - Philip's Daughter

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Map of Northwest Madrid Depicting El Escorial

Image online, courtesy the University of Boston website.

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John Pine and The Tapestry Hangings of the House of Lords

John Pine wanted to insure that the story told by tapestries hanging in the House of Lords, illustrating scenes from the Spanish-Armada sea battles between England Spain, would never be forgotten. To that end, he produced engravings of the tapestries and included them in a book.

Although many doubted the wisdom of such an endeavor, since the tapestries themselves told the story, Pine disagreed. What if something ever happened to those tapestries?

His idea was incredibly well conceived. Even doubters came round to Pine's way of thinking after a massive fire destroyed all the tapestries.

This image depicts a page in Pine's *The Tapestry Hangings of the House of Lords Representing the several Engagements between the English and Spanish fleets in the ever memorable Year MDLXXXVIII*. His book begins with "An Account of the Spanish Invasion..."

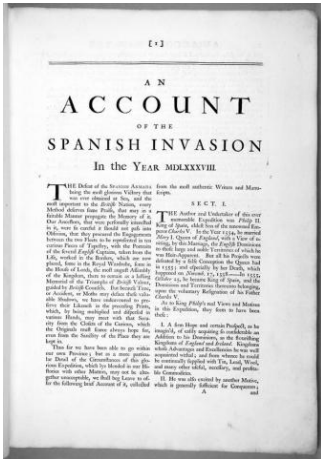
In Section I, Pine relates how Spain's King Philip II became "the author and undertaker of this ever memorable Expedition." He can only speculate, of course, about "King Philip's real Views and Motives," but it all makes for very interesting reading.

Click on the image for a better view.

Text image online, courtesy the The Kraus Collection of Sir Francis Drake which is maintained at the Library of Congress.

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PHILIP II and the ARMADA

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