Philip II’s Spain, The Dutch Revolt & The Age of Baroque

The combined territories of the Spanish and Austrian Habsburgs during the reign of Philip II. Charles V had divided his estates to make it easier for them to be governed.
King Philip II (r. 1556-1598)

- “Most Catholic king” because he fought both Protestants & Muslims
- Unified Spain & Portugal
- Most powerful European monarch until defeat of his armada in 1588
- His father, Charles V arranged his marriage to Mary Tudor
- Silver mines discovered in Bolivia & Mexico gave him what he needed to pay bankers & mercenaries
- Could not erase debt
- Generous patron of the arts
- May’ve had his insane son Don Carlos murdered
Spanish Conquests

- 1\textsuperscript{st} focused on Mediterranean & Turkish threat
- Catholic Europe’s champion against Islam
- Defeat Turks w/Austrian help at the battle of Lepanto in 1571 (major victory)
- Turks had dominated the Mediterranean
- Conquered Portugal in the 1580s, adding to an empire that included Africa, India & the Americas
This church is a manifestation of Jesuit propaganda built in the late 16th century. Its precious façade with curving lines, interior with gilded sculptures and ceiling paintings by Rubens make it a perfect ex. of Baroque architecture in the Spanish Netherlands.
Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)
Flemish Baroque artist

Rubens House, Antwerp, Belgium where the artist lived & had a studio after 1609. It was built as an Italian-style villa.
Ecstasy of St. Theresa of Avila by Bernini (1652)
The Burial of the Count Orgaz by El Greco (1586)
Las Meninas by Diego Velasquez (1656)
El Escorial

El Escorial is a monastery, basilica and royal palace from the Spanish golden age, built by Philip II starting in 1571, to commemorate the Spanish victory at the Battle of San Quentin in 1557 against Henry II of France. Located just outside Madrid it is also where most Spanish monarchs are buried (exceptions are Ferdinand & Isabella who remain buried in Granada). Philip personally supervised the entire construction process. He died there in 1598.
El Escorial
Revolt in the Netherlands

- Richest area of Europe
- Merchant towns were independent & many were Calvinist strongholds
- Dutch began opposing Spanish control, led by William the Silent, Prince of Orange
- S. Netherlands belonged to Spain, N. Netherlands became the Dutch Republic
- William was a politique & switched religions several times
- 1566—Calvinists rebel & seek aid from Huguenots & Lutherans
- Philip II sends in an army
- 10,000 Spanish men crush the rebellion & Spain levies new taxes as punishment
- Under the Duke of Alba, Spanish est. a ruthless regime & William flees
Resistance & Unification in The Netherlands

• William the Silent leads resistance while in exile
• Political resistance gained organization & inspiration by merging w/ Calvinism (like in France)
• Pacification of Ghent – Catholic southern provinces unite w/ Protestant northern provinces to oppose Spain in 1576, but religious differences were too strong for it to last
• For next 2 years, Spain feared a united Netherlands
• S. provinces feared Calvinism & accepted Spanish control in 1579 (Union of Arras)
• William organized 7 Northern provinces into a Protestant union that opposed Spanish rule (Union of Utrecht)
Netherlands Independence

- Philip II declared William an outlaw, strengthening resistance in N. provinces
- 1581 – 7 N. provinces led by Holland & Zeeland declared ind. from Spain, est. United Provinces (or Dutch Republic)
- Country was divided along religious, geographic & political lines
- Spanish continued trying to re-conquer the north
- 1584—William assassinated (his son continued Dutch resistance w/ English & French help)
- 1596—France & England recognize the Netherlands (or United Provinces) as independent (formal recognition comes in 1648 from rest of Europe)
At the spot where William the Silent was assassinated at his home in Delft in the chest at close range, by Balthasar Gérard, a French Catholic fanatic in July 1554. It was the first time a head of state had been assassinated by a handgun. The magistrates decreed that the right hand of Gérard should be burned off with a red-hot iron, that his flesh should be torn from his bones with pincers in six different places, that he should be quartered and disembowelled alive, that his heart should be torn from his bosom and flung in his face, and that finally, his head should be cut off.
FUN FACTS ABOUT WILLIAM THE SILENT:

• He was appointed stadholder of Holland, Zeeland & Utrecht by Philip II in 1559 (they weren’t always enemies)
• He is the ancestor of the Dutch monarchy
• William had 4 wives: Anna of Egmond, Anna of Saxony, Charlotte de Bourbon-Monpensier (an ex-nun) & Louise de Coligny, daughter of Gaspard de Coligny, the Huguenot leader whose murder led to the St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre in France in 1572
• The flag of the Netherlands is derived from the flag of the prince
• His great-grandson is the other William of Orange who became King William III of England after the Glorious Revolution of 1688.
• In the Netherlands he is known as “Father of the Fatherland”
Het Wilhelmus (The William)
Dutch National Anthem Video
With English subtitles

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwBrR_G70RE
Decline of the Spanish Empire

- Defeat of the armada in 1588
- Loss of the Netherlands
- Royal policies damaged agricultural economy
- Colonies become a financial drain
- Market for colonial goods shrinks
- Shipbuilding competition
- Philip defaults on enormous debts
- Peasants were heavily taxed