

# King Philip II of Spain

- 1556-1598: expand Spanish influence, strengthen the Catholic Church; make his power absolute



# Absolute Monarch

- Tireless worker; centralized power...responsible for all decisions
- Had complete authority over the government and people's lives
- Divine Right
- Defended the RCC



# The Wars of Philip II

- Battled Protestants in Netherlands; resisted efforts to crush their church; opposed taxes; opposed absolute rule
- Dutch Netherlands established in 1581



# The Armada

- England becomes the chief enemy
- Philip amasses a huge navy but goes up against a swift, nimble English navy; Mother Nature



# Golden Century

- 1550-1650; Philip was a patron of the arts; supported study of science and math
- El Greco: elongated style



# Velazquez

- The “king’s painter” he had to be at his call at any time



# Writers

- Cervantes: Don Quixote
- first modern novel in Europe; mocked traditions of Spain's feudal past





# Economic Decline

- Less able rulers
  - Economic issues:
    - Costly overseas wars
    - Neglected farming/commerce
    - Taxed middle class
    - Expulsion of Muslims/Jews
    - Soaring inflation
- France replaces Spain!

