

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!

