IMPERIAL SPAIN AND THE REIGN OF PHILIP II

I. Why was Philip II the most powerful monarch of the second half of the 16th century?
   A. **gold and silver from the New World** allowed Philip to pay his bankers and mercenaries
   B. **increased population:** as Europe became richer, it also became more populated
      1. in Spain, a subdued peasantry became the most heavily taxed people of Europe
      2. negative consequences of a growing population:
         a. the combination of increased wealth and populations triggered inflation (2% a year)…at the same time wages stagnated or did not rise with the prices
         b. gap between the "Haves" and Have Nots" widened (especially in Spain where the new wealth was concentrated in the hands of a few)
   C. efficient bureaucracy and military: Philip organized the lesser nobility into a loyal and efficient national bureaucracy
   D. **supremacy in the Mediterranean**
      1. in May 1571, a Holy League of Spain, Venice, and the pope, under the command of **Don John** (Philip's half-brother) formed to check Turkish belligerence in the Mediterranean
      2. at the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571, the Spanish Armada, led by **Don John**, defeated the Ottoman Navy
      3. in 1580, Spain annexed Portugal
II. Who was Philip II?
   A. he was a workaholic who managed his kingdom by pen and paper rather than by personal presence (a bit of a recluse)
   B. he was also a devout Catholic who attempted to use the Catholic Religion to unify his kingdom
   C. his desire for world empire and his desire to re-Catholicize Europe led to Spain's downfall
      1. meddled in the religious conflicts of France and England
      2. attempted to subdue the Calvinist nobles in the Spanish province of the Netherlands
III. The Revolt in the Netherlands
   A. **The Netherlands**
      1. richest area of Philip's Spanish Habsburg kingdom (through trade and commerce)
      2. made up of autonomous regions and towns (e.g., Antwerp) that desired to be independent from Spain
         a. the 7 northern provinces (what is today the Netherlands) were mostly Protestant (Calvinist)
         b. the 10 southern provinces (what is today Belgium) were Catholic
      3. Margaret of Parma
         a. Philip's half-sister

      b.   Philip placed her in charge of the Netherlands when he left for Spain
      c.   she was assisted by a special council of state, headed by Antoine Perrenot (who, after 1561, became known as Cardinal Granvelle)

B. **Cardinal Granvelle**
1. hoped to check Protestant gains by internal church reforms (wanted to establish a centralized royal government directed from Madrid)
2. Granvelle was opposed by two Protestant nobles, both of whom were members of the council of state: William of Nassau, the Prince of Orange (William of Orange) and the Count of Egmont
    a.   organized the Dutch nobility in opposition to Granvelle
    b.   forced Granvelle's removal from office in 1564
3. aristocratic control of the country after Granvelle's departure proved ineffective

C. **The Compromise (1564):** in response to Philip's insistence that the decrees of the Council of Trent be enforced throughout the Netherlands, a national covenant was drawn up whereby the Protestant nobility pledged to resist the decrees of Trent and the Inquisition
1. after Margaret's government spurned the protesters and rejected the Compromise, riots broke out
2. it did not break out into full scale rebellion because the Netherlands' higher nobility refused to support the lesser nobles

D. **The Duke of Alba**
1. in an attempt to make an example of the Protestant rebels, Philip sent Alba and an army of 10,000 in 1567
2. Council of Troubles (known to the Dutch as the "Council of Blood")
    a.   this special tribunal (headed by Alba) subdued the Protestants and reigned over the land for six years
    b.   several thousand suspected heretics were executed

E. **The Return of William of Orange (1572)**
1. returned from exile in Germany after Alba'a reign to become the leader of a movement for the Netherlands' independence
2. the resistance scored several early victories
3. "Sea Beggars"
    a.   an international group of anti-Spanish exiles and criminals (mostly Englishmen) who helped the resistance
    b.   captured the port city of Brill
    c.   because of their brazen piracy, Queen Elizabeth was forced to disassociate herself from them and to bar their ships from English ports (at least publicly)

F. **The Pacification of Ghent (1576):** union of the Northern and Southern provinces of the Netherlands against Spain
1. prompted by the "Spanish Fury" when Spanish mercenaries ran amok in Antwerp leaving 7,000 people dead in the streets
2. The Pacification of Ghent declared internal regional sovereignty in matters of religion
3. even Don John could not defeat this unified front

a. he was defeated and forced to sign the Perpetual Edict in 1577
    b. provided for the removal of all Spanish troops from the Netherlands
        within 20 days
G. **Unions of Arras and Utrecht**
    1. in 1579, the southern provinces broke away from the north and made
        peace with Spain (Arras)
    2. the northern provinces responded by forming the Union of Utrecht
H. **The Apology (1579)**
    1. not one to give up, Philip took advantage of this new situation and tried
        one more time to subdue the Netherlands
    2. he declared William of Orange an outlaw and placed a bounty of 25,000
        crowns on his head
    3. William responded with the Apology in which he stated that Philip was a
        heathen tyrant whom the Netherlands need no longer obey (sound
        familiar…Protestant Resistance Theory)
I. The Netherlands' Independence
    1. during the 1580's, the Spanish continued in their efforts to re-conquer the
        Netherlands
        a. the Netherlands, by this time, were openly aided by both France and
            England
        b. in addition, Philip, who was also meddling in the affairs of France and
            England, overextended Spain's resources
    2. Twelve Years' Truce (1609)
        a. by 1593, the northern provinces were able to drive out all Spanish
            soldiers
        b. the Twelve Years' Truce gave them virtual independence
        c. full recognition of the Netherlands' independence came with the Peace
            of Westphalia in 1648