



AP European History 2000 Student Samples

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~~Q1~~ The actions taken by a ruler of a country affects his country in even the smallest way. Leadership of the ruler can determine the fate of a country - it can glorify it or bring it to its downfall. In the case of Spain's monarch, Philip II, his leadership brought his dominating country to dramatically low levels, from which it never recovered.

Philip was an ardent Catholic in every way possible. He believed whatever happened to him was a direct message from God. The legendary Escorial was built by Philip in the form of a grill commemorating a famous saint. He had no tolerance for any form of religion other than Roman Catholicism, especially Protestantism. Philip was a key player of the Counter Reformation, doing his best to squelch the new Lutherans, Calvinists, all their various forms.

One country Philip always had his eye on was England. He was married to Mary Tudor, Queen of England, and through his influence on her she launched a persecution on Protestants, earning her the nickname Bloody Mary. When Mary's sister, Elizabeth, ascended to the throne, she declared England to be a Protestant country. This angered Philip, so he decided to launch the Spanish Armada on the British navy. The Armada outnumbered the British ships, and were even better equipped. But, due to the "Protestant Winds", the Armada was hit hard and thrown off course around the British Isles. They were unquestionably defeated.

After his prestigious navy was defeated, Philip thought he better hurt his economy, too. The Moors and the Muslims were people who had crossed the Mediterranean from Africa into Spain, and were obviously not Catholic. However, they had a knack for trade and commercial industry. Philip, being a rampant counterreformer,

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ripped the Moors and Muslims out of Spain, using force when necessary. This set off a ~~spark~~ spark in the hearts of Spaniards, and they continued to suppress and persecute nonreformists in Spain, in their colonies, and in other countries.

~~Spain's colonies, like the Netherlands, were also~~
~~in the 17th century, and they were able to~~
~~keep their own laws and customs.~~

The satellite states of Spain began to rebel against the Catholics, namely the Spanish Netherlands. They preferred Calvinism, and wanted to choose their own religion. To quiet things down, Philip sent the Duke of Alba, who used terror tactics against the Dutch. He also had his own designs on England, which he wanted to invade and assume the crown. The Duke was overthrown however, and another, Parma, stepped in. He was able to convince both sides of a happy medium, letting the seven northern provinces convert to Protestantism, while the southern ten remained Catholic.

Philip kept pursuing a role of aggression, and died an excruciatingly painful death. He believed his pain was a sign of the torture he would have to endure in his afterlife since he did not fulfill his goal of reformation. Philip's poor leadership took his conquering country down to a level that Spain would never rise above again.

Phillip II of Spain was a ruler who determined the fate of his country by barely reforming it. He spent his whole reign trying to re-Catholicise Europe. As a result Spain deteriorates from ~~its~~ its position of being a great power. Phillip II is a ruler who looks beyond his countries borders ~~to~~ to reform them, but he never looks within his own.

After Charles V resigns from his position as Holy Roman Emperor he gives the territory he owns in the Netherlands to his son Phillip II. The Netherlands were Protestant and Catholic. Phillip II thought that it was his duty to unite them under one religion, Catholicism. Despite their pleas Phillip II sent in the Spanish Inquisition led by the Duke of ~~Avila~~ Avila. He led the Council of Troubles (Inquisition) into the Netherlands and began to fight an extensive war with all 17 Dutch provinces. After a period of time he realized that England's Elizabeth I was funding the Dutch secretly. She was doing this because she saw the Netherlands as a potential staging point for an invasion of England.

~~Phillip II~~ Phillip II soon discovered that he couldn't beat the Dutch without beating England. He signed an agreement with the 10 southern provinces (who were catholic) ~~they~~ and they became the Spanish Netherlands. He then began building a large fleet of ships to invade England and kill the heretic queen. He would then marry the Catholic heir to the throne Mary queen of Scots. Then he would proceed to take over the rest of the Netherlands.

~~He~~ He launched his armada and marched his troops through France to the Spanish Netherlands preparing for an invasion of England. The fate of his country depended on this very battle, it determined the strength of Spain for

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many years to come. Unfortunately his fleet met up with the English's led by Sir Francis Drake. Most of his armada was carried off by the "Protestant Wind" and was shipwrecked off the coast of Scotland. His plan for the re-Catholicism of England failed and his country would forever be a weak nation on the continent of Europe.

The ~~the~~ decisions of a ruler always affect the fate of his country. Phillip II showed this with his defeat by Sir Francis Drake. His country will never have true power over the continent or its colonies again. Not only is this a humiliation for Phillip, but his country.