

Why did Philip of Spain send the Armada?

Why were Hawkins and Drake ambushed by the Spanish?

King Philip II of Spain had forbidden any foreign ship to enter Spanish ports. It may also have been because Hawkins and Drake were known pirates, raiding Spanish treasure ships for valuable cargo.

After the attack in Mexico, Hawkins was able to seek his own revenge on Philip. He became controller of the Queen's navy and built 20 new ships. These were faster, lower and longer. They had bigger guns than any Spanish vessels.

Why did he build 20 new ships?

Philip at this time was immensely powerful. He ruled not only Spain, the principal Catholic country in the world, but most of the Netherlands, Belgium, Flanders, Sicily and two kingdoms of Italy.

He had hoped to extend his power to England when he married Mary Tudor, a Catholic. After her death, he was certainly unhappy at the Protestant rule of Elizabeth.

In 1587, when Elizabeth's cousin Mary Queen of Scots (a Catholic) was executed, he wanted, with the help of France, to mount a religious war against England.

He was also angry at Elizabeth's support of a rebel group of Dutch Protestants in the north of the Netherlands. These rebels had won some form of independence and Philip was hoping, with the help of his nephew, the Duke of Parma, to finish off the rebellion. Elizabeth was sympathetic to the rebels, and the treaty of Nonsuch in 1585 gave them financial and military support. Philip decided to invade England, crush the Dutch rebels and triumph over northern Europe. He thus began to prepare an invasion fleet.

Name _____ Form _____

Write true or false next to the statements to show that you understand why Philip sent the Spanish Armada.

1. Philip didn't like Elizabeth's protestant rule of England. _____
2. Elizabeth executed Mary Queen of Scots who was a Catholic. _____
3. Elizabeth had helped the protestant rebels in the Netherlands. _____
4. English pirates were attacking Spanish treasure ships and Elizabeth wouldn't punish them. _____

Answer Questions in full sentences.

1. What were the names of the two English pirates that attacked Spanish ships?

2. How were the 20 English ships built by the Queen's navy better than any Spanish vessels?

3. What countries did Philip rule over in this period of time of history?

4. How did Elizabeth I help the Dutch Rebels?
