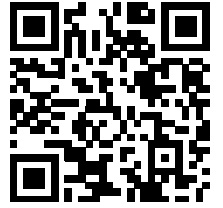


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Spanish Armada and Exploration



In 1588, the _____ Armada, a massive fleet of ships, was launched by King Philip II. This fleet was not just a display of naval _____, but also a symbol of Spain's ambition to control overseas territories. The main goal was to invade _____ and overthrow Queen Elizabeth I, who supported the Protestant rebels in the Spanish _____ . The Armada consisted of about 130 ships and was led by the Duke of Medina Sidonia, an _____ with little naval experience.

As the Armada sailed through the English Channel, it encountered several _____. The English fleet, although smaller, was more maneuverable and better equipped with long-range _____. The famous "fireships" attack on the night of July 28 forced the Spanish ships to scatter to avoid catching _____.

After regrouping, the Armada faced fierce battles against the English and the adverse weather _____. The turning point came when the Armada attempted to return to Spain by sailing around the north of _____. Harsh storms and poor navigation led to significant losses. Many ships were wrecked on the rocky _____ of Scotland and Ireland.

Despite this defeat, the Spanish Navy continued to play a crucial role in protecting Spain's vast overseas _____. The fleet safeguarded the maritime routes critical for the transport of gold and silver from the _____. This wealth funded Spain's position as a dominant European power during the 16th and 17th centuries.

The _____ of the Armada marked a shift in naval power towards England and eventually contributed to the _____ of the British Empire. It also demonstrated the growing importance of naval _____ and tactics in determining the outcomes of geopolitical struggles. The _____ learned from the conflicts of this period helped to shape future naval strategies around the _____.

- Netherlands
- aristocrat
- failure
- Scotland
- lessons
- fire
- empire
- technology
- England
- rise
- power
- coasts
- world
- challenges
- Americas
- Spanish
- cannons
- conditions