

Spain's Empire and European Absolutism

What are the benefits and drawbacks of a society when a ruler monopolizes important decision-making?

What nonreligious factors might have provoked Philip II to send the Armada against England?

Why might an artist like El Greco distort human figures rather than paint them realistically?

What artistic limits might an artist such as Velázquez have faced?

Why might readers still take an interest in the 400-year-old novel *Don Quixote*?

What measures might Spain have taken to restore its economy?

Module 17 Lesson 1
Guided Reading Document

Could Philip II have pursued other policies in the Netherlands that would have resulted in a better outcome?
(Explain both sides of the argument.)

Why might an absolute monarch view a republic, such as the Netherlands, as a political threat?

Why did absolute monarchs believe they were justified in exercising absolute power?

How might limitations demanded by parliaments and nobility have differed?