

Hello historians, welcome to your European History holiday work. Getting through this will give you such a boost into the course. It will mean you have an idea of what is going on in a period of time you are likely to be quite unfamiliar with at the moment. You will find the reading very different to the type of things you may have read at GCSE or your previous interests in history. The key is to press on through the challenges. You will quickly find your feet in Year 12 as you get used to how the academics write and this will quickly flow into your own understanding of how to write about Spanish history.

Now to meet the family..... .

Over the first year of the course we are going to study two monarchs. First of all we will look at Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain who ruled from 1474-1516. Then we study their grandson Charles I who was also Charles V the Holy Roman Emperor. Charles ruled Spain from 1516-1556. Charles had a lot on his plate and an exceptionally long chin! In Year 13 we move these crowns forward to complete the century and look at Philip II who ruled until 1598.



Now to set the scene



On the 9th day after his death, 20th December 1474, the body of King Henry IV of Castile was sealed in a temporary grave. His death had occurred against a backdrop of rebellion, conspiracies and daily crimes of violence. Uncertainty over the succession provoked disorder within the kingdom and invited invasion from outside. The death of a king was always a perilous event for the whole country: the working of justice and such few

central institutions as there were depended so much on the person of the monarch that a vacant throne, or even a moment's hesitation was enough to provoke anarchy. Normally the moment was averted by the means of the device called hereditary succession but the situation at the end of Henry's reign was confused by the conflicting pretensions of three rival claimants to the throne. Moreover, the previous dozen years had been marked by weak kingship, civil war and resultant chaos, so that now the collapse of law and order on the death of the king had a cumulative quality that made it devastatingly complete. On top of this, the death of a monarch led to the nobles habitually helping themselves. For them it was like seizing coals from a dying fire before they turned cold or were reduced to ashes.

On the death of Henry IV the weakest of the pretenders to the doubtful crown was a fragile and obscure girl of thirteen years, the Princess Juana. She was presumed to be the daughter of the late king but was widely believed to be illegitimate.



The second rival to the throne was Ferdinand the King of Sicily, Prince of Aragon and cousin of and brother-in-law of the late Henry IV. His father King John of Aragon and Prince Ferdinand might have been tempted to use the power of their own realms to seize the throne of Castile by force but the crown of Aragon was weakened by its own internal conflicts and conflict with France.



The last of the rivals was Ferdinand's wife, Isabella, the younger sister of Henry IV. She enjoyed two enormous advantages. Firstly her claim was genuinely believed to be the strongest in law and secondly she was ideally placed to receive news of Henry's death as Isabella was situated just to the north of Segovia, where the royal treasure was deposited. Within a few hours of Henry's death, Isabella inhaled for the first time the air of regality. She immediately had her own succession proclaimed and within a few days wore the crown of Castile. She neglected to invite her husband to the coronation.

Adapted from *Ferdinand and Isabella* by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto.

Your tasks

There are two pieces of reading for you. Both must be completed for the start of term. I will be asking you to hand the work in the second week in, so you have plenty of time. As soon as we get started you will see how these two tasks link to the course.

Task 1 using Document 1 is by Henry Kamen, *Golden Age of Spain*.

This is not an easy piece of reading; take your time. The key is to find definitions to the words in the grid on the page below, understanding the whole article is not as important as finding the meanings. You will quickly get expert in the story and later in the course understand the article more fully.

Task 2 using Document 2 is by Geoffrey Woodward, *Ferdinand and Isabella a re-assessment*.

This is easier reading but because this period of time is new to you, you may still find it tricky. Again take your time. You are reading this article to work out two specific things that are going to come up again and again this year.

Complete two notes sheets for the following research focus from the article. You will see a template for the notes sheet on the page below.

Notes sheet 1 From the article find the legend, myth or reputation of Ferdinand and Isabella and evidence in support of the myth.

Notes sheet 2 From the article find how the myth can be re-assessed or challenged? What is the evidence, what are the facts that challenge the myth?

You should take these notes using the notes sheets below. You will need two copies.

I hope you really enjoy getting stuck in. Bring all your questions for the start of term in September and I am sure we will have a great time getting to know this Trastamara and Habsburg family that married into all the central European crowns including the English.

Happy reading everyone, from Miss Allen.

PS you do not need to type your notes and answers. I do want you to set things out as I have done here though, feel free to print or copy or work on a computer or by hand, I really do not mind. It is the history that matters to me.

Task 1

Here are the terms or words to define and explain and the page number where you will find it	Put your definition and explanation of the term or word here. You should use Henry Kamen's article rather than relying on a dictionary so that you get the understanding of the term in the right 16 th century context.
Old myths, p.1-2	
Arguments against the old myths, p.2-3	
Monarchy, p.4	
Charles of Burgundy, p.5	
The state, p.6	
Pragmáticas, p.6	
Fueros, p.6-7	
Bureaucracy, p.7	
Letrados, p.7-8	
Madrid, p.9	
Corregidores, p.9	
Validos, p.10	
Philip II was an absolute ruler, p.13	
Council of Finance, p.14	
Juros, p.14	
Servicios, p.14	

Task 2

Author:

Title of article:

Where you located this article for future reference:

Bullet point notes	Key points/terminology in a summary list
Research focus	
	Points I remain unsure about
	Answers to those uncertainties that I researched further