Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Tuesday 13 June 2023

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

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History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 32: The Golden Age of Spain, 1474–1598

Source Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Source for use with Section A.

From a letter written by the Venetian ambassador in Madrid to the Government of Venice, 1591.

The nobility of Aragon govern their state as if it were a republic. They accepted the authority of the Spanish monarchy but insisted on a solemn oath that the monarchy would respect the *fueros* and other traditions established in Aragon. Under this arrangement the nobility had control of justice and the power of life and death over their tenants. The nobility of Aragon guard all their liberties very jealously.

Charles I honoured this agreement and attended the *Cortes* of Aragon to play his part in the governing of the state. King Philip has adopted a different attitude. The King made Madrid his capital and built a grand palace as his centre of government. His attention has been focused on the New World and on dealing with the threats to his authority by rebellions in other parts of his Empire. Aragon, and the other states in the east of Spain, made a tiny financial contribution so his visits were rare.

Recent events in Aragon have aroused concern in Madrid. The Aragonese nobility have used their powers to drive tenant farmers off the most fertile land and replaced them with an increasing number of Moriscos. There have been regular reports of clashes between the farmers and Moriscos, which has created instability in the areas that border France. The King clearly fears that the instability might spread to the other Aragonese provinces of Catalonia and Valencia. To assert his authority, the King has appointed a prominent Castilian official to be viceroy in Aragon. This was resented by the nobility of Aragon.

The arrival in Aragon of Antonio Pérez has stirred things up. When the King ordered his trial in Castile, Pérez fled to Aragon and claimed the right to be tried by the courts of that state. Rumours began to circulate that he had evidence of the King's criminal activity. This angered Philip and he ordered the viceroy to have Pérez tried by the Inquisition. This provoked rioting and the brutal killing of the viceroy who had been appointed by the King. The King has sent a force, said to be over 10,000 strong, to deal with the situation. I believe the King will prevail as there is little chance that other states will intervene and the nobility do not have the united support of the people of Aragon.

Acknowledgements

Source from: 'Pursuit of Power: reports by Venetian ambassadors in the Age of Philip II, 1560-1600', Editor James C Davis, Harper and Row, New York and London Sources