

**EVENTS**

- 1510
- 1516 **Charles I** (later Emperor Charles V) becomes king of Spain. Charles already controls 13 provinces in the Netherlands as duke of Burgundy
- 1530
- 1548 Conquests made by Emperor Charles V expand Netherlands possessions to 17 provinces
- 1550
- 1556 **Philip II**, Charles' son, becomes king of Spain and ruler of the 17 provinces of the Netherlands
- 1565 Philip orders the Inquisition (Catholic Church tribunal) to intensify its campaign against Protestants in northern Dutch provinces. He raises taxes to pay for military campaigns
- 1568 Unrest and riots lead Philip to appoint **duke of Alba**, his most able general, as military dictator of the region. Alba suppresses revolt and executes Dutch nobles
- By 1572 Rebels, led by **Prince William of Orange**, take and fortify coastal towns of Brill and Flushing as bases for revolt
- 1570
- 1573 Haarlem captured by Spanish after seven months of siege. 200 defenders executed
- 1576 Spanish troops sack Antwerp. Many Dutch traders and bankers relocate to Amsterdam
- 1578 New Spanish governor, **Alexander Farnese** (duke of Parma), reconciles southern (Catholic) provinces with Spain, forming **Union of Arras** (1579), and conquers parts of the north
- 1590
- 1579 Seven northern (Protestant) provinces form **Union of Utrecht**, with William of Orange as head of state, and declare independence (1581); later known as the **United Provinces**
- 1584 William of Orange assassinated by agent of Philip II
- 1585 Queen Elizabeth I of England sends troops to aid rebels
- 1588 Philip's fleet (the Armada) defeated by English navy, leaving Spain weakened and short of resources
- 1588 Spanish advance into territory of the Union of Utrecht reaches greatest extent. Rebels begin to reverse Spanish gains
- 1609 United Provinces agree a 12-year truce with Spain
- 1630
- 1648 After sporadic fighting and Dutch involvement in the Thirty Years' War, Spain recognizes independence of the United Provinces in the **Peace of Westphalia**
- 1650

