

## WHO WAS CHARLES V?

The Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, had five children. When their only male son, John died in 1497, the succession to the throne passed to Juana, John's sister. But Juana or Joanna the Mad, wife of Philip the Handsome (son of the Emperor Maximilian I) was judged incompetent to rule.

When Ferdinand died in 1516, Charles of Ghent, the son of Juana and Philip, inherited Spain (which he ruled as Charles I), its colonies, and Naples. When Maximilian I died in 1519, Charles also inherited the Hapsburg domains in Germany and the title of Holy Roman Emperor (as Emperor, he was called Charles V). He became the most powerful ruler of this time.

Charles was born in Flanders. When he came to Spain in 1516, he hardly spoke Spanish. He brought many Flemish noblemen with him and he spent large amounts of Castilian money on becoming Holy Roman Emperor. The Castilians cities were annoyed about the new taxes and because the king gave the most important government positions to foreigners. So they started the Revolt of the Comuneros. The rebels were successful during the first months of the revolt. However, the last battle was in Villalar (Valladolid) and the king was victorious. Pradilla, Bravo and Maldonado, the leaders of the revolt, were executed.

Then Charles V paid more attention to Castile and he appointed Castilian nobles to the highest government posts and they helped him in his military expeditions abroad.

- 1. Who were the Charles V's parents?**
- 2. Which territories did Charles V inherit as king?**
- 3. Which territories did he inherit as emperor?**
- 4. Why were Castilian cities angry with Charles V?**
- 5. What happened to the leaders of the rebellion?**