

## **CHAPTER 5**

# **SPAIN: HAPSBURG AND BOURBON**

### **5.1 SPAIN IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY**

The Peace of Westphalia (1648) did not end the war between Spain and France; it continued for eleven more years. In the Treaty of the Pyrenees (1659), Spain ceded to France Artois in the Spanish Netherlands and territory in northern Spain. Marriage was arranged between Louis XIV, Bourbon king of France, and Maria Theresa, Hapsburg daughter of Philip IV, king of Spain. (Louis XIV's mother was the daughter of Philip III of Spain.)

The population of Spain in the seventeenth century declined as Spain continued expelling Moors from Spain, especially from Aragon and Valencia. In 1550 Spain had a population of 7.5 million; by 1660 it was about 5.5 million.

Formerly food-producing lands were deserted. In Castile sheep-raising took the place of food production. Food was im-

ported from Europe. As production declined, inflation increased.

Work was looked upon as a necessary evil, to be avoided when possible. The upper classes preferred a life of cultured ease instead of developing and caring for their estates. Patents of nobility were purchased from the Crown, carrying with them many tax exemptions.

Capitalism was almost non-existent in Spain and savings and investment were below the dignity of the nobility. What industry there was in Spain – silk, woollens, and leatherwork – was declining instead of growing.

Catholic orthodoxy and aristocratic exclusiveness were high values in Spanish society. In 1660, the Spanish clergy numbered 200,000, an average of one for every thirty people.

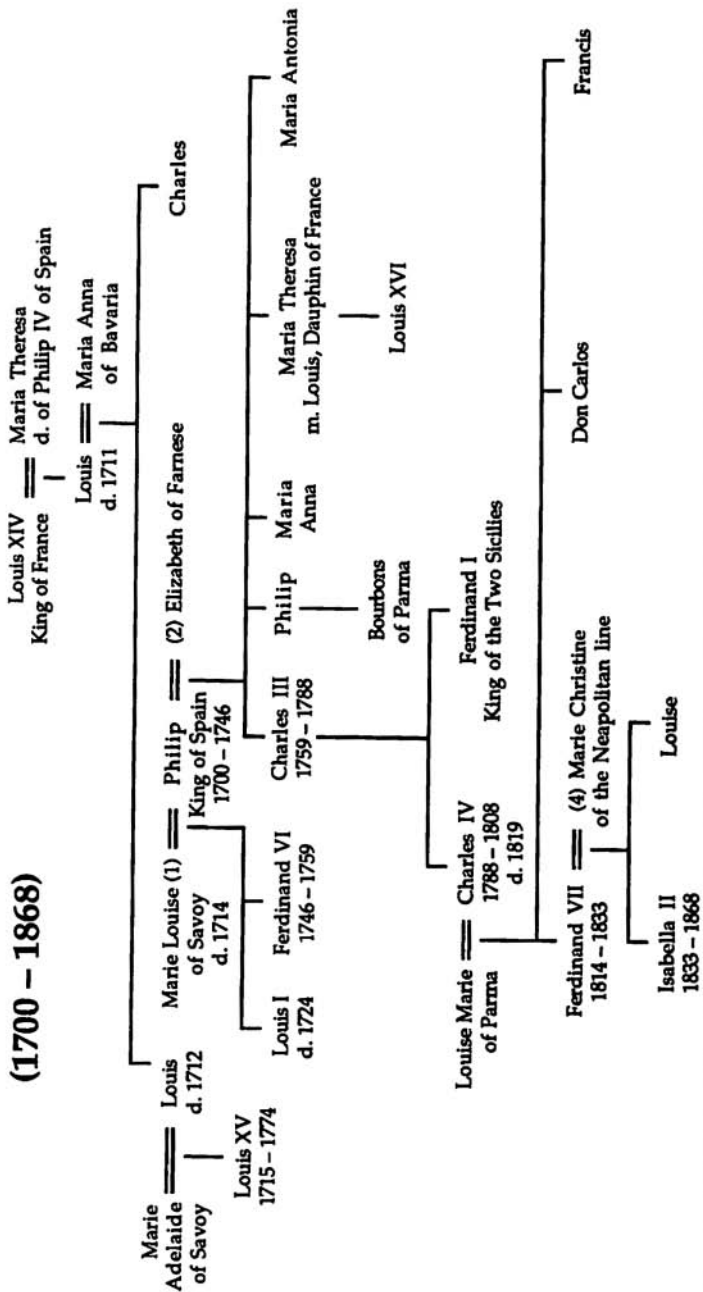
The Spanish navy had ceased to exist by 1700; there were only eight ships left plus a few borrowed from the Genoese. Most of the soldiers in the Spanish army were foreigners.

## **5.2 CHARLES II**

Charles II (1665 – 1700) the last of the Spanish Hapsburg kings was only four years old when his father, Philip IV, died; his mother Marie Anne of Austria controlled the throne as head of the council of regency. Afflicted with many diseases and of a weak constitution, the king was expected to die long before he did.

He intensely disliked the responsibilities of his office, and his timidity and lack of will power made him one of the worst rulers in Spanish history.

# THE SPANISH BOURBONS (1700 - 1868)



In 1680, he married Marie Louise of France and, on her death in 1689, he married Marie Anne of Bavaria. Since he had no child, Charles II's death in 1700 led to the War of the Spanish Succession (See Chapter 1).

### **5.3 PHILIP V (1700 – 1746)**

The grandson of Louis XIV and the first Bourbon King of Spain was only seventeen years of age when he became king of Spain. The first dozen years of his reign were occupied with the War of the Spanish Succession which ended successfully for him. He modernized the Spanish army and brought it to a strength of 40,000 men.

Philip V centralized the Spanish government by using the Intendant system of the French wherein the governors (or Intendants) of the provinces were under close supervision of the central government under the king. Philip abolished many pensions and government subsidies and restored fiscal health to the Spanish government.

Industry, agriculture, and ship-building were actively encouraged. The Spanish Navy was revived and the fleet was substantial by the end of his reign.

Philip married the fourteen-year-old Marie Louise of Savoy, and when she died in 1714, he married Elizabeth Farnese of Parma. Philip V died during the War of the Austrian Succession and was succeeded by his son by Marie Louise, Ferdinand VI, who ruled for an uneventful thirteen years, 1746 – 59.

### **5.4 CHARLES III (1759 – 88)**

Charles had already had political experience as Duke of Parma and as King of the Two Sicilies. He was an able ruler

and enacted many reforms during his long reign. Personally moral, pious, and hard-working, Charles III was one of the most popular of Spanish kings.

Charles helped to stimulate the economy by eliminating laws that restricted internal trade and by reducing tariffs. He encouraged new agricultural settlements and helped establish banks for farmers. He helped to create factories and gave them monopolies: woollens, tapestries, mirrors and glass, silks, porcelain. Schools were established to teach the trades.

By the end of his reign the population of Spain had grown to 10.5 million.

Spain was a strongly Catholic country and Spanish intellectuals were not interested in the doctrines of the Enlightenment, repelled by the irreligion of the *philosophes*. An ambassador wrote in 1789 that in Spain "one finds religion, love for the king, devotion to the law, moderation in the administration, scrupulous respect for the privileges of each province and the individual...."