

**Volume 10**

**Number 018**

**Spanish Armada - II**

**Lead:** In 1588 Spain sent a powerful fleet to support an invasion of southern England. Despite English propaganda to the contrary, this action was clearly provoked by the government of English Queen Elizabeth I.

**Intro.:** *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

**Content:** In the early days of her rule, one of Elizabeth's best friends was King Philip II of Spain. He had been the husband of her sister and predecessor, Mary Tudor. He hoped

**that Elizabeth would continue Mary's policy of Catholic restoration and, perhaps, even accept his hand in a powerful dynastic and diplomatic marriage. By 1560, however, it was clear Elizabeth desired a modified Protestantism for England and that she was toying with Philip's affections just as she would every man who sought, by winning her heart, to compromise her power and capture her kingdom.**

**As Elizabeth consolidated her reign and grew in political self-confidence, she also felt, for diplomatic and economic purposes, she could begin to tweak the Spanish nose. Her government gave tacit approval to the buccaneering exploits**

**Francis Drake and John Hawkins marauding through Spanish possessions in the West Indies and in 1578 the Queen personally supported Drake's famous raiding voyage around the world. As the Protestant rebellion against Spanish control of the Netherlands picked up steam in the late 1560s, Elizabeth sent money and eventually troops to their aid. She was not even above a little direct theft. In 1568, a ship loaded with the pay for Spanish soldiers in the Netherlands and Flanders was forced for protection into Plymouth harbor. Her government seized the gold and placed it under permanent protective custody. By 1585, Philip was fed up and began planning an invasion of England. Next time: the so-called**

**Invincible Armada bites the dust.**

**At the University of Richmond,  
this is Dan Roberts.**

## **Resources**

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**“The Spanish Armada,”**

**<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01727c.htm>**

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