

American Minute with Bill Federer

Battle of Lepanto, Sinking of Spanish Armada, and Pilgrim Governor William Bradford

News arrived in **Europe** that in 1570, **Ottoman Turks** under the command of **Lala Kara Mustafa Pasha**, captured **Nicosia, Cyprus**, after a 50-day siege.

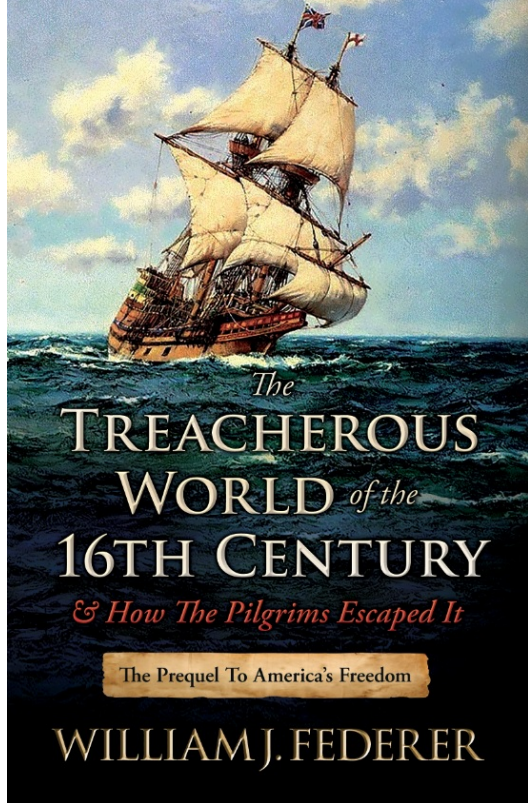


20,000 captured **Nicosians** were executed. Women and boys were sold as slaves.

The **Cathedral of St. Sophia** was turned into the **Selimiye Mosque**..

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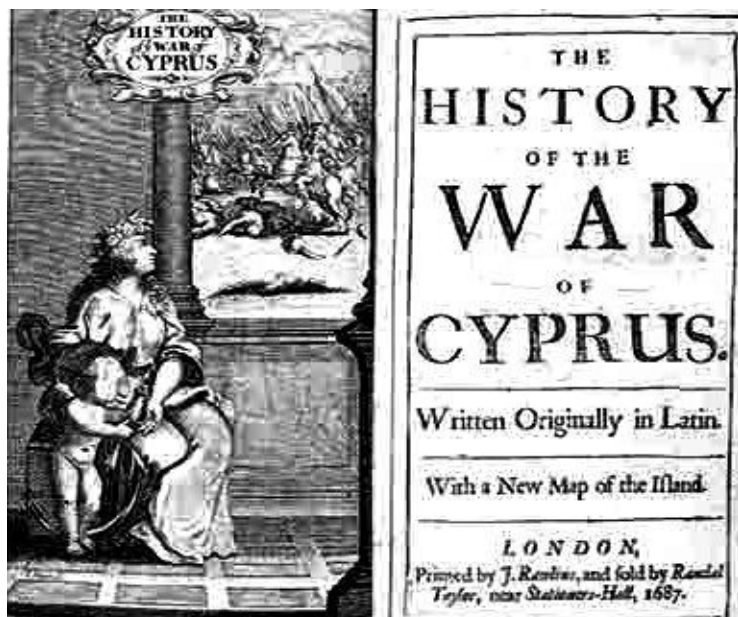
[The Treacherous World of the 16th Century and How the Pilgrims Escaped It: The Prequel to America's Freedom](#)



In 1571, **Lala Kara Mustafa Pasha** surrounded the Christians in **Famagusta, Cyprus**, the last stronghold of Western Europe in the Eastern Mediterranean.



He promised the defenders of **Cyprus** that if they surrendered, they would be allowed to leave.



Lala Kara Mustafa Pasha broke his promise.



He flayed alive Venetian commander, **Marco Antonio Bragadin**, and ordered the execution of all **6,000 Christian prisoners**.

The beautiful **St. Nicholas Church** was turned into the **Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque**.

The **Church of Saints Peter and Paul** was

converted into the
**Sinan Pasha
Mosque.**



After this, the **Sultan**
planned on attacking
Rome, and from
there conquer the
rest of western
Europe.

The Sultan's threat was
taken serious, as centuries
earlier, in 846 AD, **Rome**
was attacked by 11,000
Muslim pirates.

They sacked the city, looted the old **St. Peter's basilica**, and the church **St. Paul Outside the Wall**, and desecrated the graves of both St. Peter and St. Paul.



In response, **Pope Leo IV** built a 39 foot high wall around the Vatican.



In 1571, with the Sultan again threatening Rome, **Pope Pius V** used all his influence to get the Christian states of **Spain, Naples, Sicily, Venice, Genoa, Sardinia, Savoy,**

Urbino, Papal States, Germans, and Croatians to assemble into the **Holy League**.

The **Holy League** insisted that their fleet be led by the 24-year-old son of King Charles V of Spain - **Don John of Austria**.



Spain used **gold from the New World** to fit out its navy to keep the Muslim Ottomans from taking over the Mediterranean.



On October 7, 1571, the largest and most decisive sea battle on the Mediterranean took place -- the **Battle of Lepanto** off the **western coast of Greece**.

Don John of Austria led the 212 ships with nearly 68,000 soldiers and sailors of the **Holy League**.

A danger for soldiers fighting at sea, was that if they fell overboard, their armor would cause them to immediately sink.



Ali Pasha led the **Muslim Ottoman Turks**, consisting of 82,000 soldiers and sailors on 251 ships powered by thousands of Christian galley slaves rowing under the decks.

This was the last major battle with rowing vessels.



As the sun rose on the day of battle, the **Holy League** found itself at a great disadvantage, having to row against a strong wind.

Don John led his men on deck in a prayer, then suddenly the wind changed 180 degrees to favor the **Holy League**.



The **Holy League's** ships collided into **Ali Pasha's** ships.

Fierce fighting went on for hours.



Don John sailed his flagship **Real** crashing into **Ali Pasha's** ship.

Ali Pasha was soon killed, his vessel's crescent flag was lowered and his head was hung high in its place.

This cause Ottoman warriors to lose heart.

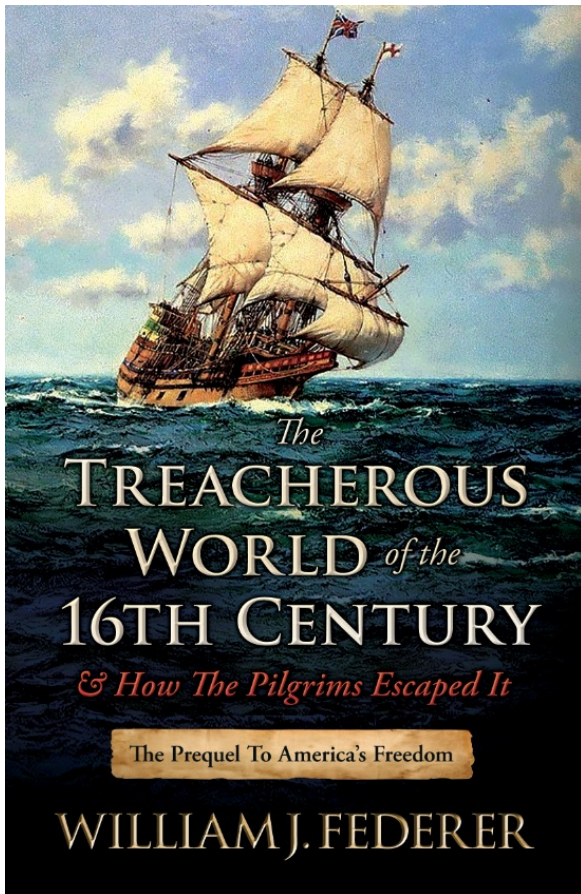


The **Ottomans** lost 200 of their 230 ships.

Some 12,000 Christian galley slaves were released from under the decks.

Had the

Ottomans *not* been defeated, they would have invaded Italy and possibly conquered Europe.



[The Treacherous World of the 16th Century and How the Pilgrims Escaped It: The Prequel to America's Freedom](#)

Telling the story of the freeing of the Christian galley slaves, **G.K.**

Chesterton wrote in his epic poem, "**Lepanto**":

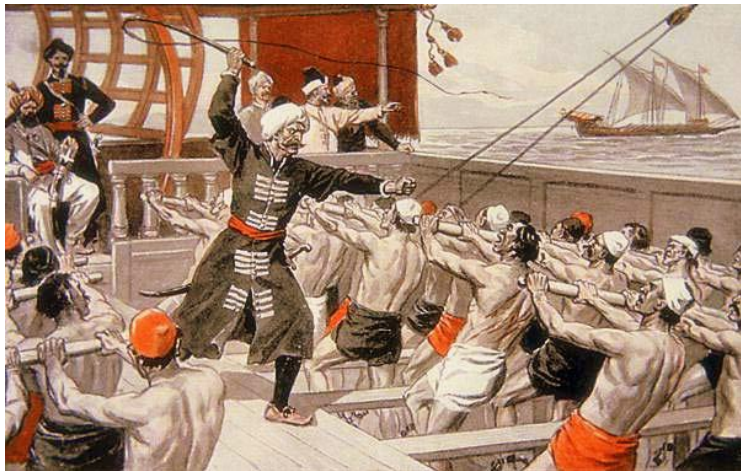
"... Above the ships are palaces of brown, blackbearded chiefs,

And below the ships
are prisons, where
with multitudinous
griefs,

Christian captives
sick and sunless, all
a laboring race
repines
Like a race in sunken
cities, like a nation in
the mines.



... They are lost
like slaves that
swat, and in the
skies of morning
hung
The stairways of
the tallest gods
when tyranny was
young.



They are countless, voiceless, hopeless as those fallen
or fleeing on
Before the high Kings' horses in the granite of Babylon.

... And many a one
grows witless in
his quiet room in
hell
Where a yellow
face looks inward
through the lattice

of his cell,

And he finds his
God forgotten, and
he seeks no more
a sign --
But Don John of
Austria has burst
the battle line!



... **Don John**
pounding from the
slaughter-painted
poop (rear stern
deck),
Purpling all the
ocean like a
bloody pirate's
sloop,



Scarlet running over on the silvers and the golds,
Breaking of the hatches up and bursting of the holds,

Thronging of the thousands up that labor under sea
White for bliss and blind for sun and stunned for liberty.

Vivat Hispania! Domino Gloria!
Don John of Austria has set his people free!"

Hilaire Belloc
wrote in *The Great
Heresies* (1938):

"The last great
Turkish



organization working now from the conquered **capital of Constantinople**, proposed to cross the Adriatic, to attack Italy by sea and ultimately to recover all that

had been lost in the Western Mediterranean.

There was one critical moment when it looked as though the scheme would succeed. A huge Mohammedan armada fought at the mouth of the **Gulf of Corinth** against the Christian fleet at **Lepanto**.

The Christians won that naval action and the Western Mediterranean was saved.

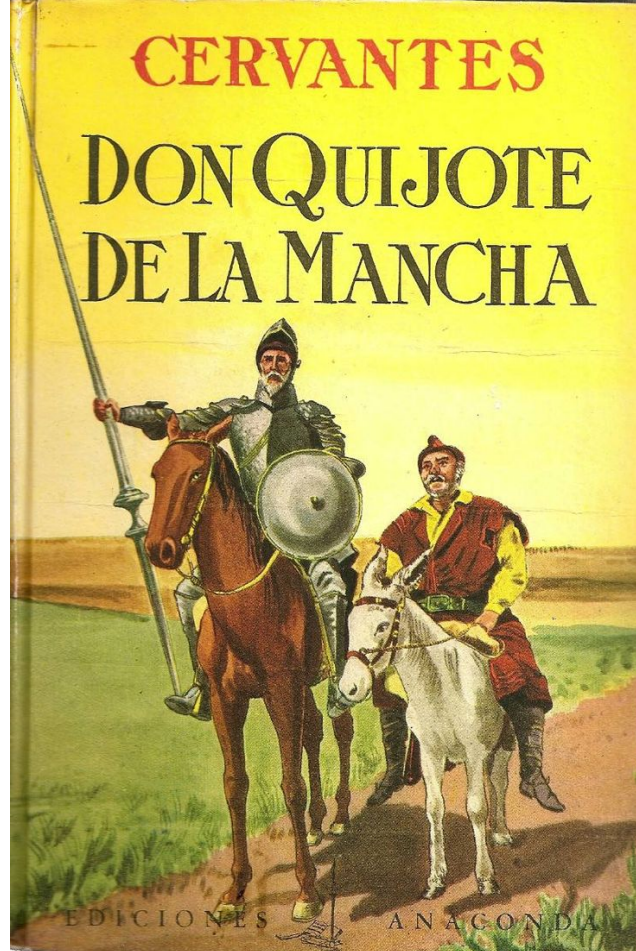
But it was a very close thing, and the name of **Lepanto** should remain in the minds of all men with a sense of history as **one of the half dozen great names in the history of the Christian world."**

One of the Spanish sailors in the **Battle of Lepanto** was **Miguel de Cervantes**.

He was later captured and made **a slave in North Africa**.

He escaped back to Spain and later wrote *Don Quixote de La Mancha*, 1605, considered Europe's

first modern novel.



U.S. Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts wrote in *White Slavery in the Barbary States*, 1853:

"Algiers, for a long time the most obnoxious place in

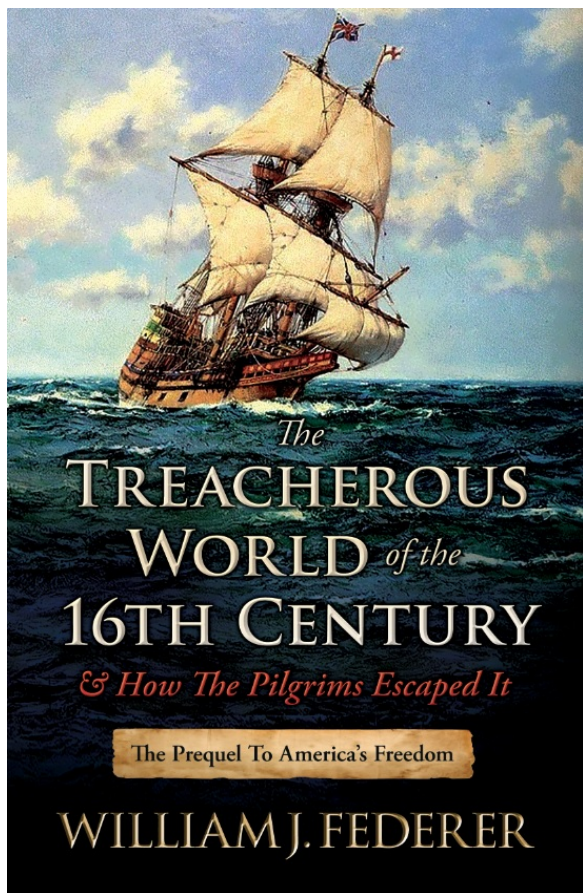
the Barbary States of Africa, the chief seat of **Christian slavery** ... the wall of the barbarian world ...

... And **Cervantes**, in the story of **Don Quixote** ... give(s) the narrative of a **Spanish captive** who had **escaped from Algiers** ...

The **author** is supposed to have drawn from **his own experience**; for during **five and a half years** he endured the horrors of **Algerine slavery**,



from which he was finally liberated by a **ransom of about six hundred dollars.**"



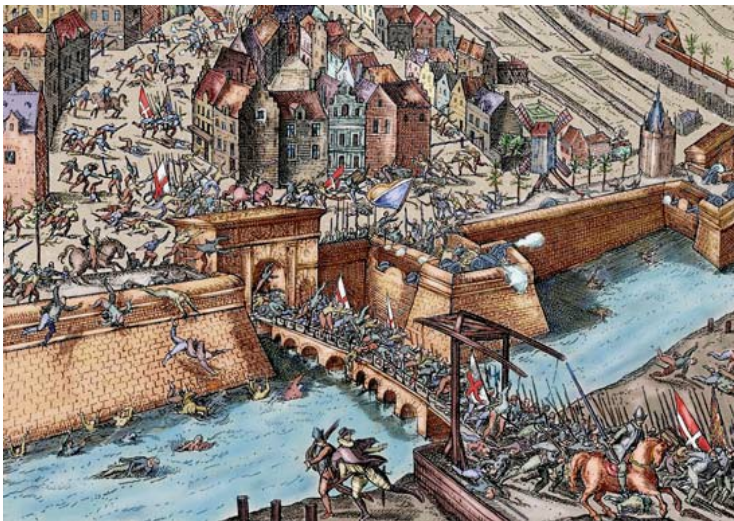
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A missed opportunity followed the **Battle of Lepanto**.

Spain could have gone throughout the **Mediterranean**



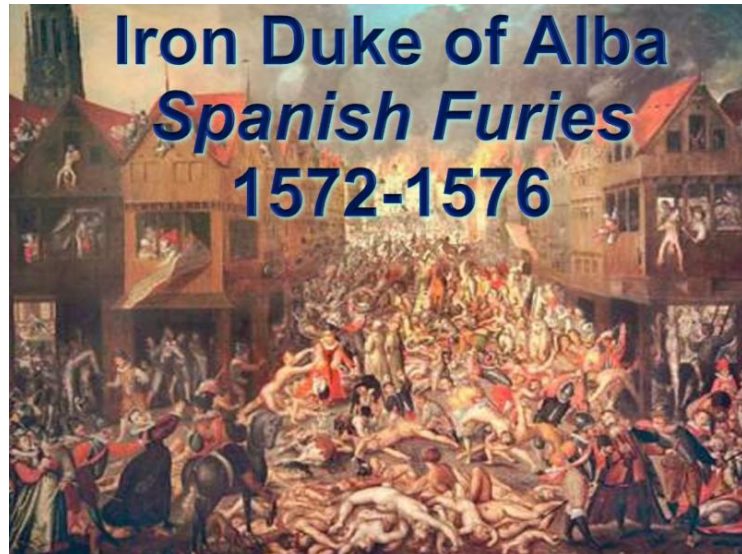
freeing ports, Greek Islands and even Constantinople from Ottoman control.



Instead, **Spain** sent its army and navy to crush the **Reformation** which was taking place in **Holland** and in **England**.

Over the next 35 years, **Spain's** expensive military campaigns would result in depleted financial resources and **bankruptcy**.

In 1572, the **Iron Duke of Alba** began the **Spanish Furies**, decimating the cities of the **Netherlands**.



Tens of thousands were massacred at:

Mechelen, Gelders, Zutphen, Naarden, Haarlem, Maastricht, Aalst, and finally **Antwerp**, where soldiers torched a

thousand buildings and killed an estimated 17,000

men, women and children.

In 1588, **King Philip II of Spain** sent his **Invincible Armada** to conquer **Protestant England**.



1588 Spanish Armada



Queen Elizabeth, who had previously declined a marriage proposal from **Philip**, put on her armor and **rallied Englishmen to defend their country** in what is

considered **her most famous speech**, August 9, 1588:

"Let tyrants fear ...

I am come amongst you ... resolved, in the midst and heat of battle, to live or die amongst you all -- to lay down for my God, and for my kingdoms, and for my people, my honour and my blood even in the dust.

... I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and

stomach of a king -
- and of a King of
England too, and
think foul scorn
that Parma or
Spain, or any
prince of Europe,
should dare to
invade the borders
of my realm ...



By ... your valour in the field, we shall shortly have a famous victory over those enemies of my **God**, of my kingdom, and of my people."

Spain was repulsed by **English** and **Dutch** sailors, such as:

- **Sir Francis Drake,**
- **Sir John Hawkins,**
- **Sir Martin Frobisher,**
- **Lord Howard of Effingham, and**
- **Dutch Admiral Justinus van Nassau.**



A hurricane smashed 56 **Spanish ships**, 10 more ships had to be scuttled.

Over 20,000 **Spaniards** died

from battle, storms and disease.

Philip sent a **second Spanish Armada** in October of 1596, but it was destroyed in a storm.



He sent a **third Spanish Armada** in October of 1597, but it met the same fate.



In 1601, Philip's son, **Philip III**, sent the Spanish navy to Ireland to mount an attack on Britain, but was defeated at the **Battle of Kinsale**.

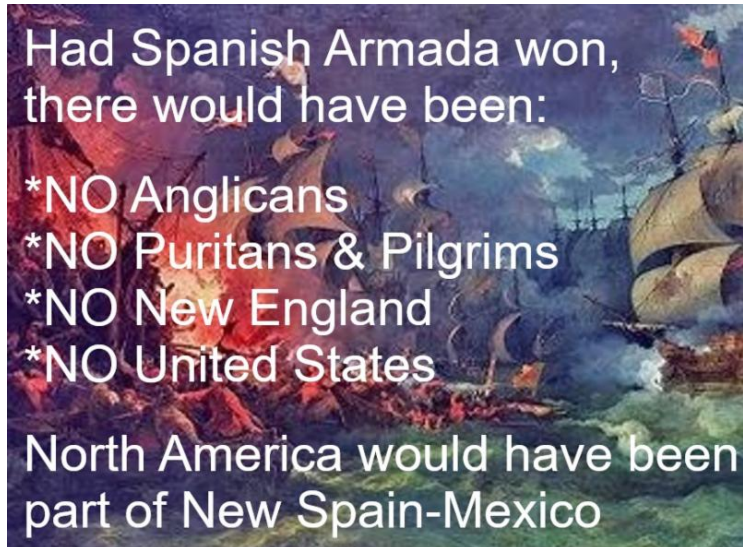
Spain's costly **military losses** led to the **bankruptcy** of the Spanish Empire and their **loss of its monopoly over the new world**.

This opened the door for **other European nations to settle colonies in America.**



Had the **Spanish Armada** won took control of England, there would have been:

- **No Anglican England;**
- **No Puritans & Pilgrims;**
- **No New England;**
- **No United States.**



North America would have just been an extension of **New Spain-Mexico.**

Writing for
HistoryToday.com
(Vol. 57 Issue 11
Nov. 2007),
Richard
Cavendish
described the
**Spanish
Bankruptcy:**

"Spain had

Spanish Bankruptcy

The Spanish government managed by the Duke of Lerma was forced to declare a moratorium on its debts on November 19th, 1607.

Richard Cavendish | Published in History Today [Volume 57 Issue 11 November 2007](#)



and the **Netherlands** cost more to administer than they brought in.

When **Philip III** became King of Spain and Portugal in 1598 ... **instead of being used to stimulate industry** ... the **treasure from the Americas** had created an attitude that held productive work in contempt, **while foreigners - Genoese, Dutch, Germans** - ran Spain's trade and **finance to their own profit ...**"

Cavendish continued describing **Spain's version of deep state insiders:**

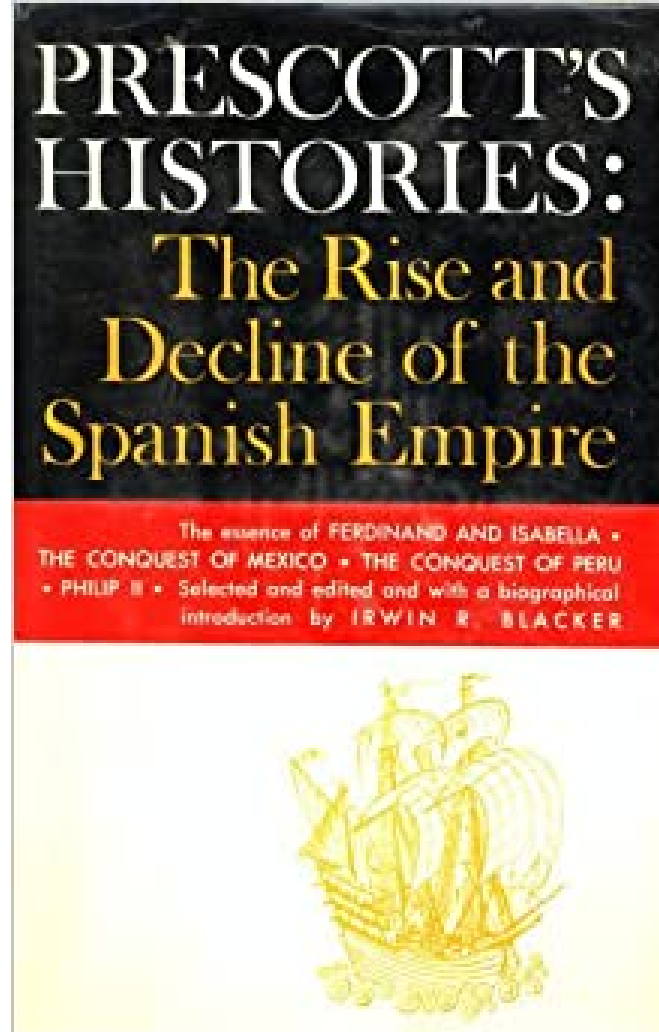
"The **new king** was far **too idle and irresponsible** to run the government

imported enormous quantities of treasure from the **gold and silver mines of Mexico and Peru** in the sixteenth century and yet the **royal government** was all too frequently in or close to **bankruptcy**.

Massive amounts were spent on **crusading against both Islam and Protestantism,**

himself, as his father had done.

Instead he spent fecklessly on frivolous entertainments while **the government was managed** by a favorite, the **Duke of Lerma**, who was just as **torpid and incompetent** as the king, and **kept himself in power** by **dispensing grants and pensions** to the leading **Castilian nobles**, who crowded the court.



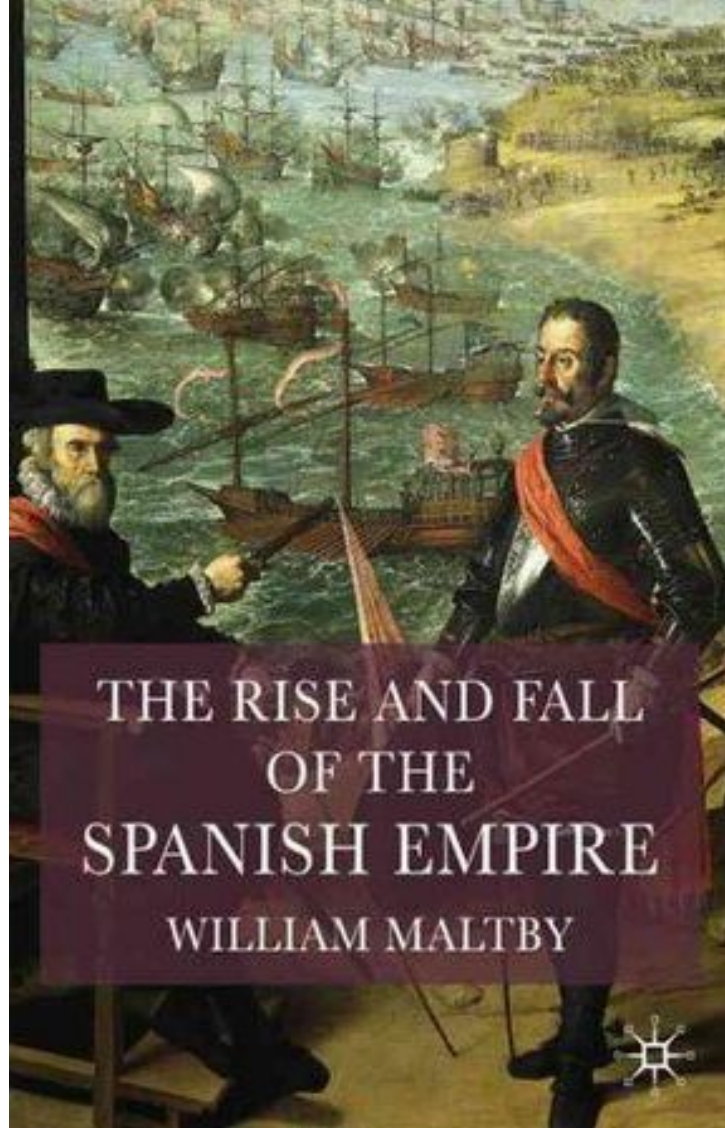
He also **lined his own pockets** and moved the court from Madrid to Valladolid and back again **to make profits from real estate dealings ..."**

Spain then attempted to **stimulate the economy** by **debasing its money** resulting in **inflation**, as Cavendish explained:

"The crown's supply of **money from the Americas** ... **slumped** by half during the first

fifteen years or so of **Philip's** reign, while **money** had to be **spent** on **defending Spanish America** from the **English** and the **Dutch**.

The **government** tried to **escape** its **financial problems** by **issuing a debased copper coinage**, the *vellon*, but was still forced to **declare a moratorium on its debts**, or in effect acknowledge **bankruptcy on November 19th, 1607 ...**



By the time **Philip III** died in 1621, some **Spaniards** were starting to wonder whether **their American empire** was more of a **liability** than an asset."

A pattern can be observed.

When a **nation** reaches what could be considered **"global superpower status,"** the **prosperity**

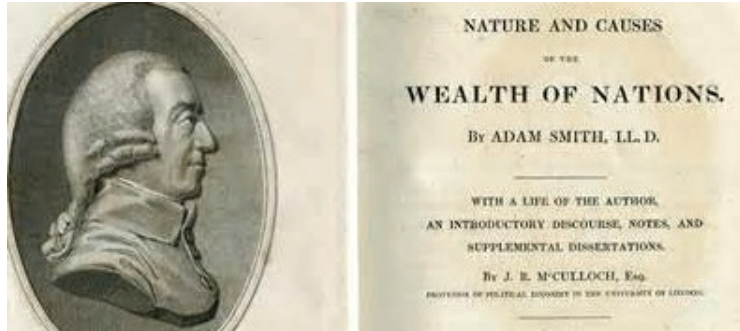


experienced causes those in **political leadership** to indulge in **fiscal irresponsibility**.

Enormous debt leads to **national bankruptcy** and a **loss of international preeminence**.

When this happens there is a “**great reset**” where other **nations quickly vie** with each other to **fill the power vacuum**, resulting in a **new global political structure**.

Adam Smith
wrote in *The Wealth of Nations*,
1776:



"The **Spaniards**, by virtue of the first discovery, claimed all **America** as their own, and ... such was ... the terror of their name, that the greater part of the **other nations of Europe were afraid** to establish themselves in **any other part of that great continent** ...

But ... **the defeat ... of their Invincible Armada** ... put it out of their power to obstruct any longer the settlements of the other European nations.

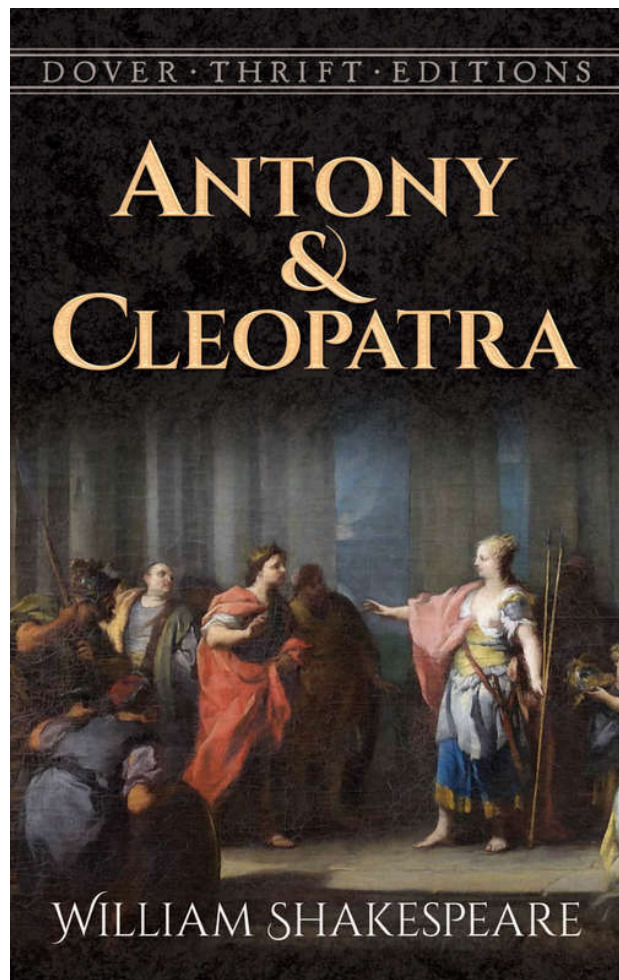
In the course of the **17th century** ... **English, French, Dutch, Danes, and Swedes** ... attempted to make some settlements in the **new world**."

Two years after the famed **sinking of the Invincible Spanish Armada**, a boy was born on **MARCH 19, 1590**, in England, named **William Bradford**.



Circa 1630, by J. G. Nichols, Plymouth
GOVERNOR WILLIAM BRADFORD

When **Bradford** was age 17, **Shakespeare** was producing his play, "**Anthony and Cleopatra**," 1607, and the **Jamestown Colony** was being founded in **Virginia**.





William Bradford fled from **England** to **Holland** with the **Pilgrim separatists**, led by **Pastor John Robinson** and **Elder William Brewster** in 1608.

In 1620, after much hardship, **William Bradford**, age 30, sailed with the **Pilgrims** to **America**.



In 1621, **Bradford** was chosen **governor** and reelected 30 times till his death.

William Bradford's journal, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, is the

main historical record of the Pilgrims, published in 1650:



"Since ye first breaking out of ye light of ye **gospel** in our Honorable Nation of **England** ... what wars and oppositions ... **Satan** hath raised ... against the **Saints** ... by bloody death and cruel torments ... imprisonments, banishments ...

What could now sustain them but **ye spirit of God** and **His grace?** ... Ought not the **children** of these **fathers** rightly say:

Our **fathers** ... came over this great ocean, and were ready to perish in this wilderness; but they cried unto ye **Lord**, and He heard their voice ..."

Bradford continued:

"All great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties ...



Out of small beginnings

greater things have been produced **by His hand** that made all things of nothing ...

and, **as one small candle may light a thousand**, so the **light here kindled** hath shone unto many, yea in some sort **to our whole nation**; let the glorious **name of**

Jehovah have all the praise."

--

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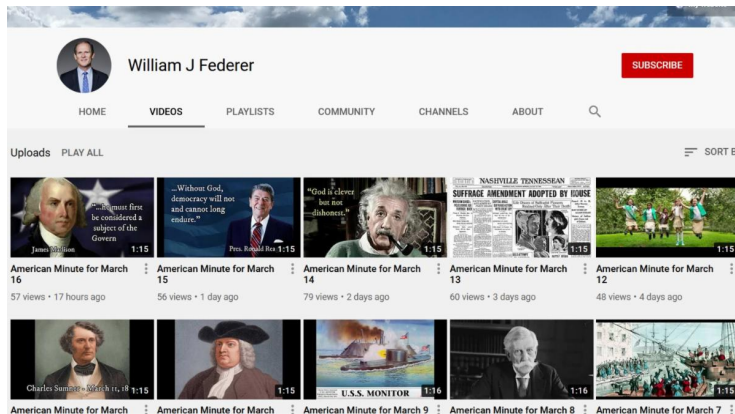
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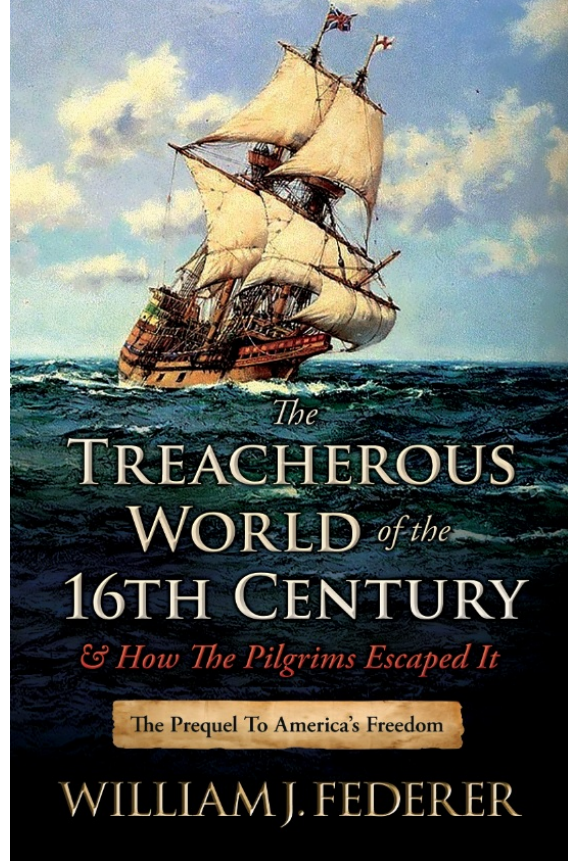


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