

MODERN AGE IN SPAIN

CONTEMPORARY PHILIPPINE ARTS FROM THE REGIONS



The Modern Age began in the Peninsula during the reign of Isabella I of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon (1469/1516) and ended with the War of Independence (1808-1814). During the 15th century, there was a strong link between Castile and Aragon, and between Castile and Portugal.



The Catholic Monarchs developed a policy of marriage pacts with Portugal, England, and the House of Burgundy-Habsburg. They aimed to encircle an old enemy, France. In the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), the definitive delimitation of the Atlantic limits was 370 leagues to the west of the Barcelona proposal.



The anti-Meridian would be decided after the Portuguese and Spanish clashed on the other side of the world. The Portuguese had built the fort of Ternate in Malacca (1509) and the Spanish the fort of Tidore in the Moluccas.



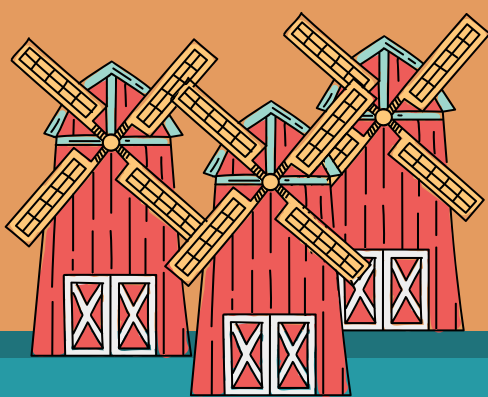
At the beginning of the 16th century, Spanish cities grew in number and importance. Madrid, grew from 20,000 inhabitants at the time of the Communities to 50,000 when Philip II made it the capital in 1561. The rural population was 90%. And it was subsistence agriculture... but also mercantile and industrial raw materials.



The mid-16th century was the prodigious decade of Spanish mining. Two major plagues diminished the population in the mid-17th century. Philip II had to declare bankruptcy on four occasions.



The 17th century, which was Spain's golden age from a cultural point of view, was also a century of social and economic crisis and a crisis in the structure of the state. A multitude of real factories were set up, encouraging technical progress.



During this time, two great artistic currents developed: the Renaissance and the Baroque, where the painter Velázquez stands out with his paintings such as Las Meninas.