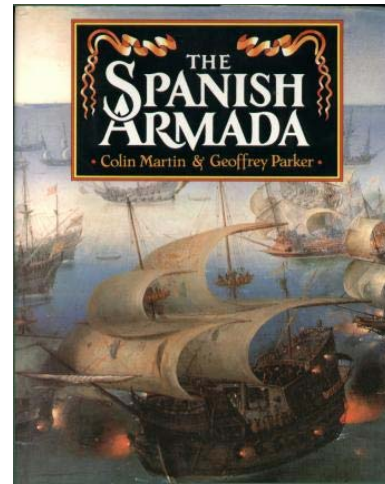


#696 The Defeat of the Spanish Armada – Introduction

We are departing from Dunkirk to **The Defeat of the Spanish Armada**, though the story of Dunkirk is a part of the story of the Spanish Armada. Remember,

Dunkirk is associated with three magnificent English triumphs, the first over Spain, the second over France, and the third over Germany.

(1) **Dunkirk, 1588, England and Spain**: The defeat of the **Spanish Armada** in 1588.



(2) **Dunkirk, 1713, England and France**: The 1713 **Treaty of Utrecht** which signaled the defeat of Louis XIV of France.

(3) **Dunkirk, 1940, England and Germany**: The ‘**Miracle of Dunkirk**’ in 1940 that became the first step in the eventual defeat of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany.

We have covered the last two, (2) and (3). Now we are ready for the first, (1), the 1588 defeat of the Spanish Armada by the English.

The big picture over 400 years. In general, it can be said that in the course of world and European history, Spain was the world’s great power of the 1500’s (the 16th century) and into the early 1600’s, France was the world’s great power of the late 1600’s and early 1700’s, and Great Britain became the world’s premier power of the late 1700’s (beginning with its William Pitt-led victory over France in the Seven Years’ War) and 1800’s (the 19th century). America became the world’s great power in the 20th century.

The defeat of the Spanish Armada by England in 1588 and the defeat of Louis XIV’s France at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704 played enormous roles in the shift in the balances of power toward England.

Key Understanding: *The significance of the defeat of the Spanish Armada.* Just as the defeat of Louis XIV by John Churchill at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704 checked the power of the French, and marked the rise of the British Empire, a little over a century earlier, in 1588, the English defeated the Spanish Armada, the great fleet of the world's most powerful nation. The victory literally saved England from potential Spanish domination and from Spain's intentions of establishing the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church over Protestant England. Spain declined in power thereafter, with English merchants and sailors challenging the Spaniards with greater confidence throughout the world.

Drake means dragon. As we shall see, the story of the defeat of the Spanish Armada greatly surrounds the



English hero Sir Francis Drake, whose surname means *dragon*. Drake comes from *draca*, meaning *dragon*. The name *Dracula* is a derivation of the same. It will become clear why the key verse for this series is Revelation 13:2.



A 16th century oil on canvas portrait of Sir Francis Drake in Buckland Abbey, painting by Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger

Revelation 13:2 (KJV) And THE BEAST [out of the Sea] WHICH I SAW WAS LIKE UNTO A LEOPARD, and HIS FEET WERE AS THE FEET OF A BEAR, and HIS MOUTH AS THE MOUTH OF A LION: and THE DRAGON [Satan] GAVE HIM [the Beast out of the Sea] HIS POWER, AND HIS SEAT, AND GREAT AUTHORITY.

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