

¿QUE SIGNIFICA LA LIBERTAD EN *LA VIDA ES
SUEÑO* DURANTE EL SIGLO XVII?

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HISTORY OF SPAIN AT THE END OF 16TH AND BEGINNING 17TH CENTURY

- The 16th and 17th centuries are also known as "The Spanish Golden Age" due to the birth of the art and science that occurred during this periods.
- The Spanish influence of arts began with the Renaissance and ended with Baroque movement
- During this periods historically Spain experience a political and economic rise and fall under the rule of the Habsburg dynasty.
- Especially because of the religious intolerances mentality established by the spain empire.

THE END OF 16TH CENTURY IN SPAIN (EXPANSION)

During this era under the control of Carlo I and Felipe II Spain was the most powerful country in the world economically and military powerful.

- Spain success started with the marriage of Catholic royals Isabella and Ferdinand (15th)
- With the marriage of the Hapsburgs kings, Spain began to colonize and experience war
- They began to spread the Catholicism ideology
- Then,

CONTINUE (16TH CENTURY)

Carlos I (1500–1558) and Felipe II (1556–1598)

- During their period of ruling both kings
- Continue with mission of colonizing the America in the defense of the catholic reformation policy.
- Internal and external problems started to emerge in Spain because of the religious intolerances against those who oppose to ideology of Catholicism and oppose to their imperialism.
 - Internally
 - There is issues with those who did not converted to Catholicism
 - Lack of class mobilization within the society of Spain
 - Lack of economic and politic reformation
 - Absolute government in Spain
 - Externally
 - Spain colonization mission has provoked war against other countries opposing their imperialism and imposing the catholic belief especially France.
 - Conflict against the protestant religion and philosophy

CONTINUE 16TH CENTURY

- Spain success economically, socially, politically and culturally must do:
 - With its colonization allows Spain to obtain power and develop a successful agricultural trade.
 - With the Renaissance movement in Spain good literature and arts were develop.
 - The society of Spain experience an evolution of knowledge through the renaissance period.
 - At the end of the 16th century Renaissance movement caused a crisis in the Catholic Religion and Political Structure because people began to question their power.
 - What is the Renaissance movement?
 - Renaissance movement declared the idea that human being was the center of the world and not God. Since they have the ability to solve the problem of society together without God intersection.
 - Martin Luther started in 1517 the Protestant religion against the Catholic Church
 - Counter Reformation policy are established in Spain to prevent and weakening protestant doctrine and power in society.
 - Colonization and religion war cause Spain to began facing economic and political problems

17TH CENTURY

- Period ruled by Felipe III, Felipe IV and Carlos II (Focus the beginning of 17th century)
- Spain began to face economic and political crisis due to the back rule of kings and conflict internally and externally.

Economically Crisis

- Decreased in the population (War, hunger, expelled out the)
- Lack of modernization of economic agrarian system, (New companies or resource to sell)
- War prevented to import and export good
- The noble Class used all the resource and wealth.
 - They increase the taxes on the agricultural population forcing them to stop working and migrate to better place.
 - They did no pay taxes

17TH CENTURY

- Political crisis
 - The absolute power of the king and power ambition to colonize more
 - the king forgot his responsibility to rule Spain.
 - He put all his power in the noble class (corruption emerge in the society)
 - Preventing a class mobilization in Spain provoke the population to question the king power due to the violation from the noble class.

BAROQUE PERIOD

- Baroque Movement emerge,
 - In reaction to all this crisis Spain was facing during the end of 16th century and 17th century
 - the Baroque movement was created in Spain by the monarchy to impose and ensure its power.
 - New style and forms of art, literature, music, theater, was created with the purpose to legitimize the imperialism mission of Spain in defense of the Catholic Church.
 - Through the arts and literatures developed writers teach the population about Catholic doctrine and justify the imperialism purpose of the Spanish empire
 - The theater was the most influential art form used by kings to persuade people in Spain
- Politically, the Baroque period became a religious and political tool to ensure their power and control

LITERARY FRAMEWORK

- Baroque Theater

- Politically theater function is to create order, educate and talk to the population of Spain about the importance of maintaining the structure of society
- The theater politicizes the reality of society and even more justifies Spanish hegemony as a pretext to defend Catholic ideology.
- privileged class were the only ones who had the ability to attend theaters.
- All the kings from 17th century knew that they needed the support of the privileged class. The theater became the perfect way for the kings to mold their subject's conscience and gain the support.
- The theater was the perfect vehicle for the monarchy to legitimize its colonization and teaching of the church.
- Pedro Calderón de La Barca is one of the most important authors of the Baroque period, especially the most influential in the theater genre.
- His most famous work was *Life is a Dream*.

WHO IS PEDRO CALDERON DE LA BARCA?

- Born on January 17, 1600, and died May 25, 1681, Madrid Spain
- Born from a noble Catholic family
- Educate in University of Alcalá in 1614 but transferred a year later to Salamanca, where he study arts, law, and theology until 1619 or 1620.
- He renounces the vocation of priest and join the military.
- In 1623 began to write plays and poems for King Philip IV and his career as writer began.
- Calderon became the most popular dramatist and poet who succeeded Lope de Vega as the greatest Spanish playwright of the Golden Age.
- Calderón lived under the reigns of Felipe III, Felipe IV and Carlos II.
- Participate in the war of the liberation of Fuente Rabia in 1638 and the war of secession of Catalonia in 1640.
- Later became a priest.

LA VIDA ES SUEÑO

- Analyze the theme of liberty or the free will
 - Free Will is the moral freedom that the human being has from God to decide and make his own decisions. Which means that human being has the freedom to do good or evil according to his conscience and morality.
 - Calderon defend the idea that human actions are what determine their future. Just like Seguismundo.
 - The plays narrates Seguismundo who is locked up in a tower by his father due a predestination made by oracles.
 - They predict that Seguismundo was going to take away king Basilio power and become a tyranny for the Polonia empire.
 - 1st time prince is liberated but acted like a beast then is put into prison again making him think he was dreaming.
 - Bad action caused people have consequences such as lose their liberty
 - 2nd time prince is liberated due to a revolution from population of Polonia.
 - Forgiving and punishing those who disobey assures you a good future because God likes it.

LA VIDA ES SUEÑO

What did I focus analyzing

- Comparing the liberty human experiences versus animals.
 - To survive you need liberty
 - Celestina by Fernando Rojas
- Political Structure system is illustrated in the play (Lack of social mobility)
 - Monarch power and Catholic Church power
 - People are not allowed to question the norms and rule established in the society of Polonia (just like Spain)
 - Marriage are arranged to secure purity of races, power and class privilege.
 - Relationships before marriage are not allowed.
 - Women do not have the same power as men. In order to obtain liberty women need men to intercept in their decision.

CONCLUSION

- Play illustrate that freedom was something that the monarchy controlled through church doctrine. Seeing that their power was weakened by wars and internal and external conflict, they used the Baroque period to recover and re-educate people that without God their life is worth nothing. And it is necessary that they follow its norms and rules so that they make good decisions which ensures paradise.
- Lastly Calderon ensures bad action lead to bad consequence just like Basilio did.
 - He acted against the empire and believe more in the protestant philosophy than in God.
- People are the one with the power over their destine. Not destine itself or God.
- The plays did god job illustrating the reality of the time plus emphasized the need of modernization politically and economic that Spain need but were scare to do because of losing power.

CITATION

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