The Black Legend of Spain

A. Spanish Hegemony and the Black Legend
   a. The Black Legend of Spain was the over exaggerated depictions of Spanish colonialism and the Inquisition, used by challengers to Spanish authority.
   b. As Spanish power grew, so did anti-Spanish sentiment in Europe.
      i. Quote from Historian Phillip Powell's *Tree of Hate* - "An image of Spain circulated through late sixteenth-century Europe, borne by means of political and religious propaganda that blackened the characters of Spaniards and their ruler to such an extent that Spain became the symbol of all forces of repression, brutality, religious and political intolerance, and intellectual and artistic backwardness for the next four centuries. Spaniards … have termed this process and the image that resulted from it as 'The Black Legend,' la leyenda negra"
   c. In addition to holdings in the New World, the Hapsburg controlled monarchy of Spain also possessed Belgium, the Netherlands, and also parts of modern day Germany and Italy.
   d. The Black Legend originated in the Netherlands, England and the German Provinces.
B. The Protestant Reformation
   a. Martin Luther and Early Protest
      i. Protest against the corruption of the Catholic Church began in Germany.
      ii. There were two major theological arguments
         1. Salvation by Faith
         2. Rejection of the Papacy
      iii. Lesser Arguments
         1. The sale of indulgences
         2. Devotion to Saints
         3. Clerical celibacy
         4. Against monasticism
   b. The Spread of the Reformation
      i. The ideas of the Reformation spread rapidly with the use of the newly created printing press.
      ii. Geographically, Germanic Europe was most heavily affected, portions of Eastern Germany, Scandinavia, England, Scotland, the Netherlands and parts of Switzerland.
C. Wars and Threats to Spain in the 16th Century
   a. The Spanish were involved in numerous and costly wars in the 16th Century
      i. French Wars of Religion 1562-1598 (against French Protestants and England) Defeat
      ii. Revolt in the Philippines (Revolt of rebel groups in the Philippines with British Support) Victory
      iii. Eighty Years War – Dutch Revolt – 1568-1648 (Independence of the United Provinces with support from British) Defeat
      iv. War of Portuguese Succession – 1580-1583 Victory
      v. Anglo-Spanish War – 1585-1604 – Undecided
   b. There was also the threat of piracy.

     i. To protect their Caribbean Empire, the Spanish settled Florida to ward off these pirates.

D. The Anglo-Spanish War
  a. By the 1580's the largest threat to Spain was from England, which had finally quelled its internal disputes.
  b. King Philip II of Spain was angered by English pirates and assistance given to the Netherlands
  c. The battle of Trafalgar (1588) – led to the destruction of the Spanish Armada and the beginning of England's rise.

E. Late Arrivals
  a. Spain and Portugal had a monopoly on the New World in the 16th century. By the turn of the century, other nations began to break this monopoly.
  b. Most early expeditions were to explore and privateer.
  c. The English
    i. England's successes came in the Caribbean and North American
    ii. Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe (1577), financed by Sir Walter Raleigh
    iii. In the 1570s and 1580's – founded New Foundland and Roanoke, the latter was a failure.
    iv. Jamestown 1607
      1. Despite some early trouble, the colony was initially successful.
      2. Tobacco was essential to this success
      3. Timeline
        a. Winter 1609-10, 400 colonist died of starvation
        b. 1622 – Indian uprising under Chief of the Powhatan Opechancanough
    v. Plymouth
      1. Religious refuges settled in Massachusetts Bay in 1620.
      2. Rough beginnings, but they made a living trading with the Indians
  d. The French
    i. Like England, France was delayed in colonization efforts because of internal strife.
    ii. Canada
      1. The French settled the region surrounding the St. Lawrence River in 1608, creating an inland empire.
      2. Samuel de Champlain began a lucrative slave trade with the Huron Indians
      3. 1660's the French monarchy took direct control of the colony
    iii. The Mississippi River
      1. 1680's LaSalle, explored and claimed the river for France
    iv. Caribbean
      1. Saint Domingo
  e. The Dutch
    i. After achieving independence from Spain, the Netherlands were the greatest maritime power of the first half of the 17th century.

   1. ¾ of the ships on the seas were Dutch.
 ii. The Dutch took over many Spanish and Portuguese colonies, in the Atlantic and the Pacific.
   1. Indonesia
   2. Japan
   3. Caribbean islands
   4. New York
 iii. In 1628 – Piet Heyn captured the entire Spanish fleet in Havana.
 iv. In a series of wars from the 1650's to the 1670's, the English became the greatest naval power.