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Colorful and Rich Spanish History by [Ricky Ponting](#)

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There is no better place than Spain for a good dose of history that stretches far back into time. This nation offers some of the richest history on earth with the many influences that came conquering, building and destroying.

First Settlements

The Iberians or the Celts were purportedly Spain's original inhabitants who were mostly found at the peninsular of Iberia. Their presence has been established through archaeological and anthropological artifacts found around 5000 - 3000 B.C. which is the Neolithic era. These Celtic tribes might have come from the north at 1200 B.C. to settle down at the Iberian Peninsular.

The Phoenicians came at 1100 B.C. to form peninsular colonies while the Greeks settled at the south and along the Mediterranean coastline.

Wars and Conquers

War burst on the scene with the Carthaginians conquering most of Spain during the Punic Wars. The Romans came hard to establish their lordship over the whole Iberian Peninsular until its Empire was overthrown by the Gothic tribes between 409 and 419.

After a few centuries, Spain fell to the hands of the Muslims who built up the nation until the Reconquista Christians overthrew them totally by 722.

New Reign

Spain reached new heights of fame through the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492 when he brought back plenty of gold and silver. This was the Golden Age for Spain which no other nation could match.

Spain continued to prosper economically until the French Revolution where she succumbed to France in 1808. It was a tough era for Spain as Spaniards continued to fight valiantly in their 5-year Independence War to free their homeland; it was not until 1815 when Napoleon was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo that Spain was free again from foreign clutches.

King Ferdinand VII was succeeded by Isabel, his daughter that caused a Civil War to break out as her uncle Charles tried to snatch the throne in a 7-year war. A lot of economic hardship came on with the political instability until Isabel's son restored peace and harmony to the land in 1869.

Twentieth century

The 20th century was nearly disastrous with an adverse economical crisis that could have sparked a civil war if not for an election in 1931 to overthrow military dictatorship. Nevertheless, the Civil War could not be avoided from 1936 to 1939 when the Nationalists were strongly supported by Nazi-Germans as well as fascist Italians against the political intellectuals.

Although Spain maintained a neutral stance in World War II, economic and political hardships were felt with its military rule. The mid-century saw an improvement in the country's economy and international relations. Political reforms in the '80s set Spain to its path of grandeur.

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[Ricky Ponting](#) - About Author:

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