**Reconquista**

**#20**

**I. Introduction**

As far back as 1063, well before the Frist Crusade, the pope had urged Christian knights to drive the Muslims out of Spain. North African Muslims, called **Moors,** had conquered most of present day Spain in the 700’s. However, several tiny Christian kingdoms in the north slowly expanded their borders and south to take back their lands from the Muslims. This expansion of taking back their land would take over 500 years and became known as the **Reconquista** or “re-conquest”.

In 1469 , the marriage of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile created the unified state called **Spain.** Using their combined forces Ferdinand and Isabella made a final push against the last Muslim kingdom in Granada . In 1492 the Reconquista was complete, Spain was now ruled by Spanish Christians.

**DIRECTIONS: Read the following information and highlight or underline the effects the unity of Spain had on the people of that live in that country. Also circle words that you do not understand. Then complete the essay template with the information that you have. COMPLETE READING FIRST!**

Spain had a long history of religious diversity and tolerance under the Muslims. Since the height of the Islamic empire in the 700’s, Muslims, Jews, and Christians had all lived there. The three groups had often lived together in peace. Jews held high positions as bankers, merchants, scholars, physicians and government officials. Under Ferdinand and Isabella, however, Spain’s religious tolerance ended. Isabella was determined to bring religious as well as political unity to Spain. With the support of the **Inquisition,** **a Church court to put people accused of heresy on trial.** Isabella launched a brutal crusade (holy war) against Jews and Muslims that lived in Spain. Jews and Muslims who had been forced to convert to Christianity could be tried by the Inquisition. Priests would demand that they confess of practicing their religions. If these converted Jews and Muslims refused to confess they were tortured. Once they confessed, they were burned at the stake. It was reported that over 2,000 men and women were tortured and burned at the stake in between 1478 and 1490. Those who were not killed by the Inquisition were forced to sell their land and property and leave Spain. More than 150,000 Muslims and Jews now made homeless set out from Spain to other foreign lands hoping to find a new homeland. Expelling the Jews and Muslims made Spain a religiously and politically united nation. The Reconquista linked religion closely with Spanish **nationalism** (a feeling of loyalty to one’s country and people. ). To be a “true Spaniard” came also to mean being a “true Christian”. The Queen achieved religious unity, but it hurt the country economically. Many of these exiles were skilled, educated people who had contributed much to Spain’s economy and culture.

After 500 years under Muslim rule, Spain had become a unified country as a result of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Because Spain was united, there were several **positive/negative (circle one that matches thesis)** effects that took place. One **positive/negative (circle one that matches thesis)** effect of the unity of Spain was **(state effect)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **EXCELLENT**   * Argues a side accurately using relevant information in the written statement that demonstrates a clear and detailed understanding of the effects of the Reconquista. * Accurately and clearly gives details counter arguing the effects of the Reconquista. * Product is creative, accurate, and complete. | **GOOD**   * Argues a side using relevant information in the written statement that demonstrates an understanding of the effects of the Reconquista. * Has a counter argument about the effects of the Reconquista. * Product is complete and creative | **SATISFACTORY**   * Argues a side * Uses supporting details that are relevant, but limited, general, or inconsistent in the written statement about the effects of the Reconquista. * Counter argument about the effects of the Reconquista. * Product is complete. | **UNSATISFACTORY**   * Does not argue a side and or does not argue a side accurately. * There are minimal details and/or details given are not accurate about the effects of the Reconquista. * Does not accurately present a counter argument. * Product is incomplete |

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it did, however, have **positive/negative (choose opposite one of thesis)** on **Jews/Muslims/Christians/ All people of Spain (circle one)**. For example,**(explain the effect that proves the opposite of your thesis)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Overall though, the Reconquista was **more positive/more negative (circle original thesis)**.