**In our Time on The Spanish Armada**

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Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss the Spanish Armada. On May 28th, 1588, a fleet of a hundred and fifty-one Spanish ships set out from Lisbon, bound for England. Its mission was to transport a huge invasion force across the Channel: the Spanish King, Philip II, was determined to remove Elizabeth from the throne and return the English to the Catholic fold. Two months later the mighty Spanish Armada was sighted off the coast of Cornwall. Bad weather, poor planning and spirited English resistance defeated the Spaniards: after a brief battle the remnants of their fleet fled. This tale of religious dispute, shifting political alliance and naval supremacy has entered our folklore - although some historians argue it changed nothing. With Diane Purkiss - Fellow and Tutor at Keble College, Oxford Mia Rodriguez-Salgado - Professor in International History at the London School of Economics, Nicholas Rodger - Senior Research Fellow at All Souls College at the University of Oxford.

**Questions**

1. What shows that everyone expected Spain to win?
2. What is privateering?
3. What did Philip see the intention of this campaign for?
4. Why was it so unusual to find England and Spain at war?
5. Philip had been an effective monarch while helping Mary to rule – what had he achieved?
6. Why isn’t it quite David and Goliath?
7. Why did Philip send his Armada when he did in 1588?
8. Did the execution of Mary Queen of Scots play a strong reason in this time?
9. What did the tight conditions that the Pope Sixtus V impose do to affect the enterprise?
10. What was Philip’s plan?
11. Why was the Armada travelling so slowly and in a strict crescent shape?
12. What was the English navy like?
13. How many serious fighting ships on the English side?
14. Who was doing the planning on the British side?
15. Who was the original commander for the Spanish?
16. Why was he replaced with the Duke of Medina Sidonia?
17. How does the Battle of Gravelines unfold and why is it so important?
18. Was the Battle of Gravelines a turning point?
19. Why is it funny that Elizabeth gives her inspiring speech in Tilbury?
20. What was the serious consequence of this defeat on Spain?