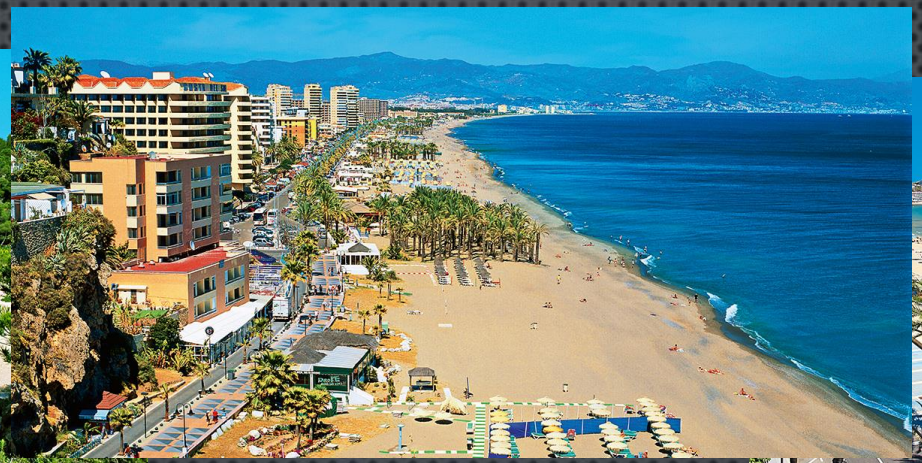
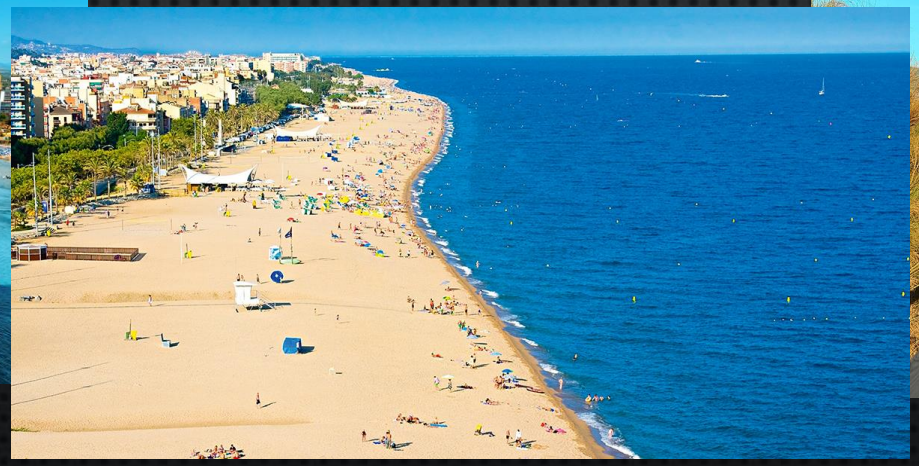


KINGDOM OF SPAIN

By: Anna Płonka

GEOGRAPHY, POLITICAL SYSTEM , SYMBOLS



SPAIN *IS A COUNTRY IN SOUTHERN EUROPE. IT IS IN THE IBERIAN PENINSULA.* SPAIN HAS MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND SQUARE KILOMETRES OF LAND. IT IS SMALLER THAN FRANCE, BUT IT IS BIGGER THAN GERMANY OR POLAND. THERE ARE ABOUT 45 MILLION PEOPLE IN SPAIN.

BORDERS AND ADMINISTRATION :

- SPAIN HAS A BORDER WITH PORTUGAL IN THE WEST AND BORDERS WITH FRANCE AND ANDORRA IN THE NORTH. IN THE SOUTH, IT BORDERS GIBRALTAR, A BRITISH TERRITORY. THE SPANISH TERRITORIES OF CEUTA AND MELILLA ARE IN NORTH AFRICA AND BORDER ONTO MOROCCO.

- SPAIN IS DIVIDED INTO 17 AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES, WHICH MEANS THAT THEY H AVE THEIR OWN REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN SPAIN IS A PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY, IN WHICH THE MONARCH IS THE HEAD OF STATE, WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER IS THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.

- PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, SOMETIMES MISLEADINGLY CALLED "THE SPANISH PRESIDENT", IS THE FIRST MINISTER AND IS ELECTED BY THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES. HE IS INFORMALLY BUT INTERNATIONALLY AND COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE "PRIME MINISTER"

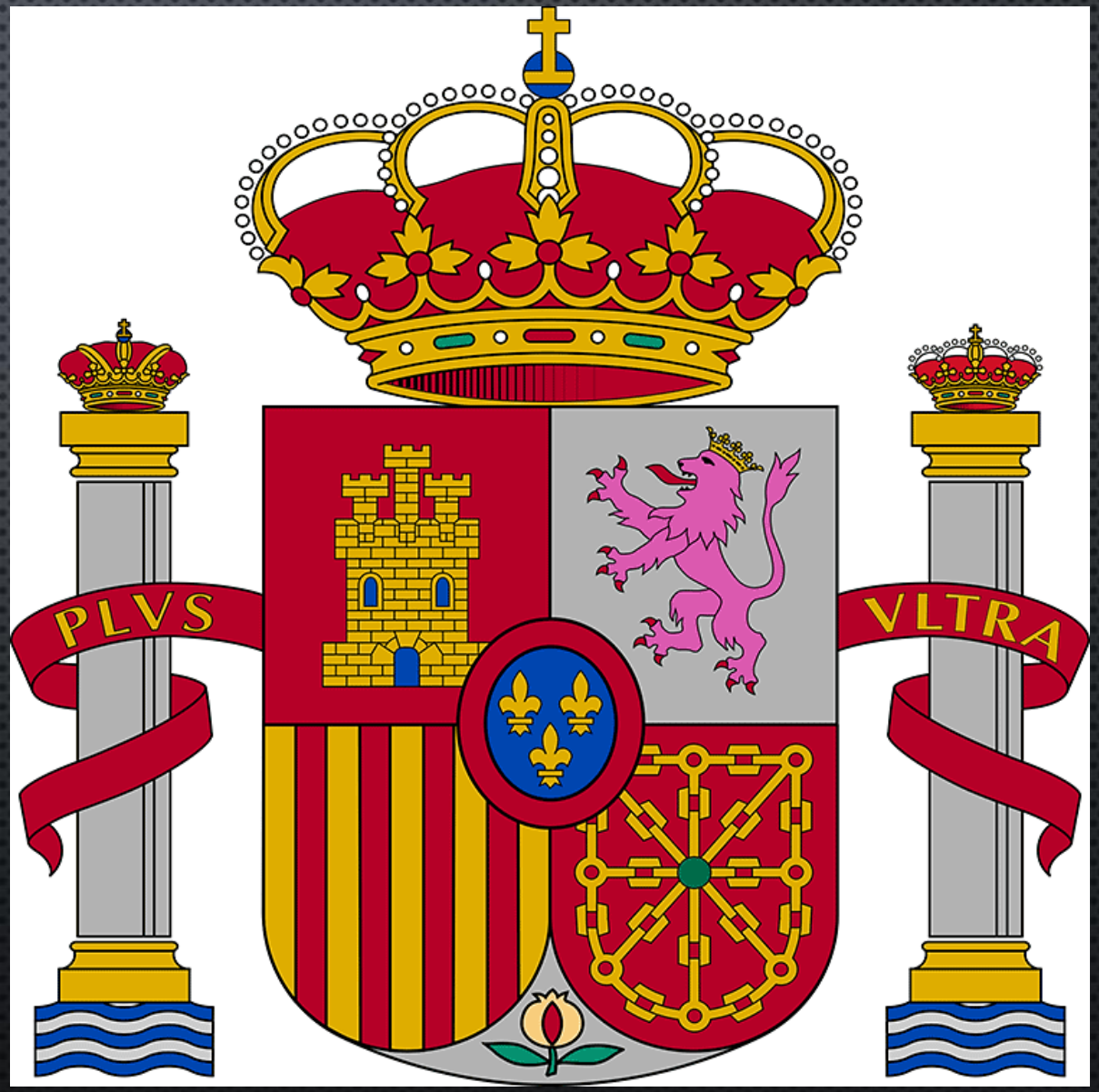
SINCE 1975, SPAIN HAS HAD A *KING* WHO ONLY DOES WHAT THE CONSTITUTION ALLOWS HIM TO. FOR EXAMPLE, THE KING CAN DECLARE A WAR, BUT ONLY IF THE GOVERNMENT ASKS HIM TO DO SO.

- ON 2 JUNE 2014, JUAN CARLOS I ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD ABDICATE IN FAVOUR OF HIS SON, FELIPE VI. THE DATE OF ABDICATION AND HANDOVER TO FELIPE OCCURRED ON 19 JUNE 2014. HE AND HIS WIFE KEPT THEIR TITLES.

King Felipe VI and Quinn Letizia

SYMBOLS :

THE RED AND GOLDEN-YELLOW COLORS OS SPAIN'S FLAG WERE FIRST USED IN THE LATE 1700S BY THE KING OF SPAIN, AS HE TRIED TO EASILY DIFFERENTIATE HIS SHIPS FROM THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE **COAT OF ARMS OF SPAIN** SYMBOLIZES THE COUNTRY AND THE NATION.

LA MARCHA REAL- ROYAL MARCH IS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF SPAIN- IT HAS NO OFFICIAL WORD.