**Reasons for Failure**

English Strength – better fire power, smaller, faster more manoeuvrable ships. Spanish Weaknesses – Cannons of poor quality the D of MS lacked experience. Tactics – Crescent formation broken, fireships were decisive. Weather- north wind as well as severe storms.

**Results of the Armada**

War with Spain continued for ten years. Still a Spanish Army under Parma Phillip planned a second Armada which was twice blown back by storms. England carried on supporting Dutch. English sea dogs continued to attack treasure ships in the Spanish main.

**The Arrival of the Armada**

The Start: 29 July- Warning beacons set off. Sailed in a crescent formation. 6 August- Armada anchored off Calais, having lost two ships.

Calais and the fireships- Parma’s army was not ready due to Dutch rebellion. Drake took advantage, releasing 8 unmanned, full of tar, gunpowder and cannons into the harboured Spanish fleet. Spanish ships, forced to cut anchors in escape, breaking their formation. Battle of the gravelines (8 August)- A turning point, wind forced Spanish to go north. Pursuing the Armada North- it lacked accurate sea charts. 2 Ships wrecked of Scotland and 25 off Ireland, only 67 of 130 returned to Spain.

**Threat Posed by the Armada**

English land forces = weak and didn’t know where to be. English soldiers were poorly trained and unequipped. English navy = main line of defence. Led by Effingham, Drake and Hawkins. Spanish fleet was much bigger 130 galleons, 30,000 sailors compared to England’s 54 battleships.

Elizabeth set up a line of beacons on coast. She gave a rousing speech at Tilbury.

**Philip’s Preparation of the Armada**

**Philip’s Plan-** First planned in 1586, Philip ordered the construction of the Armada. St to sail North from Lisbon, destroy English fleet in the channel then anchor off at Calais. It would protect the Duke of Parma’s 17,000 army to land at Margate. Parma’s army would march to London then overflow Elizabeth.

**Drake’s attack on Cadiz-** Drake led a fleet, destroying key timber supplies which were going to be used for barrels in the Armada. This impacted on the food supplies. Drake ‘Singed the king of Spain’s beard’ delaying the A by 1 year.

**Changes to the Plan-** Phillip ignored advisors to delay the launch. In February 1558, the admiral died and Phillip appointed the Duke of Medina Sidonia who wasn’t qualified for the job and got seasick. After the fleet departed, it was met by a huge storm.

**Reasons for the Spanish Armada**

**Ambitions of King Phillip II of Spain** – 1554, Phillip married Mary Tudor. 1555, Phillip became king. He wanted to disturb the expansion of Protestantism in Europe. 1556, Phillip became co-ruler of England. 1558, Mary’s death end Phillip’s right to the throne. In 1559, Elizabeth passed her religious settlement, creating a protestant church. Phillip planned a holy crusade to re-establish Roman Catholic faith in England.

**War in the Netherlands** – in 1556, there was a revolt against the Spanish rule by Dutch protestants. Phillip sent 10,000 troops to the Netherlands under the Duke of Alba. The rebellion was put down ruthlessly, over 1000 rebels burnt to death, Elizabeth had supplied them with money and weapons. In 1575, a second rebellion started, by 1579 which split the country into two. One by William of Orange and one by Spain. Phillip appointed a new commander, the Duke of Parma and following the assassination of William, Elizabeth agreed a **‘Treaty of Nonsuch’** which meant England would protect the Dutch Protestants and sent an army of 5000 under the Earl of Leicester. England and Spain were now in a state of undeclared war.

**Actions of English Privateers (pirates) in the Spanish Main** – Elizabeth encouraged them, one of the most successful was Sir **Francis Drake**. From 1577-1580 Drake sailed in the Golden Hind, stealing £140,000 worth of riches (200 million today). King Phillip ordered Drake to be executed, Elizabeth knighted him in 1581. When war with Spain broke out, Drake was sent to the West Indies to disrupt trade routes.

The Spanish Armada