

# French Invasion of Spain

1808 - 1813

# How the Revolution Started

- On February 16, 1808, under the pretext of sending reinforcements to the French army occupying Portugal, French Emperor **Napoleon Bonaparte** invaded Spain. Thus began the Peninsular War, an important phase of the Napoleonic Wars.
- During the first few weeks after their 1808 invasion of Spain, French forces captured Pamplona and Barcelona and on March 19 forced King Charles IV of Spain to abdicate.
- In early May, Madrid revolted, and on June 15 Napoleon's brother, Joseph, was proclaimed the new king of Spain, leading to a general anti-French revolt across the Iberian Peninsula.

- A British expeditionary force under Arthur Wellesley, landed on the Portuguese coast to expel the French from the Iberian Peninsula.



- By October 1813, the Iberian Peninsula was liberated, thanks to British troops under the duke of Wellington with the aid of Spanish guerrillas.



# Major Events - Dos y tres de mayo

- Marshal Joachim Murat prepared to remove the children of the royal family to **France**.
- A crowd assembled around the royal palace in an attempt to physically stop the removal of the children. On hearing this, Murat dispatched a grenadier battalion of the Imperial Guard and a battery of **artillery** to clear a way for the royal departure; when the French guns opened up on the Spanish, the protest was transformed into outright rebellion. French **cavalry** then charged through the streets quelling the protest with their swords.





# The Constitution of Cadiz, 1812

- The Constitution of Cadiz gave Spain a strictly limited monarchy (the king must work through his responsible ministers), a single-chamber parliament with no special representation for the church or the nobility, and a modern centralized administrative system based on provinces and municipalities.



# Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9phd8FU6IA>