

# Strong Monarchies in Spain and Scandinavia

A decorative graphic element consisting of a solid red horizontal bar that spans the width of the slide. Below this bar, on the right side, there are several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors, including red and white, creating a stepped or layered effect.

# Muslim Spain

- 700's – Muslim armies conquer all of Spain
  - Except for a few small kingdoms in northern Spain
  - Jewish communities benefited from Muslim tolerance
  - Very prosperous cities like Cordova (trade centres)
  - Peaceful contacts between Muslims, Christians, and Jews

# The *Reconquista*

- Christian Spain's crusade to force out the Muslims in the 1100's and 1200's
- By 1250 only the southern kingdom of Granada remained
- 3 Christian kingdoms controlled the rest of the Iberian peninsula:
  - Portugal
  - Castile (central Spain)
  - Aragon (northeast)
- During the *Reconquista* local Spanish nobles acquired great power
  - Spain remained prosperous and tolerant

# Ferdinand and Isabella

- 1469: Queen Isabella of Castile married Ferdinand, heir to the Kingdom of Aragon
  - United most of Spain
  - Moved to take control away from nobles
  - Limited power of the Cortes
  - Made the Church a powerful ally
- 1492: Granada captured by Christian army
  - Ignites nationalistic feelings among Christians who unite behind Ferdinand and Isabella

# Ferdinand and Isabella

- Religious policy:
  - Ended policy of religious tolerance
  - Ordered Muslims and Jews to convert or leave
    - Many economic and artistic leaders left
  - Used the Inquisition to increase power and enforce their religious policy
    - Heretics were burned at the stake
    - Created atmosphere of suspicion and intolerance
- No one would challenge the authority of the Spanish monarchs

# Nations of Scandinavia

- Great lords competed with kings for power
- Close ties bound ruling families of:
  - Denmark
  - Norway
  - Sweden
- Clashes over boundaries and trade rivalries led to constant warfare
- At various times strong rulers united the people of Scandinavia:
  - 1017: Danish king Canute
  - 1387: Queen Margrete of Denmark