

Apply your skills

Historical map reading

The Treaty of Utrecht, signed in 1713, ended the War of Succession, but meant the loss of hegemony for the Spanish Crown in Europe.

European territory that belonged to Spain was ceded to the powers that had challenged Philip V. Furthermore, Britain imposed its vision of a new international order, governed by the idea of the balance of power, according to which no continental state should exert excessive territorial power. Therefore, France's attempts to increase its power in the continent were slowed down and commercial opportunities arose in France and Spanish America. Ultimately, it marked the end of the Spanish Empire of the Hapsburgs and the beginning of British hegemony.

EUROPE AFTER THE TREATY OF UTRECHT



GUIDE FOR ANALYSIS

a) Presentation of the map

- What historical moment is represented? What year is it? What territories are shown on the map?
- What do the colours indicate? And the line of the legend?

b) Description and analysis

- What territories did the Hispanic monarchy lose after the Treaty? What countries benefited?
- What war did the Treaty end? What caused it?
- Indicate what interests were at stake in the war.

c) Interpretation and historical context

- What position did the Spanish monarchy find itself in from an international perspective, compared with the two previous centuries?
- After the Treaty was signed, which European power remained Spain's only ally?
- Explain what the geopolitical term 'balance of powers' means.
- Which countries were the biggest beneficiaries of the Treaty of Utrecht?
- What did the Treaty mean for the Spanish Empire? Which country became more powerful?