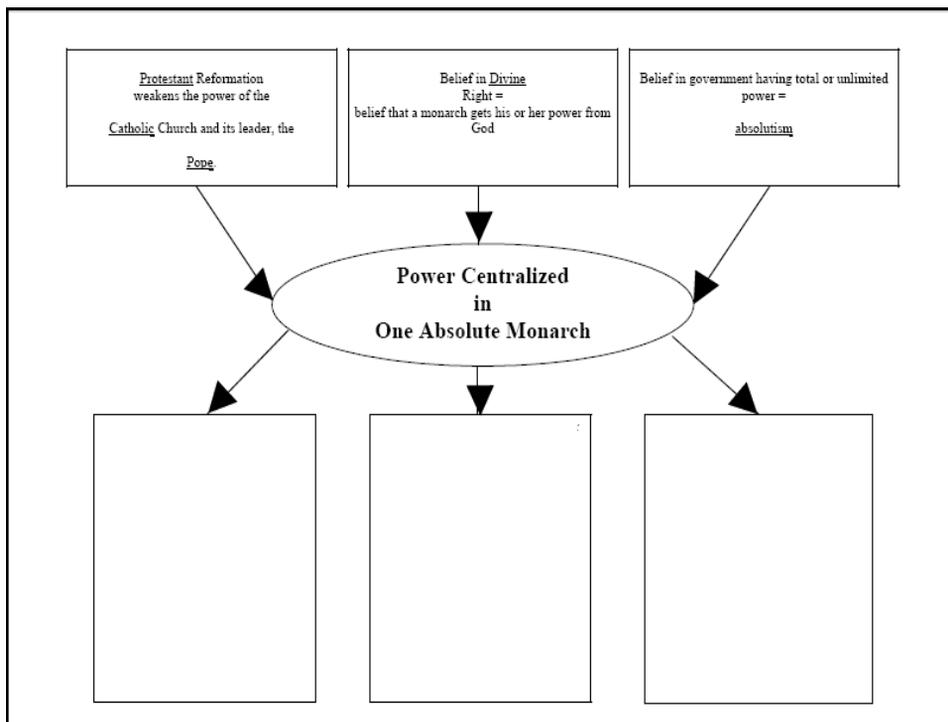


The Age of Absolutism Vs. Limited Government in Europe 1600-1715

•Essential Questions:

- What were the defining characteristics of an absolute monarchy?
- How did the Constitutional monarchy in England differ from France's?
- What were the sources of political instability which threatened the reigns of European monarchs?



Europe during the Age of Absolutism



The Thirty Year's War and the Path to Absolute Power

- **The Thirty Years Wars** was largely caused by religious conflict between Catholics and Protestants.
- Most of the war was fought in Germany and involved most European powers, with the exception of England.
- **Treaty of Westphalia** (1648)—ended the war, recognized Calvinism as among the official religions, and divided up the Holy Roman Empire into more than 300 separate states.
- Changed the way countries dealt with one another – national sovereignty was respected for the first time
- England and France emerged as the two dominant powers of the 17th Century and led the revolutions in science, philosophy and political theory.
- England and France, however, developed two different types of government.



Absolute Monarchs

From: France



Louis XIV

From: Russia



Peter the Great

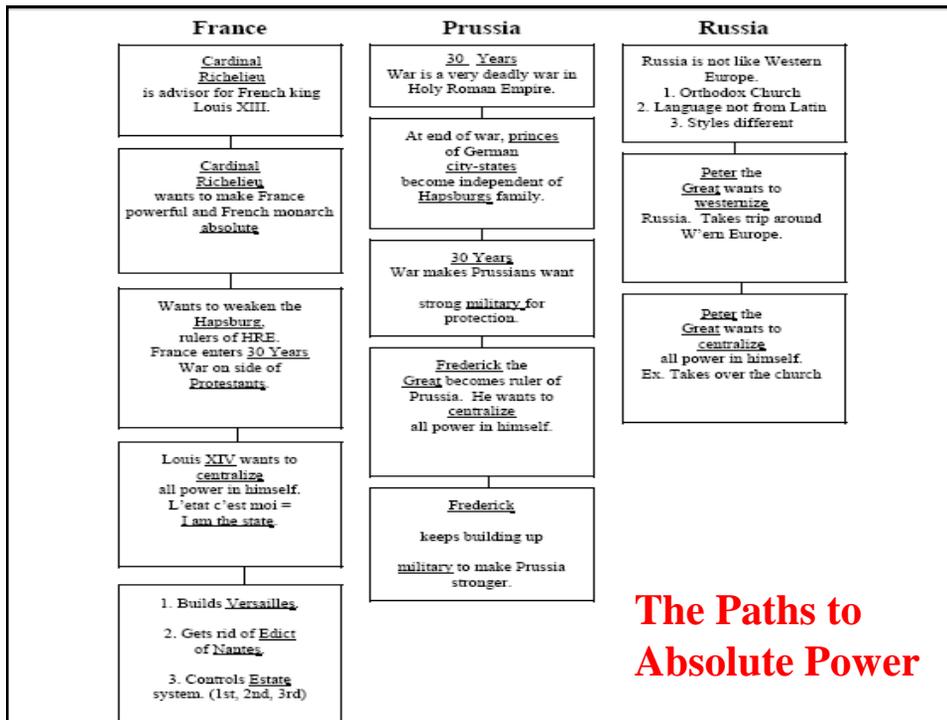
From: Prussia



Frederick the Great

~~What limits were on their power?~~

No limits – they can do anything they want



The Paths to Absolute Power



Absolutism in France

- **Absolutism** meant that the monarch had absolute power and control over his subjects.
- **Louis XIV**, the “Sun King,” epitomized the absolutist belief that the monarchy personified the state
- Absolutism was created under **Cardinal Richelieu** who secularized France and fostered loyalty to the French state.



Young Louis XIV



Absolutism in France cont.

- **Cardinal Richelieu** centralized power by alienating the nobility
- The greatest threat to the monarchy was the nobility
- Monarchs created standing armies for the first time
- Louis XIV built the Palace of Versailles as a testament to his power and used it to gain control of the nobility.



Government under Louis XIV

- It is often seen as one of the first modern governments.
 - its system of councils to control the real ruling of the country
 - Intendants - royal officials in provinces gives central control of the entire country.
 - Its establishment of a standing army which Louis used in a series of expensive wars. This gives him great power.

Influence of Louis XIV's Government and Style

- Versailles and Louis' government were admired in Europe and it was copied everywhere; French became the language of many courts - eg Russia (ref. Tolstoy: *War and Peace*). Copycat Palaces built all over Europe: Vienna/Schonbrunn, St. Petersburg, Berlin.



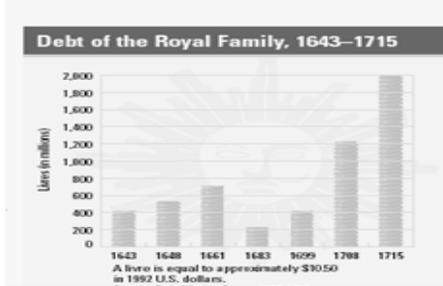
Fiscal Policy--Mercantilism

- Important both in explaining how Europe came to expand overseas, and certain elements in the outbreak of the French Revolution.
- **Jean-Baptiste Colbert** (1619-1693) - Finance minister. Colbert's aim was to have a trade balance in France's favor.
- **Mercantilism** —to create a favorable balance of trade, especially with colonies
 - It centralizes economy + close government control.
 - Relieves the need for direct taxes. Problem: Nobles would not pay tax. This was not solved.
 - France remained under-taxed.
 - Expansion abroad - emphasis on exports and getting bullion into the country.
 - Trade is needed especially by absolutist governments as it enables indirect taxes to be raised - which are necessary without parliaments.
 - Expansion of Mercantile empires in India, North America and above all the West Indies.



King Louis XIV and the French Royal Debt

Using the information provided below, answer the following questions.



Year	U.S. National Debt (in billions of dollars)
2000	\$5,674
1990	\$3,233
1980	\$830
1970	\$389
1960	\$290
1950	\$257

- What was the lowest debt figure for the French from 1643–1715?
_____ In which year did this debt level occur?

- What was the highest debt figure for the French from 1643–1715?
_____ In which year did this debt level occur?

- What was the highest debt figure for the U.S. from 1950–2000?
_____ In which year did this debt level occur?

- How much did the French debt increase from 1683 to 1715?

- How much did the American debt increase from 1950 to 2000?

- Compare France's highest debt level to America's. Whose is higher?
By how much? _____
- What might explain France's sudden rise in debt between 1683 and 1715?
_____. Using your textbook identify any major events (their dates and their impact) that may explain such a drastic rise.



Versailles and Ritual

- *Louis XIV* used to bring all the important nobility to his court." This deprived them of power - as did a very expensive lifestyle. [cf. Philip II and the Escorial]
- Note etail of manners and ritual. Different ways to open a door etcetera. Aim was to impress. Half Louis' income went on Versaille but it gave him power.



Louis XIV's Carriage



The Bourbon Family Crest



L'ouis XIV as Apollo



L'ouis XIV as Apollo



by Jean Nocret, 1670



The Sun Symbol



Versailles Today



Palace of Versailles



Palais de Versailles



Palais de Versailles—The Orangery



Gardens at Versailles



Fountains, Fountains, and More Fountains!



And More Fountains!



And Even More Fountains!!!



The King's Bed



The Queen's Bed



Louis XIV and Religion

- The Position of the Church as State within a State
 - Divine Right was important in Louis' ideas.
 - It is important to realize the power of the Church in France. It was like a state within in a state
 - largely independent of Rome
 - tax free
 - Church Courts had power over parts of life; for instance marriage and wills.
 - Louis supported the Church fervently.

Louis XIV's Chapel



Louis XIV's Chapel Altarpiece



Organ in Louis XIV's Chapel



Louis XIV's Opera Stage



Louis XIV Furniture



The Gallery of Battles



Versailles Statistics



- f 2,000 acres of grounds
- f 12 miles of roads
- f 27 miles of trellises
- f 200,000 trees
- f 210,000 flowers planted every year
- f 80 miles of rows of trees
- f 55 acres surface area of the Grand Canal
- f 12 miles of enclosing walls
- f 50 fountains and 620 fountain nozzles
- f 21 miles of water conduits
- f 3,600 cubic meters per hour: water consumed
- f 26 acres of roof
- f 51,210 square meters of floors
- f 2,153 windows
- f 700 rooms
- f 67 staircases
- f 6,000 paintings
- f 1,500 drawings and 15,000 engravings
- f 2,100 sculptures
- f 5,000 items of furniture and *objects d'art*
- f 150 varieties of apple and peach trees in the Vegetable Garden

Versailles Grande Galerie



- Daily routines at Versailles were exploited by Louis XIV
- The nobility competed against each other to perform menial tasks for the king

Palace Gardens



Louis XIV and the Arts

- Moliere, France's greatest playwright in the 17th Century
- Mocked and alienated the aristocracy in his plays
- Received support and funding from Louis XIV



Baroque Art



- Stylistically complex
- Meant to evoke emotion by appealing to the senses
- Bernini's sculptures captured figures in the state of intense emotion
- Rembrandt van Rijn rejected traditional arrangements for portraits by not giving equal prominence to each member of the group

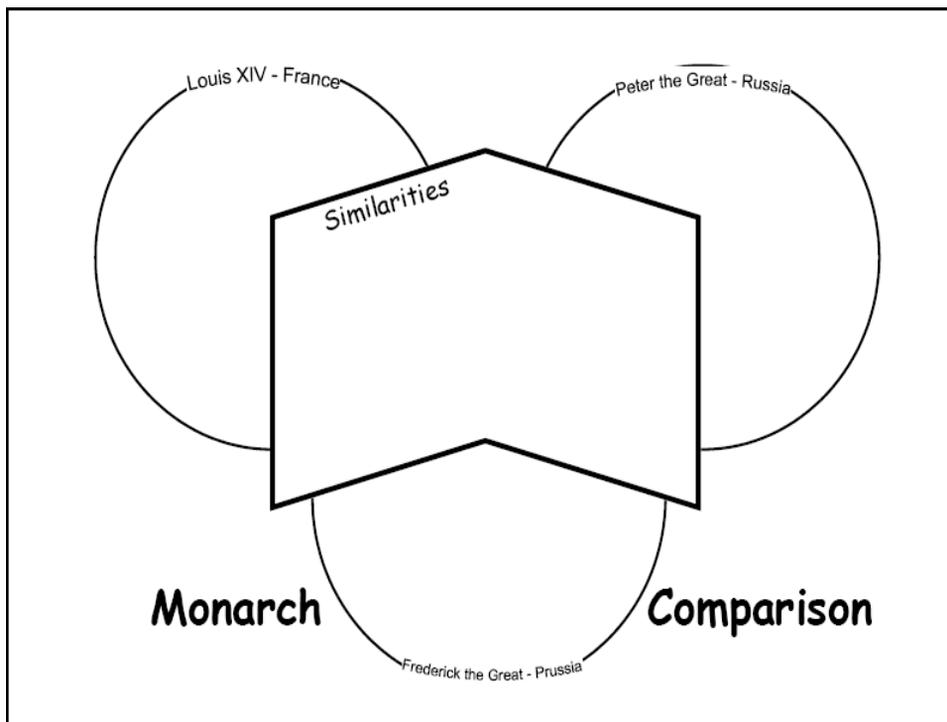
When does France's Absolute Monarchy End?

- During the period known as the Enlightenment in the 18th Century, several philosophers in England and France would develop ideas about the natural rights of citizens and the division of powers and responsibilities in government.
- Enlightenment ideas would inspire radicals in France to overthrow the monarchy under Louis XVI, marking the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789.
 - More details on this topic are to come....

Absolutism in Eastern Europe



- **Tsar Peter I** (Peter the Great) of Russia
- Modernized Russia through Westernization
- Taxed his subjects heavily to pay for his projects
- Killed 1000 members of streltsy when they tried to depose him





Each set of pictures represents a different absolute monarch. Write which monarch each set represents and tell why.

