Chapter 15 – State-Building and the Search for Order in the 17th C.

Social Crises, War, and Rebellion

1600: Population had increased for centuries (warmer climate, more food supplies)
1630s-1640s: decline of silver from the Americas resulted in recession
Spain and Italy most affected
Population decreased (“Little Ice Age”, war, famine, disease)

The Witchcraft Craze

Hysteria over witchcraft had been around for a long time
Tradition of village culture

The Spread of Witchcraft

Increased trials (maybe 100,000 people tried)
Frenzy spread
Confessions (often after torture)
  Allegiance to the devil, but more often spells to wish evil on neighbors
Rose in newly-Protestant areas
Coincidentally in regions where individualism was overtaking community spirit
Concentrated on old women who might sell herbs and potions after being deprived of local charity
  Reinforced by generally low opinions of women by those in power (church and civic)

Decline
mid-1600s, as a result of the devastation of religious wars
also, by 1700, it didn’t make as much sense to attribute things to hauntings, evil spirits

The Thirty Years’ War

Background to the War
  Struggle between militant Calvinism and militant Catholicism
  Largely fought within the HRE, but toward the end it expanded beyond
  Ended as a struggle between the Bourbons and the Habsburgs (both Catholic)
  Peace of Augsburg had recognized Lutherans – but not Calvinists
  Early 1600s: first the Protestant Union then the Catholic League were formed

The Bohemian Phase (1618-1625)
  Habsburg Archduke Ferdinand tried to Catholicize Protestant Bohemia
  The Defenestration of Prague
    Bohemia elected a Protestant replacement for Ferdinand
    HRE (with the help of Spanish Habsburgs) won and re-established Bohemia as “Catholic”

The Danish Phase (1625-1629)
  Danish king (a Lutheran) allied with United Provinces and England, and led an army into HRE
  He was defeated and Denmark lost what control of the Baltic it had had
  Ferdinand II (H R Emperor) issued Edict of Restitution
  Restored all Catholic land and property that had been taken, prohibited Calvinist worship

The Swedish Phase (1630-1635)
  Gustavus Adolphus (Swedish king and Lutheran) marched a well-disciplined army in HRE
  Pushed Habsburg forces into southern Germany
  1632: Swedish forces won at Lützen, but Gustavus Adolphus was killed
  Southern Germany remained Catholic and Ferdinand repealed the Edict of Restitution

The Franco-Swedish Phase (1635-1648)
  Cardinal Richelieu, chief minister of Louis XIII, pressed for war
  French defeated Spanish forces then Bavarian forces in southern Germany
  France emerged as dominant power in Europe

Outcomes of the War
  Peace of Westphalia assured German states could select their religion
  France gained land at the French-German border
  Habsburgs became figurehead H R Emperors
Pope wasn’t consulted
War was the most destructive to date (particularly in parts of Germany)

A Military Revolution?
1560-1650: “science of warfare” improves dramatically
Medieval knights and archers out of date
Replaced by: infantry with pikes and halberds in squares, firearms
Gustavus Adolphus was first to establish effective army of conscripts
Musketiers and pikemen, more mobile cavalry, lighter, more mobile artillery
Required better training and discipline, stronger coordination on the battlefield
Armies were more expensive, requiring heavier taxation and the establishment of bureaucracies to support it

Rebellions
Commoners resisted taxation; nobles resisted encroachments on their power
Peasant rebellions: France, Austria, Hungary, Naples, Sicily, Russia
Nobles’ rebellions: France, Sweden, Denmark, United Provinces

The Practice of Absolutism: Western Europe
Absolutism was conferred on rulers by the divine right of kings
God granted authority; therefore, it was to be unchallenged

Absolute Monarchy in France
Foundations of French Absolutism: Cardinal Richelieu
Both Louis XIII and Louis XIV came to the throne as boys
Capable ministers (Richelieu and Mazarin) played key roles
Cardinal Richelieu
Eliminated Huguenots’ political and military rights but kept religious ones
Made them more reliable citizens
Watched the nobles carefully; saw that independence from the crown was dangerous
Developed a system of spies
Strengthened centralized control by establishing intendants
Sent to the provinces to execute the king’s orders
Conflicted with provincial governors; prevailed in conflicts with them
Less successful at finances
Government was corrupt and expensive
Resulted in raising taille (annual land and property tax) by 250%
Thirty Years’ War was expensive

Cardinal Mazarin
Richelieu’s trained successor
Assumed the role when Louis XIV was crowned at age 4
The Fronde
Mazarin was a foreigner (Italian) and greatly disliked
nobles and masses of Paris allied with Parlement of Paris (court made up of nobles of the robe)
later (1650), the nobles of the sword (hereditary nobles) attacked Mazarin over issue of power
broke down when they fought each other instead of Mazarin
1661: died, leaving a 23-year-old Louis to rule by himself

The Reign of Louis XIV (1643-1715)
Changed his ways: from fun-loving Casanova to disciplined ruler
Set up a “grand and majestic” court at Versailles, set the standard that Europe was to follow
Called himself “The Sun King”

Administration of Government
Versailles was both his home and the center of government
Called nobles there and then had them fight each other for his favors
Was more successful with foreign policy, making war and peace, asserting power over the church
Less successful with internal politics (had been too complex for a long time)

Religious policy
“one king, one law, one faith”

1685: Edict of Fountainbleau – revoked the Edict of Nantes
destroyed Huguenot churches, closed their schools, prohibited their leaving France
perhaps 200,000 left France anyway – artisans and other middle-class
weakened France and strengthened England and the United Provinces

Financial Issues
He overspent (Versailles, wars, and maintaining his court)
Jean-Baptiste Colbert (finance minister) saved him
Believed in mercantilism
Improved the quality of French goods, enticed foreign artisans to France
Improved transportation infrastructure (roads, canals, merchant marine)
Raised import tariffs
Questionable as to whether it worked
Merchants got around regulations, Louis spent whatever Colbert could raise

Daily Life at the Court of Versailles
1668: After eight years and tens of thousands of workers, Versailles was completed
acted as home, reception hall, office building for government, home for thousands of government officials
became a symbol of the power of Louis and France
kept the nobles occupied in the highly politicized daily life there
lessened their power
daily routine, from rising until bedtime, was ritualized, and courtiers vied for Louis’s approval
who did what?, who sat where? When would the king see you?

The Wars of Louis XIV
Increase in royal power and desire for military glory led to continual need to wage war
Built an army of from 100,000 (in peacetime) to 400,000 (during war)

Four Wars
1667: attacked Sp. Netherlands, but was stopped in 1668 alliance of Dutch, English, and Swedes
 gained a little land
1672: attacked the Dutch, but was stopped in 1678 by alliance of Brandenburg, Spain, and HRE
 gained a little land
1689: attacked HRE, but was stopped in 1697 by alliance of Spain, HRE, Dutch, Swedes, and English
 gained Alsace and Lorraine during war but had to give most of it back
1702: War of Spanish Succession
 sickly Charles II of Spain died and left the throne to Louis’s
all of Europe (English, Dutch, Habsburg Austria, and German states) resisted new balance of power
1713: Treat of Utrecht allowed Bourbons to rule France and Spain separately
gave Spanish Netherlands, Milan, and Naples to Austria
gave rising Brandenburg-Prussia some land
gave England Gibraltar, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Hudson’s Bay Territory
1715: Louis died, outliving both his son and grandson; his great grandson took over (he was 5 years old)

The Decline of Spain
1596: Philip II went bankrupt; in 1607, Philip III went bankrupt, too
the army was out-of-date and the government was inefficient
the church was bloated, with too many priests and monks
the rich were out of touch, while the merchant class and peasants suffered
his first minister, a noble, used the government to amass a personal fortune, hired his relatives

Reign of Philip IV
For all the enthusiasm of the Count of Olivarres, the nobles were unwilling to give up any of their power
Thirty Years’ War depleted the treasury, destroyed the army
Peace of Westphalia formally recognized Dutch independence
Influence over the Spanish Netherlands diminished

Absolutism in Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe

The German States
The Rise of Brandenburg-Prussia
Based on the Hohenzollern family

*Frederick William, the Great Elector* (r. 1640-1688)
- Came to power in the middle of the Thirty Years’ War
- Established a strong, 40,000-man army
  - Heavy taxation to support it
- Established a government bureaucracy to support the army
  - Made a deal with the nobles for their acceptance
    - They were exempt from taxation
    - They had no restrictions on the way they handled their peasants
    - They received the highest ranks within the army and government
- Used standard mercantilist policies

Frederick I became first king-in-Prussia
- By H R Emperor in return for support in War of Spanish Succession

The Emergence of Austria
- Austrian Habsburgs “retreated” after the Thirty Years’ War
- Over time, added lands
  - 1500s: Bohemia and northwestern Hungary
  - 1687: Hungary, Transylvania, Croatia, and Slovenia (after defeating the Ottomans)
  - 1713: Spanish Netherlands, Milan, Mantua, Sardinia, and Naples (after War of Spanish Succession)
- However, the empire was “loose-knit” (many regions were politically semi-autonomous)

Italy: From Spanish to Austrian Rule
- 1540: Charles V gave Milan to Philip II, his son
- From the beginning, almost all of Italy was under Spanish influence
  - Only Florence, Papal States, and Venice remained relatively independent
- Used Catholic Church’s oppression to stifle dissent
  - Inquisition, the *Index of Prohibited Books*, and the Jesuits

After War of Spanish Succession, Austria became the dominant force in Italy

Russia: From Fledgling Principality to Major Power
- 1500s: Ivan IV (“The Terrible”) became the first “tsar” and expanded territory eastward
  - Crushed the power of the *boyars* (nobles)
- 1613: Michael Romanov – first of a dynasty that lasted 300 years
  - “Top-heavy” society: nobles were powerful; merchants and peasants not so much

The Reign of Peter the Great
- Tall (6’9”), strong, crude, and rude – also vicious (flogging, impaling, roasting, and beard-burning)
- After trip to the West, he was determined to Westernize Russia
  - Reorganize the army and navy
    - Standing army of 210,000; peasants were conscripted for 25 years
    - Reorganized the government
    - Built an administration that could rule while he was away with the army
    - Divided Russia into eight (later 50) provinces
    - Landholding class had to serve in the army or the government
      - Later non-nobles had the chance to advance through service to the crown
  - Adopted mercantilist ideas to pay for army and navy
    - When he couldn’t increase exports, he just raised taxes
  - Tried to introduce western etiquette
    - No spitting, scratching oneself, no beards or traditional long coats
  - 1721: tried to control the Russian Orthodox Church
    - Replaced the patriarch with his own *procurator*, who represented the tsar’s interests
    - Liberated women (a bit): dropped the required veil, could converse with men, marry whom they chose

Russia as a Military Power
- To be a power, it needed a warm-water port for its navy
  - Attacked Sweden (with the support of Denmark and Poland) and its young king, Charles XII
Was quickly defeated, but reorganized the army along Western lines
Eventually beat a weakened Sweden, acquired Latvia, Livonia and Karelia
Built St. Petersburg on a marsh at the edge of the Baltic Ocean
Built by peasants (many of whom died) and Peter commanded nobles, merchants to move there

**The Great Northern States**

**Denmark**

- King was limited by the power of the nobles who *elected* him
- Losses in Thirty Years’ War and Great Northern War with Sweden killed their ambition
- 1665: new constitution ended election by nobles, established an absolute monarchy

**Sweden**

- Kings – including Gustavus Adolphus (r. 1611-1633) – battled nobles
- Nobles were given greater role in the bureaucracy, freeing the king to wage war
- Queen Christina (r. 1633-1654) was more interested in philosophy than power
- Wanted to become a Catholic, so she abdicated
- Charles XI weakened the power of the nobles, built an absolute monarchy, strengthened army and navy
- Charles XII dominated northern Europe
- Waged too much war, drained Sweden, lost territory to Russia

**The Ottoman Empire**

- 1453: had conquered Constantinople, kept trying to gain European territory
- 1529: defeated at Vienna
- 1571 Turkish fleet defeated by Philip II’s armada at Lepanto
- 1683: defeated at Vienna
- Suffered through internal strife (often brothers who fought and killed over rights to the throne)
- Efficient bureaucracies, well-organized military
- *Janissaries* were Christian boys who had been captured, converted, and subjected to strict military discipline

**The Limits of Absolutism**

- Not as dominating or efficient as perceived
- Usually had to exert governmental power through local intermediaries
- Operated most efficiently by adapting the *old* system rather than creating a new one
- The nobles still played an important role in affairs
- In bureaucracies, legislatures, army, as judges and as large landowners
- In some places, they were able to limit the rule of the monarchs

**Limited Monarchy and Republics**

**The Weakness of the Polish Monarchy**

- Poland limited by its struggles between monarchs and the nobility
- The nobles elected the king and limited his power
- Practically, Poland was a confederation

**The Golden Age of the Dutch Republic**

- An Atlantic power
- 1581: “United Provinces of the Netherlands”; 1648 (and the Peace of Westphalia): “The Netherlands”
- Politics: each of the 17 provinces elected a *stadholder*, who led the army and maintained order
- William of Orange (*stadholder* in 7 provinces) pushed for centralized power, single hereditary monarchy
- Opposed by States General, which wanted decentralized government, separate hereditary monarchs
- 1672: under pressure, of war with England & France, William III (of Orange) asked to be hereditary monarch
- 1702: upon death of William, it reverted to a republic
- Economic prosperity built on shipping trade
- Eventual downfall based on wars with France and England, English challenge to commercial supremacy

**Life in Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam**

- By 1600: Amsterdam was commercial capital of Europe
- Population boomed because of immigration
  - Particularly from Spanish Netherlands
- Shipping: vast fleet, carrier of trade for other countries, invented of flat-bottom boat to ship large amounts
Port for Dutch East and west India Companies
Production of finished goods: cloth, sugar & tobacco products, glass, beer, paper, books, jewelry, leather goods
Supplied weapons to rest of Europe
Financial center: banking, stock exchange
The wealthy were largely simple Calvinists (“cleanliness is next to godliness”)

England and the Emergence of Constitutional Monarchy

King James and the Parliament
1603: upon death of Elizabeth, crown went to her cousin, James VI of Scotland (son of Mary, Queen of Scots)
he became James I of England
believed in the divine right of kings
Parliament was not enthusiastic
Used to sharing power with Elizabeth
Denied him increased taxes
Distrusted his religion: they were Puritans (Calvinists) who wanted him to abandon Church of England
He refused, seeing that as a political liability
Nevertheless, crossing the influential Puritans, including the gentry, was a risk

Charles I and the Move Toward Revolution
1628: Parliament passed the Petition of Right
prohibited taxation w/out Parliament’s approval, arbitrary imprisonment, martial law during peacetime
at first, Charles accepted it, then reneged
1629-1640: refused to call Parliament into session
Charles religion was suspect: he married the sister of Louis XIII of France, Henrietta Marie (a Catholic)
Allowed the Anglican Church to introduce more “popish” ritual into services
When it was imposed on Presbyterian churches in Scotland (Calvinists), they rose in rebellion
To raise troops (and pay for them), he had to call Parliament into session
Parliament tried to impose more limitations on Charles (particularly eliminating Anglican bishops)
Charles arrested some of the opposition

Civil War in England
1642-1646: Parliament was victorious
its New Model Army, composed of Puritans, was well-trained and disciplined
1646: captured Charles I
majority in Parliament was for freeing the king and establishing official Presbyterian state religion
army (of Puritans) opposed Presbyterian state religion, wanted to negotiate with Charles
Charles escaped and sought support of the Scots; Cromwell and army renewed the civil war
The Presbyterians in Parliament were purged, Charles was tried and found guilty of treason
1649: Charles was beheaded (regicide)

Cromwell and New Governments
Monarchy was abolished and a republic/commonwealth was declared
Cromwell, the army commander, crushed a Catholic uprising in Ireland and Presbyterian one in Scotland
Radical groups saw their opening
Levellers sought freedom of speech, religious toleration, universal male suffrage at 21, women’s equality
Cromwell dismissed Parliament
The army drafted a constitution (Instrument of Government)
Lord Protector (Cromwell) and a reconstituted Parliament
Cromwell dissolved Parliament and created 11 military districts
Resorted to force to deal with dissidents
1658: Cromwell died, eventually the army chose to summon the son of Charles I

Restoration of the Monarchy
Charles II recognized the need to ask Parliament for permission to levy taxes
Parliament restored the Anglican Church as the official church
Catholics and Puritans were forced to conform
But Charles was sympathetic to Catholicism (perhaps even one himself)
And his brother (and heir) James was openly Catholic
1672: Charles issued *Declaration of Indulgence*, restoring rights of Catholics and Puritans
1673: Parliament passed *Test Act* – only Anglicans could hold military and civil offices
Fears of a catholic overthrow led to creation of two parties
  *Whigs* wanted to establish a Protestant king
  *Tories* wanted to keep monarchy as it was (even though they disliked that James was a Catholic)
1681: Charles dismissed Parliament and ran the country on subsidies from France (Louis XIV)
1685: James II acceded to the throne
  named Catholics to high positions in government, military, and universities
1687: he reissued *Declaration of Indulgence*
  no instant rebellion, because he was old and his daughters were Protestant
1688: James’s second wife, a Catholic, gave birth to a son

**A Glorious Revolution**
Seven prominent noblemen invited William of Orange (James’ daughter Mary’s husband) to invade England
  He raised an army, invaded, and James fled to France “without a fight”
Parliament declared the throne “vacant” and invited William and Mary to be monarchs
  They accepted, agreed to right (later enacted as the *Bill of Rights*)
  Laid the foundation for a constitutional monarchy
Toleration Act allowed Puritans – but not Catholics – to freely worship
  Essentially, it ended the practice of religious persecution
Parliament demolished the “divine right” theory – it granted William and Mary the right to rule

**Responses to Revolution**
Thomas Hobbes (who saw the execution of a king) blamed human nature as “nasty, brutish, and short”
  He proposed a social contract: the ruler protects the people in return for their loyalty
John Locke (who participated in the Glorious Revolution) saw human nature as basically good
  Proposed “natural rights”: life, liberty, and property
  Governments are formed to protect people’s rights
  Governments protect rights in return for their reasonable actions toward the government
  If government breaks the contract, people have the right to form a new government
  *However*, Locke’s idea of “the people” extended mostly to the landed gentry

**The Flourishing of European Culture**

**The Changing Face of Art**

**Mannerism**
  Began in Italy in the 1520s and 1530s
  Altered perceptions of “balance, harmony, and moderation”
  El Greco (Spain) was perhaps the best example
    Elongated figures, painted them in unusual colors (e.g., blues, yellows)

**The Baroque Period (late 1500s - about 1750)**
  Embraced by Catholic Counter Reformation, Catholic monarchs
    The Habsburgs in Madrid, Prague, Vienna, Brussels
  Resisted by the French, English, and Dutch
    but eventually spread to all Europe and Latin America
  Highly dramatic, emotional content
    in architecture: magnificent, richly detailed
    in painting, exaggerated use of light and shadow
  Gian Lorenzo Bernini (sculptor and architect)
  Painters: Peter Paul Rubens, Artemisia Gentileschi

**French Classicism**
  An austere version of High Renaissance
  Nicholas Poussin drew upon mythological subjects

**Dutch Realism**
  Commissioned by wealthy merchants
  Subjects were a departure: merchants, landscapes, seascapes, still lifes
  Emphasis on realism
The Master: Rembrandt van Rijn
Biblical tales, portraits revealing character

**A Wondrous Age of Theater**
Theater in England mirrored the enthusiasm and adventure of the country as a whole

**William Shakespeare**
1592: Arrived in London
playwrights tailored their plays to the wide diversity of Elizabethan audiences
he was also an actor and a shareholder in a theatrical company
known for his linguistic brilliance and wondrous understanding of human psychology

**Spain’s Golden Century**
Any town of any consequence had a theater – even in the New World
Lope de Vega (1562-1635) set the agenda, wrote 1500 plays
Wrote to please the audience

**French Drama**
1630s: as Spanish and English drama faded, French drama rose
their plays were aimed at a more elite audience
they therefore depended on royal patronage
known for being clever and polished rather than emotional and imaginative
Jean-Baptiste Racine (*Phèdre, Hippolytus*) wrote neoclassical tragedies
Jean-Baptiste Molière satirized the religious and political climate of the times
Paris clergy were offended by *Tartuffe*, had it banned for five years