

15 – Absolutism and Constitutionalism

Key Concept 1.1: The worldview of European intellectuals shifted from one based on ecclesiastical and classical authority to one based primarily on inquiry and observation of the natural world

- III. The visual arts incorporated the new ideas of the Renaissance and were used to promote personal, political, and religious goals.
 - B. A human-centered naturalism that considered individuals and everyday life appropriate objects of artistic representation was encouraged through the patronage of both princes and commercial elites.
 - **Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Rembrandt**
 - C. **Mannerist** and **Baroque** artists employed distortion, drama, and illusion in works commissioned by monarchies, city-states, and the church for public buildings to promote their stature and power.
 - **El Greco, Artemisia Gentileschi, Gianlorenzo Bernini, Peter Paul Rubens**

Key Concept 2.1: Different models of political sovereignty affected the relationship among states and between states and individuals.

- I. In much of Europe, absolute monarchy was established over the course of the 17th and 18th centuries.
 - A. Absolute monarchies limited the nobility's participation in governance but preserved the aristocracy's social position and legal privileges.
 - **James I of England, Peter the Great of Russia, Philip II, III, and IV of Spain**
 - B. Louis XIV and his finance minister, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, extended the administrative, financial, military, and religious control of the central state over the French population.
 - C. In the 18th century, a number of states in eastern and central Europe experimented with enlightened absolutism.
 - **Frederick II of Prussia, Joseph II of Austria**
 - D. The inability of the Polish monarchy to consolidate its authority over the nobility led to Poland's partition by Prussia, Russia, and Austria, and its disappearance from the map of Europe.
 - E. Peter the Great "westernized" the Russian state and society, transforming political, religious, and cultural institutions; Catherine the Great continued this process.
- II. Challenges to absolutism resulted in alternative political systems.
 - A. The outcome of the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution protected the rights of gentry and aristocracy from absolutism through assertions of the rights of Parliament.

- **English Bill of Rights, Parliamentary sovereignty**
- B. The Dutch Republic developed an oligarchy of urban gentry and rural landholders to promote trade and protect traditional rights.
- III. After 1648, dynastic and state interests, along with Europe's expanding colonial empires, influenced the diplomacy of European states and frequently led to war.
 - A. As a result of the Holy Roman Empire's limitation of sovereignty in the Peace of Westphalia, Prussia rose to power and the Habsburgs, centered in Austria, shifted their empire eastward.
 - **Maria Theresa of Austria, Frederick William I of Prussia, Frederick II of Prussia**
 - B. After the Austrian defeat of the Turks in 1683 at the Battle of Vienna, the Ottomans ceased their westward expansion.
 - C. Louis XIV's nearly continuous wars, pursuing both dynastic and state interests, provoked a coalition of European powers opposing him.
 - **Dutch War, Nine Years' War, War of the Spanish Succession**

Key Concept 2.2: The expansion of European commerce accelerated the growth of a worldwide economic network.

- I. Early modern Europe developed a market economy that provided the foundation for its global role.
 - A. Labor and trade in commodities were increasingly freed from traditional restrictions imposed by governments and corporate entities.
 - **Market-driven wages and prices, Le Chapelier laws**
 - B. The Agricultural Revolution raised productivity and increased the supply of food and other agricultural products.
 - C. The putting-out system, or cottage industry, expanded as increasing numbers of laborers in homes or workshops produced for markets through merchant intermediaries or workshop owners.
 - D. The development of the market economy led to new financial practices and institutions.
 - **Insurance, Banking institutions for turning private savings into venture capital, New definitions of property rights and protections against confiscation, Bank of England**
- III. The European-dominated worldwide economic network contributed to the agricultural, industrial, and consumer revolutions in Europe.
 - A. European states followed mercantilist policies by exploiting colonies in the New World and elsewhere.

- B. The transatlantic slave-labor system expanded in the 17th and 18th centuries as demand for New World products increased.
 - **Middle Passage, Triangle trade, Plantation economies in the Americas**
- C. Overseas products and influences contributed to the development of a consumer culture in Europe.
 - **Sugar, Tea, Silks and other fabrics, Tobacco, Rum, Coffee**
- D. The importation and transplantation of agricultural products from the Americas contributed to an increase in the food supply in Europe.
- E. Foreign lands provided raw materials, finished goods, laborers, and markets for the commercial and industrial enterprises in Europe.

Key Concept 2.3: The popularization and dissemination of the Scientific Revolution and the application of its methods to political, social, and ethical issues led to an increased, although not unchallenged, emphasis on reason in European culture.

- V. The arts moved from the celebration of religious themes and royal power to an emphasis on private life and the public good.
 - B. Artistic movements and literature also reflected the outlook and values of commercial and bourgeois society as well as new Enlightenment ideals of political power and citizenship.
 - **Dutch painting, Frans Hals, Rembrandt, Jan Vermeer**

Major Themes and BIG Questions

Essay Topics:

- Analyze how the political theories of Bodin and Bossuet reflect France's political system during the 17th century?
- Analyze the extent to which absolutism developed in France under Henry IV and Louis XIII.
- Analyze the ways in which the absolutism of Louis XIV impacted the bureaucracy, the nobility, the peasantry, economics and religious issues in France.
- To what extent did the balance of power remain intact in Europe between 1600 and 1715?
- Analyze the role of mercantilism in France in the 17th century
- Analyze how the Baroque reflected the "Age of Absolutism."
- Analyze the causes for the decline of the Holy Roman Empire, Ottoman Empire and Poland-Lithuania in Europe during the 17th century.
- Analyze the military, political and social factors for the rise of absolutism in Austria, Prussia and Russia in the 17th and 18th centuries.
- Compare and contrast absolutism in eastern Europe with that of France in western Europe.
- Analyze the development of constitutionalism in England during the 17th century.
- To what extent were the Puritans successful in achieving their goals in England between 1642 and 1660?
- Analyze reasons for the failure of absolutism in England in the 17th century.

- Analyze factors that led to the rise of the Dutch Republic and its commercial success in the 17th century.

Essential Questions:

- What economic, social, & political crises did Europe experience in the first half of the 17th century
- What social and economic hardships were faced by peasants in the midst of the economic crisis?
- What is the Peace of Westphalia? Why is it historically significant?
- What are the main differences and similarities between absolute and constitutionalist governments?
- What was the outcome of heightened central control established by absolute and constitutionalist governments?
- How did the nature of armed forces change in the latter half of the 17th century?
- Compare & contrast the role of the nobility in medieval times with that of absolute monarchies.
- How did Henry IV and Cardinal Richelieu help create absolutism in France?
- What did Richelieu think about Protestantism?
- What was the Fronde and how did it influence Louis XIV?
- Describe Louis' role as a "divine Right" monarch.
- What were Louis' views on nobles and religion?
- How did Jean Baptiste Colbert use mercantilism to help the French economy?
- What was the result of Louis' constant wars?
- What led to the War of Spanish Succession?
- What was the Peace of Utrecht and why was the agreement significant?
- What principle factors lead to the collapse of the Spanish Empire?

- How did the Hapsburgs politically, religiously, and socially exercise their power in Austrian lands?
- How did Frederick William I centralize his power?
- What were Junkers, and how did Frederick William I deal with them?
- How did Ivan IV distance Russia from Western Europe?
- Describe the changes and successes and failures that resulted from Peter the Great's policies of expansion and westernization.
- How did European perception of the Ottoman Empire differ from the Ottoman perception of themselves?
- Describe the Ottomans unique mode of state and society
- How did the rule of James I and Charles I differ from Elizabeth I?
- Discuss the issue between Charles I and Parliament over taxes, the Long Parliament & Triennial Act.
- Discuss the English Civil War and its culminating event.
- Discuss Cromwell's rule in terms of parliament, religion, and mercantilism.
- What was to be the attitude of the state toward Puritans, Catholics and dissenters from the established church?
- What was the Glorious Revolution?
- Why was the Bill of Rights significant?
- How did the artistic and literary achievements of the era reflect the political and economic development of the period?

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VOCABULARY

[How many of these can you remember?]

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> absolutism | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Palace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sovereignty | <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Paul Rubens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jean Bodin | <input type="checkbox"/> Diego Velázquez |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Johann Sebastian Bach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bishop Bossuet | <input type="checkbox"/> George Frederick Handel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "divine right" of kings | <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Roman Empire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> three estates | <input type="checkbox"/> Ottoman Empire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Henry IV | <input type="checkbox"/> Suleiman the Magnificent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bourbon dynasty | <input type="checkbox"/> Janissary Corps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nobility of the sword | <input type="checkbox"/> Polish Kingdom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nobility of the robe | <input type="checkbox"/> liberum veto |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duke of Sully | <input type="checkbox"/> serfdom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louis XIII | <input type="checkbox"/> robot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinal Richelieu | <input type="checkbox"/> Hapsburg Empire (Austrian Empire) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>politique</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Bohemia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>intendant</i> system | <input type="checkbox"/> Austria proper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace of Alais | <input type="checkbox"/> Hungary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louis XIV, "Sun King" | <input type="checkbox"/> Leopold I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "L' état, c'est moi" | <input type="checkbox"/> siege of Vienna, 1683 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fronde | <input type="checkbox"/> Charles VI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinal Mazarin | <input type="checkbox"/> Pragmatic Sanction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> corvée | <input type="checkbox"/> Prussia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Versailles Palace | <input type="checkbox"/> Hohenzollerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edict of Fountainbleu | <input type="checkbox"/> Frederick William, the "Great Elector" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jansenists | <input type="checkbox"/> Junkers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mercantilism | <input type="checkbox"/> "king of Prussia" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bullionism | <input type="checkbox"/> Frederick William I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jean-Baptiste Colbert | <input type="checkbox"/> "Sparta of the North" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> balance of power | <input type="checkbox"/> Russia's Old Believers" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nine Years' War | <input type="checkbox"/> Romanov dynasty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> War of the Spanish Succession | <input type="checkbox"/> Muscovy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treaty of Utrecht | <input type="checkbox"/> boyars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treaty of the Pyrenees, 1659 | <input type="checkbox"/> Peter the Great |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schönbrunn | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Streltsi</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baroque | <input type="checkbox"/> Cossacks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gian Bernini | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Northern War |

- “Window on the West”
- Table of Ranks
- St. Petersburg
- Peterhof
- Winter Palace
- constitutionalism
- gentry
- House of Commons
- Stuart dynasty
- James I
- Charles I
- Petition of Right, 1628
- “Short Parliament”
- “Long Parliament”
- English Civil War
- Cavaliers
- Roundheads
- Oliver Cromwell
- Independent
- New Model Army
- Pride’s Purge
- “Rump” Parliament
- Quakers
- Interregnum
- Protectorate
- Restoration
- Charles II
- Clarendon Code
- Test Act, 1673
- Habeas Corpus Act, 1679
- James II
- “Glorious Revolution”
- William and Mary
- Bill of Rights
- constitutional monarchy
- parliamentary sovereignty
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Civil Government* (1690)
- Toleration Act, 1689
- Act of Settlement, 1701
- Act of Union, 1707
- Great Britain
- Cabinet system
- Prime Minister
- Robert Walpole
- Dutch Republic (Netherlands)
- stadholder*
- Dutch Reformed Church
- Arminianism
- Amsterdam
- Dutch East India Co.
- Dutch Style
- Rembrandt
- Johannes Vermeer
- Frans Hals