

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 into 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Southern Germany remained Catholic and Ferdinand repealed the Edict of Restitution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

Musketeers 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 Fontainebleau – 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 Olivares, 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