

◀ Painted in 1677, years before Mary became queen, court painter Sir Peter Lely's portrait of her already conveys a regal pride and self-assurance.

1550–1715

Conflict and Absolutism in Europe

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THE STORY MATTERS ...

In seventeenth-century Europe, absolutism was a reaction to instability. In England, the desire of King James II to practice his Catholic faith openly was opposed by Parliament, ending in the creation of a constitutional monarchy under the joint rule of William III and Mary II. Mary's life mirrors the conflicts of her time. Raised as a Protestant, she reluctantly overthrew her own Catholic father, James II.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What effect might social, economic, and religious conflicts have on a country?
- How would the exercise of absolute power affect a country?

LESSON 1

Europe in Crisis

LESSON 2

War and Revolution in England

LESSON 3

Absolutism in Europe

LESSON 4

European Culture After the Renaissance

Place & Time: Europe 1550–1715

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Europe was the scene of conflicts fueled by religious differences, along with political and economic rivalries. In some European nations, these conflicts led to the absolute power of a single ruler; in others, a constitutional monarchy developed. The cultural response by writers and artists of this period often reflected a spiritual search and an examination of the human condition.

Step Into the Place

Read the quotations and look at the information presented on the map.

DBQ Analyzing Historical Documents Explain why Parliament would be threatened if the king in England took actions like those attributed to Louis XIV.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“Whereas the late King James the Second [right image], by the assistance of diverse evil counselors, judges and ministers employed by him, did endeavor to subvert and extirpate the Protestant religion and the laws and liberties of this kingdom;...

That the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament;...”

—from the English Bill of Rights, 1689



PRIMARY SOURCE

“Louis XIV [left image] took great pains to be well informed of all that passed everywhere; in the public places, in the private houses, in society and familiar intercourse. His spies and tell-tales were infinite. He had them of all species; many who were ignorant that their information reached him; others who knew it; others who wrote to him direct, sending their letters through channels he indicated; and all these letters were seen by him alone, and always before everything else; others who sometimes spoke to him secretly in his cabinet, entering by the back stairs.”

—Duc de Saint-Simon, from *Memoirs*, 1694–1723



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Step Into the Time

DETERMINING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Choose an event from the European portion of the time line and predict its long-term political, social, or cultural consequences.





Europe 1650



1618 Start of the Thirty Years' War

1661 Louis XIV begins absolutist rule in France

1697–1698 Peter the Great visits the West

1623 Shakespeare's *First Folio* is published

1690 John Locke publishes *Two Treatises of Government*

1715 Louis XIV dies

1625

1650

1675

1700

1725

1630 English found Massachusetts Bay Colony

1644 China's Ming dynasty is overthrown; Qing dynasty succeeds

1680 Pueblo Rebellion temporarily overthrows Spanish rule in New Mexico

1682 La Salle claims Mississippi Valley for France

1707 Death of Aurangzeb, last great Mogul emperor