

Terms, People, and Places

- Absolutism
- Divine Right
- Edict of Nantes
- intendants
- Palace of Versailles
- courtier
- Louis XIV
- Peter the Great
- “Westernization”
- Boyars

Lesson Objectives:

- How did Phillip II extend Spain's power and help establish a golden age?
- How did France become the leading power of Europe under the absolute rule of Louis XIV?
- How did Peter the Great and Catherine the Great extend Russia's power?

Summary

“The Age of Absolutism”

In the 1500s and 1600s, several rulers in Europe sought to centralize their political power. Claiming divine right, or authority from G-d, leaders such as Phillip II in Spain, Louis XIV in France, and Peter the Great in Russia gained complete authority over their governments and their subjects. This trend led to absolutism, in which autocratic rulers had complete authority over the government and the lives of the people in their nation.

CHAPTER
16
SECTION 2
Section Summary
FRANCE UNDER LOUIS XIV

In the late 1500s, France was torn apart by religious conflict between French Protestants, called **Huguenots**, and Catholics. In an event called the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, thousands of Huguenots were slaughtered. In 1598, King **Henry IV** issued the **Edict of Nantes** to protect Protestants. This granted the Huguenots religious toleration and other freedoms.

After Henry's assassination in 1610, his nine-year-old son, Louis XIII, inherited the throne. Louis appointed **Cardinal Richelieu** as his chief minister. Richelieu sought to strengthen royal power by crushing any groups that did not bow to royal authority. In 1643, five-year-old **Louis XIV** inherited the French throne. When his chief minister died, Louis XIV resolved to take complete control of the government. He believed in his divine right to rule and even called himself the Sun King to symbolize his vital role within the nation.

Louis XIV expanded the royal government and appointed **intendants**—royal officials who collected taxes, recruited soldiers, and carried out his policies in the provinces. To fuel the country's economy, Louis's finance minister, **Jean Baptiste Colbert**, expanded commerce and trade. Taxes helped finance the king's extravagant lifestyle.

Outside Paris, Louis XIV transformed a royal hunting lodge into the grand palace of **Versailles**. The palace represented the king's great power and wealth. Elaborate court ceremonies were held to emphasize the king's importance. For example, during the ritual known as the *levée*, or rising, high-ranking nobles would compete for the honor of handing the king his shoes. The purpose was to keep the nobles in Versailles to gain their support and prevent them from getting too powerful.

Under Louis XIV, France became the strongest state in Europe. However, the country's prosperity began to erode. This loss of wealth was caused by some of Louis's decisions. He fought costly wars to extend French borders, but rival rulers resisted in order to maintain the **balance of power**. Louis also revoked the Edict of Nantes, driving over 100,000 hard-working and prosperous Huguenots out of France.

Review Questions

- How did Henry IV end religious conflict?

- What was the purpose of intendants?

READING CHECK

What were the main reasons why France lost economic strength?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *erode* mean in the underlined sentence? Do you know what *erosion* is? Use any prior knowledge you might have about the word *erosion* to help you figure out the meaning of *erode*.

READING SKILL

Identify Supporting Details How did Louis XIV strengthen the French monarchy? Identify key details that contributed to France's becoming the leading power of Europe.

CHAPTER
16
SECTION 5

Section Summary

ABSOLUTE MONARCHY IN RUSSIA

In the early 1600s, Russia was isolated from Western Europe and had remained a medieval state. It was not until the end of that century that a new tsar, **Peter the Great**, transformed Russia into a leading power.

To modernize Russia, Peter began a new policy of **westernization**—the adoption of Western ideas, technologies, and culture. Many resisted change. To enforce his new policy, Peter became an **autocratic** monarch—one who ruled with unlimited authority.

All Russian institutions were under Peter the Great's control. He executed anyone who resisted the new order. He forced the **boyars**—landowning nobles—to serve the state in civilian or military positions. Peter also stipulated that they shave their beards and wear Western-style clothes.

Peter pushed through social and economic reforms. He also increased Russia's military power and extended its borders. However, Russia still needed a **warm-water port**. This would increase Russia's trade with the West. The nearest port of this kind to Russia was on the Black Sea, but Peter could not defeat the Ottoman empire, which controlled the region.

Determined to expand Russia's territory, Peter also waged a long war against Sweden to win territory along the Baltic Sea. On this territory, he built a new capital city, **St. Petersburg**. It became the symbol of modern Russia. When Peter died in 1725, he left a mixed legacy. Although he had modernized Russia, he had used terror to enforce his absolute power.

In 1762, **Catherine the Great** ruled as an absolute monarch. She followed Peter's lead in embracing Western ideas and expanding Russia's borders. She was an efficient and energetic empress. Under her rule, laws were codified and state-supported education began for both boys and girls. After waging war, she defeated the Ottoman empire and finally won the warm-water port on the Black Sea.

In the 1770s, Russia, Prussia, and Austria each wanted Poland as part of their territory. In order to avoid war, the three kingdoms agreed to **partition**, or divide up, Poland. In 1772, Russia gained part of eastern Poland, while Prussia and Austria took over the West. Poland vanished from the map.

Review Questions

1. What did Peter the Great do to modernize Russia?

2. What were two achievements of Catherine the Great?

READING CHECK

Where was St. Petersburg built?

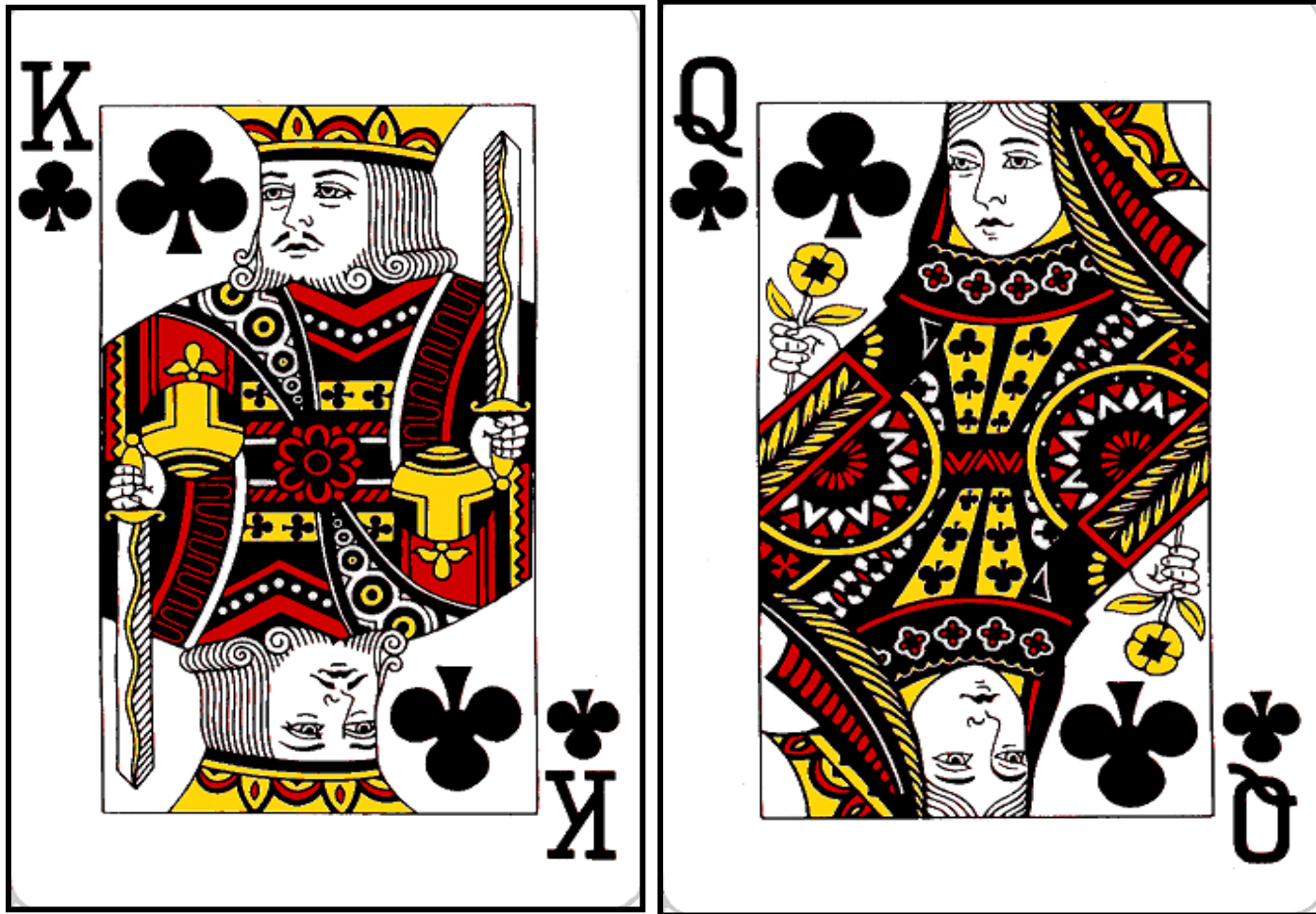
VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does *stipulated* mean in the underlined sentence? It comes from a Latin word that means "to bargain." Use this word-origins clue to help you figure out the meaning of *stipulated*.

READING SKILL

Identify Main Ideas Write a new title for this Summary that identifies its main idea.

Aim #25: How did absolute monarchs centralize power in Europe?



Balance of Power

* Three groups competing for power during Middle Ages:

* **Monarchs**

Nobles

The Church

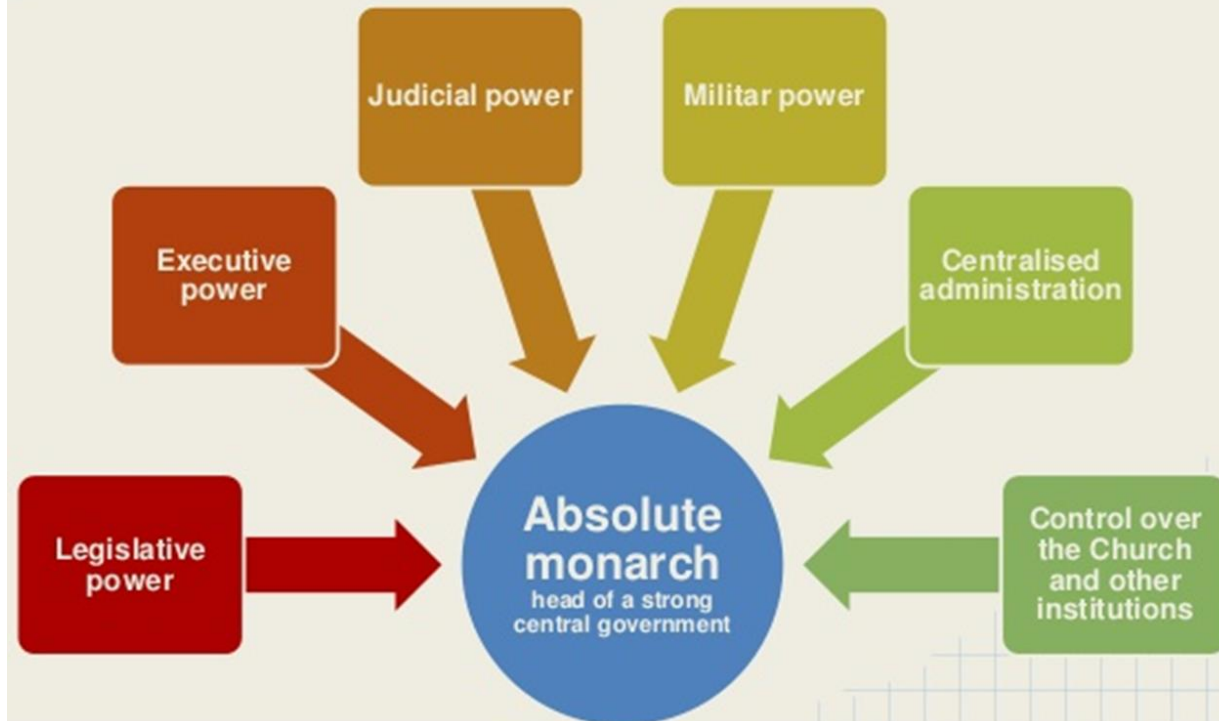


* All three had their own courts, armies, and tax collectors

Absolutism

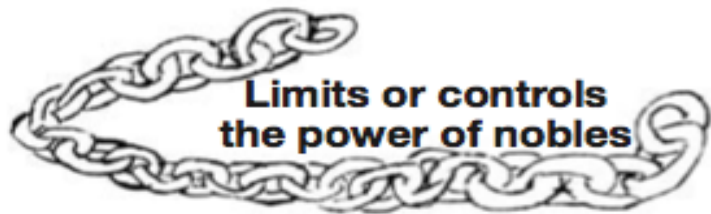


- The authoritarian monarchies evolved and became **absolute monarchies**.

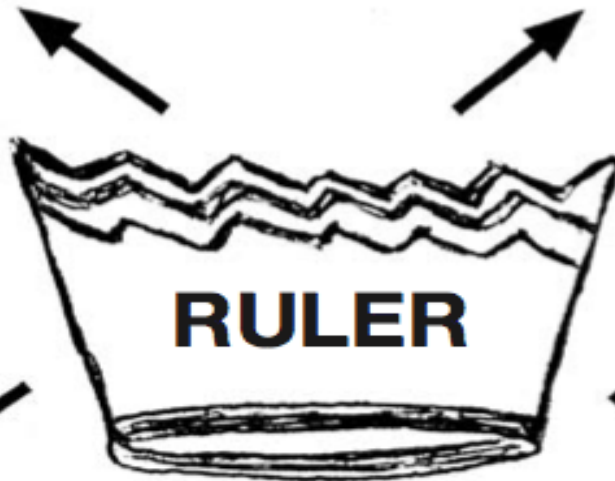




Uses armies to expand or consolidate borders under the ruler's control



Limits or controls the power of nobles



Makes the laws

Dispenses justice



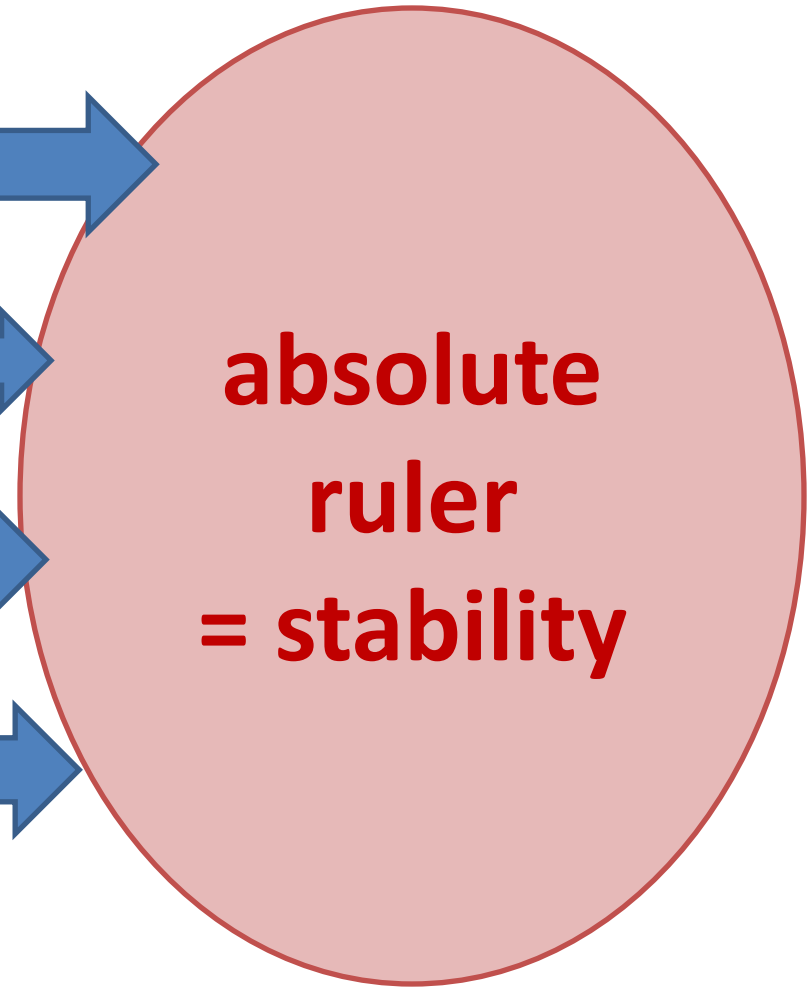
Controls religious authorities

Circumvents, ignores, or uses assemblies to approve or rubber-stamp the ruler's initiatives



Why Absolutism?

•



**absolute
ruler
= stability**

The Age of Absolute Monarchs, 1500–1800

	Philip II	Louis XIV (Sun King)	Peter I (the Great)	Fredrick II (the Great)
Country	Spain	France	Russia	Prussia
Dynasty	Hapsburg	Bourbon	Romanov	Hohenzollern
Dates	1527–1598	1638–1715	1672–1725	1712–1786
Religion	Catholic	Catholic	Eastern Orthodox	Calvinist
Domestic affairs	Expulsion of Jews and Muslims; arts golden age; heavy tax burden; massive inflation	Edict of Nantes repealed; royal debts and heavy new taxes; arts glorify king	Westernization program; raised women's status; heavy tax burden; improved education	Religious toleration and legal reforms; built huge army through taxation; supported industry
Wars fought	Defeated the Ottoman Turks; sent Armada against England; Dutch Revolt	Thirty Years' War; invaded Spanish Netherlands; War of the Spanish Succession	War with Sweden	War of Austrian Succession; Seven Years' War
Steps taken to increase power of monarchy	Seized kingdom of Portugal; built El Escorial; centralized decision making; tried to control the religion of subjects	Excluded nobles from councils; built Versailles as a symbol of royal wealth and power; increased power of intendants	Brought Orthodox Church under state control; reduced power of boyars; modernized army; built new capital at St. Petersburg	Created strong military state; reduced territorial assemblies; claimed to rule in subjects' best interests



Checkpoint

What are the basic characteristics of Absolutism & why were Europeans for it?

Palace of Versailles

- 8 millions square meters
- worth \$50-\$300 billion
- 700 rooms
- 5,000 pieces of antique furniture
- 6,000 notable paintings, w/ 400 sculptures
- 1,400 fountains



Louis "the Sun King" XIV

Kill those darn Huguenots

Increase the Army!!

What do you mean we're out of money!?!?

Invade Germany!!!

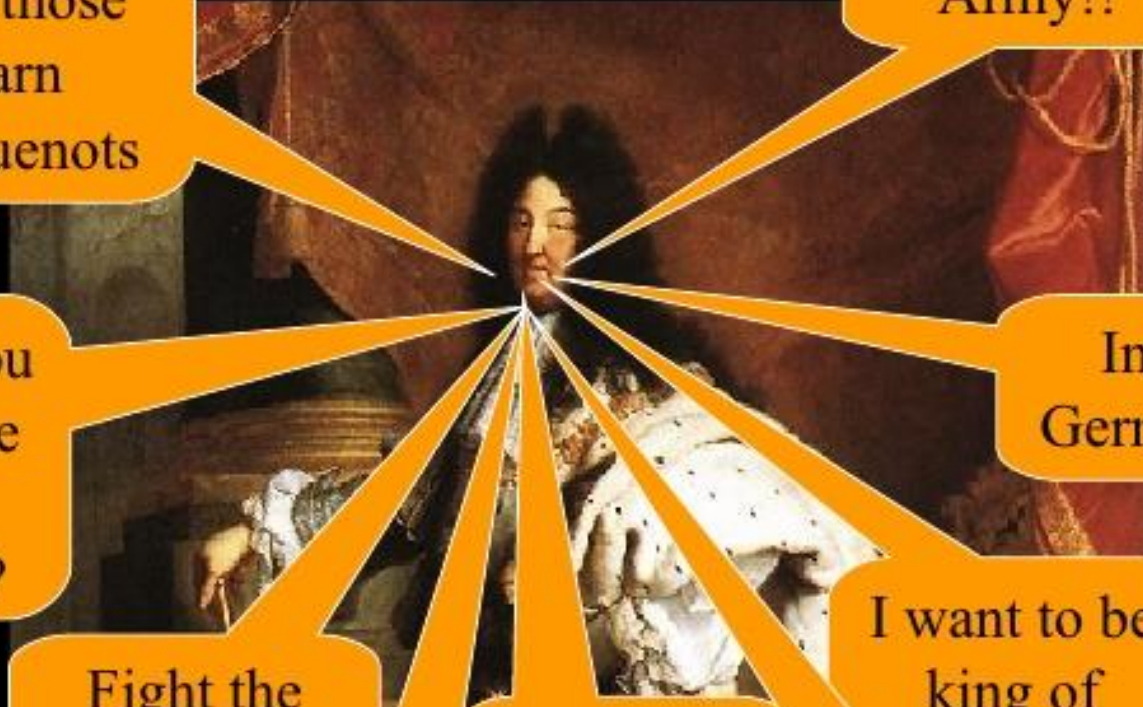
Fight the English!!

I want to be king of Spain too!

Build me a palace!!!

Fight the Dutch!!

Fight the Swedes!!!





GOVERNMENT

- Held absolute power
- Expanded bureaucracy, and appointed officials to carry out his policies
- Never convened Estates-General

ECONOMY

- Practiced mercantilism
- Promoted trade, imposed high tariffs on imports
- Encouraged industry
- Encouraged overseas colonies

WARS

- Massive army
- Set goal to expand French borders and dominate Europe, with some early success

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

- Persecuted Huguenots
- Revoked Edict of Nantes

VERSAILLES

- Immense palace
- Symbol of wealth and power
- Ceremonies surrounded everyday life

ARTS

- Sponsored musical entertainment and commissioned plays
- French artistic style became model for all Europe



Checkpoint

How did France become the leading power of Europe under the absolute rule of Louis XIV?

Peter the Great in Russia



(r. 1682-1725)



Peter cutting off boyar's beard



Exp
Peter
Swed
after
Boun
Battl

“Winter Palace”





Checkpoint

How did Peter the Great use absolutism to transform Russia?

The Age of Absolute Monarchs, 1500–1800

	Philip II	Louis XIV (Sun King)	Peter I (the Great)	Fredrick II (the Great)
Country	Spain	France	Russia	Prussia
Dynasty	Hapsburg	Bourbon	Romanov	Hohenzollern
Dates	1527–1598	1638–1715	1672–1725	1712–1786
Religion	Catholic	Catholic	Eastern Orthodox	Calvinist
Domestic affairs	Expulsion of Jews and Muslims; arts golden age; heavy tax burden; massive inflation	Edict of Nantes repealed; royal debts and heavy new taxes; arts glorify king	Westernization program; raised women's status; heavy tax burden; improved education	Religious toleration and legal reforms; built huge army through taxation; supported industry
Wars fought	Defeated the Ottoman Turks; sent Armada against England; Dutch Revolt	Thirty Years' War; invaded Spanish Netherlands; War of the Spanish Succession	War with Sweden	War of Austrian Succession; Seven Years' War
Steps taken to increase power of monarchy	Seized kingdom of Portugal; built El Escorial; centralized decision making; tried to control the religion of subjects	Excluded nobles from councils; built Versailles as a symbol of royal wealth and power; increased power of intendants	Brought Orthodox Church under state control; reduced power of boyars; modernized army; built new capital at St. Petersburg	Created strong military state; reduced territorial assemblies; claimed to rule in subjects' best interests