

# **ABSOLUTE RULERS**

## **EUROPE: 1500-1600'S**

HELPFUL TO UNDERSTANDING OUR  
PRESENT WORLD

- POLITICAL BELIEF THAT A MONARCH (ie. KING/QUEEN) SHOULD:
  - HOLD ALL OF THE POWER IN A COUNTRY (BE UNLIMITED)
  - CONTROL ALL PARTS OF SOCIETY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

**ABSOLUTISM: DEFINITION**

- POLITICAL BELIEF TIED IN W/ ABSOLUTISM:
- GOD CREATED MONARCHS
- MONARCHS ARE GOD'S "SPOKESPERSON" ON EARTH
- MONARCHS ANSWER ONLY TO GOD, NOT THEIR SUBJECTS

**DIVINE RIGHT: DEFINITION**

- MOST COUNTRIES GET ABSOLUTE RULERS BY 1500-1600'S
- **WESTERN EUROPEAN ABSOLUTISM** (ENGLAND, FRANCE, & SPAIN)
- **EASTERN EUROPEAN ABSOLUTISM** (AUSTRIA, PRUSSIA, RUSSIA)
- BIG DIFFERENCES BTWN THESE REGIONS (AFFECTS WORLD TODAY!)

**GEOGRAPHY:**

**AFFECTS ABSOLUTISM**

- **DYNASTY**: SERIES OF RULERS FROM A SINGLE FAMILY (“**HOUSE OF ...**”)
- **ENGLAND**: **TUDOR** ~120 YRS
- **FRANCE/SPAIN**: **BOURBON** 200 YRS
- **AUSTRIA/SPAIN**: **HAPSBURG** 500+YRS
- **PRUSSIA**: **HOHENZOLLERN** 500+ YRS
- **RUSSIA**: **ROMANOV** 300 YRS

**EUROPEAN DYNASTIES**: CENTURIES  
OF RULE HELP ESTABLISH ABSOLUTISM

- ABSOLUTE RULERS FACE CHALLENGES TO THEIR POWER:
- **NOBILITY**
- **RELIGION**
- **LEGISLATURES**
- **MONEY**
- **AGE OF RULERS**

**ROAD BLOCKS TO  
ABSOLUTISM**

- **NOBILITY:**  
THEY'RE ALL  
RELATED!
- NOBLES  
CONSIDER  
THEMSELVES =  
TO MONARCHS
- BELIEVE THEY  
ALSO COULD BE  
KING/QUEEN



**ARISTOCRACY: THEN & NOW**

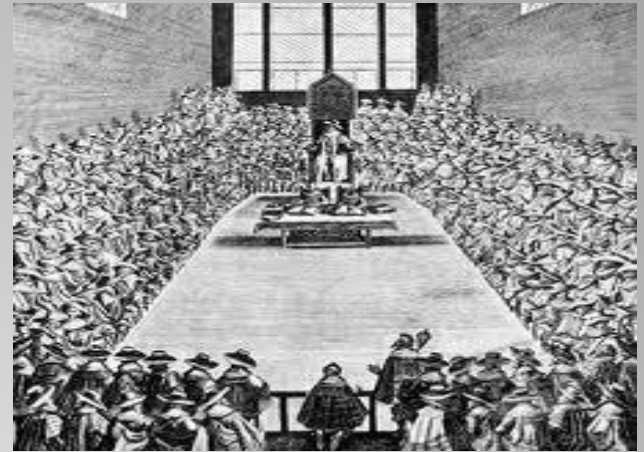
- **RELIGION:**  
CATHOLICS &  
PROTESTANTS  
FIGHT EACH  
OTHER
- SO . . . RULERS  
USUALLY WANT  
THEIR COUNTRY  
JUST 1 RELIGION



**30 YEARS WAR, ST.  
BARTHOLOMEW'S MASSACRE**



- **LEGISLATURES:**  
MAKE LAWS AND  
HAND OUT MONEY
- WANT A BIT OF  
POWER IN  
RETURN FROM  
KING
- WANT TO LIMIT,  
NOT DESTROY,  
KING'S POWER

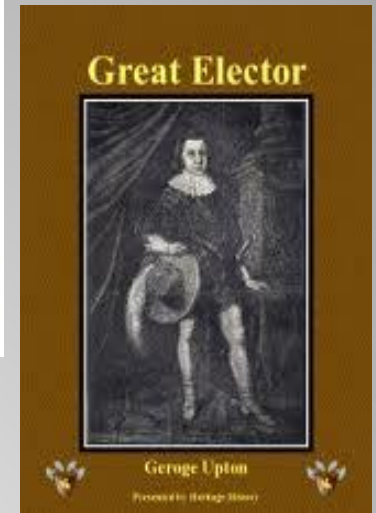


**ENG. PARLIAMENT &  
FRENCH ESTATES-GENERAL**

- **MONEY:**
- NOBILITY NOT TAXED
- CHURCH NOT TAXED
- SO MONEY HAS TO COME FROM PEASANTS AND MIDDLE CLASS
- TAXING TOO MUCH OR TOO OFTEN CAUSES PROBLEMS:
- REVOLTS
- LEGISLATIVE "PAYBACKS"

**ROAD BLOCKS TO ABSOLUTISM**

- MANY MONARCHS START RULING AT YOUNG AGE
- LITTLE EXPERIENCE; JUDGMENT LACKING
- NEED ADULTS TO HELP THEM RULE: USUALLY NOBLES!



**IVAN (TERRIBLE) 3; LOUIS XIV 4; PETER THE GREAT 10;  
FREDERICK (THE GREAT ELECTOR) 20; PHILIP II 27;  
MARIA THERESA 28; FREDERICK THE GREAT 28**

- PHILIP II  
INHERITS AND  
RULES:
- SPAIN,  
NETHERLANDS,  
NAPLES, SICILY,  
AND ALL OF  
SPANISH  
AMERICAS!



**ABSOLUTISM: SPAIN**



- GOLD & SILVER FROM AMERICAS MAKE SPAIN RICH
- BUT . . .
- FEW FARMERS, SO BUY FOREIGN FOOD
- FEW FACTORIES, SO BUY FOREIGN GOODS
- FEW BANKS, SO USE FOREIGN ONES
- ='s INFLATION! HURTS SPANISH ECONOMY



## **ABSOLUTISM: SPAIN**

- GOLD & SILVER  
**BUY HUGE ARMY  
AND NAVY**
- DUTCH REVOLT;  
NORTH WINS  
FREEDOM
- SPANISH ARMADA  
AGAINST ENGLAND  
1588 (THEY LOSE)
- SPAIN DECLINES  
IN 1600'S



**ABSOLUTISM: SPAIN**

- **BACKGROUND:**
- FRENCH PROTESTANTS & CATHOLICS FIGHT 8 WARS 1562-1598
- 1572 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY MASSACRE: 1,000'S HUGUENOTS KILLED

- FRENCH PROTESTANTS KNOWN AS **HUGUENOTS**



**FRANCE: ABSOLUTISM**

- HENRY OF NAVARRE (STARTS BOURBON LINE)
- EDICT OF NANTES 1598: OK'S FR. PROTESTANTS (& HENRY TURNS CATHOLIC)
- HENRY STABLIZES FRANCE

- LOVED BY FRENCH: ONLY STATUE NOT PULLED DOWN DURING FR. REV.



**FRANCE: ABSOLUTISM**



- WEAK LOUIS XIII BECOMES KING
- HELPED BY **CARDINAL RICHELIEU** (#1 MINISTER)
- INCREASES KING'S POWER BY ATTACKING NOBLES



**FRANCE: ABSOLUTISM**

- LOUIS XIV TAKES OVER 1643-1715
- **CARDINAL MAZARIN** → HELPS HIM TO BECOME MOST POWERFUL RULER IN FR. HISTORY
- HAS ANTI-NOBLE POLICIES



**FRANCE: ABSOLUTISM**

- TWO EVENTS  
SHAPE LOUIS XIV'S  
EARLY LIFE:
- **30 YEARS WAR**  
1618-1648
- **FRENCH CIVIL** —————→  
**WAR** 1648-53
- LOUIS **DISTRUSTS**  
**NOBLES** AFTER  
THIS

- THE FRONDE
- means "SLINGSHOT"  
(weapon of choice at  
1<sup>st</sup> in Paris)



**FRANCE: ABSOLUTISM**

- BUILDS **VERSAILLES**—  
MAKES NOBLES  
**LIVE THERE TO  
CONTROL THEM**
- PALACE SHOWS  
**ABSOLUTE POWER**  
TO FOREIGNERS
- OTHER RULERS COPY  
HIS LIFESTYLE



**FRANCE: LOUIS XIV'S POLICIES**

- “I AM THE STATE”
- LIVED SUCH A POWERFUL, SHOWY LIFE KNOWN AS:  
**THE SUN KING**
- EXACT DAILY ROUTINE, PATRON OF THE ARTS, FINE FOOD, CLOTHES, WIGS, HUNTS.



**LOUIS XIV**



- SENDS ROYAL OFFICERS OUT TO COLLECT TAXES, RUN LAW COURTS (INSTEAD OF NOBLES)
- **MERCANTILISM:** COLONIES & LUXURY MANUFACTURING MAKE FRANCE SELF-SUFFICIENT (\$)

- FRENCH FUR TRADE



**FRANCE: LOUIS XIV'S POLICIES**

- **WAR, WAR, WAR**
- LOUIS BUILDS UP- & USES- BIGGEST ARMY IN EUROPE
- WEAKENS FRANCE A LOT
- CAUSES SUFFERING, FAMINE, INFLATION

- WAR OF SPANISH SUCCESSION: 6+ COUNTRIES ATTACK FRANCE
- STOPS FRANCE & SPAIN UNITING



**FRANCE: LOUIS XIV'S POLICIES**

- **30 YEARS WAR**  
1618-1648
- 4 STAGES (NOT FULL 30 YEARS)
- **FOUGHT OVER RELIGION:**  
DEFENESTRATION OF PRAGUE
- CHANGES HISTORY OF EUROPE

- **HISTORY HINT:** IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT A WAR WAS FOUGHT OVER, **EXAMINE THE PEACE TREATY**
- **HISTORY HINT:** POLITICAL CHANGES ALWAYS BRING ON OTHER CHANGES: STAY TUNED FOR **SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION & ENLIGHTENMENT!**

## **EASTERN ABSOLUTISM (BRIEFLY)**



- **DEVASTATES GERMANY,**
- **HURTS H.R.E**
- **HELPS SETTLE RELIGIOUS ISSUES (LAST RELIGIOUS WAR IN EUROPE)**
- **STARTS MODERN STATE SYSTEM & AND WAY WE DO PEACE TALKS**



# OUTCOMES OF 30 YEARS WAR: TREATY OF WESTPHALIA 1648

- BASICALLY THIS IS **GERMANY** broken into 300 SEPARATE "PARTS"
- HAS HAPSBURG EMPEROR RULING W/ PRESTIGE BUT LITTLE POWER

- Hard to rule such big, diverse area.



## HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE: **BRIEFLY**

- SERFS IN WESTERN EUROPE BECAME FREE AT END OF MIDDLE AGES ("TOWN AIR MAKES A MAN FREE")
- MADE \$\$\$\$\$
- CHOSE OWN JOBS
- MARRY WHO THEY WANTED

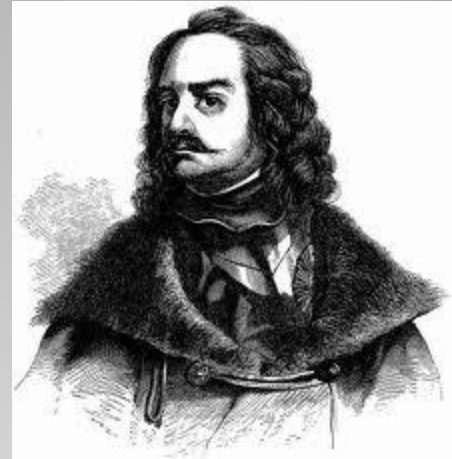
- EASTERN SERFS WERE TIED TO THE LAND (SOLD ALONG W/ IT)
- COULDN'T ESCAPE TO TOWNS (TOO FEW)
- WORKED FOR LITTLE REWARD
- TREATED VERY POORLY
- FORCED INTO LIFELONG JOBS (SOLDIERS, MINES, FARMING, FACTORIES)

## **WESTERN ABSOLUTISM VS EASTERN ABSOLUTISM**

- IVAN THE TERRIBLE RULED AT AGE 3
- MISTREATED BY NOBLES
- GOOD RULER AT 1<sup>ST</sup>, BECAME "TERRIBLE" AFTER HIS WIFE DIED (BLAMED NOBLES)
- LAID DOWN BASE FOR ABSOLUTISM
  - SECRET POLICE
  - SEIZED LANDS
- KILLED OLDEST SON, LEAVING RUSSIA IN "TIME OF TROUBLES"
- SOLVED WITH A **ROMANOV** RULER

## **RUSSIAN ABSOLUTISM**

- PETER THE GREAT  
RULES 1682-1725
- 6 FEET, 7 INCHES
- UNBELIEVABLY  
STRONG
- WILD TEMPER/  
SENSE OF HUMOR
- INTELLIGENT,  
CURIOUS,  
STRONG-WILLED



**RUSSIAN ABSOLUTISM**

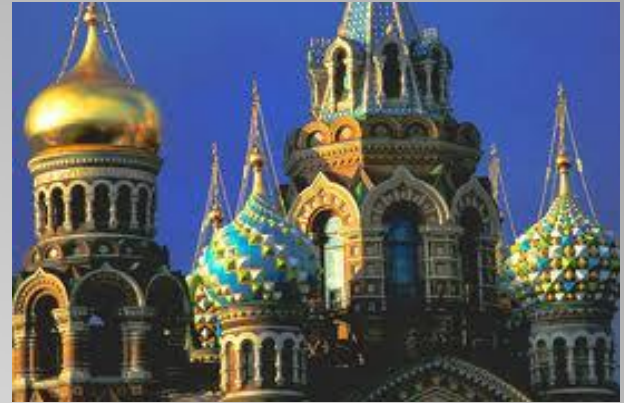
- 1600'S RUSSIA  
LIKE GERMANY IN  
1100-1200'S
- PETER WANTS TO  
CHANGE THIS
- VISITS WEST,  
BRINGS BACK  
TECHNOLOGY AND  
EXPERTS

- **WESTERNIZATION:**
- BRINGING WESTERN:
  - **SOCIAL**
  - **POLITICAL**
  - **ECONOMIC**
  - **SCIENTIFIC**
- IDEAS & GOODS  
INTO ONE'S COUNTRY  
WHILE **KEEPING**  
**COUNTRY'S OWN**  
**CULTURE IN PLACE**

**WHAT PETER DOES FOR RUSSIA**



- “WINDOW ON THE WEST”: BUILDS ST. PETERSBURG
- FORCES NOBLES TO **LIVE THERE** & LEAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL IN WEST
- PUTS ORTHODOX CHURCH UNDER GOV'T CONTROL



**WHAT PETER DOES FOR RUSSIA**

- **WAR, WAR, WAR**
- **BUILDS, & USES, HUGE ARMY**
- **EXPANDS RUSSIA TO BOTH SEAS**



## **WHAT PETER DOES FOR RUSSIA**



- **BACKGROUND:**
- ENG. KINGS COULDN'T TAX LIKE IN OTHER COUNTRIES
- HAD TO ASK PARLIAMENT FOR MONEY WHICH GOT SOME POWER IN RETURN
- ELIZABETH I ("VIRGIN QUEEN") DIES (NO HEIR)
- JAMES I (KING OF SCOTLAND & CATHOLIC) TAKES OVER PROTESTANT ENGLAND
- STARTS **STUART** RULE: 100+ YEARS

## **ABSOLUTISM ENGLAND: A A DIFFERENT STORY**

- JAME'S SON CHARLES I WANTS ENG. CATHOLIC
- CIVIL WAR starts!
- PURITANS (think Pilgrims) vs CATHOLICS
- KING CAPTURED, TRIED, & BEHEADED



**ENGLISH CIVIL WAR: 1642-1649  
(FRENCH CIVIL WAR 1648-53)**

- EXECUTION  
**SENDS A MESSAGE TO FUTURE RULERS**
- **O. CROMWELL:**  
STARTS SUPER STRICT,  
UNPOPULAR  
**MILITARY RULE**

- ENGLISH GET TIRED OF:
  - NO **DRINKING**
  - **DARK CLOTHES**
  - NO **DANCING**
  - NO **THEATER**
  - NO **SPORTING EVENTS**
- CROMWELL DIES
- ENGLISH INVITE KING BACK TO RULE

## **RESULTS OF ENG. CIVIL WAR**

- SO HE CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF CROMWELL, CHARLES II FORCED TO GIVE:
- **HABEAS CORPUS**
  - NO JAIL W/O CHARGES
  - MUST HAVE TRIALS (NOT THROWN IN JAIL W/O A KEY)
- CHARLES' CATHOLIC BROTHER JAMES II TAKES OVER
- PARLIAMENT WORRIED ABOUT CATHOLIC JAMES II, INVITE HIS PROTESTANT RELATIVE FROM HOLLAND TO RULE

**RESTORATION & GLORIOUS REV.**

- ONE OF THE ONLY **BLOODLESS REVOLUTIONS** IN WORLD HISTORY
- NEW MONARCHS FORCED TO SIGN **ENG. BILL OF RIGHTS** IN ORDER TO RULE
- ENG. BECOMES A **CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY**
- NO TAXATION W/O REPRESENTATION
- FREEDOM OF SPEECH
- RIGHT TO PETITION
- NO CRUEL/UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT
- RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS
- NO STANDING ARMY

**GLORIOUS REVOLUTION!**

- CHANGES IN ENGLAND PASSED ON TO AMERICA, CHANGING WORLD HISTORY
- LEADS TO FRENCH REVOLUTION CHANGING WORLD HISTORY

- GERMAN, AUSTRIAN, & PRUSSIAN ABSOLUTISM LEADS TO WWI
- EASTERN ABSOLUTISM LEADS TO RUSSIAN ISOLATION AND POST-WWII COLD WAR

## **EFFECTS OF ABSOLUTISM**