

Unit 3: Absolutism & Constitutionalism

Chapters 16 & 17

Absolutism

- I. **Middle Ages** – King's ruled by the grace of God: law was given to kings by God & kings acknowledged that they must respect and obey the law
- II. **17th century (Absolutist state)** – King's claimed to rule "by divine right" – meaning they were responsible to God alone!

A. Absolutist Monarchs of the 17th & 18th century

1. Kings became law makers – sovereignty was embodied in the person of the king

- A state may be termed *sovereign* when it possesses a monopoly over the instrument of justice and the use of force within clearly defined boundaries.
- They made their personal rule absolute, based on loyalty to them as individuals, not to the state as an abstraction.
- Religious wars of the 16th & early 17th century resulted in the need for absolute monarchs who would assert public order & political stability

2. Kings tried to control competing jurisdictions, institutions, or interest groups in their territories

- regulated religious sects
- abolished liberties long held by certain areas, groups, or provinces
- **secured cooperation of the nobility** – monarchs negotiated compromises with nobles, awarding titles and privileges for obedience, or at least compliance.

3. Kings worked to solve financial problems:

- Bargains with nobility – ad hoc grant of money in return for freedom from future taxation
- New state bureaucracies that directed the economic life of the country in the interest of the king – **mercantilism**

4. Bureaucracy – centralized institution of government

- Composed of career officials appointed by and solely accountable to the King
 - *France*: drawn mostly from middle class (*Nobles de Robe*)
 - *Eastern Europe & Spain*: interlocking elite of monarchy, aristocracy, and bureaucracy¹
- Bureaucrats gradually came to distinguish between public duties & private property

5. Permanent Standing Armies

- Monarchs alone recruited & maintained armies in times of peace & war
- Kings deployed their troops both inside and outside the country in the interest of the monarchy
- Secret police used by monarchs to control dissidents within their countries

III. Theories of Absolutism

- A. **Jean Bodin** (1530-1596) – French legal theorist who lived through the religious wars and wrote *Six Books of the Republic* (1576) – "the principle point of sovereign majesty and absolute power is to consist principally in giving laws unto the subjects in general, without their consent"
 - helped to establish the political theory legitimizing French absolute rule
- B. **Thomas Hobbes** (1588-1679) – English theorist of absolutism who wrote *Leviathan* (1651)
 - he argued that **absolutism alone could prevent society from lapsing into the "state of nature", and that people entered into a social contract with their ruler (people surrender their rights in exchange for protection)**
- C. **Jacques Bossuet** (1627-1704) – French bishop & tutor to Louis XIV
 - postulated that **kings ruled by "divine right" – ruler's authority stemmed from God alone.**
- D. **Limits on absolutism** – king was subject to limits imposed by reason through laws and traditions.

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IV. Totalitarianism

- A. 20th century phenomenon – sought to direct all facets of a state's culture (art, education, religion, the economy, and politics) in the interest of the state.
- B. Absolute States of the 17th & 18th centuries foreshadowed totalitarianism by:
 - 1. glorification of the state over all aspects of culture
 - 2. use of war and an expansionist foreign policy to divert attention from domestic ills.

French Absolutism

I. Henry IV (r.1589-1610) *Henri le Grand* – “a chicken in every pot”

- A. Foundations of absolutism in France
 - 1. **Religion:** “*Paris is worth a Mass,*” Edict of Nantes, 1598
 - 2. restored public order in France and laid foundations for economic prosperity.
 - 2. **Duke of Sully** – chief minister who helped to establish an extended period of peace and prosperity in France
 - a. lowered tax burden on the peasants / indirect taxes on salt, sales, and transit
 - b. introduced the **paulette**: annual fee paid by royal officials to guarantee heredity in their offices
 - c. revival of trade increased revenues
 - > subsidized trade, built highway system

II. Louis XIII (r.1610-1643)

- A. Queen regent Marie de Medici – headed the government for the child-king
 - 1. secured the appointment of Richelieu to the council of ministers
- B. **Cardinal Richelieu** (1585-1642)
 - 1. 1628 – Richelieu became the first minister of the French crown
 - a. used strong influence over Louis XIII to exalt the **French monarchy as the embodiment of the French state.**
 - 2. Set in place the cornerstone of French absolutism:
 - a. **domestic policy: the total subordination of all groups and institutions to the French monarchy**
 - 1) **curb the power of the nobility** by eliminating potential power brokers from the royal council, leveled castles, crushed aristocratic conspiracies with quick executions
 - 2) **generalities:** 32 districts in which royal **intendants** oversaw for the monarchy
 - recruited soldiers
 - supervised tax collection
 - presided over administration of local law
 - spied on local nobility
 - regulated economic activities – commerce, trade, guilds
 - 3) religion: 1627 – ended Protestant military & political independence
 - * **La Rochelle** (Protestant fortified port city) – **siege by Louis XIII to end Huguenot resistance**
 - 4) secured the cooperation of the local elites (nobility)
 - b. **foreign policy:** focused on the **destruction of the fence of Habsburg territories** that surrounded France
 - 1) support of Protestants in the 30 Years War against the Hapsburgs
 - 3. **Raison d'etat** (reason of the state)
 - “where the interest of the state are concerned, God absolves actions which, if privately committed, would be a crime”

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III. Louis XIV (r. 1643-1715) *The Sun King*

A. Cardinal Jules Mazarin (1602-1661) – chief minister under Louis XIV (replaced Richelieu)

1. continued Richelieu's centralizing policies – attempts to raise royal revenue led to civil war
2. **Fronde** (1648-1653) – Frondeur: anyone who opposed the policies of the central government
 - a. **Battle of Rocroi** (1643) – defeat of Spain by France, led to the fall of Spain as a military power
 - > French masses believed further taxes to fund military was unnecessary – new taxes were met with rebellion by aristocratic land factions = resulted in 12 years of civil war
 - b. 3 significant results of the **Fronde**
 - 1) government would be a compromise with bureaucracy & local elites
 - 2) economy was badly damaged
 - 3) traumatized a young Louis XIV who would always distrust nobility & drive his conviction to rule by absolute monarchy

B. Louis XIV as monarch (The Sun King) “*One king, One Law, One Faith*”

1. Became king of France at the age of 5 –
 - a. strong Catholic influence (divine right)
 - b. eternal distrust of nobility
 - c. “*je verrai*” – (I shall see)
2. At 21, Louis dismissed Mazarin as chief minister and ruled alone (I am the State)
 - a. Cooperation of the nobility – collaboration with nobility allowed Louis to rely on the support of nobles to build canal & highways (Canals des Deux Mers) – links Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic ocean, as well as the development of new industries in the provinces of France.
 - b. Increased royal powers of taxation in estates to finance a standing army - in return Louis granted the nobility & dignitaries privileged social status and increased access to his person (and the patronage the king had at his dispense)
3. **Versailles** – Louis royal court located 12 miles outside Paris
 - a. massive palace built in baroque design & decorated with enormous wealth & gardens
 - b. Louis pressured nobles from all over France to spend most of their time as guest at Versailles
 - c. used secret police to monitor nobles and their communications with their homes & others.
4. **Royal Court** – used to undermine the power of the great nobility, excluded the highest nobles from his councils weakening the influence and power of the nobility in the government.
5. Government – **bureaucracy** (*Intendants*)
 - a. Generalities – *Intendants*: established a uniformed & centralized administration with officials appointed from the middle class.
 - b. **nobles de robes** – new nobles created by Louis to govern
6. Economic Problems – proved the great weakness of Louis administration
 - a. debt due to expansion of the government, building of Versailles, and continual warfare
 - b. exposed weakness of Louis – who was forced to consult with local and provincial estates for approval of taxes for particular regions of France.
 - c. *Tax farmers* – purchase right to collect royal taxes, allowing them to cut into the profits of the state.
 - d. Nobles – mostly tax exempt due to hereditary privileges
 - e. burden of taxes fell heavily on the 3rd estate – Louis gained unlimited rights to tax the people in exchange that he wouldn't tax the nobles & the nobility thereby relinquished their role in government.

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C. Jean Baptist Colbert (1619-1683)

1. **Mercantilism** – a collection of government policies for the regulation of economic activities, especially commercial activities, by and for the state.
 - a. **theory held that resources were limited and state intervention was needed to secure the largest part of limited resources.**
 - b. 17th & 18th centuries – a nation's international power was thought to be based on its wealth in bullion (gold & silver)
 - c. a country should have a favorable balance of trade – trading more exports than imports (domestic production), building of a merchant marine fleet of ships
 - d. government subsidized industries, break down of guild monopolies, building of roads and canals, tariff taxes (import tax) on foreign goods.

- #### D. “One Faith” - Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685) – ordered the end of Huguenot independence & freedom of faith. (destroyed churches, closed schools, Catholic baptisms of Huguenots, and exiled Huguenot pastors who refused to renounce their faith.
- a. Huguenots made up the most loyal & industrial skilled subjects – and were forced to flee to the Low Countries, England, and Germany.
 - b. Louis considered religious unity a political necessity – hated division within the realm & insisted on religious unity for the security of the state.

E. French Culture

1. **French becomes the international language for polite society, replacing Latin as language of scholarship & learning.**
 - a. French intellectuals & artist influenced the courts all over Europe
2. **French Classicism** – writers and artist of the late 17th century imitated the subject matter and style of classical antiquity, work resembled that of Renaissance Italy, work possessed the classical qualities of *discipline, balance, and restraint*.
 - a. artist & musicians
 - 1) Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-1687) – music favored by Louis XIV
 - 2) Francois Couperin (1668-1733) – harpsichord & organ works possessed the regal grandeur the king loved.
 - 3) Moliere (1622-1673)– Louis' favorite play write who's comedies exposed the hypocrisies and follies of society through brilliant – bourgeoisie the butt of his jokes
 - 4) Racine (1639-1699) – based his tragic dramas on Greek and Roman legends, and his persistent theme was the conflict of good and evil.
* Both Moliere & Racine represented the finest examples of French classicism
3. **Scientific Academy** – sponsored by Louis Court to develop new technology that would benefit production & trade

IV. Louis XIV's Wars

A. Louis kept France at war for 33 of his 54 years of his personal rule

1. Louis developed the largest standing army in Europe at a great expense
 - a. 1635 = 25,000 men by 1659 = 250,000 men
 - b. professional army under the command of Francois le Telier (secretary of state of war)
 - c. soldiers recruited by dragooning, conscription (draft), and by lottery. Also mercenary armies were employed.
 - d. under strict direction of Jean Martinet – made foreign & native born soldiers into tough, obedient military machine.
 - 1) commissariat – established to feed the troops & ambulance corps designed to look after the wounded.
 - 2) uniforms and weapons standardized
 - 3) training and promotion imposed

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2. **Cardinal Richelieu** – began a broad scale expansionist policy which Louis continued with the invasion of Flanders (Spanish Netherlands) and Franche-Comte in 1667.
 - a. successfully acquired 12 towns including important commercial centers of Lille & Tournai
 - b. invaded Holland with 100,000 men sparking a war with the Holy Roman Empire & Spain which ended with the **Treaty of Nijmegen (1678)** – Louis gained additional Flemish towns & all of Franche-Comte.

3. Claude Le Peletier – Colbert's successor as minister of finance attempted to fund the expansion of the French army & continual wars by; devaluing the currency, selling offices, tax exemptions, & titles of nobility.
 - a. no measures proved sufficient – the burden of heavier taxes fell on the peasants
 - b. resulted in widespread peasant revolts in the 1690's

4. **War of Spanish Succession (1701-1713)** – provoked by territorial disputes of the prior century and the dynastic question of the succession to the Spanish throne.
 - a. Charles II (r. 1665-1700) – mentally defective & impotent king of Spain had no heir and agreed to the partition of the Spanish empire between the king of France & the Holy Roman Emperor, his brother-in-laws.
 - b. 1700 – following his death, Charles II's will left all of his possessions to **Philip of Anjou the grandson of Louis XIV.**
 - c. The Dutch & English wouldn't accept French control of Spanish Netherlands & control of trade with the Spanish colonies.
 - d. **Grand Alliance** – English, Dutch, Austrians, & Prussians joined forces against Louis XIV
 - e. **Peace of Utrecht** (1713) – important international consequences; represented a balance of power principle in operation, marked the decline of Spain as a great power, vastly expanded the English empire, and established international cooperation among European states.
 - 1) it also marked the end of French expansionist policy

V. Decline of Absolutist Spain in the 17th Century

- A. 16th Century: Kingdom of Castile – preceded French absolutism
 1. Developed a permanent bureaucracy, standing army, national taxes (*servicios*) which fell most heavily on the poor.
 2. International absolutism based on the silver bullion from Peru

- B. Causes of Decline:
 1. lack of strong middle class (due to expulsion of Jews and Moors)
 2. agricultural crisis and population decline
 3. failure to invest in productive enterprises
 4. intellectual isolation and psychological malaise

- C. Decline of Spanish Economy:
 1. Dutch & English began trade with Spanish colonies
 2. Mexico & Peru developed local industries
> result: Spanish trade with colonies fell by 60% from 1610 to 1650
 3. Silver mines in Peru began to decrease in production but royal spending continued to increase
> result: massive state debt & devaluation of Spanish currency = declarations of bankruptcy in 1596, 1607, 1627, 1647, and 1680

- D. Social Decline
 1. Tiny middle class due to the Aristocracy who condemned moneymaking as vulgar & undignified

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- > result: people entered economically unproductive professions or became priest, monks or nuns.
- 2. Flood of gold & silver produced inflation
 - > increased cost of production led to decreased trade
- 3. Spanish aristocrats increased rents on their estates to cover extravagant living expenses
 - > heavy taxes and rents drove peasants from the land = led to decreased agricultural production
- E. Decline of the Spanish monarchy
 1. Philip III, Philip IV, Charles II – portraits reflect the increasing weakness of the dynasty
 - > excessive inbreeding resulted in physically & mentally weak Kings who lacked character
 2. Kings allowed ministers to run the country – policies were focused on returning to Imperial traditions
 - > results: continuous costly wars that led to greater financial crisis & loss of territory
 - a. Battle of Rocroi, 1643 – French inflicted crushing defeat of Spanish
 - b. **Treaty of the Pyrenees, 1659 – ended the French & Spanish wars**
- marked the end of Spain as a great power
- F. 17th Century decline:
 1. bureaucratic councils of state were dominated by the nobles
 - > result: nobility held the real power in Spain
 2. decline of bullion from America coincided with the decline of the Spanish state
 3. Spanish ideals of military glory and strong Roman Catholic faith continued to dominate Spanish culture and policy
 - * **Don Quixote**, novel **written by Miguel de Cervantes**
 - > delineated the whole fabric of 16th century Spanish society
 - quixotic = idealistic but impractical

VI. Constitutionalism

A. Limited government by law.

1. Implies a balance between the authority & power of the government, and the rights & liberties of the subjects.
 2. Constitutional governments can be either republican (sovereign power resides in the electorate and is exercised by representatives) or monarchical (king or queen serves as the head of state & possesses some residual political authority – but sovereign power resides in the electorate)
- B. Democracy – all people have the right to participate either directly or indirectly (franchise – right to vote)

VII. The decline of Royal Absolutism in England (1603-1649)

A. Elizabeth I (r.1558-1603) – The Virgin Queen (never married – left no heir to the throne)

1. **Politique** – chose the middle course between Catholics and protestants in England
 - a. insisted on dignity in church services & political order in the land
 - b. didn't care what people believed as long as they kept quiet about it
 - c. avoided precise doctrinal definitions by styling herself as "Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Etc." – left it to her subjects to determine what "Etc" meant
2. **Elizabethan Settlement** – required outward conformity to the Church of England & uniformity in all ceremonies.
 - a. everyone had to attend Church of England ceremonies – or be punished by fines
 - b. 1563 – Thirty-nine Articles were approved by a convocation of bishops: 39 short statements of the basic tenets of the C of E.

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- 1) the church was moderately Protestant (services in English, priest allowed to marry, and monasteries were not re-established) but the episcopate was not abolished & bishops remained as church officials
3. Elizabeth's strengths – political shrewdness & flexibility, careful management of finances, wise selection of ministers, clever manipulation of Parliament, and her sense of royal dignity & devotion to hard work.

B. James I (r.1603-1625) – first Stuart king of England

1. Scottish cousin of Elizabeth I – well educated & experienced, but lacked the style of Elizabeth.
2. ***The Trew Law of Free Monarchy*** – essay by James I which expressed his belief in a king's divine right to rule.
 - a. James lectured the House of Commons: "There are no privileges and immunities which can stand against a divinely appointed king" – which implied total royal authority over the liberties, persons, and properties of English subjects.
 - b. James' view contradicted with the long-standing idea that a person's property could not be taken away without due process of law.
3. **House of Commons** – guarded the state's pocketbook & wanted sovereignty (a voice in royal expenditures, religious reform, and foreign affairs)
 - a. social changes since the 16th century – sale of monastic lands, new agricultural techniques, new commercial investments, and the growth of the cloth industry led to increased wealth & social mobility of the commons (middle class)
 - b. members of the House of Commons were willing to tax themselves as long as they had a say in the spending of those taxes & in the formation of state policies.
4. Religious Issues
 - a. Early 17th century – increasing numbers of English people felt dissatisfied with the Church of England.
 - 1) **Puritans** – believed the Reformation had not gone far enough, wanted to purify the Anglican Church of Roman catholic elements
 - 2) Calvinism – emphasized hard work, sobriety, thrift, competition, & postponement of pleasure, and it tended to link sin and poverty with weakness & moral corruption – views which fit the middle class ethic of England.
 - b. James I – "**No bishop, no king**" meant that James recognized that bishops were among his greatest supporters, which contradicted the Puritan demand for abolishment of bishops.
 - 1) James was Calvinist – but gave the impression that he was sympathetic to Roman Catholicism.

C. Charles I (r.1625-1649)

1. son of James I – Charles supported the policies of **William of Laud** (1573-1645) archbishop of Canterbury
2. **William of Laud** – tried to impose elaborate ritual and rich ceremonials to church services.
 - a. insisted on uniformity of church services & enforced it through an ecclesiastical court called "**Court of High Commission**"
 - b. 1673, tried to implement 2 new reforms in Scotland – new prayer book (modeled on the Anglican **book of common prayer**) & establishment of bishoprics – which led to a revolt in Scotland.
 - 1) to finance an army to put down the revolt – Charles had to summon a Parliament in 1640
 - c. Charles has attempted to govern without Parliament from 1629-1640 due to conflicts over his right to collect custom duties on tonnage & poundage.
 - 1) Charles used stopgap levies such as "ship money" (tax on coastal cities for the building of ships to protect them) – which he imposed on inland cities as well.

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3. The **Long Parliament (1640-1660)** – enacted legislation that limited the power of the monarchy & made arbitrary government impossible
 - a. **Triennial Act of 1641** – passed by the Commons to compel the king to summon Parliament every three years
 - b. The Commons impeached Archbishop Laud & abolished the Court of High Commission
 - 1) Charles accepted these measures due to his fear of a Scottish invasion
 - c. Ireland – conquered by Henry II in 1171 & ruled by ruthless English governors ever since rose in rebellion in 1641

D. English Civil War (1642-1649) *Interregnum*

1. unable to gain the support of Parliament – Charles instigated military action against parliament by recruiting an army from the nobility, rural gentry, and mercenaries collectively known as the **Royalist**.
2. The Parliamentary army (**Roundheads** – Puritan haircuts) was made up of militia, country squires, and Protestants
3. **Ended with the execution of Charles in 1649** (charged with high treason)

VIII. Puritanical Absolutism in England: Cromwell & the Protectorate

- A. **Thomas Hobbes** (1588-1679) – political theorist who wrote the *Leviathan*, where he maintained that sovereignty is ultimately derived from the people, who transfer it to the monarchy by implicit contract.
 1. the power of the ruler is absolute, but kings do NOT hold their power by divine right!
- B. **Commonwealth** (Republican government) – established in 1649 when the kingship was abolished due to the beheading of Charles I.
 1. theoretically the power rested in the Parliament & executive power was held by the council of state.
 2. realistically the power was held by the victorious army and its commander Oliver Cromwell
 3. **Prides Purge** – Cromwell drove the opposition out of Parliament (nearly 450 members) leaving the **Rump** parliament (50 to 60 remaining members loyal to Cromwell)
 - a. Cromwell abolished the Rump in 1653 & governed as **Lord Protector**
- C. **The “Protectorate”** – established by the army who prepared a constitution: the *Instrument of Government in (1653)*
 1. provided for triennial parliaments & gave Parliament the sole power to raise taxes.
 2. due to repeated disputes – Cromwell tore up the constitution & ruled as a **military dictatorship**
 - a. divided England into 12 military districts – each governed by a military general
 - b. allowed for religious toleration – giving all Christians **except** Catholics the right to practice their faith
 - 1) state censorship of the press, forbade sports, closed theatres
 - 2) Irish Catholicism – viewed by Cromwell as sedition, resulted in the brutal crushing of a Irish rebellion at Drogheda in 1649 (left a legacy of Irish hatred for England)
 - c. regulation of the nation’s economy – mercantilism
 - 1) **Navigation Act (1651)** – required English goods to be transported on English ships or on ships with predominantly English crews.
 - i. boosted the development of an English merchant marine & led to a short, successful war commercial war against the Dutch
 - 2) encouraged Jews to return to England with their skills
 - 3) **Levellers** (John Lilburne) – appealing to natural rights & rights of Englishmen, they asked for nearly universal male suffrage (right to vote), equality of representation, a written constitution, and the subordination of Parliament to a reformed body of voters (electorate)

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- 4) **Diggers** – those who occupied and cultivated common lands (privately owned) in a repudiation of property.
3. The Protectorate ended with the death of Cromwell in 1658 & a short period of rule by Cromwell's son

IX. The Restoration of the English Monarchy (1660)

A. **Charles II (r. 1660-1685)** – son of Charles I

1. both houses of Parliament were restored along with the established Anglican church, courts of law, and a system of local government through justices of the peace
2. Restoration failed to resolve 2 problems: what was to be the attitude of the state toward Puritans, Catholics, and dissenters from the established church? And what was the constitutional position of the king?
 - a. Religion – Charles II was indifferent towards doctrinal issues, Parliament wanted to compel religious uniformity
 - 1) Parliament enacted a body of laws to compel religious uniformity:
 - i. **The Test Act of 1673**: punished those who refused to receive the Eucharist of England – not allowed to vote, hold public office, preach, teach, attend universities, or assemble meetings.
- unable to enforce: jury refused to convict Quaker William Penn for holding an illegal meeting
 3. Politics – Charles intended to get along with Parliament
 - 1) The **Cabal** – council of five men who served as liaison agents between the king and the Parliament
 - i. Cabal – names of the five members: Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley-Cooper, and Lauderdale
 - ii. the Cabal was answerable in parliament for the decisions of the King
 - 2) harmony between Parliament & Charles based on his willingness to call frequent parliaments and that Parliament would vote Charles sufficient funds
 4. 1670 – secrete agreement between Charles II & Louis XIV: Louis would give Charles 200,000 pounds annually in exchange for Charles' relaxed laws against the Catholics & the eventual re-Catholicism of England, English support for French policy against the Dutch, and that Charles would convert to Catholicism himself.
 - 1) news of this secrete treaty sparked anti-Catholic fear that swept through England
 - i. Charles II had produced no legitimate male heirs & his brother James, duke of York – a Catholic would eventually succeed him as king
 - ii. Commons reacted by passing a bill denying the succession of the crown to a Roman Catholic – to which Charles responded by dissolving Parliament

B. **James II (r. 1685-1688)** – brother of Charles II (son of Charles I)

1. James **violated the Test Act** by appointing Roman Catholics to positions in the army, the universities, and local government.
2. James suspended the law at will and appeared to reviving the absolutism of his father and grandfather.
3. Issued a declaration of indulgence granting religious freedom to all

4. **Two events that led to the Glorious Revolution:**

- 1) Seven bishops who petitioned the king that they not be forced to read the declaration of indulgence because their belief that it was an illegal act – were imprisoned in the Tower of London, but then acquitted due to popular dissent.

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- 2) June 1688 – **James II had a son, which confirmed the fears that a Catholic dynasty would be established in England.**

X. Constitutional Monarchy & Cabinet Government

- A. **Glorious Revolution (1688-1689)** – event in which Parliament negotiated the replacement of King James II with his daughter Mary & her husband William (Protestants)
 1. **William & Mary** explicitly recognized the supremacy of Parliament – recognizing that the ultimate power in the state was divided between the king and Parliament.
 2. **Bill of Rights:**
 - 1) Law was to be made in Parliament & could not be suspended by the crown
 - 2) Parliament had to be called at least every 3 years
 - 3) elections to and debates within Parliament were to be free from the king's interference
 - 4) judges would hold office “during good behavior” – ensuring the independence of the Judiciary
 - 5) no standing army in peace time
 - 6) Protestants may have weapons for their defense
 - 7) freedom of worship for Protestant dissenters & nonconformist – and required that the English monarch always be Protestant
 3. **John Locke's *Second Treatise of Civil Government* (1690)** – maintained that people set up civil governments to protect life, liberty, and property
 - a. government which oversteps its proper function (becomes a tyranny) – the people have the right to overthrow that government and establish a new one
 - b. Locke was the greatest supporter of the Glorious Revolution & his works had a profound impact on American Independence.
 4. The Revolution established a constitutional monarchy in England
- B. The **Cabinet system** – evolved in the 18th century
 1. leading ministers who must have seats in and the support of a majority of the House of Commons – formulate common policy & conduct the business of the country
 2. Robert Walpole – original “prime” minister, an office that originated during the Hanoverian kings of the 18th century

XI. The Dutch Republic in the 17th Century

- A. United Provinces of the Netherlands – independence from Spain was confirmed by the Peace of Westphalia in 1648
 1. **“Golden Age of the Netherlands” – 17th century period in which the Dutch witnessed unparalleled achievements in science, art, and literature.**
 2. The United Provinces became another model of the development of the modern constitutional State.
- B. Government in the United Provinces – **confederation = weak union of strong provinces**
 1. within each province – **an oligarchy of wealthy merchants (regents) handled domestic affairs in the local estates**
 2. A federal assembly, **States General** – handled foreign affairs
 - a. States General did NOT have sovereign power = all decisions had to be referred back to the local estates for approval
 - b. **Stadholder** – appointed by the Estates General in each province to serve as the highest executive
 - 1) carried out ceremonial functions, was responsible for defense and keeping order
 3. The Dutch were Not monarchical but fiercely **republican (representative government)**
 - a. **government was controlled by wealthy middle class merchants**
- C. Commercial prosperity:
 1. **Calvinism – moral, and ethical bases of the commercial wealth (thrift, frugality, and religious tolerance)**
 2. Religious tolerance = attracted foreign capital / investment

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3. **Fishing Industry** – cornerstone of the Dutch economy
 - > **herring**: tiny fish that was salted and sold throughout Europe
4. **Merchant Marine** – commercial shipping fleet that offered the lowest shipping rates
5. **Trade**: Dutch merchants dealt on bulk which made it impossible to undersell them
- D. **Dutch East India Company (DEIC)** – a joint stock company which allowed the Dutch to gain control of overseas trade to East Asia
 1. **Dutch West India Company (DWIC)** – established in 1621, traded extensively with Latin America and Africa
- E. Trade & Commerce resulted in tremendous wealth in the Netherlands
 - > result: **Dutch enjoyed the highest standard of living in Europe**
- F. **War with France & England in the late 17th century led to Dutch decline**
 1. War of Spanish Succession was a tremendous drain on Dutch labor & financial resources

AP European History: Chapter 17 Eastern Absolutism

- I. Lords and peasants in Eastern Europe
 - A. Overall, between 1400 and 1650 the princes and landed nobility of eastern Europe rolled back the gains made earlier by the peasantry; serfdom was re-imposed.
 - B. The medieval background (1400 – 1650)
 1. Personal economic freedom for peasants increased between 1050 and 1300.
 - a. Serfdom nearly disappeared.
 - b. Peasants bargained freely with their landlords and moved about as they pleased.
 2. **After 1300**, powerful lords in Eastern Europe revived serfdom to combat their economic problems.
 - a. **Laws that restricted the peasants' right of free movement were passed.**
 - b. Lords took more and more of the peasants' land and imposed heavier labor obligations.
 - C. The consolidation of **serfdom**
 1. The re-establishment of **hereditary serfdom** took place in Poland, Prussia, and Russia between 1500 and 1650.
 2. The consolidation of serfdom was accompanied by the growth of estate agriculture.
 - a. Lords seized peasant land for their own estates.
 - b. They then demanded unpaid serf labor on those estates.
 3. Political reasons for changes in serfdom in Eastern Europe were the most important.
 - a. Serfdom increased because of political, not economic, reasons.
 - b. Weak monarchs could not resist the demands of the powerful noble landlords.
 - c. The absence of the western concept of sovereignty meant that the king did not think in terms of protecting the people of the nation.
 - d. Overall, the peasants had less political power in eastern Europe and less solidarity.
 - e. The landlords systematically undermined the medieval privileges of the towns.
 - 1) The lords sold directly to foreign capitalists instead of to local merchants.
 - 2) Eastern towns lost their medieval right of refuge.

II. Rise of Austria

- A. Austria and the **Ottoman Turks**
 1. After the Thirty Years' War, the **Austrian Habsburgs turned inward and eastward to unify their holdings.**
 - a. The Habsburgs replaced the Bohemian Czech (Protestant) nobility with their own warriors.
 - b. Serfdom increased, Protestantism was wiped out, and absolutism was achieved.
 - 1) **Robot** – three days per week of unpaid labor (increased condition of serfdom)
 - c. Ferdinand III created a standing army, centralized the government in Austria, and turned toward Hungary for land.

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2. This eastward turn led Austria to become absorbed in a war against the Turks over Hungary and Transylvania.

B. The Ottoman Empire

1. Came for Central Asia to the Anatolian Peninsula (Turkey) in the early 14th century.
2. Turks captured Constantinople in 1453 – ended the Byzantine Empire & established the Ottoman Empire in its place.
3. Under **Suleiman the Magnificent** (r. 1520-1566) the Ottoman-Turks built the most powerful empire in the world, which included part of central Europe.
 - a. The Turkish sultan was the absolute head of the state.
 - b. **A bureaucracy staffed by slaves ran the government & served in the Sultans army**
 - 1) Muslim law outlawed the enslavement of Muslims
 - 2) Slaves were taken from the Christian Balkans (3,000 male children each year)
 - 3) **Janissary** – brave & skillful core of the Sultan's army
 - c. **There was little or no private property** - agricultural land was the personal property of the Sultan
 - 1) peasants paid taxes to use the land
 - 2) **no hereditary nobility**
4. Religion in the Ottoman Empire
 - a. Ottomans were more tolerant of religious differences than were the Europeans
 - b. **Millet** – Ottomans divided their subjects into religious communities (nations)
 - 1) each millet enjoyed autonomous self-government under its religious leaders
 - 2) millet system created a strong bond between the Ottoman ruling class & the different religious leaders
5. Decline of the Ottoman Empire:
 - a. economic and social crisis in the 1580's and 90's led to open revolts & factions within the government
 - Result: overthrow and/or execution of several Ottoman sultans
 - b. **The Ottoman attack on Austria (failed siege of Vienna) in 1683 was turned back, and the Habsburgs conquered all of Hungary and Transylvania by 1699**
 - 1) The defeat of the Ottomans had support from Protestant nobles in Hungary and Louis XIV of France.

C. The Habsburg possessions consisted of Austria, Bohemia, and Hungary, which were joined in a fragile union (3 separate parts tied together primarily by a common ruler – Habsburgs)

1. **Charles VI: The Pragmatic Sanction** (1713) stated that the possessions should never be divided and were always to be passed intact to a single heir.
 - a. **Heir could be female – Charles' only child, daughter Maria Theresa**
2. The **Hungarian nobility** thwarted the full development of Habsburg absolutism, and Charles VI had to restore many of the traditional privileges after the rebellion led by **Rakoczy in 1703**.
3. Hungarian Opposition to Habsburg absolutism
 - a. Hungarian nobility continuously revolted against Habsburg attempts to assert their rule
 - b. Hungarians were predominantly Protestant – Habsburgs were Catholic
 - c. Hungarian "nationalism" was already established under the Ottoman Empire

III. Prussia in the seventeenth century

- A. The **Hohenzollern** family ruled the electorate of Brandenburg but had little real power.
 1. The Thirty Years' War weakened the representative assemblies of the realm and allowed the Hohenzollerns to consolidate their absolutist rule.
 2. **Frederick William "the Great Elector" (r. 1640-1688):** used military force and taxation to unify his Rhine holdings, Prussia, and Brandenburg into a strong state.
 - a. The traditional parliaments, or Estates, which were controlled by the **Junkers** (the nobles and the landowners), were weakened.
 - 1) forced Estates to accept the introduction of permanent taxation without consent
 - 2) increased finances used to develop a powerful standing army

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- b. **War strengthened the elector, as did the Junkers' unwillingness to join with the towns to block absolutism.**

B. The consolidation of Prussian absolutism

1. **Frederick III "the Ostentatious" (r. 1688-1713)**
 - a. crowned king Frederick I in 1701 – as reward for adding the HRE in the War of Spanish Succession
2. **Frederick William I "the Soldier King" (r. 1713-1740)** encouraged Prussian militarism and created the best army in Europe plus an efficient bureaucracy.
 - a. **he truly established Prussian absolutism – strong military and a society infused with strict military values**
 - b. **belief that the welfare of king and state depended on the army above all > "Sparta of the North"**
3. The Junker class became the military elite and Prussia a militarist state.

III. The **development of Russia**

- A. Between the mid-thirteenth century and 1700 Russia and the West became strikingly different; after 1700 Russia's development was closer to that of the West.

B. The **Mongol yoke** and the rise of Moscow

1. the Mongols used Russian aristocrats as their servants and tax collectors.
 - a. The princes of Moscow served the Mongols well and became the hereditary great princes.
 - b. **Ivan I** served the Mongols while using his wealth and power to strengthen the principality of Moscow.
 - c. **Ivan III** acquired territory around Moscow – including the rich republic of Novgorod.
 - d. Ivan III stopped acknowledging the Mongol Khan as the supreme ruler and assumed headship of Orthodox Christianity.

C. **Tsar** and people to 1689

1. By 1505, the prince of Moscow-the tsar-had emerged as the single hereditary ruler of the eastern Slavs.
2. The tsars and boyars struggled over who would rule the state; the tsars won and created a new "**service nobility**," who held the tsar's land on the condition that they serve in his army.
4. **Ivan the Terrible** was an autocratic tsar who expanded Muscovy and further reduced the power of the **boyars**.
 - a. He murdered leading boyars and confiscated their estates.
 - b. Many peasants fled his rule to the newly conquered territories , forming groups called **Cossacks**.
 - c. Businessmen and artisans were bound to their towns and jobs; the middle class did not develop.
5. **The Time of Troubles (1589- 1613)** was a period characterized by internal struggles and invasions.
 - a. There was no heir, and later relatives of the tsar fought against each other.
 - b. Swedish and Polish armies invaded.
 - c. Cossack bands, led by Ivan Bolotnikov, slaughtered many nobles and officials.
6. **Michael Romanov** was elected tsar by the nobles in 1613, and he re-established tsarist autocracy.
7. The Romanovs brought about the total enserfment of people, while the military obligations on the nobility were relaxed considerably.

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8. A split in the church over religious reforms led to mass protests by the peasants, and the church became dependent on the state for its authority.

D. The reforms of **Peter the Great**

1. Peter faced a Russian army based on cavalry and not the sort of professional armies being formed in Europe.
2. He conquered Azov, then went on a long tour of inspection of Western Europe.
 - a. He went to war against the absolutist King of Sweden (Charles XII) – eventually winning the **Great Northern War**.
 - b. **He reformed the army and forced the nobility to serve in his bureaucracy.**
 - c. His new (mainly peasant) army numbered 200,000 plus another 100,000 special troops.
 - d. He created schools to train technicians for his army.
3. Army and government became more efficient and powerful as interlocking military-civilian bureaucracy was created and staffed by talented people.
4. Russian peasant life under Peter became more harsh.
 - a. People replaced land as the primary unit of taxation.
 - b. Serfs were arbitrarily assigned to work in the factories and mines.
5. Modest territorial expansion took place under Peter, and Russia became a European Great Power: **Under Peter Russia was continuously at war**
 - a. Russia defeated Sweden in 1709 at the battle of **Poltava** to gain control of the Baltic Sea.
 - b. Peter borrowed many Western ideas.

IV. Absolutism and the **baroque**

A. Places and power

1. Baroque culture and art grew out of an effort by the Catholic Church to attract followers.
2. Architecture played an important role in politics because it was used by kings to enhance their image and awe their subjects.
3. The royal palace was the favorite architectural expression of absolutist power.
4. The dominant artistic style of the age of absolutism was baroque – a dramatic and emotional style.

B. Royal cities and urban planning

1. Karlsruhe is a good example of how cities were rebuilt along orderly lines, and with great avenues and imposing public buildings.
2. The new avenues brought speed to the city – as elegant carriages raced down the new broad and straight streets.

C. The **growth of St. Petersburg**

1. The new St. Petersburg is an excellent example of the tie among architecture, politics, and urban development.
 - a. Peter the Great wanted to create a modern, baroque city from which to rule Russia.
 - b. The city became a showplace for the tsar paid for by the Russian nobility and built by peasants.
2. During the eighteenth century, St. Petersburg became one of the world's largest and most influential cities.
3. The new city was Western and baroque in its layout and design.
 - a. It had broad, straight avenues.
 - b. Houses were built in a uniform line.
 - c. There were parks, canals, and streetlights.
 - d. Each social group was to live in a specific section.
4. All social groups, especially the peasants, bore heavy burdens to construct the city.
5. Tsarina Elizabeth and the architect Rastrelli crowned the city with great palaces.

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