

Name: _____

Modern European History

Date: _____

Unit 4 – Absolutism

Absolutism Examples

Directions: Read the following examples of governance during the Age of Absolutism and use the information to complete the Absolutism Chart.

<p>Example #1</p> <p>Like King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella before him, King Phillip II of Spain centralized royal power, making all parts of the government responsible to him. He had complete authority over the government and the lives of the people during his reign from 1556 to 1598. He believed that his authority to rule came directly from God. As a result he saw himself as the guardian of the Catholic Church and made it his personal responsibility to defend the Catholic Reformation. He used his control of the Spanish army and navy to impose the Inquisition against Protestants and heretics. Without representation, the small middle class was heavily taxed by Phillip to fund his wars and build the Armada.</p>	<p>Facts</p> <p>King Phillip of Spain (1556-1598)</p> <p>Centralized Royal power by making all parts of the government his responsibility.</p> <p>Phillip believed that his authority to rule came from God.</p> <p>He saw himself as guardian of the Church and defended the Catholic Reformation.</p> <p>Phillip had control of the army and navy, and used them to impose the Inquisition against Protestants and heretics.</p> <p>The Spanish middle class had no government representation, and could not avoid being heavily taxed by Phillip to fund his wars and build the Spanish Armada.</p>
<p>Example #2</p> <p>“L’etat, c’est moi,” “I am the state,” said King Louis XIV of France. Louis believed that he was the only one responsible for governing France when he ruled from 1643 to 1715. A tutor to his son once said, “As God’s representative on Earth, the king was entitled to unquestioning obedience. Louis reigned from the most magnificent building in Europe, the palace of Versailles. Full of the finest paintings, statues, chandeliers and mirrors, and surrounded by millions of flowers and plants, Versailles was the perfect symbol of Louis’ wealth and power. During his 72 year reign the Estates General, the legislative body of France, never met once. Without opposition he revoked the Edict of Nantes and taxed his people in order to wage costly wars against the Dutch and English.</p>	<p>Facts</p> <p>King Louis XIV of France (1643 -1715)</p> <p>King Louis XIV is quoted as saying “L’etat, c’est moi,” or “I am the state,” believing he was the only one responsible for governing France.</p> <p>“As God’s representative on Earth, the king was entitled to unquestioning obedience.”</p> <p>Louis lived in Versailles, the most magnificent palace in Europe. It was full of the finest artwork, chandeliers, and mirrors, and was surrounded by beautiful gardens and forests.</p> <p>During his seventy two year reign Louis XIV never called upon the Estates General, the legislative body of France, to meet.</p> <p>The king revoked the Edict of Nantes and taxed his people at will in order to wage war against the Dutch and English.</p>

<p>Example #3</p> <p>After a journey to Western Europe, Peter the Great decided to modernize Russia. To impose his will he became the most autocratic of Europe's monarchs, believing that his right to rule as Tsar came from God. He centralized his power and brought all Russians under his control, including the Russian Orthodox Church. Peter forced the most powerful nobles, known as boyars, to serve in either the military or state government. Peasants and serfs were required to become soldiers or work on roads, canals, and other government projects. He improved the technology, education and the military of Russia, but in the process tortured and executed thousands of people who challenged his power from 1682 to 1725.</p>	<p>Facts</p> <p>Peter the Great (1682-1725)</p> <p>Peter the Great is credited with modernizing Russia after a return to his country from Western Europe.</p> <p>As Tsar of Russia, Peter is known as one of the most autocratic monarchs in Europe. He believed that his right to rule came from God.</p> <p>In order to centralize his power, he brought all Russians under his control, including the Orthodox Church.</p> <p>He forced nobles known as boyars to serve in either the military or state government. Peasants and serfs were required to work on roads, canals, government projects or serve in the military.</p> <p>In the process of improving Russian technology, education, and military, Peter executed thousands of people who challenged his power.</p>
<p>Example #4</p> <p>According to the 1665 <i>Kongeloven</i> (King's Law), The monarch of Norway "shall from this day forward be revered and considered the most perfect and supreme person on the Earth by all his subjects, standing above all human laws and having no judge above his person, neither in spiritual nor temporal [secular] matters, except God alone." After abolishing the legislative branch known as the Rigsraadet, the king was the only person in charge of the country's affairs. Frederick III ignored the advice of his nobles, and controlled the government and military on his own.</p>	<p>Facts</p> <p>King Frederick III (1648-1670)</p> <p>In 1665 Frederick passed the King's Law which stated that he and his successors would be revered and considered the most perfect and supreme person on earth by all subjects. According to his law he stood above all human laws and judges in spiritual and secular matters except God Alone.</p> <p>He ignored the advice of nobles, took complete control of the government and military and abolished the only legislative branch known as the Rigsraadet.</p>