

Modern European History  
Unit 5 - Absolutism  
The Wars of Louis XIV Reading and Writing Assignment

**Part I: Textbook**

Read and outline the portions of Chapter 15 from “The Wars of Louis XIV to 1697” on page 550 to “The Remaking of Central Europe” on page 553.

Be sure to include the following terms somewhere in your outline:

the Habsburg powers	1697 Peace of Ryswick
William of Orange	the Great French Famine of 1693-1694
Treaty of Nijmegen	“balance of power”
Elector Palatine	Charles II
League of Augsburg	The War of the Spanish Succession
The Nine Years’ War	Philip V of Spain
the “Low Countries”	The Treaty of Utrecht

**Part II: Literature: Read and annotate the following selection.**

*Philip the V of Spain was a grandson of King Louis XIV. His father, Louis had the strongest claim to the throne of Spain when it became vacant in 1700. However, since Louis and Philip's older brother, Louis, Duke of Burgundy, could not be displaced from their places in the succession to the French throne, King Charles II of Spain named Philip as his heir in his will. It was well known that the union of France and Spain under one monarch would upset the balance of power in Europe, such that other European powers would take steps to prevent it, mainly through the War of the Spanish Succession. Philip was King of Spain from November of 1700 to January of 1724, when he abdicated in favor of his son Louis, and from September of 1724, when he assumed the throne again upon his son's death, to his death in July of 1746. The sum of his two reigns, 45 years and 21 days, is the longest in modern Spanish history.*

**Philip V of Spain**

Philip V "El Rey Animoso" of Spain (1683-1746) was a grandson of Carlos II's half-sister, Marie Thérèse, and Louis XIV "the Sun King" of France. From his father's side Philip had inherited the insatiable libido of the Bourbons. His mother was a Wittelsbach (a European royal family and a German dynasty from Bavaria) and from her he inherited melancholia, at times amounting to madness, and an indulgence in long periods of seclusion, which have marked some members of that family from generation to generation. Philip experienced intermittent attacks of manic depression, which made it impossible for him to govern effectively or even, on occasions, at all. He was a somber, serious-minded and devout man, cold, silent, sad and sober, knowing no pleasure except hunting, solitary and retiring by preference and habit and fearful of society. He had a suspicious nature, distrustful of everyone. Philip lacked confidence in himself. In France he had undergone a deliberately repressive education, encouraging docility, because he was a younger son; Philip had been trained not to be King.

In 1700 his illustrious grandfather placed young Philip on the vacant Spanish throne. His accession was contested by the Austrian Archduke Charles (1685-1740) in the War of the Spanish Succession. In 1703 it seemed as if Andalucía was at the mercy of the English, and it was due to the Queen's enthusiasm that the province rose in arms. The Archduke, supported by the Catalans, entered Madrid in 1705, but in 1707 Philip regained possession of the Kingdom of Aragon. Philip's energy in rallying the people of Castile to the defense of his crown earned him the title of 'animoso' or 'the inspired'. The turning point came with the death of the Austrian Emperor in 1711 and the subsequent election of the Archduke as Emperor Charles VI. It wasn't until 1713 that the Treaty of Utrecht was signed and Philip was universally recognized as king of Spain.

The continual physical possession of a woman was a necessity to Philip, but he combined it with an abnormally scrupulous conscience, so that he spurred inappropriately and continuously from his confessor's closet to his wife's bed. When Philip had married his first wife, the 14-year-old Marie Louise of Savoy (1688-1714), she kept him waiting for two nights to teach him an early lesson. Nevertheless, she

momentarily diverted him from his serious routine, inducing him to play games like 'hide and seek' and the 'cuckoo game'. His first separation from her during his Italian campaign in 1702 put a severe strain upon both his physical and mental health, but the conscious Philip refused to take a mistress. He rushed back to Spain to become - in the eyes of most observers - the slave of his wife. Philip kept Marie Louise at his side day and night to such an extent that their bodily functions were made to synchronize. However, four pregnancies, the strain of the war years, the agonies, the sleepless nights and the icy rooms proved too much for Marie Louise. Doctors filed pompously past the dying Queen and examined her from a distance, because etiquette forbade them to touch the Queen. Philip V was both the most affectionate and the least considerate of husbands; until the last minute he wanted to enjoy those delights, which he could not know again for a long time, without sinning. He had to be torn from her deathbed.

The widower shut himself up in the palace of Medina Coeli. He wept and waited eagerly to replace Marie Louise, for his health could no more be satisfied with his celibate life than his conscience would permit him a mistress. Philip's sexual and psychological peculiarities were well known in diplomatic circles and as soon as Marie Louise died the chancelleries of Europe set to work to find a new Queen of Spain. After seven months Philip married Elisabeth Farnese of Parma (1692-1766) and fell under the influence of this domineering woman. She kept Philip entirely to herself and made him inaccessible to everyone else. Elisabeth used Philip's sexual demands as a means of bargain and control to establish her ascendancy over him. Her refusal aroused his anger; he shouted and threatened, sometimes did worse. She held firm, wept, and on occasion defended herself. Thus she became the real ruler of Spain. Not once in thirty years did Philip V leave her. Elisabeth even accompanied him on his hunting and shooting expeditions - wearing men's clothes - and in the military campaign of 1719. She was never popular to her new subjects, but she was utterly indispensable to her husband.

Spain had lost all her Italian possessions through the Treaty of Utrecht, and - since Philip had sons by his first wife - it was the aim of Elisabeth Farnese to regain these for her children. In due course she obtained the throne of Naples and Sicily for her eldest son, Charles, and the Duchies of Parma and Piacenza for her second son, while a third son would become archbishop of Toledo at the age of 12. She reigned by the rule of favorites and the first was the Italian Julio Alberoni, who had recommended her to the King.

Philip increasingly fell victim to a deep melancholia from which it was difficult to arouse him. The first serious attack occurred in 1717, when Alberoni reported symptoms of hysteria verging on madness. Philip complained that he felt as if a fierce internal fire was consuming him, as if the sun was sending a piercing ray to the very centre of his body. Philip shut himself up in his room with only the Queen for comfort, though even she could become an outcast if she refused his slightest whim. Only his confessor was welcome from the outside, because Philip was convinced that he was dying in mortal sin. His hypochondriacal delusions and his belief that "disasters were a divine punishment for his personal inadequacies" are symptomatic of a manic depression. In 1718 he recovered sufficiently to resume his public duties, but he was an unexpectedly aged man with a shrunken body and a pronounced stoop. In 1722 Louis de Rouvroy (1675-1755), Duke of Saint-Simon, met him and wrote: "He was very bent, shrunken, his chin poked far in advance of his chest; he planted his feet straight, touching one another, and though he moved quickly enough, his knees were more than a foot apart. His speech was so formal, his words so drawled, his expression so vacuous, that I was quite unnerved."

In January 1724 Philip V astonished everybody when he announced his decision to abdicate in favour of his eldest son, Louis I (1707-1724). His melancholia, low self-esteem and religious scruples made Philip believe that he was incapable of ruling well. Possibly, he felt obliged to withdraw and live a life of retreat in preparation of eternity. At the moment of his abdication he said: "Thank God I am no longer a King, and that the remainder of my days I shall apply myself to the service of God and to solitude". However, in August the 17-year-old Louis died suddenly from smallpox and Elisabeth Farnese persuaded Philip to resume the crown.

Philip's day, like that of his grandfather the Sun King, was well ordered. From the early 1730s, he imposed an eccentric timetable on the court, which remained unchanged for the rest of his reign. The King went to bed about 8 o'clock in the morning, rising at midday to have a light meal. At 1 o'clock he dressed and went to mass, then received visitors, and spent the evening looking out of the window, playing with his clocks, or being read to, until it was time for a musical or theatrical entertainment. After

midnight, usually around 2 o'clock, he called in his ministers to transact business, until 5 o'clock in the morning, when supper was taken with the windows closed.

Periodically, Philip V was afflicted by fits of manic depression. He was seriously ill in the spring of 1727, at times lethargic, sometimes passionate and excitable, acting violently towards his doctors. At times, he lost his head completely, biting his arms and hands; at night he screamed, shouted and sang. When the Queen tried to curb his religious devotions, he responded by violent abuse and beatings. The Queen was covered in bruises, while the King screamed and sang and bit himself. He suffered from delusions, believing that he could not walk because his feet were of different size. For a while, he believed he had turned into a frog. He spent entire days in his bed in the middle of his excretions, refusing to have his hair or toenails cut or his beard shaved. Pen and paper were kept out of his reach, because an impulsive abdication was feared.

For a time Philip V returned to a semi-normal life, allowing himself to be shaved for the first time in 8 months. By August 1732 he once more retired to bed. He would not even rise to have his meals and was again careless of his appearance; he didn't change his clothes in nineteen months. He refused to see ministers or sign documents, leaving Spain without government. In the Spring of 1733, Ferdinand (1713-1759), a son of Philip's first marriage, managed to persuade Philip to be shaved and to have his linen changed. That summer his depression changed into the frenzied activity of mania. Fearing Ferdinand's influence, Elisabeth Farnese persuaded Philip to issue an order forbidding Ferdinand and his wife to appear in public or receive foreign diplomats. Elisabeth Farnese now completely dominated her passive husband, and in the following years she tried to interest him in music and other diversions to alleviate his melancholia, at the same time ensuring that he knew of policy only what she wanted him to know. In 1738 Philip's mental instability reappeared. Philip made frightful howlings and all possible means were taken to prevent people from being witness to his follies. These repeated bouts of manic depression were finally brought to an end by a stroke on July 9th, 1746.

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