

Early Modern Europe: Age of Absolutism

Absolutism

- Principles
 - Ruler had complete power
 - Being the “father”
 - Duty to care for his people
 - Allegiance to the ruler
 - Not to the state
 - Origin: restore law and order after Religious Wars
 - Thomas Hobbes
 - Monarch had complete power
 - People gave up all of their power
 - People had no power to revolt
 - Jean Bodin
 - Divine Right
 - Bishop Bousset
 - Ruler’s authority comes from God alone
 - Not a contract
 - Tutor of Louis XIV
- Characteristics
 - Great Power
 - Sometimes abusive
 - Many Wars
 - Radical Decisions
 - Centralized Power
 - Weakened opposition
 - Large Standing Armies
 - Religious Unity = Strength
 - Stronger Bureaucracy

Absolutist Monarchs

France

- Louis XIV
- Very long reign
 - 1643-1715
- Made France strongest in Europe
- Political principle
 - *L’etat est moi*
- Social Reforms
 - Weakened nobles
 - Built up bourgeoisie
 - Built Chateau de Versailles
 - Social Control
 - Established France as Cultural Center
 - Repealed Edict of Nantes



- Economic Reforms
 - o Mercantilism
 - Built up infrastructure
 - o Improved tax system
 - Still did not tax nobles
 - o Helped French businesses
 - Subsidies
 - Tariffs on foreign businesses
- Military Reforms
 - o Outlawed private armies
 - o Very large standing army
 - First “modern” army
 - o Many Wars
 - Wars of Devolution – French loss
 - Dutch War – Tie
 - War of the League of Augsburg – Tie
 - War of Spanish Succession – French Loss

Austria

- Hapsburg empire divided after Charles V
 - o HRE splits off
- Sole purpose is to protect Europe from Turks
- Very weak
 - o Divided
 - Religiously
 - Ethnically
 - Socially
 - Nobles had most power
 - o Loss of allies
 - HRE gone
 - Spain part of Bourbons
 - o Small Army
 - o Pragmatic Sanction
 - Maria Theresa leader
 - Charles VI’s daughter
 - Other Europeans “promise” to recognize rule and not invade

Prussia

- Hohenzollerns
 - o Ruling Family
- Location
 - o Northeastern Germany
- Military State
 - o Military Drove Economy
- Social Classes

- Junkers
- Middle Class
 - Growing
- Serfs
 - Sinking deeper and deeper
- Religion
 - Protestant
 - Tolerant
 - Invited artists to Prussia
- Frederick William II
 - Very Militaristic
 - Collected Large Soldiers
 - Always Wore a uniform
 - Built of Military
- Frederick the Great
 - Used fathers army
 - Expanded Prussia

Russia

- Ivan the Terrible
 - r. 1547-1584
 - Good Period and Bad Period
 - Good
 - Married to Anastasia Romonova
 - Empire Grows Steadily
 - Fully Removes Mongols from Russian Lands
 - Allows for building of Russian Empire
 - Given title “Grozny” out of respect
 - Bad
 - Paranoid
 - Blames Boyars for wife’s death
 - Oprichnina
 - Sacks Novgorod
 - Kills Son
- Peter the Great
 - r. 1682-1725
 - Awesome Childhood
 - Personal “Army”
 - Western Advisors
 - Brought Russia into modern era
 - Kicking and screaming
 - Literally cut traditional beards off Boyars
 - Organized professional army
 - Built up navy



- Grand Embassy
 - Travels to Europe
 - Tried his hand at everything
- Window on the West
 - Desire to get a warm water seaport
 - Led to war vs Swedes
 - Great Northern War

