

Age of Absolutism

- Principles of Absolutism
 - o Ruler had complete power
 - Established to restore law and order after religious wars
 - o Ruler acts as “Father” of people
 - Duty to care for people
 - Allegiance to ruler, not state
 - o Thomas Hobbes
 - Monarch had complete power
 - People gave up their right to power
 - No power to revolt
 - o Jean Bodin
 - Divine Right
 - o Bishop Bousset
 - Ruler’s authority comes from God alone
 - No Social Contract
 - Tutor of Louis XIV
- Characteristics
 - o Great Power
 - Sometimes abusive
 - Weakened opposition
 - o Radical Decisions
 - Many Wars
 - o Centralized Power
 - Large Standing Armies
 - Strong Bureaucracy
 - Religious Unity

France Louis XIV

- Background
 - o Very long Reign
 - 1643-1715
 - Began at the age of five
 - Died at age of 77
 - o Made France strongest country in Europe
 - Largest Population
 - Fertile Soil
 - Most Self Sufficient
 - Center of Arts and Culture
 - Wealthiest Nation
 - o Political Principles
 - Absolutist
 - Divine Right
 - “L’etat est moi”
 - o *I am the State*
 - Strong centralized government
 - Relied on **bourgeoisie**
 - o Middle Class

- Strengthened Economy
 - Recorded all resources and assets of the state
 - Improved tax system
 - Did not tax nobles
 - Wrote Commercial Code
 - Trading laws
- Administrative Reforms
 - Built bureaucracy
 - Intendants used in administration
 - Never called a meeting of the Estates General
 - Did not want to share power
 - Destroyed Parlements
 - Local law courts run by the nobles
 - Tried limiting their power
- Military Reforms
 - Established Army
 - Complete with artillery
 - Made private armies illegal
 - First “modern” army
 - Professional soldiers
 - Chain of command
 - Provided uniforms and equipment
 - Discipline and marching

Wars of Louis XIV

- Purpose
 - To extend borders to natural frontiers
 - Alps
 - Rhine
 - North Sea and English Channel
 - Pyrenees
 - To weaken political and economic rivals
 - England
 - Holland
 - Hapsburgs
 - Great King synonymous with great warrior
- **War of Devolution (1667-1668)**
 - Against Triple Alliance
 - England
 - Netherlands
 - Sweden
 - Treaty of **Aix-la-Chapelle**
 - Louis Lost
 - Louis gave up most of what he had conquered
 - Gave up two trading towns
- **Dutch War (1672-1678)**
 - **William of Orange**
 - Holland had small army so needed an alliance
 - Dutch pair up with Spanish

- Dutch had ships and money
 - Louis XIV successful at first
 - Personally led invasion
 - Dutch flushed dykes out on him
 - **Treaty of Nijmegen**
 - Louis negotiated with Dutch and Spanish separately
 - Louis XIV gained
 - French Comte
 - Artois
 - Parts of Alsace and Lorraine
 - Louis Conceded
 - Maastricht
 - Had to rescind anti-Dutch tariff of 1667
 - Dutch remained independent
 - Enclaves in the Netherlands
- **War of the League of Augsburg**
 - 1688-1697
 - Louis attacked cities along the Rhine
 - Louis vs. most of the rest of Europe
 - League of Augsburg
 - Holy Roman Empire
 - Under command of Leopold (Hapsburg)
 - Spain
 - Under command of Charles II (Hapsburg)
 - Sweden
 - German elector states of Bavaria, Palatinate, and Saxony
 - The Dutch Republic
 - England after 1698
 - War dragged on
 - Had to tax nobles
 - French had weak navy
 - No decisive victories or defeats
 - Treaty of Ryswick
 - Territories returned
 - Return to status quo


War of Spanish Succession


- Causes
 - Charles II dies without an heir
 - Both Leopold and Louis claim throne
 - Both are grandsons of Spanish Kings
 - Charles II's will names Philip of Anjou
 - French
 - Grandson of Louis XIV
 - Upset the balance of power
 - Spanish and French in favor of it
 - EVERYONE else opposes it
 - Grand Alliance formed to oppose it
 - England, Holland, Austria, Prussia

- War went badly for French
 - o English clean up
 - Gibraltar
 - Battle of Blenheim
 - English Duke of Marlborough John Churchill
 - Battle of Ramillies in Brabant
 - Another victory for Marlborough
- **Peace of Utrecht**
 - o End of War of Spanish Succession
 - o Re-established balance in Europe
 - o Spoils of War
 - Philip of Anjou
 - Gets Spanish Throne
 - o BUT can never combine with throne of France
 - England
 - Gibraltar
 - Minorca
 - Nova Scotia
 - New Foundland
 - Hudson Bay Colony
 - Control of Slave Trade in New World
 - o Asiento – The British right to sell slaves to the Spanish
 - Dutch
 - Land to act as a buffer zone from French along Scheldt river
 - Austria
 - Takes possession of Spanish Netherlands
 - Italian territory
 - o Milan
 - o Naples
 - o Sardinia
 - German States
 - Duke of Brandenburg allowed to call himself “King of Prussia”
 - Duke of Savoy allowed to call himself “King of Savoy”
 - France
 - Gets to keep Alsace
 - o Long term effects of war
 - French treasury drained
 - Depopulated by 20%
 - Revolts
 - Famine
 - War
 - Trade disputed, tax system in ruins
 - Balance of power maintained
 - Confirmed system of sovereign states
 - **England now dominant empire in Europe**
 - France in financial collapse
 - Unequal tax system
 - Louis spent France into hole





 War of the Spanish Succession. The great British victories in this war were in the Spanish Netherlands and the Holy Roman Empire and they established Britain as a great power.

 The Treaty of Utrecht, Europe 1714. The treaty redistributed European possessions to create a balance of power.

