

X. Age of Absolutism

A. Philosophy of Absolutism

- Divine power – God gave them the power
- Jean Bodin (1530-96)
 - a. *Six Books of the Commonwealth* – only absolutism can create a stable society (father figure)
- Bishop Jacques Bossuet (1627-1704)
 - a. Principle advocate of “Divine Right of Kings” (during Louis XIV)
- Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)
 - a. *Leviathan* (1651) – social contract – people give up rights to a ruler

B. England (c.1600-60)

- James I strongly advocated the divine right of kings (festered the people)
 - a. Expected to rule with minimum consultation beyond his royal court
 - b. Developed income by levying based on his authority
 - c. “Peacemaker” in foreign policy (less war = less demands = less Parliament)
- Charles I
 - a. Unable to gain adequate funds from Parliament, Charles I, resorted to anti-parliamentary measures like his father, James I
 - i. Instituted a policy known as *thorough* (his reign w/o Parliament)
 1. Medieval forms of taxation and “Ship money” to pay to outfit ships

C. France (c. 1600-1715)

- Louis XIII (r. 1610-43)
 - a. Cardinal Richelieu – laid foundation for absolutism
- **Intendant System** – local officials were intendants that reported directly to the king (middle class or nobility of the robe = weakened nobility)
- Louis XIV (r. 1643-1715)
 - a. Quintessential absolute leader and believed in divine right
 - b. Gave high positions to middle class (intendant system)
 - c. In his authority, he controlled:
 - i. Peasantry – corvée – forced labor for public works projects
 - ii. Nobility – Palace of Versailles – allowed Louis to keep close eye
 - iii. Religion – Edict of Fontainebleau – Huguenots lost rights
 - iv. Economy – mercantilism
- Cardinal Mazarin – controlled France while Louis XIV was young
 - a. **The Fronde** – when Louis XIV was young, nobles tried to gain power (Louis never forgot and was determined to control nobles)
- Wars of Louis XIV
 - a. 1st and 2nd Dutch Wars – ends Dutch competition in trade and Fr. Expansion
 - b. War of the League of Augsburg (forms after Louis XIV invades Netherlands second time) (HRE, Spain, Sweden, Dutch Rep.) England joins under William of Orange, begins Anglo-French rivalry (lasts until Napoleon)
 - c. War of Spanish Succession – Charles II wills Spain to Louis XIV & Europe fears it will become a superpower – Grand Alliance forms and wins (Eng. Dutch, HRE, Portugal) in the Battle of Blenheim

- i. Treaty of Utrecht – ended French expansion, England gets Asiento, partitioned Spain, prohibited French and Spanish unification,

D. Absolutism in Eastern Europe

- Characteristics/Contrasts with Western Europe
 - a. Serfdom prevalent in East unlike West w/ free peasants (E. rulers needed nobility)
 - b. The East had strong nobility & West had a weak nobility and strong middle class
- Austrian Empire (c. 1650-1780) (Hapsburgs)
 - a. Ferdinand II reorganized Bohemia by giving land to aristocratic soldiers and Ferdinand III centralized gov't in old hereditary provinces of Austria proper
 - b. Hungary = largest part of dominion (Magyars = dominant cultural group)
 - c. Not a national state (collection of different nationalities) and no single constitutional system or administration existed (each region had different relations w/ the emperor)
 - d. Leopold I's **Siege of Vienna** repelled Turks from Vienna
 - e. Charles VI's **Pragmatic Sanction** made Hapsburg possessions to never be divided and passed to a single heir (Maria Theresa inherits)
- Prussia (c. 1600-1740) (Hohenzollerns)
 - a. Frederick William ("Great Elector") est. Prussia as great power, laid foundation for unification of Germany, oversaw militarism, and est. **Junkers** – nobles/landowners who held high positions in Prussian military
 - b. Frederick I (Elector Frederick III) (1st King of Prussia) was most popular, fought in two wars against Louis XIV b/c of balance of power (War of the League of Augsburg and War of Spanish Succession), called "King of Prussia" for aid to Hapsburgs
 - c. Frederick William I ("Soldiers Kings") made Prussia the "**Sparta of the North**"
 - d. Frederick II ("Frederick the Great") = **enlightened despot** (most famous/powerful king)
- Russia (c. 1400-1725)
 - a. Muscovy was the principality that formed the nucleus of future Russia
 - b. **Boyars** = Russian nobles
 - c. Ivan III ("Ivan the Great") ended Mongol domination (wanted Moscow to be the "**Third Rome**")
 - d. Ivan IV ("Ivan the Terrible") westernized Muscovy,
 - i. **Cossacks** (outlaw armies of peasants who fled West) formed and in response, gov't increased serfdom
 - ii. "**Time of Troubles**" = time of chaos after Ivan IV's death
 - e. Romanov Dynasty – Michael Romanov (1613 until Russian Revolution in 1917)
 - i. Favored nobles for support
 - ii. "**Old Believers**" = Orthodox people who hated western religious sects
 - f. Peter the Great (r. 1682-1725)
 - i. Revolt of Strelski was put down by him (guards revolted)
 - ii. Military power was his greatest concern
 - iii. **Great Northern War** – Treaty of Nystad – Russia gets the "**Window on the West**" (Baltic Sea)

- iv. Imported lots of western technicians and craftsmen to build factories
- v. Tables of Ranks – set educational standards for civil servants
- vi. **St. Petersburg** (crowning achievement) –capital– **Winter Palace** (palace)

vii. His reforms modernized Russia and made it mainstream

- Decline of the Ottoman Empire, the Polish Kingdom, and the Holy Roman Empire
 - a. HRE was split b/c of religion due to the Reformation and religious wars
 - b. Ottoman Empire couldn't maintain possessions in eastern Europe and Baltics b/c of Russian and Austrian Expansion
 - c. Poland: **liberum veto** – voting in Polish parliament had to be unanimous, thus, little could be done to strengthen the kingdom

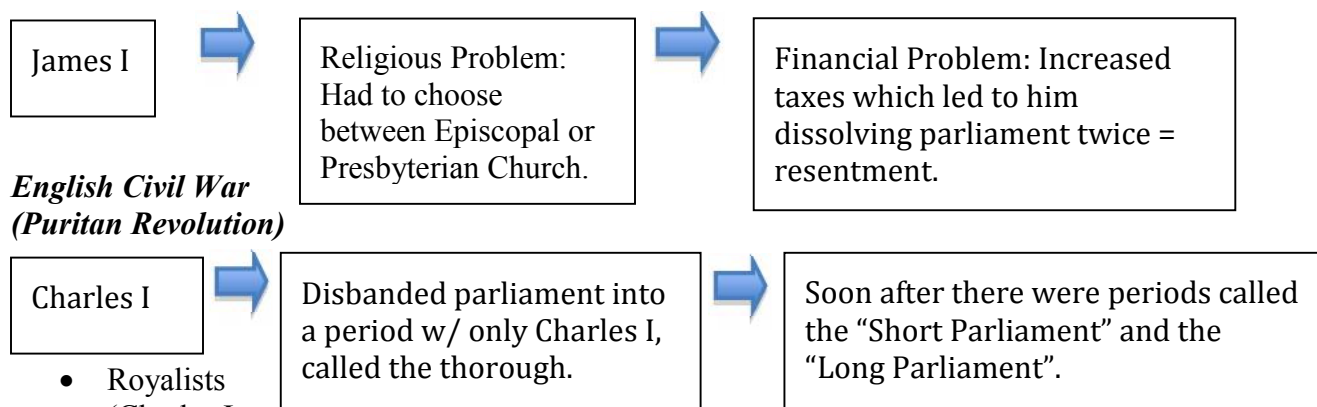
XI. The Baroque

- Characterizations = DRAMATIC, EMOTIONAL, OVERWHELMING, DETAILED
- Reflected heavily within the Palace of Versailles' architecture (ornamental, embellished)
- Artists: Poussin, Rembrandt, Bernini, Rubens (contrasting, art for everyone, ecclesiastical)
- Composers: Bach, Handel, Telemann, Vivaldi (music portrayed a single emotion)

XII. Constitutionalism in Western Europe, 17th Century

A. England

1. *Parliament versus James I and Charles I*



English Civil War (Puritan Revolution)

- Royalists (Charles I, Nobility, Anglican Church) vs. Cavaliers (Calvinists, Presbyterians, Scotland, Puritans, Parliament)
- Cavaliers win because they have an alliance with Oliver Cromwell and Scotland. Charles is beheaded which is a huge blow to absolutism and divine right

3. *Oliver Cromwell (1653-58)*

- Gets rid of the monarchy, establishes a republican government around Puritanism, and has first constitution written.
- Called "Lord Protector" and invades Ireland and conquers Scotland.
- Makes laws that is centered around Puritanism and enforces it by the army.

4. *The Restoration (1660-68)*

- When Charles II was put back into power Parliament tried to establish a stronger relationship with the King but ultimately failed because there were still disputes.
 - Parliament (Anglican) and Charles II (Catholic) but him at odds with Parliament in the Test Act.
- Habeas Corpus Act: Effort by parliament to limit Charles II Power
- James II wanted to return England back to Catholicism.

5. *The Glorious Revolution (1668) and its political aftermath*

- James II flees to France so no blood was shed which made it a **GLORIOUS** revolution.
- Ultimately, power of the purse wins.
- William of Orange and Mary (protestant) take over English throne and swear to govern England with the statues of Parliament.

6. *Public Policy Responses*

- English Bill of Rights, Toleration Act, Act of Settlement, and Act of Union were all things that tied Parliament with the monarchs.
- By the 18th century the king and queens role in government declined significantly.

B. **The United Provinces of the Netherlands (Dutch Republic)**

1. *Struggle for Independence against Spain*

- Calvinists lived in Netherlands to escape religious wars in France. (1560)
- Fearing Spanish Inquisition, Calvinist brutally destroyed Cath. Churches led by William I of Orange.
- Phillip II appalled sends troops and the Duke of Alva to stop it. (Council of Troubles)
- Pacification of Ghent: United all 17 provinces and gave them religious sovereignty.

2. *Impact of the Commercial Revolution*

- In the 16th century Antwerp in Flanders was the financial and commerce center of Europe.
- In the 17th century Amsterdam was the financial and commerce center of Europe.
- The Dutch East India Company was a chartered company that allowed monopolies.
- The Dutch was the world's dominant maritime power: "Golden Age of Netherlands"

3. *Religious Toleration*

- The Dutch were Protestant and Phillip II wanted to re-impose Catholicism.
- Spain had control over the Netherlands, but after the war the North provinces got to be protestant, but the South (Belgium) was still under Spain and with the Unions of Arras and Utrecht they remained catholic.

4. *Lack of Centralization: Stadtholders*

- The middle class (burghers) dominated politics and the economy.
- Government was weak but economy flourishing.
- Stadtholders: the chief magistrate of the Dutch, were almost always ineffective because were picked by family.



5. *Economic Decline*

- Anglo Dutch Wars
 - England's British E. India Co. vs. Netherlands' Dutch E. India Co.
 - Dutch falling behind the English economically with trade, shipping and colonies.
 - England seized Amsterdam (center of commerce in 17th century)
 - Dutch wanted to go to banking b/c they wanted to survive intact

- Created a central bank and were the first to perfect the use of paper currency.
- The wars of Louis XIV weakened Dutch trade in the Atlantic.