

World History Unit 7: The Age of Absolutism (1550-1800)
NC Essential Standards 4 and 5: Early Modern Europe

- I. Absolute Monarchs - a ruler with total control
 - A. Divine right – rulers believe their power comes from God
- II. Spanish Monarchs
 - A. Charles V (Ruled from 1519-1556); Catholic
 - 1. Hapsburg Dynasty (ruled the Spanish and Austrian Empires)
 - 2. Known originally as Charles I
 - a. grandson of Ferdinand and Isabella – inherited Spanish land
 - b. grandson of a Hapsburg – inherited Hapsburg Empire and the Netherlands (Holy Roman Empire) and took the name Charles V
 - 3. followed the Peace of Augsburg (allowed princes to decide religion)
 - 4. divided his empire among his brother and son because it was too large to govern
 - a. brother Ferdinand – Hapsburg land; Holy Roman Empire
 - b. son Philip II – Spanish land
 - B. Philip II (Ruled from 1556-1598); Catholic - called for religious unity and reinforced the Inquisition
 - 1. Hapsburg Dynasty – Charles V’s son
 - 2. Example of absolute monarchy – put all parts of government under his control
 - 3. Example of divine right – saw himself as the guardian of the Catholic Church; power over pope
 - 4. Ruled during a Golden Age – Spain was its most wealthy and powerful
 - 5. Sent the Spanish Armada (navy) to attack England
 - a. religious and political rivalry with Queen Elizabeth I of England
 - 1. Chief Protestant enemy
 - 2. Married Mary Tudor (Catholic Bloody Mary; Elizabeth’s older sister) – effort to Strengthen political and religious control
 - b. English sea dogs (pirates) destroyed the Armada
 - 1. Sea dogs – quick, light ships
 - 2. Armada – heavy, wooden ships
 - 3. Fought in English Channel – Armada couldn’t escape; storms
 - c. ended Spanish power and influence in the world
- III. French Monarchs
 - A. Henry IV (Ruled from 1589-1610); Protestant
 - 1. Bourbon Dynasty
 - 2. Huguenot – French Protestant
 - a. converted to Catholicism to please his people and stay in power
 - b. Edict of Nantes – called for religious freedom of Protestants
 - 3. St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre – Catholics killed thousands of Protestants
 - 4. killed by an assassin
 - B. Louis XIII (Ruled from 1610-1642); Catholic
 - 1. Bourbon Dynasty – son of Henry IV
 - 2. Cardinal Richelieu
 - a. chief minister
 - b. ruled for Louis XIII until he was of age to assume the throne
 - c. tried to destroy Huguenot power; attacked cities, etc.
 - 3. Fronde
 - a. rebellion by nobles who lacked power
 - b. killed Louis XIII and much of royalty and family
 - c. young son Louis XIV escaped, but was haunted by the memories
 - C. Louis XIV (Ruled from 1643-1715 (72 years – longest rule by a monarch); Catholic
 - 1. Bourbon Dynasty – son of Louis XIV
 - 2. Repealed the Edict of Nantes – no toleration of Protestants
 - 3. Cardinal Mazarin - chief minister; ruled for Louis XIV until he was of age to assume the throne

4. Examples of absolutism
 - a. never called the Estates General (legislature) to meet
 - b. “L’etat C’est Moi”- I am the State: Famous quote
 - c. nicknamed the Sun King – symbol of power; center of the universe
5. Built the strongest military in Europe at that time
6. Intendants – royal officials (tax collecting, recruit soldiers, etc.)
7. Palace of Versailles
 - a. built by Louis XIV as a symbol of his wealth and power
 - b. used throughout history for meetings of leaders, signing treaties, etc.
 - c. famous for hall of mirrors, gardens, etc.
 - d. Louis XIV held lavish banquets and parties, invited the nobles to vacation there, bribed nobles, etc. to avoid assassination (effect from the Fronde); nobles competed to help with his daily routines (dressing, eating, etc.)
8. Jean Baptist Colbert
 - a. finance minister
 - b. used mercantilism to increase France’s wealth
 - c. mercantilism – using colonies for raw materials, natural resources, and markets
9. Balance of Power
 - a. keeping one country from becoming too strong
 - b. European countries kept a check on France due to its strong army and wealth

IV. English Monarchs

- A. Henry VIII (Ruled from 1509-1547); Protestant
 1. Tudor Dynasty
 2. Church of England
 - a. Henry VIII needed a male heir and had none
 - b. Pope refused to grant him a divorce
 - c. gave himself an annulment
 3. Six Wives
 - a. Catherine of Aragon – divorced – daughter Mary I
 - b. Anne Boleyn – beheaded – daughter Elizabeth I
 - c. Jane Seymour – died after childbirth – son Edward VI
 - d. Anne of Cleves – divorced
 - e. Katherine Howard – beheaded
 - f. Katherine Parr – outlived Henry VIII
- B. Edward VI (Ruled from 1547-1553); Protestant
 1. Tudor Dynasty – third child; son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour
- C. Mary I (“Bloody Mary”); Ruled from 1553-1558; Catholic
 1. Tudor Dynasty – first daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon
 2. Catholic – persecuted and killed many Protestants
- D. Elizabeth I (Ruled from 1558-1603); Protestant
 1. Tudor Dynasty – second daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn
 2. Led England when the Spanish Armada attacked
 - a. England had no navy
 - b. called together sea dogs (pirates) led by Francis Drake to fight
 - c. sea dogs (and a storm) defeated the Spanish Armada
 - d. effects
 1. England develops a strong navy
 2. a female is seen as a strong ruler
 3. Spain loses world power
 3. Rival of Mary Stuart – Catholic and wanted power
 - a. the Catholic queen of Scotland
 - b. beheaded for a plot to kill Elizabeth I
 4. Never married – “Virgin Queen”
 - a. no heir so throne passed to Stuart cousins

- b. Tudors had good relations with Parliament; Stuarts will not (strict absolute monarchs with divine right)
- E. James I (Ruled from 1603-1625); Catholic
 - 1. Stuart Dynasty – son of Mary Stuart of Scotland
 - 2. Disagreements with Parliament over money
 - 3. Dissolved Parliament and collected taxes on his own
 - 4. Organized the translation of the Bible into the English vernacular (King James Bible)
- F. Charles I (Ruled from 1625-1649); Protestant (with lots of Catholic influence)
 - 1. Stuart Dynasty – son of James I
 - 2. Petition of Right
 - a. Charles I signed to get money from Parliament; then dissolved Parliament
 - b. king can't raise taxes or unfairly imprison people
 - 3. The Long Parliament (1640-1653)
 - a. led to the greatest political revolution in English history
 - b. supporters of Charles I executed government leaders that opposed him
 - c. much conflict between monarch and Parliament over money, control, etc.
 - 4. English Civil War
 - a. Parliament wanted to overthrow the king due to his abuse of power
 - b. Charles I is supported by the Cavaliers (wealthy)
 - c. Oliver Cromwell, member of Parliament, supported by Roundheads (commoners)
 - d. Oliver Cromwell overthrew and executed Charles I to take control
 - 5. First public execution of a monarch
- G. Oliver Cromwell (Ruled from 1649-1658); Protestant
 - 1. Not royalty – first commoner to rule England
 - 2. Protestant (strict Puritan beliefs) – religious freedom for Protestants and Jews; not Catholics
 - 3. Defeated Charles I in the English Civil War; supported by Roundheads
 - 4. The Commonwealth
 - a. Cromwell's republic
 - b. abolished the House of Lords, the monarchy, and the Church of England
 - c. took the title of Lord Protector
 - 5. New Model Army
 - a. used military rule to enforce order
 - b. forced Catholics out of England; fled to Ireland and Scotland
 - 6. Strict Puritan ways
 - a. closed taverns and theaters
 - b. no dancing or gambling
 - c. strict observation of Sundays as holy days
 - d. promoted education in order to read the Bible
 - 7. Died in 1658 and newly elected Parliament called Charles II from exile to rule
- H. Charles II (Ruled from 1660-1685); Protestant – hid his Catholic tendencies to avoid execution
 - 1. Stuart Dynasty – son of Charles I
 - 2. Restoration King
 - a. restored the rightful ruler to the throne
 - b. reestablished the Church of England – tolerated all religions
 - 3. Merry Monarch – brought back entertainment outlawed by Cromwell
- I. James II (Ruled from 1685-1688); Catholic
 - 1. Stuart Dynasty – son of Charles I, Charles II's brother
 - 2. feared by Protestants because he appointed Catholics to high government positions
 - 3. Glorious Revolution (Bloodless Revolution)
 - a. the bloodless overthrow of James II
 - b. Parliament calls his daughter Mary and her husband William to rule England
 - c. first political parties
 - 1. Tories – supported James II
 - 2. Whigs – opposed James II

- J. William and Mary (Ruled from 1689-1702); Protestant
 - 1. Stuart Dynasty – Mary; William of Orange – Netherlands
 - 2. Supported by Parliament in the Glorious Revolution
 - 3. English Bill of Rights
 - a. limited the power of the monarch
 - b. Parliament was superior over the monarch
 - c. House of Commons control taxes and the treasury
 - d. Toleration Act – religious freedom to all except Catholics
 - e. included:
 - 1. No Catholics can rule
 - 2. Trial by jury
 - 3. No cruel punishment
 - 4. habeas corpus – the right to stand before a judge to determine if there is enough evidence to hold a trial
 - 4. Created a limited monarchy
 - a. the power of the monarch is restricted through a constitution or legislative body
 - b. only European country with a limited monarchy; others are absolute monarchies
- K. Queen Anne (Ruled 1702-1714); Protestant
 - 1. Stuart Dynasty
 - 2. Act of Union: united England & Scotland into Great Britain
 - 3. Act of Succession: only a Protestant can inherit the Throne of England.
 - 4. No heirs, house of Hanover chosen to succeed Anne (Hanoverians were German)
 - 5. Effects – created a constitutional government (power is defined and limited by law)
 - a. political parties
 - 1. Tories – upper class, tradition, power of monarch, Church of England
 - 2. Whigs – commoners, religious freedom, Parliament power over monarch
 - b. cabinet
 - 1. Advisors to the monarch
 - 2. Started with George I (German who inherited the English throne)
 - c. prime minister
 - 1. Head of the cabinet and leader of majority party in House of Commons
 - 2. Chief official of British government; power exceeds monarchs
 - 3. Robert Walpole – Britain’s first prime minister
 - d. Hanoverians defeated Jacobite (House of Stuart Supporters) uprising
 - 1. “Bonnie Prince Charlie” invaded Scotland and conquered it.
 - 2. He was defeated by “Butcher” Cumberland at the Battle of Culloden
- V. Thirty Years War (1618-1648)
 - A. Background
 - 1. Local rulers had more authority than the Holy Roman Emperor
 - 2. Religion in the Holy Roman Empire was divided
 - a. Northern Germany – Protestant
 - b. Southern Germany – Catholic
 - B. War
 - 1. Started in the Czech Republic between Catholics and Protestants
 - 2. Spread throughout Europe
 - C. Peace of Westphalia
 - 1. Ended the Thirty Years’ War
 - 2. France gained land; Austria lost land
 - 3. Netherlands and Switzerland became independent
 - 4. Germany (Holy Roman Empire) – 360 separate states with local rulers in control
- VI. Austrian Monarchs
 - A. Maria Theresa (Ruled from 1740-1780); Catholic
 - 1. Hapsburg Dynasty
 - 2. First female to rule her land- father had gotten Pragmatic Sanction from other rulers

3. War of Austrian Succession

- a. started when Frederick the Great of Prussia attacked Austria and took over Silesia
- b. Frederick the Great considered Maria Theresa a weak opponent b/c she was female
- c. Frederick the Great was never able to gain more land than Silesia, earning Maria Theresa respect among other European monarchs
- d. war ended "Status Quo Ante Bellum" (Same as it was before the war)

4. Partitioned Poland with Russia and Prussia

VII. Prussian Monarchs

A. Frederick William I (Ruled from 1713 – 1740); Protestant

1. Hohenzollern Dynasty
2. gained the loyalty of Prussian nobles by giving them positions in the army and government
3. emphasis on the military and created one of the best trained armies in Europe

B. Frederick II (Frederick the Great); Ruled from 1740-1786; Protestant (Calvinism)

1. Hohenzollern Dynasty – son of Frederick William I
2. Instead of being the state, as Louis XIV was, Frederick considered himself "The First Servant of the State."
3. Used the army to attack Austria and control the land known as Silesia, sparking the War of Austrian Succession.
4. The Seven Years War (1756-1763)- The war pitted Prussia and Britain and a coalition of smaller German states against an alliance consisting of Austria, France, Russia, Sweden, and Saxony.
 - a. Against All odds, Frederick the Great kept Prussia from being completely overrun.
 - b. Just when it looked like Prussia was doomed, an event dubbed Miracle of the House of Brandenburg, led to the collapse of the anti-Prussian coalition.

VIII. Russian Monarchs

A. Peter I (Peter the Great); Ruled from 1689-1725; Russian Orthodox

1. Romanov Dynasty
2. Westernization
 - a. to adopt ideas from Western European countries and become more modern
 - b. disguised himself and took a trip around western Europe to see how others lived
 - c. St. Petersburg ("Window to the West")
 1. Capital built by Peter I
 2. Example of modernization
 3. Drained swampland and built on the coast of the Baltic Sea
 - d. brought to Russia – education, technology, army, alphabet, no beards on men, men and women allowed to socialize together, etc.
3. Used terror to enforce absolute power
4. Wanted access to the Black Sea port
 - a. a warm water port was needed for trade all year
 - b. never able to gain access to it
5. Took control of the Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska

B. Catherine the Great (Ruled from 1762 – 1796); Russian Orthodox

1. German – married into the Romanov family
2. Married Peter III and ruled after his death
3. Fought the Ottoman Empire to gain access to the warm water port at the Black Sea in order to trade all year
4. partitioned (divided) Poland along with Prussia and Austria