**Absolutism and Constitutionalism**

**(ca 1589-1725)**

Objectives

*General Trends and Concepts*

1. Define, compare, and contrast absolutism and constitutionalism. Explain how they are different from totalitarianism and democracy, respectively, and identify the European countries that developed each system of government in the 17th century.
2. Explain why European governments developed absolutist and constitutional states in the 17th century.
3. Analyze how 16th-17th century thinkers justified absolutism (ex. Bodin, Bossuet, Hobbes) and constitutionalism (ex. Locke).
4. Explain how and why the basic structure of society in eastern Europe became different from that of western Europe in the early modern period.
5. Describe and explain significant continuities and changes in the power and status of the European nobility from the Renaissance through the Age of Absolutism.

*Countries - Absolutism*

1. Describe how the French monarchy consolidated power in the age of absolutism, from Henry IV through Louis XIV.
2. Explain why Spain declined in the seventeenth century.
3. Describe the development of absolutism in Eastern Europe: in Austria, Prussia, and Russia.
4. Analyze the major ways through which Peter the Great (1689-1725) sought to reform his society and its institutions in order to strengthen Russia and its position in Europe. Evaluate the extent to which Peter the Great was really “great.”
5. Describe the distinctive features of Ottoman absolutism.

*Countries - Constitutionalism*

1. Describe the development of constitutional states in England and the Dutch Republic.
2. Describe how and why the seventeenth century is considered the “golden age” of the Netherlands.

Terms and People

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| absolutismdivine rightconstitutionalismconstitutional republic vs. monarchysovereigntyserfdom**France:** Henry IV (r. 1589-1610) Edict of Nantes (1598) Louis XIII (r. 1610-1643) Cardinal Richelieu intendants robe nobility (*noblesse de robe*) sword nobility (*noblesse de d’épée*) Cardinal Mazarin Fronde (1648-1653) Louis XIV (r. 1643-1715) Estates General Versailles Jean-Baptiste Colbert  mercantilism  War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1713) Peace of Utrecht (1713) Bodin & Bossuet**Austria:** Habsburgs Bohemian Estates Ferdinand II (r. 1619-1637) Ferdinand III (r. 1637-1657) Prince Francis Rákóczy | **Prussia:** Hohenzollerns Frederick William, the “Great  Elector” (r. 1640-1688) Junkers Frederick William I, “the Soldiers’  King” (r. 1713-1740) **Russia:** tsar “Third Rome” boyars service nobility Cossacks Ivan III, “Ivan the Great”  (r. 1462-1505) Ivan IV, “Ivan the Terrible”  (r. 1533-1584) Time of Troubles (1598-1613) Peter the Great (r. 1682-1725) Great Northern War (1700-1721) St. Petersburg**Ottoman Empire:** sultan janissary corps millet system  | **England:** James I (r. 1603-1625) Charles I (r. 1625-1649) House of Commons Puritans Long Parliament (1640-1660) English civil war (1642-1649) Oliver Cromwell Protectorate (1653-1658) Navigation Act (1651) Restoration of 1660 Charles II (r. 1660-1685) Test Act of 1673 James II (r. 1685-1688) William and Mary Glorious Revolution (1688) Bill of Rights (1689) cabinet system & prime minister Thomas Hobbes / *Leviathan*  John Locke /*Second Treatise of Civil*  *Government* **Dutch Republic:** “golden age of the Netherlands” Holland **Art:** French classicism  |