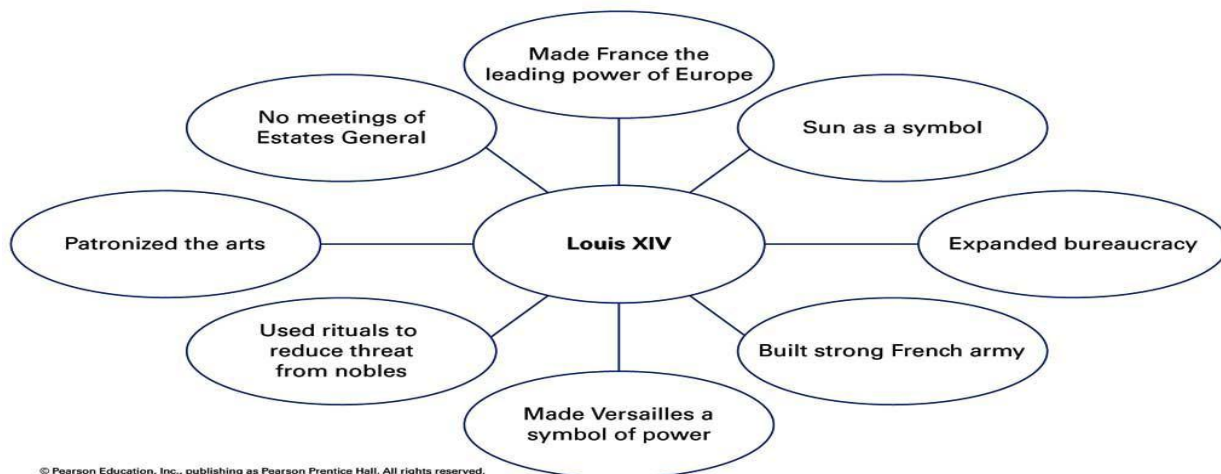


I. France under Louis XIV

- A.** One response to the crises of the seventeenth century was to seek stability by increasing the monarchy's power. This response historians call **absolutism**, a system in which the ruler has total power. It also includes the idea of the divine right of kings.
- B.** Absolute monarchs could make laws, levy taxes, administer justice, control the state's officials, and determine foreign policy.
- C.** The best example of seventeenth-century absolutism is the reign of **Louis XIV** of France. French power and culture spread throughout Europe. Other courts imitated the court of Louis XIV.
- D.** Louis XIII and Louis XIV were only boys when they came to power. A royal minister held power for each up to a certain age, **Cardinal Richelieu** for Louis XIII and **Cardinal Mazarin** for Louis XIV. These ministers helped preserve the monarchy.
- E.** Richelieu took political and military rights from the Huguenots, a perceived threat to the throne, and thwarted a number of plots by nobles through a system of spies, executing the conspirators.
- F.** Louis XIV came to the throne in 1643 at age four. During Mazarin's rule, nobles rebelled against the throne, but their efforts were crushed. Many French people concluded that the best chance for stability was with a monarch.
- G.** Louis XIV took power in 1661 at age 23. He wanted to be and was to be sole ruler of France. All were to report to him for orders or approval of orders. He fostered the myth of himself as the Sun King—the source of light for his people.
- H.** The royal court Louis established at **Versailles** served three purposes. It was the king's household, the location of the chief offices of the state, and a place where the powerful could find favors and offices for themselves. From Versailles, Louis controlled the central policy-making machinery of government.
- I.** Louis deposed nobles and princes from the royal council and invited them to Versailles where he hoped court life would distract them from politics. This tactic often worked. Louis' government ministers were to obey his every wish. He ruled with absolute authority in the three traditional areas of royal authority: foreign policy, the Church, and taxes.
- J.** Louis had an anti-Huguenot policy, wanting the Huguenots to convert to Catholicism. He destroyed Huguenot churches and closed Huguenot schools. As many as two hundred thousand Protestants fled France.
- K.** The mercantilist policies of the brilliant **Jean-Baptiste Colbert** helped Louis with the money he needed for maintaining his court and pursuing his wars.
- L.** Louis developed a standing army of four hundred thousand. He wanted the Bourbon dynasty to dominate Europe. To achieve this goal, he waged four wars between 1667 and 1713, causing many other nations to form alliances against him. He did add some lands to France and set up a member of his dynasty on Spain's throne.
- M.** The Sun King died in 1715. France was debt-ridden and surrounded by enemies. On his deathbed he seemed remorseful for not caring for the people more.

The Reign of Louis XIV



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II. Absolutism in Central and Eastern Europe

- A.** After the Thirty Years' War, two German states—**Prussia** and **Austria**—emerged in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as great powers.
- B. Frederick William the Great Elector** laid the basis for the Prussian state. He built an efficient standing army of forty thousand men, the fourth largest army in Europe.
- C.** Frederick William set up the General War Commissariat to oversee the army. It soon became a bureaucratic machine for civil government as well. Frederick William used it to govern the state. Many members were landed aristocracy known as Junkers, who served in the army as well.
- D.** Frederick William's son became King Frederick I in 1701.
- E.** The Austrian Hapsburgs had long been Holy Roman emperors. After the Thirty Years' War, they created a new empire in eastern and southeastern Europe. Its core was in present-day Austria, the Czech Republic, and Hungary. After the defeat of the Turks in 1687 (see Chapter 15), Austria took control of Transylvania, Croatia, and Slovenia as well.
- F.** The Austrian monarchy never was a centralized, absolutist state, however. It was made up of many national groups. The empire was a set of territories held together by the Hapsburg emperor, who was archduke of Austria, king of Bohemia, and king of Hungary. Each area had its own laws and political life, however.

III. Russia under Peter the Great

- A.** In the sixteenth century, **Ivan IV** became the first Russian ruler to take the title of **czar**, Russian for caesar. Called Ivan the Terrible for his ruthlessness, he expanded Russia eastward and crushed the power of the Russian **boyars** (the nobility).
- B.** The end of Ivan's rule in 1584 was followed by a period of anarchy called the Time of Troubles. It ended when the national assembly chose Michael Romanov as czar in 1613. The Romanov dynasty lasted until 1917.
- C.** Its most prominent member was Peter the Great, an absolutist who believed in the divine right of kings. He became czar in 1689. Peter soon made a trip to the West, and he returned determined to Europeanize Russia. He wanted European technology to create a great army to support Russia as a great power. By Peter's death in 1725, Russia was an important European state.
- D.** To create his army, Peter drafted peasants for 25-year stints. He also formed the first Russian navy. He divided Russia into provinces to rule more effectively. He wanted to create a "police state," by which he meant a well-ordered community governed by law.
- E.** Peter introduced Western customs and etiquette. At court, Russian beards had to be shaved and coats shortened, for example, as were the customs in Europe. Upper-class women gained much from Peter's reforms. He insisted they remove their veils, and he held gatherings for conversation and dancing where the sexes mixed, as in Europe.
- F.** Peter's goal was to make Russia a great power. An important part of this was finding a port with access to Europe through the Baltic Sea. At the time Sweden controlled the Baltic. Peter warred with Sweden, and he acquired the lands he needed. In 1703 on the Baltic, he began construction of a new city, **St. Petersburg**. It was the Russian capital until 1917.