

Absolutism (Spielvogel Chapter 15)

I. Socio-economic conditions

- A. economy – recession from 1590s became worse through the mid part of the century
 - i. Italy loses power as leader
- B. population – levels off by 1620 and declines in 1620
 - i. Dutch, English, & somewhat French grew (they were the biggest colonists of this time)

II. Witchcraft

- A. traditional practice
- B. interrogations & murder of 100,000 people – mostly in Protestant areas
 - i. somewhat tied to ongoing Catholic vs. Protestant arguments
- C. really a result of scapegoating because of poor economy and health
 - i. blame the weird old lady in the neighborhood

III. Thirty Years' War

A. Tensions

- i. Calvinist vs. Lutheran principalities
- ii. Catholic vs. Protestant principalities
- iii. Habsburg emperors (want consolidation; aided by Spanish relatives) vs. princes

B. Bohemian phase (1618-1625)

- i. Bohemian nobles had accepted Archduke **Ferdinand** (Habsburg) as their king, but he began re-Catholicizing Bohemia – rebellion!
 - a) Nobles show their anger by throwing two Habsburg governors and their secretary out a castle window in Prague (a 70 foot fall)
 - b) argument ensued about how they lived, with Catholics saying Mary saved them, and Protestants saying they fell in a pile of poo

ii. **Frederick** replaced **Ferdinand**

iii. **Ferdinand** was elected Holy Roman Emperor

iv. **Ferdinand** invaded Bohemia, defeated **Frederick** at the Battle of White Mountain

- a) other lands **Frederick** owned were invaded and conquered while he was busy and he was exiled to Holland
- v. **Ferdinand's** relatives reconquered his territory for him – he was still Bohemian king; Bohemia became a hereditary Hapsburg possession

C. Danish phase (1625-1629)

- i. King Christian IV of Denmark, a Lutheran, decided to save the Protestants by attacking northern Germany
- ii. he faced Albrecht von Wallenstein, a Bohemian supporter of Frederic who absolutely slaughtered Christian's army
- iii. Emperor Ferdinand II was super strong, so he issued that Edict of Restitution in March 1629
 - a) this outlawed Calvinist worship and gave the Catholics all property taken by the Protestants in the last 75 years

D. Swedish phase (1630-1635)

- i. Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus, a Lutheran, brought his armies into Germany
- ii. Adolphus versus Wallenstein – fought at the Battle of Lutzen, which they won, but lost Adolphus in the process
- iii. Wallenstein assassinated 1634
- iv. both armies less powerful
- v. Swedes defeated 1634 Battle of Nordlingen
 - a) southern Germany remains Catholic

- b) Emperor rescinds Edict of Restitution
- E. Franco-Swedish phase (1635-1648)
 - i. French, under Cardinal Richelieu, chief minister of King Louis XIII, sends in French army on behalf of Protestant Swedes (remember Spain are Hapsburgs and French hate Spain)
 - ii. Battle of Rocroi 1643 French beat Spanish, and Spanish military power
 - iii. French go on to kick German butt
 - iv. war-weary parties begin negotiations
 - a) after five years of negotiations, Peace of Westphalia 1648
 - b) sidenote – France and Spain keep fighting until the Peace of the Pyrenees in 1659
- F. results
 - i. all German states can choose their own religion (even Calvinist ones)
 - ii. France gets parts of western Germany – France gains border area (esp. Alsace)
 - iii. Hapsburgs role as rulers loses strength, but they didn't lose any land
 - iv. H.R.E. split apart into its independent states (no unified Germany yet)
 - v. move from religious motivations for war to political ones (Pope never agrees to Peace of Westphalia, but they ignore what he wants) – this is the last large European religious war
 - vi. Debated: destruction of German economy/infrastructure (some areas grew while others were destroyed)
 - vii. don't forget loss of life
 - viii. new military tactics
 - a) Adolphus invents standing army
 - b) expanded use of firearms/cannons
 - c) more disciplined armies
- IV. Absolutism
 - A. means that king as absolute power, given to him by divine right
 - B. Bishop Jacques Bossuet (1627-1704) – main theorist on Absolutism
 - i. government created by God to create order
 - ii. God created kings and ruled the people through them
 - a) kings power is therefore as absolute as God's
 - iii. Kings responsible to no one but God
- V. Absolutist France
 - A. Cardinal Richelieu (France's chief minister from 1624-1642)
 - i. eliminated special rights of Huguenots given by Edict of Nantes
 - ii. established network of spies to watch the nobles
 - iii. established intendants – people who executed the orders of the central government directly (not through nobles) – antecedent of middle class
 - B. King Louis XIV (1643-1715)
 - i. childhood – Cardinal Mazarin, successor to Richelieu, controlled country
 - a) nobles were trying to kill him to usurp the throne
 - b) Louis HATED the nobles
 - ii. Versailles
 - a) palace vs. castle
 - b) use of Versailles – control the nobles (see above)
 - c) increased use of intendants (Richelieu's invention) to do the nobles old jobs
 - rise of the Middle Class
 - iii. wars of Louis XIV –
 - a) most focused on expanding France to its “natural” boundaries (oceans, mountains,

rivers)

b) War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1713)

- Charles II of Spain was heirless – gave throne to grandson of Louis XIV (became Philip V of Spain)
- Fear France & Spain would unite
- coalition of other powers invaded. Ended with Peace of Utrecht in 1713
 - Philip V stays as leader, but thrones of France and Spain had to stay separated

VI. Decline of Spain

A. started back under Philip II – led country into bankruptcy

- i. wars, lost Netherlands, Spanish Armada

B. kings since have been focusing on acquisition – leads to trade deficit (debt!)

- i. even though massive amounts of money are coming in from the colonies, more is going out

VII. I wanna be Louis XIV (all of Europe seems to copy him)

A. Brandenburg-Prussia

- i. Frederick William the Great Elector (ruled 1640-1688)

a) built super-strong army and bypassed nobles to collect taxes

b) nobles were OK because he gave them absolute control over their serfs

B. Austria – gains territory from Ottomans in Treaty of Karlowitz (1699), esp. Transylvania

- i. never achieves great power because it is not unified enough

C. Russia

- i. Ivan IV 'the Terrible' (1533-1584)

a) first to be called a “tsar”

b) called “Terrible” because he would do anything to keep his power – even kill his own son

- ii. begin Romanov dynasty – Michael Romanov (d. 1645) chosen by the Zemsky Sobor (National Assembly)

- iii. Peter the Great (1689-1725)

a) wanted to be like Louis XIV, to Europeanize Russia

b) began standing army

c) took control of church (Russian Orthodox)

d) expanded to include ports (esp. on the Baltic Sea)

D. Sweden – Charles XI (d. 1697) – absolutist monarch of Sweden. It was powerful for his reign, and then not (his son loved the military, and consequently lost many battles)

E. Poland – Kings chosen by the Sejm (Polish diet) – consequently Poland was not strong

F. Dutch Republic – GOLDEN AGE!

- i. Economic prosperity because they were the primary trading country in Europe – falls apart by 1715 when England has taken over

VIII. Ottoman Empire

A. Janissaries – organization, benefits

B. attacks in Europe repulsed by Austria

- i. see expansion map on page 423

C. military pressure from Persia

IX. England

A. James I (1603-1625) – English Bible, arguments between Episcopalians and Presbyterians

- i. alienated his chief supporters (Calvinists/Puritans/Presbyterians) because he wanted to keep power over the church

B. Charles I (1625-1649)

- i. Angered over some things Parliament wanted (king had to get their permission to tax, imprison, quarter soldiers in private houses, and declare martial law in peacetime), Charles tried to stop Parliament from meeting (king had to call a meeting of Parliament)
- ii. Married a Catholic and asked the church to have more ritual – led to Scottish revolt
 - a) Charles couldn't raise troops, so he had to call Parliament into session
- iii. Long Parliament (1640-1660) – limited king's power
 - a) had radical element that was arrested by King Charles
 - b) Puritans start civil war
- iv. Split in Parliament
 - a) Presbyterians – wanted to put Charles back in with Presbyterian state church
 - b) vs. Independents – opposed established Presbyterian state church
 - Independents marched on London to negotiate with King
 - King fled to Scotland to enlist support
 - Cromwell begins Civil War phase II (1648), captures King
- v. Charles I beheaded on January 30, 1649 by non-Presbyterians in Parliament (others had been “purged”)

C. Oliver 'Let's have a Republic as long as everyone agrees with me' Cromwell

- i. England declared a republic/commonwealth
 - a) Cromwell's in charge
- ii. vs. Levellers – wanted equality, annual Parliaments, government help for poor
- iii. vs. Rump Parliament – Cromwell dismissed them by force
- iv. now government based on army control
 - a) England's only written constitution, called the Instrument of Government, makes Cromwell the “Lord Protector”
 - it had a Parliament, that wanted a Presbyterian state church and to limit Cromwell's power
- v. government now gets headed solely by Cromwell through military government
- vi. after Cromwell's death in 1658, military decides they need a king and establish Charles II, son of Charles I, as King

D. King Charles II

- i. Charles' brother James, heir to the throne, was Catholic

E. James II – takes control of the throne, and has a Catholic son with his Catholic wife

- i. he also made it legal for Catholics to hold office, and appointed Catholics to high positions

F. The Glorious Revolution (1688*)

- i. William of Orange, husband of James's Protestant daughter, Mary
 - a) was invited by seven prominent English noblemen to invade England
- ii. Parliament (called the Convention Parliament) declared the throne of England vacant because James had broken the contract between a king and his people
- iii. William & Mary declared rulers
 - a) they enact a Bill of Rights (read it on page 429)
- iv. Important because it established that the King was set up by Parliament, not God (no more absolutism in England)

G. English political theorists

- i. Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)
 - a) in nature, humans are brutish, leading to ruthlessness and short lives
 - b) mankind set up government to end the “war of every man against every man”

- c) they set up an absolute ruler to protect the social order
- d) therefore, it is always immoral to rebel
- ii. John Locke (1632-1704)
 - a) mankind is naturally ordered socially – mankind in its natural state enjoys equality and freedom
 - b) in this natural state, humans had certain inalienable natural rights (among these are life, liberty, and property)
 - c) people set up governments so that there were impartial judges to protect their rights
 - d) therefore, governments and citizens have mutual obligations (the social contract)
 - governments must protect peoples' rights
 - people would act reasonably toward the government
 - e) if the government violates this contract, people can form a new government
 - f) Locke argues that the “people” was the landholding aristocracy, but people who read his works argued that it includes everyone

X. Art

- A. Mannerism – attempted to break down the High Renaissance values of balance, harmony, and moderation (saw Reformation as turbulent time, so they produced turbulent art)
 - i. El Greco (1541-1614) – quintessential example – see p. 431
- B. Baroque – in music, art, and architecture
 - i. easily spotted by embellishments
 - ii. combined Renaissance values with good feelings of Reformation
 - iii. Bernini (1598-1680) – quintessential example (see p. 432 – ecstasy of St. Theresa, which is very popular on AP tests)
 - iv. also gets Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1653)
 - a) she painted a series of heroines from the Bible
- C. French Late Classicism
 - i. goes back to Renaissance, feeling that Baroque is too gaudy
- D. Dutch Realism – let's paint everyday life in the Dutch Republic
 - i. Rembrandt van Rijn (1604-1669) see page 434

XI. Theater

- A. William Shakespeare (1564-1616) [comes from a middle-class family]
 - i. took existing stories and retold them spectacularly
 - ii. genius at language and psychology
- B. Lope de Vega (1562-1635)
 - i. Spanish playwright who claimed a playwright had to satisfy public demand, thereby causing him to make loads of money
- C. Jean-Baptiste Racine (1639-1699) – French playwright who used a neo-classical tragic style
- D. Jean-Baptiste Moliere (1622-1673) – French satirist

XII. Music

- A. Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) – from Vienna, Austria – the “Four Seasons”
- B. George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) – best known for his Water Music (for King George I) and the *Messiah*
- C. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) – example to others due to his complex counterpoint – all modern music uses rules developed by Bach