

IN THE 1500S & 1600S SEVERAL RULERS IN ASIA AND EUROPE SOUGHT TO CENTRALIZE THEIR POWER

-CLAIMED **DIVINE RIGHT**-AUTHORITY FROM **GOD**

→**COMPLETE AUTHORITY** OVER THEIR SUBJECTS

-**ENGLAND RESISTED** THE ESTABLISHMENT OF **ABSOLUTISM**

*AFTER A CIVIL WAR **PARLIAMENT** ENACTED A **BILL OF RIGHTS**

→**LIMITED** THE **POWER** OF THE ENGLISH **MONARCH**

SPAIN

1500s-most powerful nation in Europe

***Queen Isabella & King Ferdinand enforced religious unity**

***wealth from empire in the Americas helped Spain's power grow**

CHARLES V 1519-1556

-grandson of Ferdinand & Isabella

-King of Spain

-also king of the Holy Roman Empire

*****ruling a large & diverse empire would be difficult*****

1556-gave up his titles & divided his empire

→his brother **Ferdinand** became Holy Roman Emperor

→his **son Philip** ruled Spain, the Netherlands, & Spain's overseas empire

PHILIP II-ruled from 1556-1598

“It is best to keep an eye on everything”

Expnded his power & influence over the Catholic Church & the Spanish empire

-wanted to control all aspects of government

-believed that he ruled by divine right

*the king is an agent of God & his authority to rule comes directly from God

By the 1580s **Philip saw England's Queen Elizabeth I as his chief Protestant enemy**

→prepared huge armada or fleet to carry a Spanish invasion to England

-1588 armada sails-over 130 ships & 2,000 men

*Spain was confident of victory but their ships took losses from the lighter & faster English ships

*savage storm then scattered the armada

→Spanish defeat

1600s-Spain's power is slowly declining

*rulers spent too much \$ on overseas wars

*relied on gold & silver from their colonies

*neglected business at home

*middle class angered over high taxes→stop supporting the govt

ABSOLUTISM IN FRANCE

In the late 1600s France replaced Spain as the most powerful European nation

LOUIS XIV

-inherited the throne at 5yrs old in 1643

-continued to strengthen the monarchy during the 72 yrs he was in power

*sun-symbol of his power

*demanded complete loyalty from his subjects

*claim to absolute power was strengthened by a court preacher Bishop Jacques Bossnet

→believed that as God's representative on Earth, the king was entitled to unquestioning obedience

During Louis XIV reign he:

-expanded the bureaucracy

→appointed officials to:

*collect taxes *recruit soldiers *carry out his rule in the provinces

-built the Palace at Versailles

*to break the power of his nobles Louis enticed them to attend to his needs at the palace instead of serving in govt positions

→ their reward was

-freedom from taxes

-the honor of taking part in court rituals

-the pleasure of entertainment like plays & music

-organized a highly disciplined army

→ became the **strongest** in Europe

-persecuted Protestant Huguenots

→ deprived the nation of many of its most hard-working & prosperous citizens

LEGACY

France became a **wealthy, powerful state** with great cultural influence
yet

extravagant parties at **Versailles** & costly **wars** left France in **DEBT**

→ social unrest among the starving peasants

*****The French monarchy would not survive even a century after Louis XIV death in 1715*****

ABSOLUTISM IN RUSSIA

Ivan III aka Ivan the Great -ruled from 1462-1505

-built the framework for absolute rule in Russia

Czar Ivan IV

-centralized royal power

-introduced Russia to extreme absolute power

-harsh ruling style & fits of violence earned him the title "Ivan the Terrible"

-to enforce his will he organized a personal police force dressed in black robes

***agents of terror who slaughtered rebellious nobles & destroyed towns suspected of disloyalty**

In 1581 Ivan beat his pregnant daughter-in-law for wearing immodest clothing, and this may have caused a miscarriage.

His oldest son, also named Ivan, upon learning of this, engaged in a heated argument with his father, resulting in Ivan striking his son in the head with his pointed staff, causing his son's death.

Peter the Great -czar from 1682-1725

- worked to centralize royal power & bring all Russians under his authority
 - *reduced the power of the nobility
 - *gained control of the Russian Orthodox Church
- wanted to modernize Russia
 - *most of his subjects were illiterate & knew or cared little of the world beyond their farms/villages
 - *wanted to bring Russia out of the Middle Ages & make it into a European power
 - traveled to western European cities to study western technology
 - brought back ideas on how to westernize Russia
 - copied European customs & dress
 - ordered Russian men to shorten their beards
 - sent nobles to Europe to be educated
 - developed mining & textiles
 - capital at St. Petersburg served as his "Window to the West"
 - *sometimes resorted to force & terror to achieve his goals*
- created largest army in Europe in the late 1600s
 - used it to expand Russian territory & gain ports on the Baltic Sea
 - also expanded eastward sending explorers across the Bering Strait into N. Amer
- **failed at one of his goals
 - to gain a port that wouldn't have to close due to freezing in the winter**
- ***Catherine the Great would successfully acquire Black Sea ports in 1795***

Catherine the Great

- an efficient, energetic empress, who ruled in the tradition of absolute monarchs
 - *reorganized the provincial government
 - *codified laws
 - *¹began state-sponsored education for boys and girls
 - *embraced and encouraged Western ideas and culture
 - *gained a warm-water port on the Black Sea
 - *agreed to partition Poland and gained the eastern portion

Triumph of Parliament in England

1485-1603-England was ruled by the Tudor dynasty

-believed in divine right also recognized the value of a good relationship with Parliament

-Elizabeth I died without a direct heir

→ throne passed to her relatives the Stuarts- ruling family of Scotland

-not as popular nor as skillful in dealing with Parl.

-inherited problems that Henry & Elizabeth had suppressed

→ **a century of revolution that pitted the Stuarts against Parliament**

James I-1st Stuart monarch

-agreed to rule according to English rules & customs

but was soon lecturing Parliament about divine right

→ Parliament fiercely resisted the king's claim to absolute power

-James often clashed w/ Parliament over \$ and foreign policy

*needed funds to finance his lavish court & wage war

*Parliament wanted to discuss issues before voting

→ **James dissolved Parliament** & collected taxes on his own

Charles I-inherited throne from his father in 1625

-like his father he believed in absolute rule

-1628 Charles needed to raise taxes

→ forced to summon Parliament

-Parliament first insisted that Charles sign the **Petition of Right**

*prohibit the king from raising taxes w/out the consent of Parl.

*prohibit imprisoning anyone w/out just cause

-Charles signed the petition but then dissolved Parl. in 1629

→ for 11 yrs he ignored the petition & ruled w/out Parl.

-1640-Charles needed funds to suppress a Scottish rebellion

→ forced to summon Parliament

→ Parliament would launch their own revolt

The 1640 Parliament became known as the **Long Parliament** lasting on and off until 1653

Its actions would trigger the greatest political revolution in English history

English Civil War

-pitted supporters of **Charles I** against the forces of **Parliament** under **Oliver Cromwell**

-Cromwell's army defeated the forces of the king

→ Parliament put Charles on trial and **condemned him to death** as

“a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy”

-after the execution the House of Commons

*abolished the monarchy

→ declared England a **republic** known as the **Commonwealth** under the leadership of **Oliver Cromwell**

In executing the king, parliamentary forces sent a clear signal that, in England, no ruler could claim absolute power and ignore the rule of law.

Cromwell dies in 1658

→ Parliament invited **Charles II** the **uncrowned heir** to the throne to return to England from exile

Charles' brother **James II** inherited the throne in 1685

James II angered his subjects and clashed w/Parl.

→ Parliament invited **William and Mary** to rule England

-William and Mary landed in England

→ James II fled to France

This bloodless overthrow of a king became known as the **Glorious Revolution.**

Before being crowned William & Mary had to accept **the English Bill of Rights**, which:

-ensured **superiority of Parliament** over the monarchy

-gave the **House of Commons** “**power of the purse**”

-prohibited a monarch from interfering with Parl.

-barred any Roman Catholic from sitting on the throne

-restated the **rights of English citizens**

The Glorious Revolution created a type of government called a limited monarchy in which a constitution or legislative body limits the monarch's powers.

ENGLAND REVIEW

Tudors

-Elizabeth I-no heir

→Stuarts

-James I

-Charles I

***signs Petition of Right**

***dissolves Parliament for 11 yrs**

***summons Parliament**

→the Long Parliament

→English Civil War

-Charles I vs. Parliament led by Cromwell

***Cromwell's army defeats the king**

→Charles I executed

→Eng is a republic-the Commonwealth led by Cromwell

Cromwell dies

→Charles II

James II-flees the country

→Glorious Revolution

-William & Mary (James II daughter) given throne

***agree to English Bill of Rights**

→LIMITED MONARCHY