

Louis XIV

*Absolutism and Wars*

# Key Concept 2.1

Different models of political sovereignty affected the relationship among states and between states and individuals.



# Key Concept 2.1.I

In much of Europe, absolute monarchy was established over the course of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.



# Key Concept 2.1.I A

Absolute monarchies limited the nobility's participation in governance but preserved the aristocracy's social position and legal privileges.



# **Traits of Absolutist Rulers (simple version)**

- **Consider the following Absolute Ruler Characteristics**
  1. **Pacify/subjugate nobles and other opposition (political)**
  2. **Centralize authority around yourself (politics)**
  3. **Make more money... (economy)**
  4. **To make more war (warfare)**
  5. **Dominate the cultural scene (art)**
  6. **Make religion work for you (religion)**
  7. **Build something worthy of your glory (architecture)**

# Defining Features of Absolutism (longer version)

1. The **sovereignty** of a country was embodied in the person of the ruler
2. Absolute monarchs were not subordinate to national assemblies
3. The nobility was effectively brought under control
4. Bureaucracies in the 17th century were often composed of career officials appointed by and solely accountable to the king.
5. The French and Spanish monarchies gained effective control of the Roman Catholic Church in their countries.
6. They maintained large standing armies during peacetime.
7. They employed a secret police force to weaken political opponents.

# Key Concept 1.2.III B

Monarchies seeking enhanced power faced challenges from nobles who wished to retain traditional forms of shared governance and regional autonomy.



# Before Louis XIV

- **Henry IV** – took the throne after the “War of the 3 Henrys” (reigned 1589 to 1610)
  - Fought with and sought to scale back the privileges of the **PARLEMENTS** (especially in Paris) and provincial governors
  - Paved the way for the absolutism that came later
  - Policy decisions made him a “Politique”
- **Louis XIII** (reigned 1610 to 1643)
  - Advised by the powerful and skilled Richelieu
  - Huguenot rights significantly curtailed



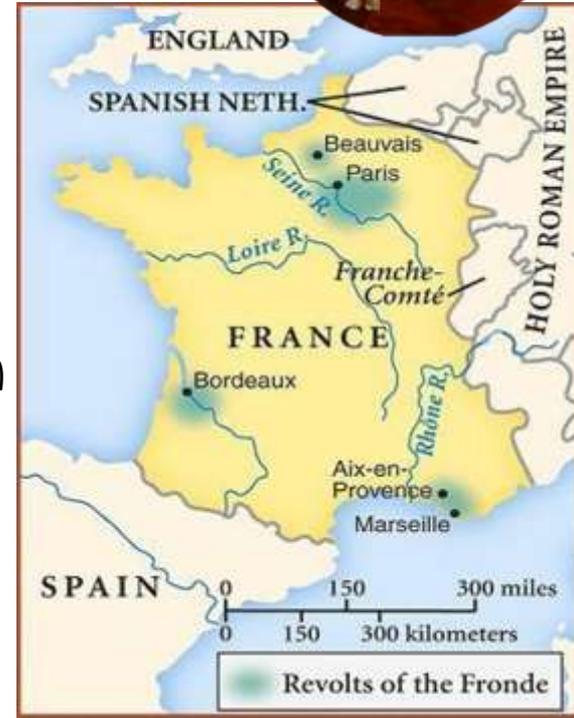
# Louis XIV Overview

- Also known as “the Sun King”
- Reigned from 1643-1715
- King during the peak of French power and cultural influence
- Significantly modernized the French economy by removing internal trade barriers
- Expanded the French borders through war
- Was a role model for other absolutist leaders across Europe



# Young Louis XIV and the Fronde

- Cardinal **Mazarin** (1602 to 1661) ran the state on behalf of Louis until his death in 1661
- **THE FRONDE (1648-1653)**
  - The **Fronde** was an uprising of nobles, aided by members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate (and the Paris Parlement)
  - They sought a return of traditional rights
  - Ended in 1653 with the collapse of a noble run government that didn't operate very well
  - Greatly shaped Louis' outlook on how to govern and he also seldom actually spent time in Paris



# Philosophical Roots of Absolutism

- Thomas **HOBBS** (1588-1679) is the political theorist most identified with the ideas of Absolutism
  - the **LEVIATHAN** laid out the case for a strong central ruler, and popularized the **social contract** idea
  - Not a fan of divine right rule
- Bishop Jacques-Bénigne **BOSSUET** (1627-1704) was the primary thinker supporting Divine Right Rule in the time of Louis XIV
  - Used the Old Testament as justification; only god can judge the King



# Divine Right Rule

- Hobbes rationalized a strong central ruler, but was not a fan of **Divine Right Rule**
- Divine Right Rule = the idea that the right to rule comes directly from God
- Bishop Jacques-Bénigne **Bossuet** (1627-1704) was the primary thinker supporting Divine Right Rule in the time of Louis XIV
  - Used the Old Testament as justification; only god can judge the King

# Key Concept 2.3.V A

Until about 1750, Baroque art and music promoted religious feeling and was employed by monarchs to glorify state power.

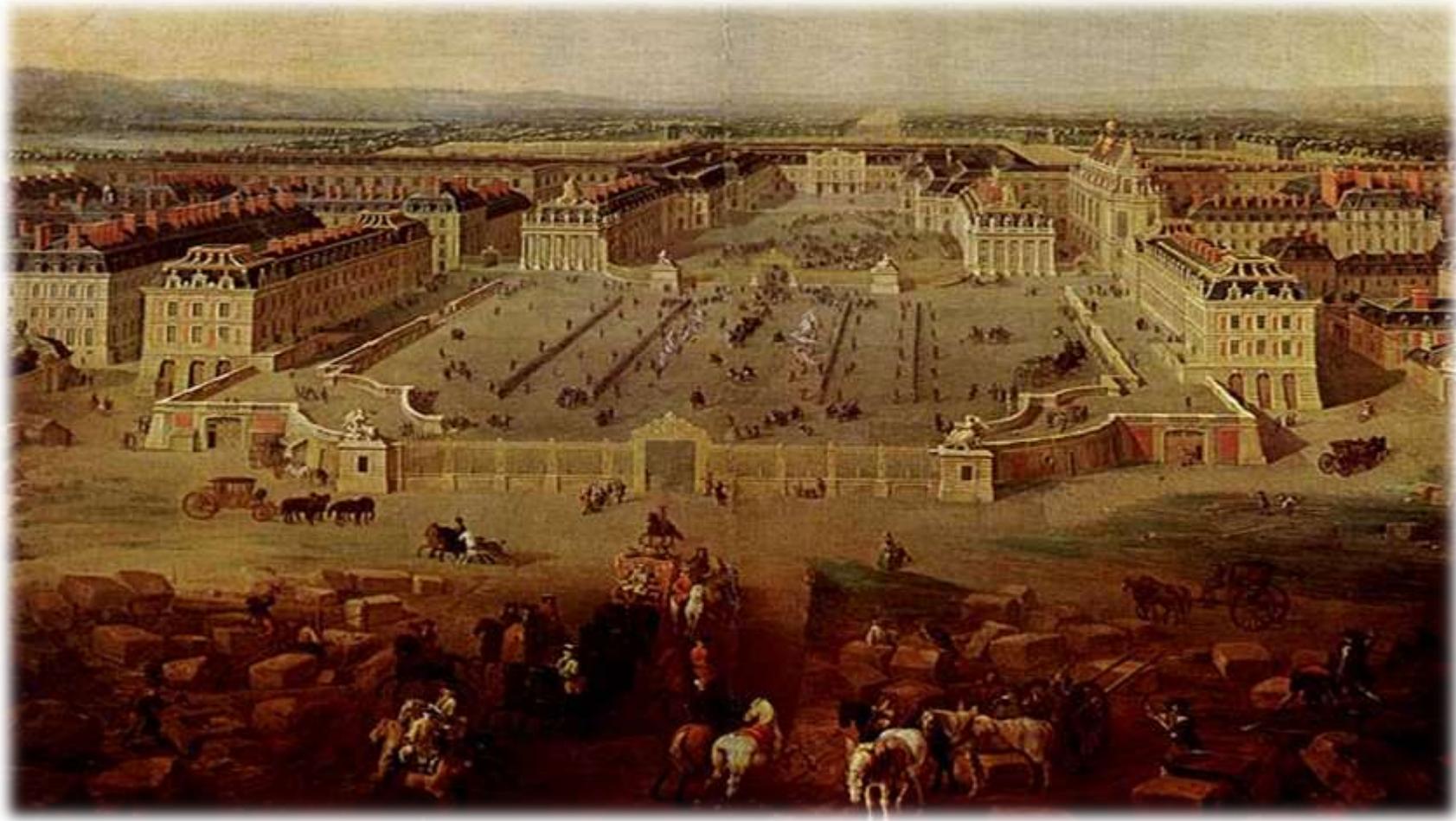


# Versailles

- Louis XIV used pageantry, pomp and propaganda to portray and project power (think Baroque art and architecture)
- The palace of **Versailles** was central
- Nearly every aspect of life at court included ceremony and protocol
- Kept nobles close to royal power – kept them entertained and fighting each other
- Louis spent 50% of the nation's annual income on Versailles (improvements, daily operations etc.)



# Versailles Palace in 1722





The interior court at the Palace of Versailles

# The Palace of Versailles



# Organization of Society and Government

- Nation divided into 3 **ESTATES**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Estate** was the Clergy (roughly 1% of the population)
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Estate** was the Nobility (roughly 4% of the population)
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Estate** was the other 95% (merchants, peasants, craftsmen, etc.)
- The number of nobles had been expanding since French monarchs had frequently sold titles to people as a means of raising cash
  - Nobles of the **SWORD** (Old school nobles)
  - Nobles of the **ROBE** (New nobles)

# Organization of Society and Government

- Government revolved around the King at Versailles
- Regional power was exercised by **INTENDANTS**
  - Each of the 32 regions of France had its own Intendant responsible for law and order and administration of its region
- He never called the **ESTATES-GENERAL**, the closest thing France had to a representative body
- Tax collection was the duty of the **Fermiers-généraux** (or tax farmers), a private company licensed to collect taxes on behalf of the King

# Les provinces françaises en 1789



# Key Concept 1.4.I B

The rise of mercantilism gave the state a new role in promoting commercial development and the acquisition of colonies overseas.



# French Economy

- **MERCANTILISM** was the central approach to the economy of France (and basically all of Europe) during this time
  - **Bullionism**: a nation's policy of accumulating as much precious metal as possible while preventing its outward flow to other countries
- Strong central control; protectionism; selling of monopolies; the **Tax Farmers**
- From the time of Henry IV onward France had improved its infrastructure including new roads and **canals** linking the Mediterranean with the Atlantic
- Required the **CORVEE** “tax” of annual service on the roads
- Other major taxes on peasants were the **TAILLE** and **GABELLE**

Océan Atlantique

France

Castets-en-Dorthe

Canal de Garonne

Toulouse

Sète

Canal du Midi

Mer Méditerranée

Espagne





# Key Concept 2.1.III C

Louis XIV's nearly continuous wars, pursuing both dynastic and state interests, provoked a coalition of European powers opposing him.



# Early Wars

- Louis XIV concentrated on creating the largest standing army in Europe (400,000) soldiers
- The navy was not as well funded, which helped led to future defeats at the hands of the English and Dutch
- Fought early wars vs Spanish Netherlands (1667-68) and Dutch Netherlands (1672-78 and 1688-97)
  - Took some territory, temporarily upset the balance of power, but other nations of Europe banded together against France
  - Dutch resorted to flooding their land to stall the French

# Revocation of the Edict of Nantes

- In 1685 Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes and expelled the Huguenots
- 200,000 Protestants fled the country, many went to Prussia and helped build a stronger Prussia



# Later Wars

- War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1713)
  - Began when the Hapsburg King of Spain (Charles II) promised the title of King to the grandson of Louis XIV of the French Bourbon family
  - Threatened to further erode the balance of power and greatly concerned the Hapsburgs in Austria
  - A **Grand Alliance** of England, Dutch Republic, HRE, Brandenburg, Portugal, Savoy emerged to fight France

# Later Wars

- France fought the Grand Alliance to a draw
- War of Spanish Succession ended with the **Treaty of Utrecht (1713)**
  - Allowed Bourbons to take control of Spanish throne, but a uniting of the French/Spanish crowns was prohibited
  - England gained Gibraltar and the right to sell slaves to Spanish colonies (**Asiento**)
  - Spanish Netherlands given to **Austrian Hapsburgs**

# Territory Added to France 1552-1789



FRANCE :

*territory from 1552 to 1798  
from Henri II to the Revolutio*

- Henry II
- Henry IV
- Louis XIV
- Louis XV
- Revolution

- Henry II  1552: Metz, Verdun, Toul
- Henry IV  1601: Bresse, Bugey
- Louis XIV  1659: Roussillon  
1659: Artois  
1662: Dunkirk  
1668: Lille  
1675: Alsace  
1678: Franche-Comté  
1681: Strasbourg  
1713: Briançon
- Louis XV  1766: Lorraine  
1768: Corsica
- Revolution  1791: Comtat Venaissin  
1798: Mulhouse



# Europe 1714

- Habsburg Monarchy
- Brandenburg Prussia
- Venice
- Minor German States
- Italy Roman Empire

Ma - Madrid  
M - Maastricht  
Pa - Paris



# Legacy of Louis XIV

- Louis XIV's wars were costly, but expanded French borders
  - Destroyed the French economy due to severe disruption of trade
  - A huge debt would be placed on the shoulders of the Third Estate.
  - The French gov't was **bankrupt** (due to war and Versailles) –these financial and social tensions sowed the seeds of the French Revolution that began roughly 75 years after Louis XIV's death
- France was the largest and most powerful nation in Europe and the culture and language of France came to dominate
- Louis created the **Royal Academy of Science** and other academies that expanded knowledge and culture in Europe
- Brought **religious unity** to France, but at a cost































