

## Rise of Absolute Monarchies Study Guide

### Terms to know

Bossuet, Jacques-Bénigne	Petition of Right
divine right	political absolutism
Frederick III the Wise	Pragmatic Sanction
Frederick William	raison d'etat
Gallican Liberties	Romanov, Michael
Grand Alliance	Saint Petersburg
Great Northern War	sejm
Habsburg	Shari'a
Ivan IV	Sobieski, John III
Louis XIV	streletsy
Magyars	Table of Ranks
Maintenon, Madame de	the Fronde
millet	Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle
Mississippi Company	Treaty of Karlowitz
Nine Years War	Treaty of Rastatt
Ottoman Empire	Ulama
parlements	Versailles
patriarch	War of Spanish Succession
Peter the Great	

## Rise of Absolute Monarchies Unit Questions

In what ways did Louis XIV consolidate his power?

What was Louis XIV's religious policy?

What were Louis XIV's foreign policy aims?

### *Textbook DQs*

#### ***Versailles p. 144***

How might the size of Versailles, as experienced by visitors and by viewers of paintings and prints of the structure, have overwhelmed Louis's subjects? How might French nobility in particular have reacted to the setting? What other building the day approached Versailles in size?

Do you think people who viewed Versailles or images of it wondered how this extraordinary royal community was financed? What conclusions might have been made about the structure of French taxes?

By the end of his life, Louis rarely ventured outside Versailles and neither did his eighteenth century royal successors. Do you think the limitation of royal experience to Versailles distorted the monarchs view of their kingdom?

Did the use of any mythology in portraying Louis create a sense that he and his power were vaster than those of ordinary mortals? Explain.

### ***Outside DQs***

#### ***Louis XIV Revokes the Edict of Nantes Outside Primary Reading***

*What specific actions does this declaration order against Protestants?*

*Does it offer any incentives for Protestants to convert Catholicism?*

*How does this declaration compare with the English Test Act?*

#### ***The Great Elector Welcomes Protestant Refugees from France - Outside Primary Reading***

*In reading this document, do you believe religious or economic concerns more nearly led the elector of Brandenburg to welcome the French Protestants?*

*What specific privileges did the elector extend to them?*

*To what extent were these privileges a welcoming measure, and to what extent were they inducements to emigrate to Brandenburg?*

*In what kind of economic activity does the elector expect the French refugees to engage?*

#### ***Peter the Great Tells His Son to Acquire Military Skills - Outside Primary Reading***

*Why is Peter angry with his son?*

*What concept of leadership does Peter attempt to communicate to his son?*

*Why did Peter see military prowess as the most important ability in a ruler?*

### ***Louis XIV Revokes the Edict of Nantes - Outside Primary Reading***

*Believing a country could not be under one king and one law unless it was also under one religious system, Louis XIV stunned much of Europe in October of 1685, by revoking the Edict of Nantes, which had protected the religious freedoms and civil rights of French Protestants since 1598.*

**I.** Be it known that for these causes and others us hereunto moving, and of our certain knowledge, full power, and royal authority, we have, by this present perpetual and irrevocable edict, suppressed and revoked, and do suppress and revoke, the edict of our said grandfather, given at Nantes in April, 1598, in its whole extent, together with the particular articles agreed upon in the month of May following, and the letters patent issued upon the same date; and also the edict given at Nimes in July, 1629; we declare them null and void, together with all concessions, of whatever nature they may be, made by them as well as by other edicts, declarations, and orders, in favor of the said persons of the R.P.R., the which shall remain in like manner as if they had never been granted ; and in consequence we desire, and it is our pleasure, that all the temples of those of the said R.P.R. situated in our kingdom, countries, territories, and the lordships under our crown, shall be demolished without delay.

**II.** We forbid our subjects of the R.P.R. to meet any more for the exercise of the said religion in any place or private house, under any pretext whatever excuse it can be, even of real exercises or bailliages, even though the aforementioned exercises would have been maintained by the rulings of our council.

**III.** We likewise forbid all noblemen, of what condition soever, to hold such religious exercises in their houses or fiefs, under penalty to be inflicted upon all our said subjects who shall engage in the said exercises, of imprisonment and confiscation.

**IV.** We enjoin all ministers of the said R.P.R., who do not choose to become converts and to embrace the Catholic, apostolic, and Roman religion, to leave our kingdom and the territories subject to us within a fortnight of the publication of our present edict, without leave to reside therein beyond that period, or, during the said fortnight, to engage in any preaching, exhortation, or any other function, on pain of being sent to the galleys. . .

**V.** Let us want that those the aforementioned Ministers who will be converted, continue to enjoy their lasting life, and their widows later them death, whereas they will be in viduity of the same exemptions of size and flat of war people, which they enjoyed while they made the function of Ministers, and besides, we shall charge audits Ministers also their lasting life, one pension which will be of a third stronger than the salaries which they got as Ministers, as half of which pension his women will also enjoy after their death, as long as they will live in viduity.

**VI.** That if any of the aforementioned Ministers wish to be made lawyer or to take the degrees of doctor in law, we want and hear that they are exempted from three years of studies prescribed by our declarations ; and that having undergone the common exams, and by these to be considered capable, they are received doctors by paying only half of the rights that we accustomed to perceive for this end in each University.

**VII.** We forbid private schools for the instruction of children of the said R.P.R., and in general all things whatever which can be regarded as a concession of any kind in favor of the said religion.

**VIII.** As for children who may be born of persons of the said R.P.R., we desire that from henceforth they be

baptized by the parish priests. We enjoin parents to send them to the churches for that purpose, under penalty of five hundred livres fine, to be increased as circumstances may demand; and thereafter the children shall be brought up in the Catholic, apostolic, and Roman religion, which we expressly enjoin the local magistrates to see done.

**IX.** And in the exercise of our clemency towards our subjects of the said R.P.R. who have emigrated from our kingdom, lands, and territories subject to us, previous to the publication of our present edict, it is our will and pleasure that in case of their returning within the period of four months from the day of the said publication, they may, and it shall be lawful for them to, again take possession of their property, and to enjoy the same as if they had all along remained there: on the contrary, the property abandoned by those who, during the specified period of four months, shall not have returned into our kingdom, lands, and territories subject to us, shall remain and be confiscated in consequence of our declaration of the 20th of August last.

**X.** We repeat our most express prohibition to all our subjects of the said R.P.R., together with their wives and children, against leaving our kingdom, lands, and territories subject to us, or transporting their goods and effects therefrom under penalty, as respects the men, of being sent to the galleys, and as respects the women, of imprisonment and confiscation.

### ***The Great Elector Welcomes Protestant Refugees from France - Outside Primary Reading***

*The Hohenzollern dynasty of Brandenburg-Prussia pursued a policy of religious toleration. The family itself was Calvinist, whereas most of its subjects were Lutherans. When Louis XIV of France revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685, Frederick William, the Great Elector seized the opportunity to invite French Protestants into his realms. As his proclamation indicates, he wanted to attract persons with productive skills who could aid the economic development of his domains.*

We, Frederick William, by Grace of God Margrave of Brandenburg. . . Do hereby proclaim and make known to all and sundry that since the cruel persecutions and rigorous ill-treatment in which Our co-religionists of the Evangelical-Reformed faith have for some time past been subjected in the Kingdom of France, have caused many families to remove themselves and to betake themselves out of the said Kingdom into other lands, We now, out of the righteous sympathy which We must in justice feel toward these, Our co-religionists, who are oppressed and assailed for the sake of the Holy Gospel and its pure doctrine, have been moved graciously to offer them through this Edict signed by Our own hand a secure and free refuge in all Our Lands and Provinces. .

Since Our Lands are not only well and amply endowed with all things necessary to support life, but also very well-suited to the establishment of all kinds of manufactures and trade and traffic by land and water, We permit, indeed, to those settling therein free choice to establish themselves where it is most convenient for their profession and way of living. . .

The personal property which they bring with them, including merchandise and other wares, is to be totally exempt from any taxes, customs dues, licenses, or other imposts of any description, and not detained in any way. . .

As soon as these Our French co-religionists of the Evangelical-Reformed faith have settled in any town or village, they shall be admitted to the domiciliary rights and craft freedoms customary there, gratis and without payment of any fee; and shall be entitled to the benefits, rights, and privileges enjoyed by Our other, native, subjects, residing there.. .

Not only are those who wish to establish manufacture of cloth, stuffs, hats, or other objects in which they are skilled to enjoy all necessary freedoms, privileges and facilities, but also provision is to be made for them to be assisted and helped as far as possible with money and anything else which they need to realize their intention..

Those who settle in the country and wish to maintain themselves by agriculture are to be given a certain plot of land to bring under cultivation and provided with whatever they need to establish themselves initially,

### ***Peter the Great Tells His Son to Acquire Military Skills - Outside Primary Reading***

*Peter I (the "Great") ruled as czar, or king, of Russia from 1682 to 1725. During his reign, Russian territory was expanded, the military modernized, manufacturing bolstered, and the government strengthened. Despite this prosperity, the czar struggled with the problem of who would rule Russia after him. His son Alexis (also Alexei) was the natural successor, but he was frail and had no desire to rule. This was a great frustration to Peter. (Eventually, Peter put Alexis in prison, and the son died there.)*

At the time that I am viewing the prosperity which God has heaped on our native country, if I cast an eye upon the posterity that is to succeed me, my heart is much more penetrated with grief on account of what is to happen, than I rejoice at those blessings that are past, seeing that you, my son, reject all means of making yourself capable of well-governing after me.

I say your incapacity is voluntary, because you cannot excuse yourself with want of natural parts and strength of body, as if God had not given you a sufficient share of either; and though your constitution is none of the strongest, yet it cannot be said that it is altogether weak.

But you even will not so much as hear warlike exercises mentioned; though it is by them that we broke through that obscurity in which we were involved, and that we made ourselves known to nations, whose esteem we share at present.

I do not exhort you to make war without lawful reasons; I only desire you to apply yourself to learn the art of it; for it is impossible well to govern without knowing the rules and discipline of it, was it for no other end than for the defense of the country. . .

You mistake, if you think it is enough for a prince to have good generals to act under his orders. Everyone looks upon the head; they study his inclinations and conform themselves to them: all the world owns this. . .

You have no inclination to learn the war, you do not apply yourself to it, and consequently you will never learn it: And how then can you command others, and judge of the reward which those deserve who do their duty, or punish others who fail of it? You will do nothing, nor judge of anything but by the eyes and help of others, like a young bird that holds up his bill to be fed. You say that the weak state of your health will not permit you to undergo the fatigues of war: This is an excuse which is no better than the rest. I desire no fatigues, but only inclination, which even sickness itself cannot hinder. Ask those who remember the time of my brother. He was of a constitution weaker by far than yours. He was not able to manage a horse of the least mettle, nor could he hardly mount it: Yet he loved horses, hence it came, that there never was, nor perhaps is there actually now in the nation a finer stable than his was. By this you see that good success does not always depend on pains, but on the will.

If you think there are some, whose affairs do not fail of success, though they do not go to war themselves; it is true: But if they do not go themselves, yet they have an inclination for it, and understand it.

For instance, the late King of France did not always take the field in person; but it is known to what degree he loved war, and what glorious exploits he performed in it, which made his campaigns to be called the theater and school of the world. His inclinations were not confined solely to military affairs, he also loved mechanics, manufactures and other establishments, which rendered his kingdom more flourishing than any other whatsoever.

### Age of Absolutism Chart

Complete the following chart by filling in the type of government, economic situation, social and religious structures, and geographic size of each country in the eighteenth century.

Eighteenth century	France	Prussia	Russia	Poland
Government				
Economic situation				
Social Structure				
Religious Structure				
Geographic size				

1. What policies of Louis XIV, Peter the Great, and Frederick the Great were designed to strengthen the central government?
2. Compare and contrast the methods Louis XIV, Peter the Great, and Frederick the Great used to maintain absolute monarchy.
3. Which ruler provided the greatest benefit for his nation? Explain your answer.
4. What was the greatest weakness of the government of eighteenth-century Poland?

Part C. The writing assignment below will help you to fit together some of the ideas you have learned about the modern state and also to see how the sections of a well-organized essay relate to each other. It should prove a useful tool for reviewing for the Advanced Placement examination or a final examination in your history class.

Listed below in scrambled order are the thesis, plan of attack, four topic sentences for the paragraphs of the body, and a topic sentence for the conclusion of an essay on the modern state. You should be able to determine the place of each of the sentences in a well-organized essay. A thesis defines the central argument in any essay. A plan of attack states the method of organization to be used in the paper. In this essay, the thesis and plan of attack together form the introductory paragraph.

Using this foundation for the essay, complete the paper. Each paragraph of the body should include a clear description and specific illustrations of the extent to which leaders used the army, the bureaucracy, and the legislature to maintain the modern state. End the paper with a paragraph to summarize your points and draw a logical conclusion about their significance for the future development of Europe.

### **Scrambled Sentences**

- A. The seventeenth-century France of Louis XIV fused all the necessary organs of governance under absolute royal rule.
- B. Frederick the Great and the Hohenzollerns manipulated the machinery of government to serve the army and forge the Kingdom of Prussia.
- C. Therefore, while a variety of European countries existed, the truly modern states came to recognize that one government, one law, and one army were the keys to survival.
- D. Successful modern states developed a monopoly over the lawmaking process, the armed forces, and the bureaucracy to meet the needs of the state.
- E. Peter the Great's Russian empire rested on the marriage of autocracy and the nobility.
- F. The enormously diverse Kingdom of Poland remained an anachronism in the modern world.
- G. Unlike the kings of Poland, the monarchs of France, Russia, and Prussia developed these features of the modern state.