

AP European History - Chapter 15 *State Building & Search for Order in 17th Century* Class Notes & Critical Thinking

Focus Question: What was absolutism in theory, and how did its actual practice in France reflect or differ from the theory?

What is Absolutism?

- Sovereignty is embodied in the person of the ruler
- How did kings/queens claim to rule?
 - By divine right, responsible to God alone
 - Bloodline determined succession

Control?

- Absolute rulers tried to control competing jurisdictions, institutions, or interest groups by:
 - Regulating religious sects
 - Abolished liberties long held by certain groups, areas, or provinces
 - Secured the cooperation of the nobles?

What was key to power & success of monarchs?

- How solved financial problems (taxation, industries, mercantilism)
- Created new state bureaucracies that directed economic life of country in interests of king
- Maintained standing armies
- Concerned themselves w/ private lives of subjects

Absolute Monarchs were not all embracing

- Lacked financial & military resources & technology to do so
- NOT TOTALTARIAN
- Ambitions of abs. mon. quite limited:
 - Each sought exaltations of him/herself as embodiment of state
 - Louis XIV believed that he personified French nation=Sun King

Louis XIV's Early Years & Characteristics

- Born 1638 to Louis XIII & Anne of Austria
- Took over throne 1643 at age 4 ½
- Devout Catholic

Who was Mazarin?

- Succeeded Richelieu
- Continued centralizing policies of Richelieu, but his attempts only led to *Fronde*
 - *Richelieu provided foundation for absolutism by forming intendant system & expanded government (which started to curb nobility power)*
 - *Revolt by nobles to curb monarchial power*
 - *HUGE influence on young Louis XIV*

Critical Thinking:

Create a checklist for characteristics of Absolutism:

√

√

√

√

√

√

3 Significant Results of Fronde:

1. Gov't would have to compromise w/ elites
2. French economy badly disrupted & would take yrs to rebuild
3. Had a traumatic effect on young Louis
 - He & his mother frequently threatened & treated like prisoners
 - Period of Fronde formed cornerstone of Louis' political education & his conviction that sole alternative to anarchy was abs. monarchy

Louis XIV

- Achieved cooperation & collaboration of nobility
- Results: Louis got increased military taxation & Louis granted nobility privileged social status & increased access to his person
 - Separated wealth from status
- Installed Royal Court at Versailles (required nobility to stay there for part of the yr)

Versailles

- Louis XIV's home & center of France
- Hall of Mirrors:
- Paintings that celebrated king's victories
- Served as fundamental tool of state policy- used to overawe his subjects & foreign visitors
- French today revere Louis XIV as one of their greatest nat'l heroes
- Undermined nobility: excluded from councils & preoccupied with court life
- Uniform & centralized admin. imposed
- 1685 France strongest & most highly centralized in all of Europe

Jean-Baptiste Colbert (1619-1683)

- Louis XIV's finance minister
- Invented **mercantilism**: Collection of governmental policies for the regulation of economic/commercial activities for the state
 - Sell more than buy & become self-sufficient
 - Colonies

Louis XIV's Wars

- 4 major continuous wars to expand empire
- Led other states to fear the power of France
- Sought to maintain a balance of power
 - How is this seen in the War of Spanish Succession?

Decline in Spain

- Grew into strong, absolutist state
- 17th century decline begins:
 - Lack of strong middle-class (result of expulsion of Jews & Moors)
 - Ag crisis, population decline, etc.
 - Trade w/ colonies declined due to competition w/ English & Dutch
 - Results: increase in taxes & production declined, revolts began monarchy collapsed

Critical Thinking:

Which characteristic of absolutism did Louis XIV do the best? The worst?

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Focus Question: What development enabled Brandenburg-Prussia, Austria, and Russia to emerge as major powers in the seventeenth century?

Eastern Europe: 1648-1740

3 Aging Empires

- Holy Roman Empire
- Poland
 - Large powerful noble class, weak & inefficient monarchy
- Ottoman Empire
 - Ineffective & pushed aside by growth of Prussia, Russia, Austria

Holy Roman Empire

- No/little army, revenues, working gov't
- Voltaire: "it is neither holy, Roman, nor an empire."
- Ruined by Reformation

Rise of Prussia & Austria

- **After Peace of Westphalia**
 - Absolute monarchies building over subjects
 - Religious differences resolved but religion still separated states
 - ~ 1700 Prussia & Austria on own

Prussian Absolutism

- Hohenzollern origins
- Frederick William the Great Elector (1640-1688): foundation for absolutism
 - Standing army
 - Taxed
 - Gained power/favors from Junkers (nobles)
 - Mercantilism

Austrian Absolutism

- **Fall of Powers**
 - HRE & Spain collapse after 30 Years' War
 - Austria now able to form own empire
- **Kingdoms of Austria**
 - Held together by Austrian Habsburg dynasty
 - During 30 Yrs War pushed out Prot. & re-conquered & re-catholicized Bohemia & conquered Hungary
- **Turks**
 - Moved from Hungary & 1683 sieged Vienna
 - **Defeated by Prince Eugene of Savoy & Austria added Hungary to its empire**
 - Led to decline of Ottoman Empire as it receded to Turkey

Critical Thinking:

Why were Prussia, Austria, & Russia able to rise as European powers? Who fell?

Why did Prussia & Austria rise as separate powers? Do you think they will combine to make Germany?

Westernization of Russia

- **Not Part of Europeanization:**
- Greek Orthodox Church: Constantinople influence not Rome
- Mongol invasions & conquests: 250 yrs kept Asiatic influence until 1480 when Ivan III defeated them
- Geography: Very little warm water outlets; hard for communication & commerce

Ivan the Terrible r.1547-1584

- 1st grand duke of Muscovy & 1st to take title of tsar
- Saw what was going on in Poland & didn't want it to happen in Russia
- Expanded Russia, strengthened monarchy, used terror tactics
- After his death Time of Troubles 1598-1613 because he left no heir
- Video

Time of Troubles 1598-1613

- Nobles elected a number of tsars & wanted certain assurances
- Country going through chaos, almost like 30 yrs war
- 1613 nat'l assembly elected 16 yr old boy to rule, hope no connection w/ warring parties = Michael Romanov

Critical Thinking:

Why was Russia so far behind Western Europe?

Would you label Ivan IV an absolutist ruler? Why/why not?

Peter the Great

- **Westernization** of Russia: social as well as political change that occurred very quickly
- 1697-1698 went to Europe & recruited ~1000 experts for service in Russia
 - **Peters Master Plan:** wanted to create army that could stand up to those of West
 - Wanted to hold off Poles, Swedes, Turks, from coming into Russia
 - Expand to get seaports: warm-water ports on Baltic & Black Seas
 - Obsessed with getting a navy

Peter the Great - Internal Changes

- Taxes imposed on everything (land, hats, right to wear a beard & to marry), taxes fell on peasants
- Mobility of peasants restricted more-again=serfdom
- Used Colbert's ideas of **mercantilism**
- Encouraged exports, built fleet, & increased textile & metallurgy
- Increased commercial companies
- Serfdom now industrial as well as agricultural
- Economic system under tsar control - no private enterprise

Results of Peter

- Set things up very quickly: some accepted, others rejected the ideas
 - Russia reverted back to time before Peter – westernization rekindled with **Catherine III the Great**
- After his death some turmoil-killed his own son
- He did try to enforce a whole new culture on Russia – peasants not reached
- The ones affected by changes got tired of the slowness of the peasants
- Moved capital to St. Petersburg

Peter the Great Deals with a Rebellion pg 454

1. How did Peter deal with the revolt of the Streltsy?
2. What does his approach to this problem tell us about the tsar?
3. **CONTEXTUALIZATION:** How could Peter the Great's actions be seen as an illustration of absolutism?

Critical Thinking:

How was Peter I able to establish absolutism in Russia?

Peter the Great Deals with a Rebellion

DURING HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE WEST IN 1697–1698, Peter received word that the Streltsy, an elite military unit stationed in Moscow, had revolted against his authority. Peter hurried home and crushed the revolt in a very savage fashion. This selection is taken from an Austrian account of how Peter dealt with the rebels.

Peter and the Streltsy

How sharp was the pain, how great the indignation, to which the tsar's Majesty was mightily moved, when he knew of the rebellion of the Streltsy, betraying openly a mind panting for vengeance! He was still tarrying at Vienna, quite full of the desire of setting out for Italy; but, fervid as was his curiosity of rambling abroad, it was, nevertheless, speedily extinguished on the announcement of the troubles that had broken out in the bowels of his realm. Going immediately to Lefort . . . , he thus indignantly broke out: "Tell me, Francis, how I can reach Moscow by the shortest way, in a brief space, so that I may wreak vengeance on this great perfidy of my people, with punishments worthy of their abominable crime. Not one of them shall escape with impunity. Around my royal city, which, with their impious efforts, they planned to destroy, I will have gibbets and gallows set upon the walls and ramparts, and each and every one of them will I put to a direful death." Nor did he long delay the plan for his justly excited wrath; he took the quick post, as his ambassador suggested, and in four weeks' time he had got over about 300 miles without accident, and arrived the 4th of

September, 1698—a monarch for the well disposed, but an avenger for the wicked.

His first anxiety after his arrival was about the rebellion—in what it consisted, what the insurgents meant, who dared to instigate such a crime. And as nobody could answer accurately upon all points, and some pleaded their own ignorance, others the obstinacy of the Streltsy, he began to have suspicions of everybody's loyalty. . . . No day, holy or profane, were the inquisitors idle; every day was deemed fit and lawful for torturing. There was as many scourges as there were accused, and every inquisitor was a butcher. . . . The whole month of October was spent in lacerating the backs of culprits with the knout and with flames; no day were those that were left alive exempt from scourging or scorching; or else they were broken upon the wheel, or driven to the gibbet, or slain with the ax. . . .

To prove to all people how holy and inviolable are those walls of the city which the Streltsy rashly meditated scaling in a sudden assault, beams were run out from all the embrasures in the walls near the gates, in each of which two rebels were hanged. This day beheld about two hundred and fifty die that death. There are few cities fortified with as many palisades as Moscow has given gibbets to her guardian Streltsy.



How did Peter deal with the revolt of the Streltsy? What does his approach to this problem tell us about the tsar?

Source: From *Readings in European History*, vol. 2, by James Harvey Robinson (Lexington, Mass.: Ginn and Co., 1906).

Focus Question: What were the main issues in the struggle between king and Parliament in seventeenth century England, and how were they resolved?

England: Decline of Absolutism Constitutionalism, Civil War, & Restoration of Monarchy

What is Constitutionalism?

- Limitation of gov't by law
- Balance between authority & power of gov't and rights & liberties of subjects
- State must act according to the laws

Decline of Monarchy & Absolutism

- After Elizabeth, Stuarts gained throne & instituted absolute gov't w/ constitutional legality
- **James Stuart (James I)** united Scotland & England
- Not good ruler for uniting – not familiar w/ English laws & traditions
- Tied to Parliament for consent but...
- Ruled according to *Divine Right* – refused to follow Tudor custom of “balanced polity”
- Conflict with Parliament over power

James I vs. Puritans

- Refused to change Church of England to be more Presbyterian – had noble support (mostly Anglican)
- Puritans mostly middle-class & landed gentry (owned land but no noble title)
- Showed some sympathies toward Catholics (Charles I married to Catholic)

Divisions of Parliament

- Tension that grew under James I worsened under Charles I
- Parliament ready to curb absolute power = Petition of Right (taxation powers to Parliament)
- Started taking king's powers away (in few months abs. power was gone) = Long Parliament
- Divisions in Parliament (religious & political divisions): Puritans attacking Anglicans
- Puritans/Parliamentaries vs. Moderate Angl./Royalists
- 1642 Charles I tried to arrest leaders of revolt so
 - Parliament raised army
 - King fled to Oxford-Royalists followed
 - Open war between King & Parliament – basically war of differences in political & religious sentiments

Critical Thinking:

Why did the Stuarts take over the English monarchy?

1st Civil War 1642-1646

- Goal of Royalists:
- March to London & capture it – didn't
- Had lots of land, no \$
- Nobility, squires (British gentry)
- Parliament:
- Held most of seaports & cities
- Navy on their side
- Deciding factor: New Model Army devel. by Cromwell "Ironsides Calvary"
- Charles I captured 1646
- Debate on what to do w/ king
- Tried negotiations but Charles I tried taking advantage of Parliament divisions – Cromwell took over
- Some wanted to keep monarchy others wanted him gone – launched 2nd Civil War

2nd Civil War 1646-1649

- Cromwell/army vs. Parliament
- Cromwell reduces Parl. w/ Prides Purge
- Rump Parliament (53 members) agreed to execute king 1649 = Commonwealth Republic

Commonwealth

- Instrument of Gov't: created constitution & executive (Cromwell) & council of state
- Council of State: annually elected committee of Parliament
- Europe appalled = wouldn't recognize it & merchants imprisoned
- Levellers opposed Cromwell = wanted more freedoms (more democratic)
- Cromwell acted worse than Charles I
- Commonwealth collapsed w/ Cromwell's death in 1658

Restoration of Monarchy

- 1660 Monarchy restored w/ Charles I's eldest son Charles II
- Both houses Parliament restored
- Anglican Church restored
- Not a absolutist ruler
- James II succeeded Charles = openly Catholic

Glorious Revolution 1688-1689

- People feared James II's
- male & Catholic heir = sought to put his protestant daughter on throne instead
- William (of Orange) & Mary (eldest daughter of James II) hold throne & acknowledge supremacy of Parliament
- Destroyed absolute monarchy
- Constitutional monarchy with **Bill of Rights**

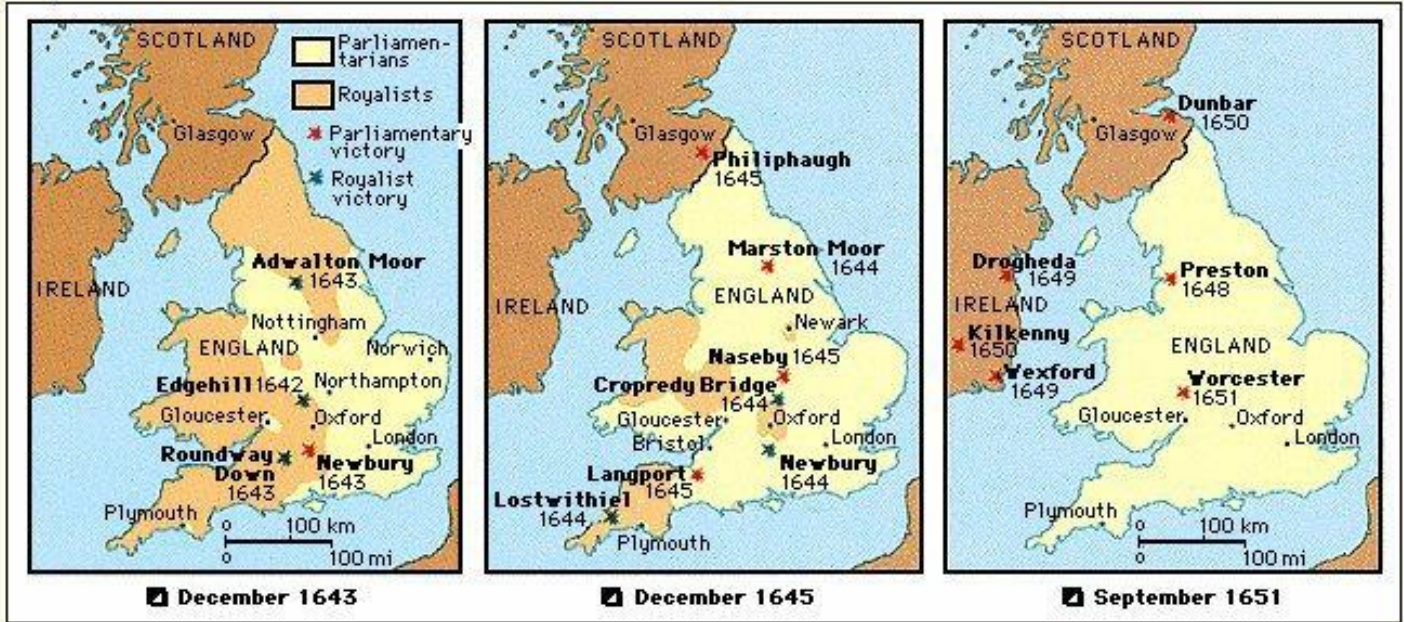
Critical Thinking:

List reasons why Cromwell was so important in the Civil War:

What made the Glorious Revolution so "glorious"?

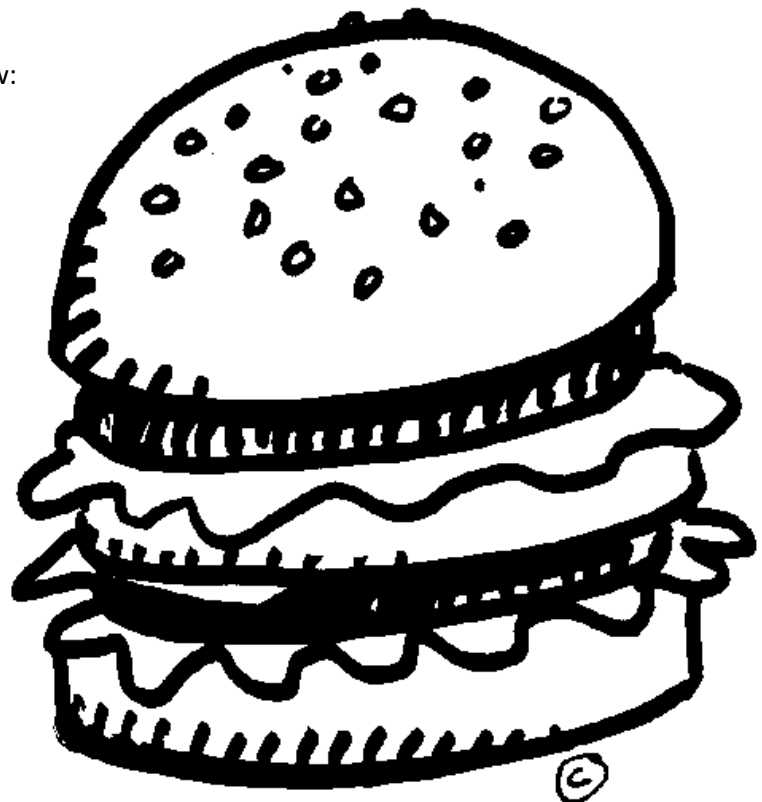
Map Analysis:

English Civil War, 1642-1651



1. Make 2 inferences from the maps provided for 3 periods of the English Civil War.

Label the English Civil War sandwich/burger below:



The Bill of Rights

IN 1688, THE ENGLISH EXPERIENCED yet another revolution, a bloodless one in which the Stuart king James II was replaced by Mary, James's daughter, and her husband, William of Orange. After William and Mary had assumed power, Parliament passed the Bill of Rights, which specified the rights of Parliament and laid the foundation for a constitutional monarchy.

The Bill of Rights

Whereas the said late King James II having abdicated the government, and the throne being thereby vacant, his Highness the prince of Orange (whom it has pleased Almighty God to make the glorious instrument of delivering this kingdom from popery and arbitrary power) did (by the device of the lords spiritual and temporal, and diverse principal persons of the Commons) cause letters to be written to the lords spiritual and temporal, being Protestants, and other letters to the several counties, cities, universities, boroughs, and Cinque Ports, for the choosing of such persons to represent them, as were of right to be sent to parliament, to meet and sit at Westminster upon the two and twentieth day of January, in this year 1689, in order to such an establishment as that their religion, laws, and liberties might not again be in danger of being subverted; upon which letters elections have been accordingly made.

And thereupon the said lords spiritual and temporal and Commons, pursuant to their respective letters and elections, being now assembled in a full and free representation of this nation, taking into their most serious consideration the best means for attaining the ends aforesaid, do in the first place (as their ancestors in like case have usually done), for the vindication and assertion of their ancient rights and liberties, declare:

1. That the pretended power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by regal authority, without consent of parliament is illegal.
2. That the pretended power of dispensing with the laws, or the execution of law by regal authority, as it has been assumed and exercised of late, is illegal.
3. That the commission for erecting the late court of commissioners for ecclesiastical causes, and all other commissions and courts of like nature, are illegal and pernicious.
4. That levying money for or to the use of the crown by pretense of prerogative, without grant of parliament, for longer time or in other manner than the same is or shall be granted, is illegal.
5. That it is the right of the subjects to petition the king, and all commitments and prosecutions for such petitioning are illegal.
6. That the raising or keeping a standing army within the kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with consent of parliament, is against law.
7. That the subjects which are Protestants may have arms for their defense suitable to their conditions, and as allowed by law.
8. That election of members of parliament ought to be free.
9. That the freedom of speech, and debates or proceedings in parliament, ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of parliament.
10. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.
11. That jurors ought to be duly impaneled and returned, and jurors which pass upon men in trials for high treason ought to be freeholders.
12. That all grants and promises of fines and forfeitures of particular persons before conviction are illegal and void.
13. And that for redress of all grievances, and for the amending, strengthening, and preserving of the laws, parliament ought to be held frequently.



How did the Bill of Rights lay the foundation for a constitutional monarchy? What key aspects of this document testify to the exceptional nature of English state politics in the seventeenth century?

Source: From *The Statutes: Revised Edition* (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1871), Vol. 2, pp. 10–12.

The Bill of Rights pg 467: HISTORICAL CAUSATION

1. What events made Parliament enact the Bill of Rights?
2. How did it lead to further decline in monarchical power?
3. Was England exceptional in this respect?

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Focus Question: How did artistic and literary achievements of this era reflect the political and economic developments of the period?

Fill in the boxes with the characteristics for each of the artistic and literary movements of the 17th century.

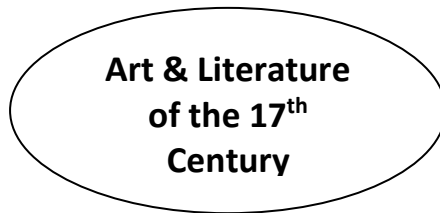
Mannerism

Baroque

French Classicism

Dutch Realism

Political Developments:



Economic Developments:

Elizabethan England

Spain's Golden Century

French Drama