

Absolutism

Absolute Monarchies in the 17th and 18th Centuries

French Absolutism

Louis XIV

House of Bourbon

1643-1715



French Politics

Ruled through Councils made up of middle class

“Nobles of the sword” replaced by “Nobles of the Robe”

Ruled through easily-replaceable intendants

No first minister and never called Estates General

Professionalization of the Army

The Fronde



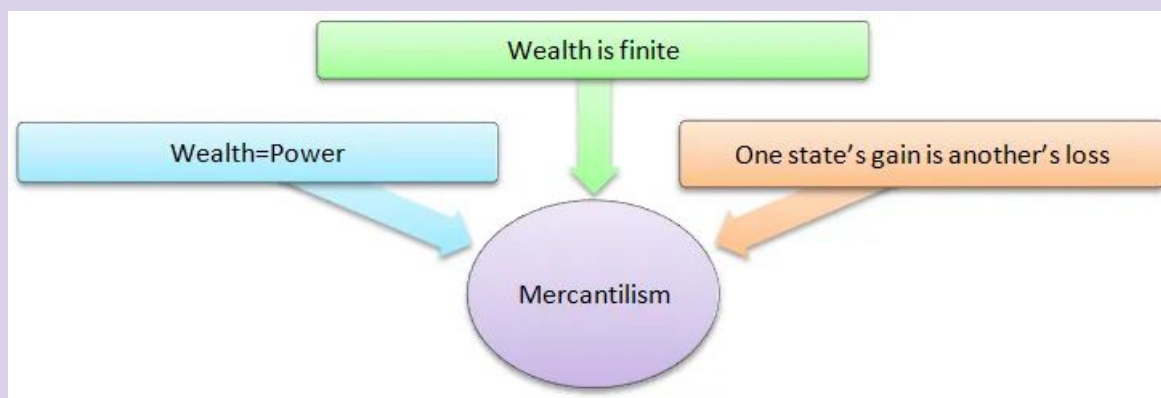
French Economics

Mercantilism and Colbert

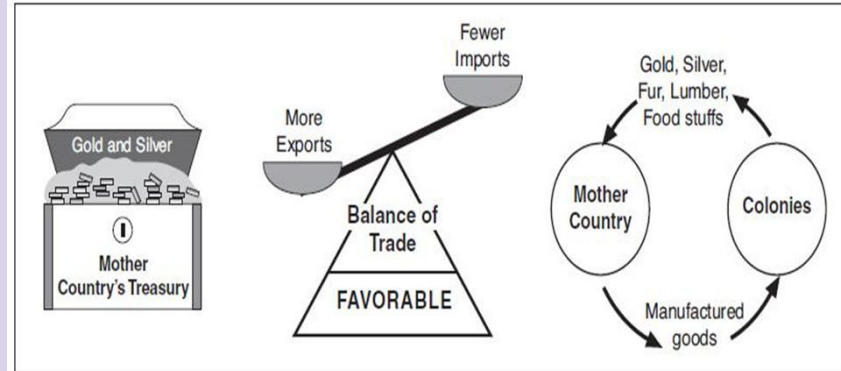
Abolished domestic tariffs

Raised tariffs on foreign products

Series of Wars left France on edge of bankruptcy



A European View



French Religion

Religious unity

Revoked Edict of Nantes

Persecution of Huguenots



French Society

Forced nobility to live at Versailles. (Vur-sigh)

Etiquette rituals

Women played central role in patronage







French Intellectual Stuff

Divine right monarchy

Plays by Molière and Racine



French Arts

Versailles: center of political, social and cultural life

Art Patron

French Classicism



The Decline of Spain

South American silver dries up

Spain goes bankrupt/bad credit

Manufacturing and Commerce shrank

Aristocratic taxes kill farming

Revolts in Catalonia and Portugal

Treaty of the Pyrenees: 1659 : Gave up land to France

1688: Portuguese Independence



The War of Spanish Succession

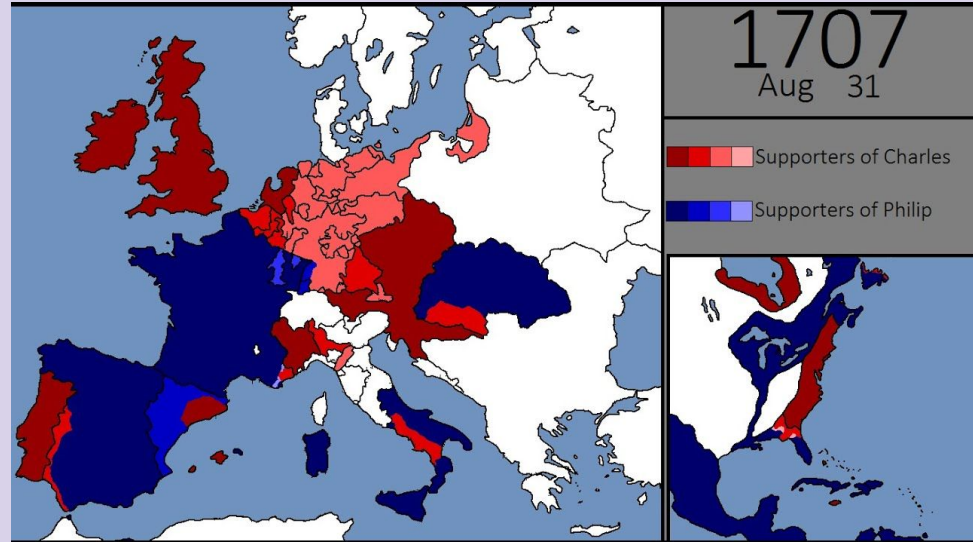
1702-1714

King Charles II (Spain) dies, naming Philip of Anjou as his successor. (Louis XIV's grandson)

Ignites a war:

- France, Spain, and some parts of the HRE
- Vs
- England, Portugal, Austria, Prussia and the Dutch

1713- Peace of Utrecht: Phillip is King but can never unite France and Spain, France gives some North American territory to the British



Austrian Absolutism

Ferdinand II 1619-1637

Ferdinand III 1637-1657

House Habsburg



Austrian Politics

Took land from Protestant nobles. Gave to Catholics and loyal supporters

Took power away from Bohemian Estates

Permanent standing army, wars with the Ottoman Empire.

Conquered Hungary

-Hungarian revolts



Austrian Economics and Religion

Mercantilism

Stamp out Protestantism

Catholic State reinforces political unity
(Hyper-catholic)



Austrian Social, Intellectual and Artistic

German official language of the State

Divine Right monarchy

Vienna became cultural center

Palace of Schönbrunn



Prussian Absolutism

Frederick William “The Great Elector” and
Frederick William I “The Soldiers King”

(r. 1713-1740)

House Hohenzollern (r. 1640-1688)



Prussian Politics

Both worked to eliminate parliaments and local government

Creation of efficient bureaucracy

Military state



Prussian Economics

Expansion of taxes

Junkers agree to be taxed

Encouraged Industry and Production



Prussian Society

Junkers: dominant social class

Junkers given absolute authority over peasants (Serfdom)

Military values



Russian Absolutism

Peter I (the Great)

1682-1725

House Romanov

(Ivan IV had already weakened Boyars, entrenched serfdom, relied on Cossacks, and solidified economic patterns.)



Russian Politics

Diminished power of Boyars

Required all Nobles to serve in government or military

Table of Ranks

Regular standing army

Great Northern War

Attempted anti-Ottoman League



Russian Economics

Increased bonds of serfdom

Increased taxes on peasants to fund wars

Forced peasants to work on projects to support the army.



Russian Society

Westernization of Russian culture

- (New westernized class will matter)

Cut beards

Bigger gap between rich and poor

Importation of foreign experts



Russian Arts

Built St Petersburg

