Unit 2: Age of Absolutism notes

Absolutism

- Absolutism – A state where the king or queen holds all of the power.
- Absolute monarchs believed in divine right.
  - Divine Right – The idea that God created the monarchy and the monarch was God’s representative on Earth.

Spain

- In 1516, the smaller Spanish Kingdoms are joined to form the Spanish Empire.
- The first king of Spain was Charles V.
- Spain grew into a world power thanks to the exploitation of new lands.
  - Conquistadors – Spanish soldiers and explorers who took part in the conquest of America.

- What do you think “exploitation” means?
- What will they exploit?

- Charles V was also the king of the Holy Roman Empire.
- Member of the House of Hapsburg.
- When Charles V died, he split the Hapsburg Empire up between his brother and son.
  - His brother, Ferdinand, was given the Holy Roman Empire.
  - His son, Phillip II, was given Spain and Spanish America.

Phillip II

- Phillip II was a devout Catholic and looked to expand his kingdom.
- At the beginning of Phillip’s reign (1554), Spain was the richest empire in the world.

Religious Wars

- In Phillip’s defense of Catholicism, he became the enemy of the Protestants.
- The Netherlands were under Hapsburg control, but were mostly Protestant.
- Phillip heavily taxed them, causing them to revolt.
- England pledged to help the Dutch fight the Spanish.

Spanish Armada
To get back at Elizabeth, Phillip decides to invade England.

He builds the Spanish Armada.

Phillip hoped to overthrow Elizabeth.

The Spanish Armada was defeated and many ships and men are lost at sea.

With this defeat, the Spanish Empire began to weaken.

What is the moral of this story?

France

- France is dominantly Catholic
- Since the Reformation, the Catholics have been fighting the Calvinists.
  - French Calvinists are called “Huguenots”
- Edict of Nantes is eventually passed.
  - Edict of Nantes – Declaration of religious tolerance.
- France’s royal family is the House of Bourbon.
- When the king (Henry) is killed, Louis XIII is his successor.

Louis XII (13)

- Louis XIII is a weak king
  - Louis’ prime minister, Cardinal Richelieu, is a strong leader and takes control of the country.
- Richelieu is a powerful figure in the Catholic Church.
- Upheld the Edict of Nantes, but did not allow Huguenot cities to have walls.
- Took power away from the nobles and gave it to government officials called intendants.

The Thirty Years War

- The 30 Years War was fought because the Protestant German-States wanted to rule themselves and not listen to the Hapsburgs in Spain.
- Richelieu involved France in the Thirty Years War against Spain.
  - Wanted to weaken the Hapsburg Family.

Louis XIV (14)

- Louis XIV took over after death of Louis XIII.
• He was determined to make the monarchy so powerful that no one could challenge him.
• Called himself “The Sun King”
• Expanded the power of intendants over the nobles.
• Appointed Jean Baptiste Colbert as minister of finance.
  • Colbert tried to make France self-sufficient and not reliant on imports.

❖ If a country is not reliant on imports, how can that save them money?
❖ What are some things America imports?

Palace of Versailles
• The Palace of Versailles was a palace built by Louis XIV.
• The palace was a sign of the absolute power of the monarch.

The End of Louis XIV’s Reign
• Louis fought many wars in an attempt to expand France’s borders.
• England and other countries fought France and Spain in the War of Spanish Succession.

IMPORTANT – France Upon Louis XIV’s Death
• Louis’ constant wars and extravagance led to the bankruptcy of France.
• The peasants had been heavily taxed and grew upset at the monarchy.

Central Europe – Austria and Prussia
❖ What was the Thirty Years War again?

The Thirty Years War
• War fought between the Hapsburg Catholics of Holy Roman Empire and German Protestants.
• Richelieu and France sided with the Germans in order to stop the Hapsburg family from gaining more power.
• Almost 100 years after the Thirty Years War, religious differences cause the Holy Roman Empire to split between two kingdoms.
  • Austria - Catholic
  • Prussia – Religious Tolerance (Protestant and Catholic)

Austria
• Austria is ruled by the Hapsburgs.
• Very diverse empire. Many different ethnic groups.

❖ Is having a very diverse empire good or bad? Why?

Maria Theresa
• Their king dies without a son and allows his daughter, Maria Theresa, to rule after his death.
• She is the first woman to rule in the Hapsburg family.
• Maria Theresa decreased the power of the nobility.
• Fought the war of Austrian Succession shortly after taking the throne in order to legitimize taking the throne.
• Created marriage alliances across Europe.

Prussia
• Prussia was ruled by the House of Hohenzollern
• Believed having a strong military was the only way to ensure safety.
• Mostly Germanic people.

Frederick the Great
• Frederick the Great was an enlightened leader.
• Believed the people should have some say in the way he governed.
• Although Frederick was a patron of the arts, he built Prussia’s army to be the best in the world.
• Challenged Maria Theresa in the War of Austrian Succession

Seven Years War
• Austria and France VS Britain and Prussia

• How may religion have played a part in choosing sides in this war?

• War fought in America as well as Europe.
• No territory changes in Europe, but France lost a lot of influence in America.
• Also known as the French and Indian War.

Russia
• **Ivan the Terrible** becomes the first Czar of Russia.
  - Czar or Tsar – the monarch of Russia.

• Takes power away from the boyars.
  - Boyars – Russian nobles.

• **Peter the Great** takes the throne of Russia after a few weak czars.
  - Family of Romanov

• Wants to westernize Russia.
  - Westernization – Using Western Europe as a model for change.

**Peter’s Reforms**

• Increased taxes to pay for an advanced military.

• Improved status of women.

• Fought Sweden for land to build a port-city.
  - Named St. Petersburg

• Took control of the Orthodox Church.

• Imposed a “beard tax”