Unit 2: 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

Spanish Power

- In the early 1500s, 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.

Philip II

- Philip II inherited Spain and Spanish American from his father.
- He was a member of the Hapsburg royal family.
- Philip II was a devout Catholic and looked to expand his kingdom.
- At the beginning of Philip’s reign (1554), Spain was the richest empire in the world.

Religious Wars

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

Spanish Armada

- To get back at Elizabeth, Philip decides to invade England.
- He builds the Spanish Armada.
- Philip 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.

France

• France is mostly Catholic

• Since the Reformation, the Catholics have been fighting a group of Protestants called Huguenots (aka Calvinists)

• The Edict of Nantes is eventually passed.
  
  ○ Edict of Nantes – Declaration of religious tolerance.

French Royal Family

• France’s royal family is the House of Bourbon.

• When the king (Henry) is killed, Louis XIII is his successor.

Louis XIII

• 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.