Chapter 17 - The Age of Absolutism. (1550-1800).

(1) Extending Spanish Power.
(2) France Under Louis XIV.
(4) Rise of Austria and Prussia.
(5) Absolute Monarchy in Russia.

(1) Extending Spanish Power.

Setting the Scene.
1500s-1700s. Monarchs get powerful.
Build royal army to replace nobles’ army.
Take new lands and expand government.
Lay foundation for nations of Europe today.

Serious-minded King Philip II of Spain was member of Hapsburg dynasty.

The Hapsburg Empire
First Hapsburgs were dukes of Austria. Got in carefully arranged marriages.

Charles V (1500-58).
King of Spain (age 16).
Holy Roman Emperor (age 19).
Founder of Hapsburg dynasty.
Charles was son of Joanna, Infanta, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella,
and Philip the Handsome who chipped in Austria and the Netherlands.
Charles is a devout Catholic. Tries to force German princes to respect pope.
Charles accepts Peace of Augsburg (1555). Princes chose Catholic/Lutheran.
Charles battles France for Italy, Burgundy, Flanders.
Charles battles Ottoman Turks for Austria.
1556. Charles retires to monastery. Leaves Austria to brother Ferdinand (Holy Roman Emperor), and rest of empire to son Philip

Philip II (1527-1598).
King of Spain (age 29).
Philip is an absolute monarch or ruler with total authority over government and lives of its people. Untrusting. Religious. He sees his mission in life to fight heretics and restore unity of Catholic Church.
He attacks Turkish strongholds in Mediterranean (his crusade).
He wins at Lepanto (1571).

Revolt in the Netherlands.
1566. Philip orders laws against Protestants.
Dutch revolt with many Dutch Catholics joining the Protestants because they resent Spanish rule.
1581. Seven northern provinces became Dutch Netherlands (Protestant). Declare independence from Spain.
1830. Ten southern provinces became Belgium.
The Mighty Armada.
English sea dogs (Sir Francis Drake) attack Spanish ports in the Americas.
1588. Spain sends armada (armed fleet) of 68 vessels with 60,000 troops.
Attacks England.
Loses in a disaster.

Spain’s Golden Age.
The century from 1550 to 1650 is called ‘siglo de oro’ or ‘golden century.’

Century of Gold.
Spanish writers, philosophers, artists create masterpieces.

Painters.
El Greco.
El Greco Domenico Theotocopoulos (1541-1614).
Born in Crete.
Known as ‘The Greek’ or El Greco.
Did haunting religious pictures of saints.
Did notably "Assumption of the Virgin." (Chicago).

Velasquez.
Diego Velasquez (1599-1660).
Considered the ‘greatest Spanish painter of them all.’
Gained fame as court painter at Madrid.
Best work: "Maids of Honor" (1656). Infanta and dwarf.

Writers.
Cervantes.
Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616).
Maimed his left hand at Battle of Lepanto.
Became a tax collector.
Missing money. Sent to prison.
Wrote “Don Quixote” in confinement.

Vega.
Lope de Vega (1562-1635).
Wrote 700 plays on God, king, and romance.
Married twice. Fathered six children.
Became priest. Became officer in Inquisition.
Died poor. All to church.

Suarez.
Jesuit Francisco de Suarez (1548-1617).
Philosopher and theologian.
Considered ‘greatest scholastic after Aquinas.’
Wrote about relationship between faith and reason.

Economic Decline.
Spanish power and prosperity decline. Leaders not as good as Philip was.

By 1660 (gold imports drop) France replaces Spain as top Europe power.
Setting the Scene.
Late 1600s. Louis XIV is absolute monarch of France and most powerful ruler in Europe. Yet France was in tatters over religion 100 years earlier.

Rebuilding France.
1572. Catherine de Medici daughter marries Henry of Navarre.
   St. Batholomew’s Day massacre.
   3,000 Huguenots are whacked at wedding reception.
   Henry is spared.
   Henry recant. Professes to be Catholic.
   Becomes prisoner for three years.

Wars of Religion.
1562-1598. Wars rage in France. Protestant (Calvinist) v. Catholic nobles.
   Huguenots’ allies: English, Dutch, German.
   Catholic’s ally: Spain (Philip II).

Henry IV.
1589. Henry of Navarre (1553-1610) becomes King Henri IV.
1593. Henri IV (last of three Henris) converts to Catholicism.
1610. Henri IV (57) is assassinated by Catholic religious fanatic.
   His son (10 years old) is next king, Louis XIII.

Richelieu.
1614. Louis XIII (14) is forced to call Estates-General by nobles.
1615. Meeting is disbanded!
   Cardinal Richelieu (1585-1642) puts interests of France above those of Catholic Church.
1622. Richelieu (37) becomes cardinal.
1624. Richelieu (15 years older than king) becomes chief minister.
1629. Richelieu runs France from this date on.
   Keeps king away from his Spanish wife.
1642. Richelieu dies.
   King chooses Cardinal Mazarin (1602-1661) as substitute.

Louis XIV, the Sun King.
   Louis XIV (1638-1715) ascends throne. He is five years old.
Louis XIV reign in hands of mother, Anne (Austria), Cardinal Mazarin.
1661. Cardinal Mazarin dies.
   Louis XIV, 23, announces his own rule.
   He rules on his own for next 54 years (1715).
   He appoints royal agents to rule provinces (taxes, recruit soldiers).
1685. He undid Edict of Nantes. Persecution of Huguenots follows.
   Motto: none his equal. Symbol: sun. (French to king as earth to sun.)
   His divine right to rule. Absolute monarchy: "L’etat, c’est moi."

(2) France Under Louis XIV.
Versailles, Symbol of Royal Power.
In countryside near Paris King Louis XIV turns a royal hunting lodge into the immense palace of Versailles. He spares no cost in the construction that takes 27 years. He gets finest paintings, statues, glittering chandeliers, and mirrors.
In gardens millions of flowers and trees and fountains are in geometric order.

Versailles becomes the perfect symbol of the Sun King’s wealth and power.

Other rulers emulate Louis XIV absolute monarchy. Adopt French manners.

Colbert and the Economy.
Louis XIV relies on Jean Baptiste Colbert (1619-1683) to manage finances.

Colbert was patron of industry, commerce, art, science and literature.

Colbert was a mercantilist:

- Has new lands cleared for farming.
- Encourages mining and basic industries.
- Builds luxury trades such as lacemaking.
- Tax relief for investors in new business.
- Installs high tariffs on imports to protect French manufacturers.
- Encourages overseas colonies.
- Regulates trade with colonies to enrich royal treasury.

Colbert’s policies help make France the wealthiest state in Europe.
Yet Louis XIV was still short of cash because he spends so much.

Wars of Louis XIV.

1701. Louis XIV (who dies in 1715) starts his last war. The War of Spanish Succession. His grandson inherits Spain and all its possessions. Louis says France and Spain should be seen as one. Others fight an alliance of France with Spain.

1713. Treaty of Utrecht. Louis XIV agrees French and Spanish crowns will not unite. Grandson stays on throne of Spain but union is busted. Results: England gets Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

Looking Ahead.
1715. Louis XIV dies. Louis XIV leaves France in debt. His heirs try to live up to brilliant tradition of Sun King.

Setting the Scene.
In 1600s to 1700s England evolves into limited monarchy instead of absolute monarchy. English accepted many ideas from Locke (1632-1704) published (1690) on rebellion. People had right to life, liberty, and property. Concepts that lead to democratic forms of government.

The Tudors and Parliament.
   Henry VIII consults Parliament often for money.
   Monarch also heads (after 1534) Church of England.
   Elizabeth I consults and controls Parliament.

Parliament won important rights: approve new taxes, pass proposed laws. But monarchs had more power: name judges, summon, dismiss Parliament.

The Early Stuarts.
1603. Elizabeth dies. James I (Scotland) becomes king.
   James continually clashes with Parliament.
   James lectures Parliament about divine right of kings.
1625. James dies. His son succeeds him.
   Charles I (1600-1649) becomes king.
   Charles marries Henrietta Marie, French princess, Catholic.
1649. Charles I is tried beheaded for ignoring limitations of power.

James I and the Divine Right of Kings.
James I (1566-1625). Well-meaning. Scholar. (King James Bible.)
1589. Marries Anne of Denmark (1574-1619).
   Is called "the wisest fool in Christendom."
Believes kings ruled by divine right "they sit on God’s throne on earth."
Parliament:
   House of Lords (nobles for life).
   House of Commons (rich landowners/gentry).

James disputes Parliament on three issues: religion, money, foreign policy
(1) Puritans want Anglican Church "purified" of Catholic rituals, ceremonies.
(2) James spends lavishly: Revives feudal fines. Increases customs duties.
(3) James makes peace with Spain. Tries to marry son to (Catholic) princess.

Charles I and Parliament.
James I son Charles I (1600-49) inherits throne in 1625.
   Believes (like his dad) in divine right of kings.
   When Parliament refuses to give him money he dissolves it.
   He then borrows money from individuals.
1628. Charles signs Petition of Right. Then dissolves Parliament (11yrs.).
1630s. Charles makes many enemies because of his arbitrary rule.
   Appoints unpopular officials. Persecutes Puritans, Protestants.
1638. Charles tries to impose Anglican Church on Scotland.
The Long Parliament.
1640. Charles summons Parliament regarding Scotland which would convene on and off until 1660. This ‘Long Parliament’ would eventually lead to a revolution against the monarchy.

Before Charles gets any money Parliament gets a trial of chief ministers with a charge of abuse of power.

1642. The king and Parliament raise their own armies. Civil war began.

The English Civil War.
The civil war in England lasts between 1642 and 1649.

Cavaliers and Roundheads.
Cavaliers are wealthy nobles (plumed hats) and rural people loyal to king.
Roundheads are middle class and Puritans (bowl-like hair cuts) not loyal.

1645. Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) reorganizes ‘New Model’ army.

1646. Oliver Cromwell captures Charles I.

Execution of a King.

1649. Tried as “tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy.”
Charles I has his head removed from his body.
Execution sends shock waves through European royalty.
First time. A ruling monarch is executed.

The Commonwealth.

1649. House of Commons abolishes monarchy.
House of Commons abolishes House of Lords.
House of commons proclaims a republic.

1654. Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of republic that becomes better known as the Commonwealth.
* the Levelers demand titles of nobility abolished and all men should have right to vote.

1658. Cromwell dies.

1660. Parliament asks Charles II, son of Charles I, to return from exile (in lavish-living France) and become king.

1666. London burns Great Fire. Following bubonic plague.
Despite disasters the court of Charles II (1630-85) loses little of lost its brilliance and gaiety.

From Restoration to Glorious Revolution.

Charles II was exiled in court of Louis XIV but he knew he had to accept limits to power.
Charles secretly prefers Catholic to Anglican. But urges religious toleration to all religions.

1670. Charles makes secret treaty to ally with France against Holland.

1673. Test Act excludes non-Anglicans from seat in parliament or holding office. Attempt is to exclude brother James II (Catholic) from throne.

1685. Charles II dies. James II becomes king. He flaunts his Catholic faith.

1688. James flees to France. Bloodless overthrow is Glorious Revolution.
James’ daughter Mary (Protestant), husband William take throne.
But William and Mary first have to sign English Bill of Rights.
Bill ensures Parliament superiority over monarch.
Bill bars any Roman Catholic from sitting on English throne.
(4) Rise of Austria and Prussia.

Setting the Scene.
Two German-speaking powers, Austria and Prussia, emerge out of the ashes of the Thirty Years’ War with rulers (like Louis) who are absolute monarchs.

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The Thirty Years’ War.
Germany had of hundreds of small, independent states which, in theory, were under the rule of the Holy Roman Emperor. Whenever a HRE dies, seven leading German princes (electors) meet to choose new emperor. From 1400s, he electors always chose a Hapsburg (ruler of Austria, Bohemia, Hungary).

1555. Peace of Augsburg.
Each German prince could now be Catholic or Lutheran.

Hapsburg Ferdinand II of Aragon (1452-1516), husband of Isabella of Castile, effort to restore Catholic Church in Bohemia explodes into a protracted war.

The war is called the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648).

1618. Early on, religion fuels fighting.
Later, politics and territory are more important than religion.

Ferdinand tries to establish Hapsburg control over all German states.
Richelieu supports German Protestants to prevent Hapsburgs getting power.
In Thirty Years’ War
* Invaders devastate German states. Burn. Loot.
* Famine.
* Plague.

HRE population drops from 34 mm (1618) to 13 mm (1648). Or 21 mm dead!

1648. Peace of Westphalia ends war.
The peace treaty ends Hapsburg dream of a government to rule HRE.
* It gives independence to about 300 small German states.
* It allows princes to choose religion in his territory.
* It recognizes Calvinists as well as Lutherans. But no other sects.
* It ratifies territorial changes from past 50 years:
  Dutch Netherlands, and Swiss Confederation.
* It gives France parts of Alsace and Lorraine!
Hapsburg Austria.
Hapsburgs keep title of Holy Roman Emperor and focus on expansion.
Hapsburgs had Austria, Bohemia, Hungary and, later part Poland, Italy.

Maria Theresa.
The emperor Charles VI faces a crisis in early 1700s. He has no male heir.
His daughter Maria Theresa (1717-1780) is capable but no woman has ruled.
Charles persuades German princes to recognize daughter’s right to succeed.
They sign an agreement (called Pragmatic Solution) for her to get Austria throne but
ignore their pledge after emperor dies (1740). Eight year war!

War of the Austrian Succession (1741-1748).
1740. Frederick the Great takes Silesia.
   Maria asks Hungary for help. Success! (Dramatic plea!)
   Maria gets more help from Britain and Russia.

Maria Theresa (mom of Marie Antoinette) never get Frederick out of Silesia.
But during eight-year war she preserves empire and wins people support.
Maria forces nobles and clergy to pay taxes. Reforms continue: son Joseph II.

The Rise of Prussia.
1400s. Frederick (Hohenzollerns) rules Brandenburg.
   Number One German prince in peace.
1618. Hohenzollerns inherits Prussia in eastern Germany
1648. Hohenzollerns get other German lands.

Building a Strong Prussian State
1700s. Hohenzollerns make an absolute monarchy.
   Prussia, a small kingdom, becomes a major power.
   Frederick William (1620-1688) was the Great Elector.

1688. Frederick I (1657-1713) becomes elector.
1701. Frederick I crowns himself first king of Prussia.
1713. Frederick William I (1688-1740) succeeds father.
   Fiscally responsible. Tolerant.
1740. Frederick II (1712-1786). Or ‘Frederick the Great.’
   Becomes king of Prussia. (Year Austrian emperor dies.)
   Attacks Silesia.
   Starts the War of Austrian Succession that lasts eight years.

The European Balance of Power
1750. The great powers of Europe include Austria, France, Britain, Russia.
   The powers formed various alliances to maintain a balance of power.
   Nations sometimes switched partners.
   But Prussia and Austria persist in a rivalry to control German states.

* Note: Britain comes into existence in 1707 with Act of Union that unites
   England and Scotland into United Kingdom of Great Britain.
(5) Absolute Monarchy in Russia.

Setting the Scene.
Ivan III the Great (1440-1505). Ivan IV the Terrible (1530-1584).
They add lands. Take title czar (Goth. ‘kaisar’; L. ‘caesar’). Czarina.

The reign of the first Romanov czar in 1613 restores measure of order.
1600s. Russia is still a medieval state getting out of ‘Time of Troubles.’
Not until 1682 does a czar emerge strong enough to rule. Peter the Great.

Peter the Great.
1682. Peter I the Great (1672-1725) becomes czar.
    Introduces western technology.
Seven foot tall. Energetic teenager. Drinker. Military absorption. Contempt for political
and religious display. Had sister arrested and put in nunnery. Ruled with weak-minded
brother. (Ivan V. 1666-1696.)

Autocrat and Reformer.
1679. Peter is 17. Travels to European cities. Studies.
    Hires European engineers, shipbuilders, mathematicians.
1682. Order alphabet simplified.
    Forces nobles to shave beards. Women dress in French fashions.
    Models government after Louis XIV.
    Replaces Duma. Has Council of nobles. With Senate.

Search for Warm-Water Port.
Russian seaports, located on Arctic Ocean, are frozen over in winter.
Peter wants to get warm-water port for direct trade with Western Europe.
War with Sweden.
1700. Peter starts war with Sweden. Russia suffers humiliating defeats.

Peter’s City.
    Designates St. Petersburg (later Leningrad) as new capital.

Legacy of Peter the Great.
    *Peter achieved cultural revolution that made Russia part of European states for
    first time!

Catherine the Great
1712. Peter marries wife #2. Catherine (mistress).
1724. Peter has her crowned empress. Catherine I (1684-1727).
    Peter’s grandson. Peter II (1715-30). Dies smallpox.
1762. Czar Peter III angers army and aristocracy.
    Czar Peter II gets strangled in captivity.
    Catherine becomes empress Catherine II.

Catherine II the Great. (1729-1796) foreign policy:
1772. Three Poland partitions. (1772. 1793. 1795.).
1774. Turk war (1774) to get warm-water port. Again (1794).
1790. Sweden war (1790).