A-B-S-O-L-U-T-I-S-M

LOUIS XIV & VERSAILLES

- CENTRALIZATION of Power

PETER THE GREAT & WESTERNIZATION

- Concept of DIVINE RIGHT

Development of the Rights of Englishmen
(End of Absolutism in Great Britain)

- Oliver Cromwell & the Execution of Charles I
- Restoration of Charles II
- English Bill of Rights

- Development of Political Parties (Factions)
- Glorious Revolution (William & Mary)
- Cavaliers ➔ Roundheads ➔
Absolute Monarchies are a type of government in which a single Monarch has supreme authority over his/her realm. They are not restricted by a Constitution. The absolute monarch wields unrestricted power over its people. We've already discussed Henry VIII, but here are two more examples of Absolute Monarchs.

### Peter the Great
(Pyotr Alexeyevich Romanov; 1672-1725)
- Absolute Czar of Russia
  - Czar = Russian Caesar
- Became Czar at age 10
- Grew to 6’8”
- Modernized Russia
- Westernized Russia
  - “Grand Embassy”
  - See next page
  - Beard Tax
  - Coat cutting
- Gained 1st Warm Water Port
  - 1st Russian Navy
- Table of Rank
  - Ranked society based on their service, merit
  - Not birth, nobility

### Louis XIV
(1638-1715)
- Absolute Ruler of France
  - 11th longest reign in History
  - 72 Years Long
- Believed in Divine Right
  - Kings are chosen by god
  - Answer only to god
- Centralized the Government
  - Ended Feudalism
  - Brought Nobility to his Palace from the Countryside
- The Palace at Versailles
  - See attached
- Absolute Monarchy lasts until the French Revolution in 1789…

**“L'état; c'est moi”**
“The State; It is I” or “I am the State”
THE ADVENTURES OF PETER THE GREAT

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Peter’s Grand Embassy was cut short by a rebellion back in Russia. He returned and executed over 1,000 people by roasting, the rack, etc. He then left their bodies strewn around Moscow as a warning.

WESTERNIZATION OF RUSSIA
When Peter got back... It was time to change...
- Beards must be cut (or pay a tax)
- Women remove veils
  - Wore lower cut French-style dresses
- Changed from Russian to Julian Calendar
  - 7207 became 1700
- Long coats were replaced with European pants
- Ended arranged marriages
- Opened Western schools
- Brought back the first Potatoes to Russia
  - Deemed the “Devil’s Apple”

MEET PETER MIKHAILOV
- Average Travelling worker
  - 6’8” tall
  - Travels with an entourage of 200 courtiers, trumpeters, & court dwarves who paid rent in diamonds

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- Met with King William III
- Visited new city being built: Manchester
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ST. PETERSBURG
- Peter wanted a warm water port
  - “Window to the West”
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  - 100,000 peasants died in the process
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Versailles

Louis XIV died here in 1715 leaving his only surviving descendent as heir. His five-year-old Great Grandson Louis XIV

Costs Billions to build
- Louis XIII used the land as his hunting grounds
- Louis XIV destroyed all of the accounting paperwork
- Decorated with huge paintings on walls, ceilings
  - Silver furniture, chandeliers, statues, etc.
- All of the materials used were from France
- Took 50+ years to complete

- Louis forced the nobility to live on site
- Stopped them from gaining power to use against him
- Some forced to live in one bedroom apartments
- Symbol of royal authority from 1682-1789 (French Rev.)
- Hall of Mirrors (Galerie des Glaces)
  - Along with the Oval Office, one of the most famous rooms on the planet
  - Treaty to end WWI signed here (Treaty of Versailles)

Versailles had over 14,000 fountains. But, there wasn’t enough water to run all the fountains simultaneously. Therefore, there was a special corps of peasants whose job it was to locate the king and keep the fountains around the king running while turning off the fountains that were out of the king’s sight.

At court, you weren’t allowed to knock on the door to see the king; instead you had to use your left little finger to scratch on the door until you were allowed to enter (many court members grew their left little finger nail longer for this purpose)

35,000 laborers and 6,000 horses spent over 50+ years on the construction
Putting Charles I in perspective…
- After Elizabeth I died, James I was King
- James I died in 1625
- Charles I was his surviving son
- Married Henrietta of France (Catholic)
  - Louis XIV’s Aunt

Parliament
- Council of advisors to the King
- Been around for centuries
- 1200s- Added a House of Commons
  - People elected by the people
- Became permanent in 1215 (Magna Carta)
- Before raising taxes, the King had to gain the consent of Parliament

Views of Charles I
- No need for Parliament’s Approval
- King answered only to God
- Absolute Monarch

Charles I vs. Parliament
- Charles needed more money to fight his wars
  - 30 Years War, etc.
- Parliament refused… Charles dissolved Parliament
- Recalled Parliament
- Forced to sign the Petition of Right
  - Taxes can only be raised by Parliament
  - No false imprisonment, quartering soldiers, martial law
- Charles signed the Petition; and didn’t call Parl. for 10 yrs

“Kings are not bound to give an account of their actions, but to God alone.”
- Charles I
**English Civil War** (1642-1651)

**THE PERSONAL RULE**
- Charles ruled England without Parliamentary constraints
  - Totally legal
  - Angered the people
- Only stipulation:
  - To rule without Parliament, he had to rule without war
- PROBLEM:
  - Scots invade in 1640
  - Charles had to call Parliament to raise $$

**THE LONG PARLIAMENT**
- Parliament used the opportunity to bring up other grievances with the King
- Charles sent in 400 Troops to arrest Parliament on a charge of TREASON

**THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR**
- King Charles I fled London (in fear of his life)
- Nation quickly divided:
  - PRO-KING = CAVALIERS (from the French “Chevalier” Knight)
  - PRO-PARLIAMENT = ROUNDHEADS (Because of their haircut)
- Charles loses and is captured by the Scottish
  - Handed over to Parliament
- 59 Judges find Charles guilty of high treason
  - “tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy”
  - Never before had a reigning monarch faced public trial & execution
- Roundhead General Oliver Cromwell abolished the Monarchy
Oliver Cromwell: Lord Protector of the Commonwealth

1649-1659

- Abolished Monarchy
- Abolished House of Lords
- Abolished House of Commons
- Established the COMMONWEALTH
  - Republican Form of Gov’t
  - 1st Written Constitution in Eur.
- Cromwell tore up the Constitution
  - Ruled as a DICTATOR
- Two Goals after the War:
  1. “Healing & Settling”
  2. Reform the Nation’s Morals
    - Promoted Puritan Morality
      - No theater
      - Tore down the Globe Theater
      - No Christmas
      - No Pubs
      - No Sports

"I did hint to you my thoughts about the reformation of manners; and those abuses that are in this nation through disorder… should be much in your hearts… I am confident our liberty and prosperity depends upon reformation. To make it a shame to see men to be bold in sin and profaneness and God will bless you. You will be a blessing to the nation.”
- Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth

The Tale of Oliver Cromwell’s Head

Following the death of Oliver Cromwell on 3 September 1658, he was given a public funeral at Westminster Abbey, equal to those of monarchs before him. His legacy passed to his son Richard, who was overthrown by the army in 1659, after which monarchy was re-established and King Charles II, who was living in exile, was recalled (today this is known as the RESTORATION). Charles’ II new parliament ordered the digging up of Cromwell’s body from Westminster for a posthumous execution. After hanging "from morning till four in the afternoon", the bodies were cut down and the heads placed on a 20-foot spike above Westminster Hall.

In 1685 a storm broke the pole upon which it stood, throwing the head to the ground, after which it belonged to private collectors and museum owners until 25 March 1960, when it was buried at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge.

The symbolic value of the head changed over time. While it was spiked on a pole above the London skyline, it gave a potent warning to spectators. The head has been admired, reviled and dismissed as a fake throughout the centuries. After Thomas Carlyle dismissed the head as “fraudulent moonshine” and after the emergence of a rival claimant to the true head of Oliver Cromwell, scientific and archaeological analysis was carried out to prove the identity. Inconclusive tests culminated in a detailed scientific study, which concluded, based on a study of the head and other evidence, that there was a "moral certainty" that the head belonged to Oliver Cromwell.
**RESTORATION OF CHARLES II**

- Protectorate collapses under Cromwell’s son
- New Parliament elected
  - Voted to RESTORE the Monarchy
  - Elder son, Charles II
- Restored:
  - Monarchy
  - Theater (including actresses!)
  - Sports
  - Dancing
  - Pubs
- Charles had no (legitimate) heir…
  - His brother became King…
  - James I… a CATHOLIC!

**Glorious Revolution**

- James II became King and appointed many Catholics to high ranking positions
- Parliament protested…
- James Dissolved Parliament
- James had a Son (Catholic)
- James had an older Daughter (Mary)
  - Protestant
  - Wife of William of Orange
- Parliament invited William to overthrow the King…
  - James fled; Bloodless Revolution
- Signed the Bill of Rights
  - Guaranteed rights to the people

**William and Mary**