

## Absolutism

### I. Absolutism Concepts

#### A. Definition

1. absolute ruler = a ruler who has total power
2. divine right = the idea that monarchs are God's representatives on earth and are therefore answerable only to God.

#### B. Important Absolute Rulers

1. Louis XIV of France
  - a. expanded bureaucracy
  - b. built Versailles
  - c. organize army
  - d. persecuted Protestant Huguenots (Protestants)
  - e. left them in debt
  - f. "Sun King"
2. Charles V of Spain
  - a. fought Protestants
  - b. fought Ottoman empire
  - c. divided up the empire and resigned
3. Philip II of Spain
  - a. believed in divine right
  - b. spend money on wars
  - c. Armada was defeated by England
  - d. taxes high
4. Peter the Great of Russia
  - a. made people western
  - b. moved the capital
  - c. made people change their customs

### II. Reaction to Absolutism

#### A. England's Absolute monarchs

1. James I
  - a. conflicts with religious groups
  - b. believed in divine right

2. Charles I
  - a. put his enemies in jail without trials
  - b. imposed high taxes
  - c. angered the Puritans
  - d. dissolved Parliament
  - e. excuted by Parliament

B. England's steps to control kings

1. Magna Carta 1215

- a. made King John give up power to nobles  
protected the rights of the nobles

2. Civil War

- a. get rid of Charles I
- b. commonwealth government
- c. Oliver Cromwell rules tightly (very Puritan)
- d. people get tired of Cromwell and get rid of his government

3. Restoration

- a. people ask to have Charles II
- b. monarchy is back.
- c. James II to take over when Charles II dies
- d. people don't want him because he believed in divine right and was Catholic
- e. make him leave
- f. ask his daughter and son-in-law to rule

4. Glorious Revoltuion 1688

- a. ask William and Mary to take over
- b. James II flees to France
- c. Must take the Bill of Rights
  - i. king works with Parliament
  - ii. give House of Commons financial control
  - iii. no cruel or unusal punishment or fines
  - iv. habeas corpus (must be charged to be put in jail)

5. Toleration Act

- a. gives Purtians and Quakers toleration