The Age of Absolutism Notes

Absolutism Assignment #1

Pg. 449 to 453

Pg. 492 to 494

**Revolts in France and Spain**

-Europe was experiencing a general crisis in the 1640s and 1650s—political institutions and political authority were being challenged all over

**The France of Henry IV**

-in the 1590s Henry IV continued to strengthen royal power (had been interrupted by the civil wars of the 1560s)

-appeased the nobility of the sword (landed aristocracy) with places on his Council of Affairs and money

-bureaucrats-nobility of the robe controlled the country’s administration

-all offices had to be bought—Henry IV used them to raise money and guarantee loyalty

-sped up the sale of offices and started a new annual fee—the paulette-insured that an office holder’s job would remain in his family when he died

-slowed the numbers of new comers to the offices and strengthened the loyalty of those who had offices

-by 1610 he was strong enough to plan and invasion of the Holy Roman Empire

-assassinated before he could invade

-invasion called off

-the impact of his economic policies outlived him

-as soon as merchants were able they bought land in the country and a title of nobility (and an exemption from taxes)

-ensured as solid basis for the French economy despite rising taxes for peasants

*Mercantilism*

-Henry IV’s main legacy was that his government was responsible for the health of the economy

-mercantilism-belief that the world contained a fixed amount of wealth and nations could get richer only at the expense of other countries

-meant having a lot of gold/silver bullion and/or a favorable balance of trade (more exports than imports)

-state regulation of the economy was necessary for the welfare of a country

-only a strong central government could encourage industry, control production, set quality standards, allocate resources, establish tariffs, promote prosperity, and improve trade

-idea of mercantilism fit with Henry’s restoring of royal power

-mercantilist approved of war—linked to economic advantage

**Louis XIII**

-Henry’s assassination meant his son Louis XIII took the throne (r. 1610-1643)

-the widowed queen, Marie de Medici served as regent

-faced revolts by Calvinists and unhappy nobles

-called the Estates General in 1614—their fighting proved that the monarchy was the only thing that could unite the country

-Marie ended criticism by declaring Louis XIII of age and her regency over

-any further protest could be considered treason

*Richelieu*

-Cardinal and favorite of Marie

-became chief minister of France in 1624

-resumed Henry IV’s policies to assert royal authority

-had to control all of the royal interests as he consolidated power

-kept a close eye on the bureaucrats-lots of them because of the sale of offices

-acted as the head and representative for all the royal servants

-reduced the power of nobles by giving them jobs as diplomats, soldiers, and other officials

-took on the Huguenots in a military campaign and abolished the decrees of the Edict of Nantes (gave Huguenots religious freedom and political independence)

*Royal Administration*

-by 1633 sale of offices was about half of royal revenue

-10 years later, more than ¾ of the crown’s income from taxes was used to pay salaries of office holders

-only solution was to increase taxes on the lower classes—continuing cycle

-Richelieu knew he had to improve the government’s control over France to get more revenue

-increased the power of the intendents—government agents all over France

-established them as the principle representatives of the monarchy

-depended entirely on royal favor for their jobs (not on family)

-enthusiastically recruited for the army, arranged billeting, raised taxes, and enforced the king’s decrees

-became hated figures—raised taxes and threatened the nobles

-resulted in peasant uprisings sometimes led by nobles

**Political and Social Crisis**

-France’s foreign wars made problems worse

-the French monarchy did such a good job centralizing power, when the revolts did occur no effort was made to change the system

-the revolt called the Fronde after the simple sling weapon of the rebels

-most of the Fronde’s participants were from the upper levels of society—nobles, townspeople, members of parlements, etc.

-did not connect to peasant problems or concerns

*Mazarin*

-Louis XIII died in 1643, Louis XIV was only 5

-the regency gave an opportunity to those who wanted to reverse the rise of absolutism

-Louis XIII’s widow, Anne of Austria, was the regent—gave all power to Cardinal Giulio Mazarin

-used his position to become very rich

-became a target for those against royal authority and for local power

-early in 1648 Mazarin withheld salaries of some royal officials for four years (trying to solve money trouble)

-people all over France and the Parlement of Paris drew up a list of demands

-abolish the office of the intendant

-no new offices created

-the power to approve taxes

-enactment of habeas corpus law

*The Fronde*

-Mazarin arrested the leaders of the Parlement of Paris—sparked a rebellion

-forced the royal family to leave the capital—Louis XIV was traumatized

-1649 Mazarin promised to address the grievances if the was allowed to return to Paris

-protests and rebellion spread through France

-next three years the nobles fought each other and alliances shifted back and forth

-Mazarin used the chaos to reassert royal authority

-used the army to put down revolts

-declared Louis XIV (at age 14) old enough and ended the regency-1652

-crown based its claim to authority on order for the relm

**Sources of Discontent in Spain**

-crisis in Spain meant an end to the country’s international power

-Phillip II was having a hard time holding his empire together

-suspicious, he maintained tight control over all decisions—action was super slow

-bureaucracy was run by Castilian nobles—seen as outsiders by other parts of the realm

-standing army was super expensive

-was committed to religion, but the religious warfare caused more financial problems

*Economic Difficulties*

-Spain was rich, but the most profitable activities were controlled by special groups

-Seville had the monopoly over shipping to and from the New World—royal policy valued convenience over social benefit

-influx of silver from the New World did not benefit most Spaniards

-Phillip had to declare himself bankrupt 3 times before he died in 1598

-Phillip III took over (r 1598 to 1621)

-government was incompetent and corrupt

-did not expand economy

-flow of treasure from the new world started to dwindle after 1600-use of it in the New World and depleted mines

-tax returns in Spain were shrinking

-plagues reduced the population

-sheep farming took up lots of land and Spain had to rely on imported food

-Under Philip IV (r 1621-1665) Spain went back to fighting the Dutch—brought Spain to its knees

**Revolt and Secession**

-Philip IV’s chief minister was the count of Olivares

-his goal was to unite Spain so all regions shared the burden of maintaining Spanish power

-Castile would no longer dominate the government, but would not have to provide the bulk of the army or taxes

-program was called the Union of Arms

-caused a series of revolts that split Spain apart—provoked revolts against Castile by Catalonia, Portugal, Naples, and Sicily

-Olivares was dismissed by Phillip IV

*The Revolts*

-Catalonian rebellion continued for 11 years-ended because the peasants and town mobs switched from resistance to the central government to an attack on privilege and wealth

-the nobility abandoned the rebellion and joined the central government

-the Fronde forced French troops to withdraw from Catalonia

-when Barcelona, the last holdout, fell in 1652 Catalan nobles regained their rights and powers

-Portuguese had no major upheaval—officially granted independence from Spain in 1668

-revolts in Sicily and Naples had social overtones

-in Naples, a mob uprising by fisherman—turned on anyone with power and wealth

-in Sicily the revolts were the result of high taxes and were aimed at government officials

-in both places the government was able to reassert authority

*Consequences*

-ended Spanish government’s international ambitions and as a result the worst of the financial problems

-Spain became a stable second level country—agricultural and run by the nobility

**Absolutism in France**

-absolutism—the belief that power came from the monarch’s unlimited authority

-based on the divine right of kings-belief that kings were God’s representatives on earth

**The Rule of Louis XIV**

-the most famous absolutist state

-absolutism justified unlimited power and treated treason as blasphemy

-Bishop Boussuet was the leading advocate—argued the Bible endorsed absolutism

-the king worked with nobles to maintain order

-the fact that the king could assert his supremacy with an army and loads of bureaucrats gave absolutism an image that set it apart from other forms of monarchical rule

-Louis had a force that could hold together and control the complex interactions of regions and interest groups

*Versailles*

-isolated elaborate court near Paris

-center of the large and intrusive bureaucracy

-Louis moved the court to Versailles in 1680

-cost half a year’s royal income to build

-ceremonies centered on Louis XIV to exalt his majesty

-“Sun King”

-all French noblemen spent time at Versailles

-maintained access to royal patronage and government affairs

-demonstrated support for Louis’s system

-historians call this the domestication of the aristocracy

-great lords saw service to the throne or as the route to power

-king gained service of important nobles and they gained privileges and rewards

*Court Life*

-Versailles was the clear symbol of Louis’s absolutism

-policies and directives came from Versailles that affected the lives of the king’s subjects

-French culture was shaped by the king’s patronage of artists that appealed to the royal taste

-drama and history Louis looked to Racine

-Moliere wrote comedies

-Lully composed operas and ballets

-artistic expression was regulated by royal academies founded in the 1600s

-laid down rules as to what was acceptable

-depended on official taste

-all art supported absolutism and Louis XIV

*Paris and Versailles*

-split between the people of Paris and Versailles led to the Revolution

-one difference-role of women, who were non-existent on Versailles

-achieved prominence only as royal mistresses

-in Paris women established salons and promoted conversation and many forms of expression

Absolutism Assignment #2-Documents

Absolutism Assignment #3

The French

End of pg. 494 to the top of pg. 501

**Government**

-Louis was an administrator who used his power for state building

-strengthened and reorganized government institutions

-increased his authority at home and increased his power over his neighbors

-French state won control over-armed forces, creation of laws, and collecting and spending revenue

-depended on a bureaucracy that was responsive to royal orders and efficient enough to carry out order over a long distance

-bureaucracy was insulated from provincial problems because of the monarch’s ability to appoint and remove officials

The King’s Dual Functions

-Louis was king in council and king in court

-the court life used up a lot of the court’s revenue

-government policy was aimed at state building

Competing Ministers

-until the 1680s king’s leading advisors were Jean-Baptist Colbert and the marquis of Louvois

-Colbert-financial genius who believed mercantilism was the key to state building

-wanted to use the state to increase France’s wealth

-believed that the chief danger to France’s wealth was the United Provinces

-wanted resources put toward the navy, manufacturing and shipping

-Louvois wanted to build up the army to increase France’s power

-believed the threat was from land-the HRE

**Foreign Policy**

-Louis wanted to expand France’s frontiers and assert his superiority over European state

-his international power demonstrated the glory of France

-France’s neighbors created alliances of defense to keep Louis XIV in check

-system of a balance of power emerged over time

-at first, Louis XIV moved toward Colbert and war with the Dutch

-war was a failure

-then Louis XIV started to listen to Louvois more

-claimed territory on France’s northeast border-HRE Leopold I was distracted by war with the Turks, so he was unwilling to fight Louis XIV

-in 1866 a league of European states formed to hold Louis XIV back

*Louis XIV versus Europe*

-leaders-William III of the United Provinces (and in a few years the King William II of England) and HRE Leopold I (the war with the Turks was going well, so he was willing to join the fight against Louis XIV

-1688 the league ended French expansion

-Louis XIV sought peace and removed Louvios from power

-war ended in 1697

-1701 France entered the War of Spanish Succession

-wars revealed the limits to French power

-economic strains began to show—lower population due to war and famine reduced tax revenue and France’s workforce

-when the Hapsburg king of Spain, Charles II died without an heir in 1700 both William and Leopold I thought that Louis XIV could be defeated

The War of Spanish Succession

-many people claimed the Spanish throne

-Charles II wanted Philip who was Louis XIV’s grandson

-Philip would have become king if Louis XIV agreed not to unite Spain and France and allow the Spanish empire to be open to foreign traders (would have been the first time)

-Louis XIV refused to compromise and William II (now king of England) and Leopold I created the Grand Alliance and declared war on France in 1702

-France fought almost all of Europe over the throne of Spain in Europe, India, Canada and the Caribbean

-Grand Alliance Generals John Churchill, the duke of Marlborough and Austrian Prince Eugéne—successful at first

-France experienced a terrible famine in 1709

-Louis XIV remained in control of his subjects despite many rebellions

-War ended with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 and 1714

-Louis XIV kept his borders intact and his grandson won the Spanish throne

-had to give up the possibility of uniting France and Spain

**Domestic Policy**

*Control and Reform*

-Louis XIV extended centralized control of religion and social institutions

-pressured Huguenots and the Catholic sect Jansenists because he thought their presence threatened religious uniformity that he thought was super important

-revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685—had granted Protestants limited toleration

-many Huguenots left France or converted

-Louis XIV was more political than religious

-resulted in many

-Jansenism-movement within Catholicism that emphasized spiritual values within Catholicism—challenged Church doctrine of emphasis on ritual

-condemned by Rome

-gained support among the magistrate class—royal officers of the parlements whose job it was to register all royal edicts before they became laws

-Parlement of Paris was the only one to offer resistance

-Louis XIV ordered the headquarters of the Jansenist razed and convinced the pope to condemn them

-Louis XIV died before he could implement the bull in 1715

-Louis XIV suppressed all revolt, protest, and rebellion in an attempt at uniformity

-intendants were given more authority to collect taxes and recruit for the army

-Louis XIV used his power to improve the economy

-under Colbert’s ministry efforts were made to stimulate manufacturing, agriculture and trade

-silk production received aid from the government

-tried to get rid of France’s internal tolls charged by nobles, not successfully

-increased the cost of shipping anything across France

-funded overseas trading companies, built port cities, and increased the navy in an effort to increase foreign trade

-success in the West Indies where sugar plantations produced wealth

**The End of an Era**

-France was the envy of Europe

-his court cost the French people a lot of money

-peasants lived in dreadful conditions

-governments learned from France that state building depended on the support of the people

-governments in the 18th Century worked to distribute food and end plagues

-government became more involved in the people’s lives could be a benefit or a determent

-Louis XIV left absolutism firmly in control in France

**France after Louis XIV**

-Louis XIV left a child for an heir so his nephew, duke of Orleans became regent until 1723

-tried to restore the aristocrats’ authority

-gave parlements political power and replace bureaucrats with councils made up of nobles

-unable to govern effectively

-parlements would not surrender their power to veto royal legislation again

-supported by those who wished to stop centralization and royal control

-Finance was a huge problem

-Scottish financier, John Law suggested the government create a central bank that would issue paper money, expand credit, and encourage investment in a trading company for the French colonies

-created the Company of the Occident which set off an investment boom

-the crash ended the scheme of bank notes and credit in France

*Louis XV and Fleury*

-regency was unstable and financial and political problems continued

-regency ended in 1726

-Louis XV’s advisor was Cardinal Fleury

-dedicated to the monarchy

-made absolutism function for Louis XV

-abundant harvests, rising population, and increased commercial activity

*Political Problems*

-Fleury contained the ambitions of the governing class, but when he died there were problems

-war hawks involved France in unsuccessful wars—strained French credit

-Louis XV could not replace Fleury—series of advisors

-Louis XV was uninterested in government and ignored affairs of state

-France still had problems with money and special privileges

-nobility and clergy avoided almost all taxes

-efforts were made in the 1750s to force the clergy to pay taxes, but failed

*The Long Term*

-1700s (mostly) were good for France

-expanding population, rural economy and trade

-building an empire

-failure to reform the royal ministers would bring the regime down

Absolutism Assignment #4

pg. 501 to mid-pg. 509

Central European Absolutism

**Other Patterns of Absolutism**

-other monarchs imitated the French—centralized power around a strong leader

**The Habsburgs at Vienna**

-HRE Leopold I’s court at Vienna was the closest imitation of Versailles

-he was heir to a reduced kingdom—Bohemia, Austria, and a small part of Hungary

-maintained a splendid court

-plans for a new palace (Schönbrunn) were cut due to lack of funds—still turned out pretty nice

-Leopold I’s promotion of the court as center of political and social life turned Vienna into a city of nobles and small traders

-younger son, had become HRE only because of the death of his brother-less pretentious then Louis XIV

-patronized musicians—Vienna became a center for music

-inherited royal authority that he hoped to expand—relied on a small group of nobles to do so

*Government Policy*

-Thirty Years War (ended in 1648) showed that the elected HRE could not control the princes who were supposed to be loyal to him

-he was able to maintain control in his own land with the help of the nobles

-Privy Council was filled with members of aristocratic families

-his chief advisors were always important nobles

-to make decisions he consulted all the nobles and slowly came to a conclusion (even if they all agreed)

-the court at Schönbrunn did not exclude nobles from outside Austria

-Charles, Duke of Lorraine led the Austrian armies against the Turks at the siege of Vienna—lands were taken over by the French

-his predecessor was Italian

-his successor, Prince Eugéne of Savoy

-all of them became nobles when Leopold I gave them titles out of his own land

*Eugéne and Austria’s Military Success*

-raised in France, but passed over when Louis XIV passed out army commissions

-volunteered to serve Austria against the Turks during the siege of Vienna

-expanded Austrian territory into the Balkans by the time a peace treaty was signed in 1699

-field marshal of Austria’s troops by the time he was 30—war with the Turks on and off for the next 40 years

-became an important member of deciding Habsburg affairs

-minister most responsible for transforming Austria’s policies from defensive to aggressive

-Leopold I had been cautious and only held his ground against Louis XIV and the Turks until the siege of Vienna

- Eugéne urged him to become more aggressive

-laid the foundations for a new Habsburg empire along the Danube River—Austria-Hungary

-helped to create the coalition that defeated Louis XIV in the 1700s

-got involved in Italy to allow Leopold I’s land locked lands to have access to the sea

-began the long process of pushing the Turks out of the Balkans—before he died Austria was within 100 miles of the Black Sea

*The Power of the Nobility*

-Leopold I gave nobles influence in government even before he established control over all his land

-outside of Austria, Leopold I limited his attempts at centralization to prevent protest from the nobles

-compared the Louis XIV, Leopold I was an absolute ruler whose nobles retained a lot more power

**The Hohenzollerns at Berlin**

-Brandenburg-Prussia became the new power to emerge during the age of Louis XIV

-made possible by a close alliance between the ruler and his nobles

-Frederick William of Hohenzollern (r 1640-1688) ruled scattered territories from Cleves to the Rhine to part of Prussia on the Baltic Sea

-also known as Frederick the Elector

-After the Thirty Years War, Frederick started to consolidate his power

-became the dominant principality in northern Germany

*Foreign Policy*

-when he became elector, the Thirty Years War was happening all over his possessions

-realized that a minor prince could emerge in a good position if he had an army—could become a useful ally to the larger powers who could help him against his neighbors

-an army would also be useful to crush opponents at home

-by 1648 he had eight thousand troops—backed by the Dutch and the French in the Treaty of Westphalia negotiations (ended the Thirty Years War)—thought of him as a possible restraint to Sweden

-Frederick William did well in the peace settlement

-took advantage of small wars of the 1650s around the Baltic Sea by switching sides

-the army grew, and he used it to impose his will on his lands

-the fact that the army was crucial to his success influenced Prussia’s and Germany’s history

*Domestic Policy*

-role of the military in establishing the elector’s supremacy was clear

-1653 Diet of Brandenburg met for the last time—gave Frederick William the right to raise taxes without its consent

-the War Chest (office in charge of financing the army) took over all functions of the treasury and collected revenue even during peacetime

-war commissars who were originally in charge of recruitment, billeting, and supply became the principal agents of all government departments

-Frederick William did feel push back from the independent cities—used to doing what they wanted because authority had been so broken up for centuries

-1662 wealthy city of Königsberg refused to pay taxes-Frederick William marched in with a few thousand troops and crushed the rebellion

*The Junkers*

-main supporters and beneficiaries of the elector’s state building

-the alliance between the Junkers and William undermined the Diet, cities, and the representative assembly

-leading Junker families felt that most opportunity lay with cooperating with Frederick William and an absolutists system

-attempted to remove all restraints on Frederick William’s power

-largest success—establishment of two tax rates, one for cities and one for the countryside to the great advantage of the countryside

-nobles staffed the upper levels of the bureaucracy and the army—became much richer

-re-imposed serfdom and consolidated land holdings into profitable estates

-grew and distributed the grain themselves to maximize profits—efficiency became their hallmark

*Frederick III*

-Frederick William had little interest in court life

-Berlin court became important under his son Elector Frederick III who became elector in 1688

-Frederick William started to develop Berlin into a cultural center

-founded one of the finest libraries in the world—Prussian State Library

-more concerned with state building

-Frederick III enjoyed the court life—lacked a crown

-When Emperor Leopold needed Prussian troops during the War of Spanish Succession, made a deal—Frederick III was allowed to call himself king in Prussia—title later became King of Prussia

-splendid coronation in 1701 Fredrick III of Brandenburg was crowned King Fredrick I of Prussia

-Fredrick I hoped his palace would compete with Versailles as a center for art and culture

-started a huge construction program in Berlin—churches and huge public buildings

-established an academy of the sciences—Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz (most prominent scientist and philosopher of the day) became president

-universities and other projects supported by state money

-Fredrick I’s reign ended in 1713—had given Prussia a crown, a court, and a cultural life

**Rivalry and State Building**

-the more self-confident states were constant rivals during the 18th Century

-conflicts forced rulers to expand revenues, armies, and bureaucracies

-Poland who failed to centralize power was partitioned three times by Austria, Russia, and Prussia—did not exist after 1795

-political consolidation shaped the map of modern Europe

-Austria and Prussia both tried to dominate central Europe

**The Prussia of Frederick William I**

-Frederick William I (r 1713 to 1740) pursued more absolutism at home and influence across Europe

-approached his job as all business, did not like court life

-attempted to supervise all government activities personally

*Emphasis on the Military*

-Frederick William I organized his state to serve the military power

-army grew from 38,000 to 83,000-fourth largest in Europe (France, Russia, Austria)

-intensive drilling and standard uniforms

-subjects forbidden to serve in foreign armies

-forced sons of nobles to attend military schools to learn martial skills and attitudes

-avoided committing his army to battle—passed it on to his son

-centralization expanded with the army

-1723-Genearl Directory of Finance, War, and Domains took over all government functions except justice, education, and religion

-collected revenues and oversaw spending (mostly military) and local administration

-education seen as a way to encourage people to serve the state—compulsory for all children (never enforced)

-allowed universities to decline—did not fit his vision as to how to build a state

**Frederick the Great**

-Frederick William I’s greatest achievement was his son Frederick the Great/Frederick II (r.1740-1786)

-very different from his father-did not like German culture

-a musician, wrote poetry, admired French culture

-his father forced him to work at all levels of the state—gave him a sense of duty and toughened him up for leadership

*Frederick’s Absolutism*

*-*became king in 1740

-claimed absolute power, not due to divine right, but because only absolute power could get results

-called himself the first servant of the state—felt an enlightened king would be better ruler

-because of his reforms (religious toleration and judicial reform) he was called an enlightened despot

-security was his most important issue and it provided the reasons for absolutism

-Prussia needed to improve its geographic position by getting more territory, stronger boarders, and power to face other European states as an equal

-until that was done, he would not consider reforms that could threaten tax revenue, recruitment, or his power

-attacked the Hapsburg Austrian province of Silesia in 1740—prosperous

-Hapsburgs could not defend it and he enlarged Prussia

-Prussia had no claim to it and the conquest brought a new level of state building to Prussia and Austria

**The Habsburg Empire**

-Austria, Bohemia, Hungry, the Austrian Netherlands, Lombardy, and Tuscany

-wanted to combine Austria, Bohemia, and Hungry into a Catholic centralized German super state

-traditional representative assemblies resisted centralization

*International Rivalry*

-Charles VI (r. 1711-1740) was the son and successor of Leopold I (after a short reign of Joseph I)

-Charles VI’s only heir was his daughter Maria Theresa

-1713 drafted the Pragmatic Sanction—declared that all Habsburg lands would pass intact to the oldest heir (male or female)

-for the next 25 years, he tried to get other European powers to agree—they did, on paper

-when he died (1740) Maria Theresa’s succession was challenged by force

-Charles VI had left Maria Theresa with an empty treasury, poorly trained army, and an ineffective bureaucracy

-Charles IV had neglected state building for diplomacy

-Prussia had a full treasury and confident leaders

-took Silesia stating “reasons of state”

-France declared war on Maria Theresa to support the Bavarian’s claim to the throne (France and Bavaria were allies)

-Spain declared war hoping to get back its Italian possessions

-Czech nobles in Bohemia rebelled

-Maria Theresa promised the major nobles autonomy in the HRE in return for troops

*The War of Austrian Succession*

-Maria Theresa used Hungarian troops and aid from Britain (her only ally) to fight to stalemate

-the loss of Silesia was the only major change of possession

-After, Maria Theresa was determined to humiliate Prussia and get Silesia back

*Maria Theresa*

-Pious and moralistic

-believed in the divine mission of the Habsburgs

-built her state

*Reform in the Church and State*

-Maria Theresa was a pious Catholic—hated atheists and religious toleration

-reformed the church—forbade new monasteries because of waste and self-interests

-abolished the clergy’s exemption from taxes

-organized a bureaucracy on the model of France and Prussia

-she appointed agents

-recruited experts to work in ministries

-reorganized the core dominions into 10 provinces

-divided them into districts directed by royal officers

-brought the nobles to Vienna

-improved the training of the military and established military academies

**Habsburgs and Bourbons at Madrid**

-in Spain, little success with state building

-Charles II (r. 1665 to 1700) followed Phillip IV

-Charles II was sickly and could not have children

-the War of Spanish Succession reduced his inheritance

-Italy and the Spanish Netherlands had passed to the Austrian Habsburgs

-the colonies ignored Spain

-Spanish aristocrats turned absolutism into an advantage

-in the 1650s the Spanish monarchy recaptured Catalonia’s loyalty by promising the aristocrats autonomy—other regions demanded the same

-Spain fell into economic and cultural stagnation

*Bourbon Spain*

-once the Bourbons took the crown after the War of Spanish Succession, they ended the traditional independence of Spanish provinces

-made a more united Spain

-imported office of intendants form France to administer the provinces

-imposed uniform policies on all of Spain

-ideas of enlightened absolutism came to Spain in the mid-1700s due to the reformer Count Pedro de Campomanes

-kicked the Jesuits out of Spain because they had become too powerful-1767

-moved to New Spain—doing very well in the 1700s

-disgruntled—encouraged the independence movements

Absolutism Assignment #5

The Russians

Mid 293-295 and 509-511

**Muscovite Russia**

-divided into many princely domains

*Ivan I of Muscovy*

-reigned from 1328-1341

-raised Moscow to prominence

-gained favor with Mongol chief and became the representative of Mongol authority in Russia

-had the right to collect tribute from Russia for the Mongols

-got rich doing it

-the primate (chief bishop) of the Russian Church moved to Moscow which became the headquarters of the Russian Church

-by the late 1300s the Mongols power was in decline—the princes of Moscow became the leaders of the opposition

*Ivan III, Tsar*

-reigned from 1462 to 1505

-completed the unification of Russian land and laid the foundations for modern Russia

-acquired the city of Novgorod and its trading ties with the West

-ended the Mongol rule of Russia

-adopted the title tsar—Slavic equivalent of Caesar to depict himself as a successor to the Byzantine emperors

-used their double headed eagle as a symbol

-added their pomp and etiquette to his court

-invited Italian artists and architects to build Moscow into a great capital

-1497-introduced a new code of laws—the Sudebnik

*The Third Rome*

-scholars and monks proposed the idea that Moscow was the third Rome

-first (Rome) fell to heresy

-second (Constantinople) fell to the infidel

-third (Moscow) was the seat of Orthodox priests

-Ivan III’s reforms were completed by his grandson, Ivan IV “the terrible”

-destroyed the boyars—hereditary nobility

-made all land owners servants to the tsar

-unified the Russian land and people

-declared himself autocrat of Russia

-left his successors an autocratic, centralized government

**Peter the Great at St. Petersburg**

-built a completely new capital-St. Petersburg

-reigned from 1682-1725

*Peter’s Fierce Absolutism*

-nine years old when he was chosen to be tsar

-witnessed massacres of family members by soldiers in Moscow—determined to leave

-when he assumed full power he went to St. Petersburg

-terrorized those around him—his son opposed him and died in prison

*Western Models*

-early on he was defeated by Swedes-humiliating

-confirmed his view that he had to bring Russia some western advances

-traveled in disguise to England, France, and the Netherlands in 1697 and 1698

-looked at economic, administrative, and military practices

-brought back western court practices and other western ideas

-newspaper

-Academy of Sciences—1725

-experts from abroad (shipbuilders, engineers, army officers)

*Bureaucratization*

-Peter ignored the Duma (advisory council) and concentrated on his bureaucracy

-expanded it

-copied western models (Prussia and Sweden)

-organized the government into departments

-beginnings of the difficult bureaucracy that characterized Russia

*The Imposition of Social Order*

-2 class society that lasted until the 20th Century

-all peasants-subject to a new poll tax, military conscription, and public works

-only one level—all poor

-built St. Petersburg

-had freedom of movement

-below peasants were serfs—very, very poor

-numbers of serfs increased under Peter I

-laws restricted movement

-provided Russia’s economic base-agriculture

-Nobles-substituted status in the bureaucracy for titles

-bureaucracy and aristocracy were the same

*The Subjugation of the Nobility*

-Peter required nobles to provide people for bureaucracy and the army

-demanded that the nobility build mansions in St. Petersburg

-offered privilege and wealth in exchange for public service

-no sense of partnership between the nobility and the throne—tsar used force to make sure his wishes were followed

-helped the nobles build up their fortunes and control the countryside

*Control of the Church*

-Peter I did not replace the Patriarch of the Russian Church in 1700

-took over the monasteries

-appointed a procurator (an army officer at first) to supervise religious affairs

-these moves made the church a branch of the government

*Military Expansion*

-Peter I brought in the latest military techniques from the west

-he had limited success at creating a navy

-extended Russia’s frontier

-retook land from the Swedes in the Battle of Poltava in 1709-beginning of the end of the Swedish empire

-Russia became involved in Estonia, Latvia, and Poland

-Russia was the dominant power over the Baltic and a major influence in Europe

Absolutism Assignment #6

The Dutch

Pg. 453-455

**Political Change in an Age of Crisis**

-general crisis in Europe—Who should hold political authority?

**The United Provinces**

-Dutch ruling family wanted to extend authority

-locals wanted to retain their rights

-had a long tradition of a strong representative assembly—the estates general

-many citizens participated through elected delegates

-social differentiation less in United Provinces then the rest of Europe

*Commerce and Tolerance*

-Dutch were the best traders

-Amsterdam-Europe’s financial capital and controlled the world’s richest markets

-Dutch were the cheapest international shippers—carried most European trade

-society was open-tolerated all religions

-free thinking society

*Two Political Parties*

-2 most urbanized provinces dominated the Estates General—supplied most of the taxes

-representatives made up the Mercantile Party—wanted peace so trade would be easy

-wanted government by the Estates General because they had influence

-religious tolerance in cities attracted enterprising people of all faiths

-House of Orange opposed the Mercantile Party

-descendants of William of Orange

-wanted their family to rule the Dutch

-supported by rural provinces

-wanted war—power came from command of the army

-centralized power

-strict Calvinist

-Maurice of Nassau (from House of Orange) use religion to execute his chief opponent Jan Van Oldenbarneueldt (Member of Parliament) from Holland in 1618

-against the war with Spain

-his execution left the House of Orange in charge of the United Provinces

-Maurice resumed the war and the House of Orange remained in control

-1648 a new leader-William II tried to prolong the fighting and the Mercantile Party reasserted power and insisted on peace

-the Dutch signed the Treaty of Westphalia—recognized the independence of the United Provinces

-Holland and Zeeland looked to have won

-House of Orange did not give up—William II died in 1650

-successor was his son—William III

*Jan De Witt*

-leader of the mercantile interest—representative from Holland

-took over the government in 1653

-wanted to leave as much power as possible in the hands of the provinces (especially Holland)

-weakened the executive and prevented a House of Orange comeback

-perused the trading advantage

-maintained peace and economic superiority of the Dutch

-lead the country into its golden age

-1672-French armies overran southern provinces—De Witt could not confront them (no military skills)

-the Dutch turned to the House of Orange

-a mob murdered De Witt and William III resumed control

**Alternatives to Absolutism**

-another model—also committed to order and uniformity and state building—government dominated by aristocrats or merchants

-Constitutionalism-political authority depends on the consent of the governed (or the leaders of society)—wanted full rights for the leadership, not all

**Aristocracy in the United Provinces, Sweden, and Poland**

-1672-William III became stadholder-seemed to be a move toward absolutism

-he led the resistance to Louis XIV

-increasingly concentrating government in his hands

-merchants and leaders in the Estates General soon reasserted itself—forced William III to sign a peace treaty and the end of the war with France

-when William sought the English crown, he had to get the Estates General’s approval

-2 separate assemblies ruled Holland and the Netherlands

-when he died without an heir—government was controlled by the Estates General

-in finance and trade the Dutch were gradually overtaken by the English

*Dutch Society*

-Aristocrats were merchants and mayors (unlike in the rest of Europe)

-social distinctions were less prominent

-rich did not have more privileges then the poor

-no ostentatious court

*Sweden*

-long struggle with the king—nobles dominated policy

-under Charles XI nobles got back huge pieces of land that they had received for their loyalty

-Charles stayed out of war—did not have to depend on the nobles

-strengthened by a smooth running bureaucracy

-Charles XII (r. 1697 to 1718)-revived military tradition

-won land from Peter the Great

-then invaded Russia (stupid)

-defeated at Poltava in 1709

-Swedish Empire dismantled-neighbors invaded

-signed treaties and lost land 1719-1721

-nobles reasserted authority during Charles XII’s absences

-ran the government

-forced successor Queen Ulrika to accept a constitution that gave the Riksdag (legislative assembly) control

-nobility ended up with the same role as the English Gentry

*Poland*

-chaos and disunity

-Poland no longer existed as a state by the late 18th Century

-result of dominance of old landlord aristocracy—blocked all attempts at centralized government

-kings raised armies and fought, but upon return could not exercise power over the nobles

-Polish kings were elected from an assembly of nobles

-had to agree not to interfere with independence of lords who were growing rich from serf labor

-Poland looked like a feudal kingdom with power in local hands

**Stability and Restraint in Arts**

-Classicism-attempted to recapture the values and strict forms favored by Greece and Rome

-aimed for grandiose effects (like Baroque)

-achieved them through restraint (unlike Baroque)

-rise in classical style echoed trend toward stability—age of striving and unrest coming to an end

*Poussin*

-Nicolas Poussin (1594-1665)

-French, spent his career in Rome

-muted colors, restrained figures, serene settings

-men and women in togas and classical buildings

*The Dutch Style*

-major influences in the United Provinces—Republicanism and Protestantism influenced painters

-Reformed (Calvinists) Church frowned on religious art which reduced the demand for it

-any religious art reflected personal faith

-no court meant that patrons of art were sober merchants—more interested in dignified portraits then ornate displays—resulted in the calm restraint of Rembrandt

*Rembrandt (1606-1669)*

-human character, emotion and self-revelation

-subjects presented without elaboration of idealization

-painted changes in his own face over a lifetime

-when he died in 1669-serentity, calm, and elegance typified European painting

Classicism and Drama

-new plays followed Greek/Roman structure

-Classical unities—place-no change of location

-time—24 hour period

-action-simple plot

*Corneille*

-dominated by French theater

-master piece-Le Cid (1636)

-some criticism for not strictly following the three unities

-very successful

**Social Patterns and Popular Culture**

-tensions were easing at all levels

**Population Trends**

-due to poor nutrition, later marrying, and plague, war, and famine Europe’s population did not grow

**Social Status**

-3 indicators of social status—wealth, education, and family background

-wealth—important to merchants

-education—important to professionals

-family background—important to nobility

-focus began to shift

-wealth became a more general sign of status

-titles-more highly prized

-mobility was more possibly

*Contradictions in Status of Women*

-women still subordinate in the legal system

-some successful scientists, writers, businesswomen

-involved in husband’s businesses

**Mobility and Crime**

*The Peasants Plight*

-taxes were rising fast

-food prices were stabilizing so peasant incomes were flat

-landlords began making more demands on peasants—seigniorial reaction

-raised rents

-squeezed money out of the land

-if they moved to towns, they were poorly paid

-army was diseased and ill fed

*Crime and Punishment*

-for many crime was only alternative to starvation

-many streets were unsafe at night

-law enforcement was spotty

-in England-constables

-defendants had few rights

-torture was common

-execution

-women did not have the right to start a case

Absolutism Assignment #7

The British

Pg. 444-448

**Revolution in England**

-people were rising up all over Europe

-only in England did it become a revolution—an attempt to overthrow the social and political system and create a new structure for society

**Pressures for Change**

*The Gentry*

-social group just below the nobles at the head of society

-much larger group then nobles

-economically well off—farming, colonies, industry, and government offices

-most of the landed classes (people who owned land) in Europe did not participate in commerce

-flocked to the House of Commons to express views on government

-threat to government when they combine their power and money

*Economic Advance*

-during Elizabeth’s reign the English economy advanced

-trade routes in Europe and abroad

-industrial development—mining, shipbuilding, coal

-the gentry and the merchants became allies and a powerful force

-saw themselves as leaders of the nation (with the nobility)

-resented interference by Elizabeth’s successors

*The Puritans*

-believed the Anglican Church was too Catholic and wanted to purify it

-the gentry largely felt sympathy for them

-Elizabeth refused their changes and tried to silence them

-in the 1630s the monarchy tried to suppress them

-many felt they were ignoring the wishes of their subjects

**Parliament and the Law**

-English governing body

-3/4 were the gentry-better educated than ever

-almost half had legal training

-House of Commons had to approve all taxes—power over the House of Lords

-Monarchy still dominant when Elizabeth died in 1603

-money was a problem—war with Spain and economic depression

-her successor James Stuart (James I) inherited a huge debt equal to many years of royal revenue

*James I Difficulties*

-reigned 1603-1625

-considered his authority unlimited (told his subjects this)

-gentry opposed him in Parliament

-blocked union of England and Scotland that James wanted

-forced ministers to resign

-poked fun at his ignorance of English traditions

-wrung concessions from him—Parliament gained the right to discuss foreign policy

*Conflict over the Law*

-basic legal system—common law-justice administered on basis of precedent, parliamentary statues and relying on opinions of juries

-contrast to Roman law-on the continent

-royal edicts could make law and decisions reached by judges without juries

-existed in only a few courts in England—the Star Chamber was one

-because it was directly under the crown, seen as an instrument of repression

-House of Commons resented the royal courts and attacked them in Parliament

-James and his successors accused of pressuring judges

-king had broad powers, but when he went against the parliament—people felt he was tyrannical

**Rising Antagonisms**

-Charles I (r. 1625-1649) problems between king and parliament got worse

-Parliament of 1628-1629—open challenge ended with the Petition of Right-landmark of Constitutional history

-demanded: an end to imprisonment without cause

-end to taxation without consent of parliament

-end to martial law in peacetime

-end to billeting troops among civilians

-Charles agree in hopes of getting money out of Parliament

-broke his word

-billeting of troops among civilians

-unhappy subjects on the brink of defying the king

-House of Commons—anti-Charles

-Charles avoided an open confrontation by not calling another session of Parliament for eleven years

-increased repression of Puritans

-revived old taxes and fees Parliamentary consent was not required

-1639-Calvanist Scotts rebelled against an order to use the Book of Common Prayer

-Charles needed Parliament to pay for the war

-Parliament demanded redress of grievances

-Charles refused

**Civil War**

-1640-Scotts occupied most of Northern England

-Charles was forced to call another Parliamentary assembly

-sat for 13 years—the Long Parliament

-House of Commons—abolished the Royal Courts including the Star Chamber

-made the writ of Habeas Corpus mandatory

-declared taxes without Parliament’s consent illegal

-ruled that Parliament had to meet once every three years

-Puritans planned to reform the church

-Oliver Cromwell demanded abolition of the Book of Common Prayer

-attacked the authority of and existence of bishops

-1642-House of Commons passed General Remonstrance

-outlined all legislation then had passed

-asked bishops be deprived a vote in the House of Lords

*The Two Sides*

-Grand Remonstrance passed by 11 votes

-moderates were detaching themselves from the Puritans—became the nucleus of the Royalist party

-chief grievances were taken care of so they no longer demanded big change

-Charles misjudged the situation—tried to arrest the leaders in the Commons

-charge was plotting treason with the Scotts

-Parliament resisted—sheltered by citizens of London

-England was splitting into two

-by late 1642—civil war

-What made the people rebel?

-Royalists were younger—memories of Elizabeth’s leadership and nostalgia created revolutionaries

-geography-South and East were anti-royal, North and West were royalist

-more cosmopolitan were more Puritan and on Parliament’s side

-sides chosen due to family rivalries

-small group of revolutionaries kept it going

*Independents and Presbyterians*

-Independents-group among the Puritans that insisted the Anglican Church be replaced by a Congregational system—each church chooses its own form of worship

-Oliver Cromwell was the leader

-Presbyterians were also considered Puritans

-wanted strictly organized Calvinist system like Scotland

-local church subject to central authority

-since he needed allies, Cromwell agree with the Presbyterians (for a time)

-Cromwell won control of the anti-royal troops

-called the New Model Army—unbeatable

-major victory at Naseby in 1645

-Cromwell soon defeated all opponents and captured the king

*The King’s Fate*

-1647-Independents abolished the House of Lords and removed all Presbyterians from the House of Commons

-called the Rump Parliament

-tried to negotiated with Charles—he wanted to retain his power

-decided Charles would have to die

-executed Charles I January of 1649

-horrified Europe and most of England

**England Under Cromwell**

-republic officially ruled by the Rump Parliament

-a Council of State (led by Cromwell) controlled policy and was backed by the army

-lots of new ideas—

-Levellers—demanded voted for nearly all adult males

-Parliamentary elections every other year

-Cromwell and others with property insisted only those with an interested in England (meaning land) should vote

*Radical Ideas*

-Cromwell had two main ideas:

-Religious freedom (except for Anglicans and Catholics)

-Constitutional Government

-Frustrated by the Rump Parliament, he dissolved it in 1653 (final end to the Long Parliament)

-tried to establish a new Constitutional government

-1653 Cromwell called Lord Protector and ruled as a military dictator

-ruled through 11 generals each responsible for a different district

-spied on people, banned newspapers

*The End of the Revolution*

-Cromwell was a monarch in all but name—refused the crown in 1656

-after he died-his son Richard took over

-generals were hungry for power, caused political turmoil

-General George Monck (commander in Scotland) marched south in 1660 and assumed control

-Monck invited the son of Charles I, Charles II, to return from exile and restore the monarchy

*Results of the Revolution*

-some actions of the Long Parliament stuck around:

-abolition of the royal courts

-prohibition of taxation without Parliamentary consent

-establishment of habeas corpus

-bishops and lords were reinstated

-religious dissent was repressed

-Parliament called and dissolved by the monarch

-the balance of politics changed for good

-gentry no longer denied a voice in politics

Abolition Assignment #8

More England

Pg. mid 513 to mid-518

**The Triumph of the Gentry in England**

-Charles I had lots of powers—signed every law, summoned and dissolved Parliament, made all appointments

-could not-

-arrest members of Parliament

-control the courts (Star Chamber)

-create new seats in the House of Commons

-raise money without Parliament—fixed income financed with a tax on beer

*The Gentry and Parliament*

-landowners-held real control in England

-local leaders, not nobility

-2% of population

-unlike other nobility, revolution made them a political force

-authority-custom and law upheld by the House of Commons

-ministers of the king had to be members of the gentry

-policy set by king and his ministers

-Parliament had to be convinced the policies were correct

*The Succession*

-gentry feared that Charles II’s successor, Catholic James II, would restore Catholicism in England

-Parliament tried to force Charles to prevent James from succeeding him—Charles II did not want to mess with succession

-James II (r. 1685-1688) was a disaster

-elevated Catholics to high offices—direct challenge to the gentry’s power

-gentry invited William III (Protestant leader of the United Provinces) to be king in 1688

-William landed and James fled to France

-bloodless transfer—supremacy of Parliament—The Glorious Revolution

*William and Mary*

-Williams claim to the throne came through his wife Mary

-Parliament declared them joint monarchs in 1689

-William III brought England into his conflict with Louis XIV—accepted settlement with Parliament

-Bill of Rights-determined succession to the throne

-defined Parliament’s powers

-established basic civil rights

-Act of Toleration-put an end to religious persecution

-only members of the Church of England could vote, hold government office, or attend university

-1694-Parliament must meet at least once every 3 years

-William guided England to an aggressive foreign policy

-central government grew considerably

-William and Mary did not push Parliament too much

**Politics and Prosperity**

-Political system reflected the social system

-small elite controlled the country’s policy and institutions

-party system appeared during Charles’ reign

-Whig—opposed royal power and Catholicism

-responsible for effort to exclude James II from the throne

-Tory-stood for independence and authority of the crown

-favored ceremony and traditional Anglicanism

*Party Conflict*

-Whigs controlled the government for most of William and Mary’s reign

-supported his war against France

-election of 1700—major upset

-Tories won by opposing the renewal of the war with Louis XIV

-Tories lost power when they negotiated with the Jacobites (who were trying to put James II back on the throne) after Ann died in 1714

-Ann died without an heir—successor was a German prince—founded the Hanoverian Dynasty

-Whigs regained control of Parliament and held on to it for 100 years

*The Sea and the Economy*

-England won unprecedented prosperity and started laying foundations for a world power

-founded new colonies and started an empire

-strong navy

-England and Scotland became Great Britian-1707

-1694-Bank of England

-raised money from public and let it to the government at 8% interest

-raised over 1 million pounds in 12 days—country’s elite committed to the political structure and trusted the government and the economy

-London became the financial capital of the world

-merchants controlled trade

*English Society*

-English people better off than all other except the Dutch

-little starvation—poor relief existed (although it was awful)

-better roads than other countries

-gentry made way more gains than ordinary people

**Growth of Stability**

-British government advanced state building (like the absolute monarchs)

-nearly one fifth of all House of Commons elected by less than 1,500 voters

-some districts in the pocket of local families

*War and Taxes*

-Parliament created a bureaucratic state

-always had lower taxes and smaller government than other countries

-since it was an island-no need for a standing army

-war against Louis XIV required money and resources

-the navy expanded and the army grew

-taxes increased—wealthy paid considerable taxes

*The Age of Walpole*

-George I and George II did not speak English and did not care about English politics

-Sir Robert Walpole controlled British politics until 1742—called the first Prime Minister

-insisted that all ministers inform and consult the House of Commons

-sat in Parliament to insure support for his decisions

*Commercial Interests*

-by 1800, 30% of England was urbanized

-Walpole’s peace policy made landowners happy, but angered merchants and business people—feared growing French commerce and colonial settlements

-merchants found champion in William Pitt—envisioned English imperial dynasty

-1758-Britian became involved in a war with France that confirmed its importance in continental affairs

Absolutism Assignment #9

Mid 518-524

**Contrasts in Political Thought**

-development of different forms of government stimulated new ideas about the nature and purpose of government

*Hobbes*

-Thomas Hobbes used scientific and logical methods to analyze political behavior

-secretary to Francis Bacon (the scientist)

-his masterpiece was *Leviathan* (1651)

*Leviathan*

-people are selfish and ambitious—unless restrained they will fight with others all the time

-the weak are cunning and the strong are stupid in the state of nature (before the existence of society)

-the state of nature is a state of war

-only way to restrain the aggressiveness of people is to have an absolute and sovereign power because the alternative is anarchy—when a society submits to another authority is when an orderly society is born

-the transition from nature to society happens when the contract is accepted (implicitly) by all who want to end the chaos—the people agree to submit to the sovereign

-the sovereign is not beholden to the contract at all—a government that is completely free to do whatever it wants is better at keeping the peace which is way better than the chaos of before

-endorsement of absolutism

-he was thought of by his successors as godless, immoral, cynical, and unfeeling

-dislike of his message (not flawed thinking/arguing) made people unwilling to accept his views

*Locke*

-Oxford professor sought to soften Hobbes

-believed at birth, people’s minds are clean slates (tabula rasa) and nothing is preordained

-as people grow and experience the world they gather data

-with reason they perceive patterns, discover order and harmony

-Locke was convinced that an underlying order existed

-when he applied this thinking to politics, he validated the views of the English gentry and other anti-absolutists

-*Second Treatise of Civil Government* (1690) was influenced by Hobbes

-a state of nature is a state of war

-only a contract among the people can end the anarchy

*Of Civil Government*

-applying reason to politics, one can prove all people have three rights—life, liberty, and property

-agreed with Hobbes that there must be a sovereign power, but said that power has no power over those three rights without the subject’s consent

-consent (for taxes for example) must come from a representative assembly (like Parliament)

-believed that only those with a tangible stake in the country (owners of property) have a right to control the country (can sit in Parliament)

-vague on the concept of liberty—freedom from arbitrary arrest like in the English Bill of Rights

-Locke felt that if a government infringed on the subject’s rights, those subjects had the right to overthrow the government

-prime concern—protect the individual over the state

-emphasis on property and the rights of those who had it served the elite more than the masses

-upper class took over 18th Century Europe

**The International System**

-rulers built up states, expanded bureaucracies, strengthened government institutions, and expanded resources

-had to decide how to deal with their neighbors

-many hoped that an orderly system could be devised for dealing with international problems

**Diplomacy and Warfare**

-one reason an impersonal international relations system was not set up was the influence of traditional dynastic interests

-princes and ministers worked to preserve a family’s succession—arranged marriages and gained to titles and alliances

-over time dynastic interests became less important than what William Pitt (England) and Frederick II (Prussia) called Reasons of State

-security—guaranteed only by force

-searched for defensible borders and attempted to weaken rivals

-leaders believed that the ends (security and prosperity) justified the means (use of power)

*“Balance of Power” and the Diplomatic System*

-commonly accepted idea that the hegemony (domination) by one state had to be avoided because it threatened international security

-the aim was to establish a balance of power in Europe where no one state was the most powerful

-in the 18th Century, diplomacy grew to a serious profession

-French was the common language of diplomacy

-diplomats were aristocrats who saw themselves as members of a brotherhood

-great powers dominated the international agreements—at the expense of the smaller states

**Armies and Navies**

-Britain emphasized its navy, while on the Continent the focus was a standing army

-standing armies grew larger and larger, led by France

-the expense of men, tactics, and equipment forced leaders to use their armies carefully

-princes were quick to declare war, but slow to start the battles

-casualties became fewer as discipline improved and religious passion faded

*Tactics and Discipline*

-on land military planners focused on the building and besieging of fortresses

-battles were fought when the infantry (foot soldiers) fired in controlled line formations

-aim was to get the enemy to abandon their position—reduced causalities

-troops less likely to dessert their units and plunder (like the 30 Years War)

-at sea, the British were the best at maneuvering their carefully controlled lines of ships

-armies and navies returned home for winter

-victors did not require unconditional surrender—did not pursue defeated companies or squadrons

*Officers*

-generally the nobles

-did allow wealthy sons of middle class families a way to move up the social ladder

-did not have the professional training to be good leaders

-where competent middle class men became officers, the units tended to be better

*Weak Alliances*

-coalitions formed whenever warfare broke out—very weak

-on battlefields they were hampered by communication problems and lack of mobility

-competitiveness of the state system bred mistrust among allies as well as enemies

**The Seven Years War**

-1756 to 1763

-happened because of the realignment of diplomatic alliances

-before, the Bourbon-Habsburg rivalry had been a cornerstone of European diplomacy

-by the 1750, 2 more rivalries

-France and Britain—mostly over land in the New World

-Austria and Prussia—over Prussia’s taking of Silesia

-for Austria, the rivalry with France was no longer important—focused on getting Prussia

-Austria formed an anti-Prussian coalition with France and Russia

-Russia’s Empress Elizabeth hated Frederick II and saw him as an obstacle to Russian ambition in Eastern Europe

-Geographically, Prussia was vulnerable

-Frederick II tried to make nice with both France and Britain

-had been allies with France

-1756 signed a treaty of neutrality with Britain (Brits wanted to protect Hanover, which they owned)

-France saw it as Prussia going behind their back and turned against Frederick II

-Russia saw it as a betrayal by England—joined Austria to destroy Prussia

*The Course of the War*

-Frederick II feared being encircled—attacked Saxony in 1756

-his plan backfired because it activated the coalition of Russia, Austria and France

-Frederick II was a skilled general, and had some victories—his position was still a problem

-disaster was averted because the Russians went home for winter, but the Russians occupied Berlin

-Prussia seemed on the verge of losing a lot of territory or complete destruction

-January of 1762 Empress Elizabeth died and was replaced (for a short time) by Tsar Peter III, and admirer of Frederick II

-Tsar Peter III pulled Russia out of the war and returned Prussia’s land

-in Britain William Pitt was replaced by the more peace loving earl of Brute—reconciled with France

-both Britain and Russia ended their efforts to punish Prussia and Austria’s coalition ended

*Peace*

-ended with the Peace of Hubertusburg in 1763

-settled only the continental phase of the war (it was also going on in North America)

-favorable to Prussia

-Prussia had to return Saxony to Austria, but didn’t have to pay for the destruction it caused

-Austria recognized Silesia as part of Prussia

-status quo restored