

Crisis and Absolutism in Europe

1550-1715

Chapter 7

Key Events

- ◆ Look for the following key events:
 - ◆ The French religious wars of the 16th century pitted Protestant Calvinists against Catholics
 - ◆ From 1560 to 1650, wars, including the devastating Thirty Years' War, and economic and social crises plagued Europe
 - ◆ European monarchs sought economic and political stability through absolutism and the divine right of kings
 - ◆ Concern with order and power was reflected in the writings of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke

The French Wars of Religion

- ◆ French Wars of Religion 1562-1598
 - ◆ By 1560 Calvinism and Catholicism had become militant (combative) religions
 - ◆ Each struggled for converts against the other and that brought about the 16th Century religious wars
 - ◆ Huguenots were French Protestants influenced by John Calvin
 - ◆ Huguenots were 7% of the French population, but almost 50% of the French nobility including the House of Bourbon

The French Wars of Religion

- ◆ The Valois Monarchy
 - ◆ The House of Valois was strongly Catholic
 - ◆ Supported by the Ultra-Catholics they persecuted Huguenots
 - ◆ Many townspeople opposed the king and were willing to support the Huguenot cause to weaken the monarchy

The French Wars of Religion

- ◆ 1594 Henry of Navarre, a Huguenot became King Henry IV
 - ◆ Henry had a troubled past
 - ◆ On August 18, 1572 Henry married the Catholic Marguerite de Valois— daughter of Catherine de' Medici
 - ◆ The joining of a Protestant and Catholic within the royal family was an attempt to establish order

The French Wars of Religion

- ◆ St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre— Aug. 24, 1572
 - ◆ With so many Protestants in Paris for the wedding, the mother of the bride planned a massacre
 - ◆ Henry narrowly escaped death by converting to Catholicism

The French Wars of Religion

- ◆ The Edict of Nantes 1598
 - ◆ Catholicism was recognized as the official religion of France
 - ◆ It gave the Huguenots the right to worship and to have all political privileges, such as holding office
 - ◆ The Edict of Nantes is sometimes called the "Edict of Toleration"

The French Wars of Religion

Philip II and Militant Catholicism

- ◆ King Philip II of Spain was the Greatest Supporter of Militant Catholicism
 - ◆ Ruling from 1556-1598 His reign began a period of political & cultural greatness in Spain
 - ◆ Greatness built on American Gold & Silver

- ◆ He ruled an empire that included the Netherlands, parts of Italy and the New World

Philip II and Militant Catholicism

- ◆ Philip's Religious and Political Objectives
 - ◆ Philip insisted on strict adherence to Catholicism
 - ◆ Spain saw itself as the nation chosen by God to save Catholicism from the Protestant heretics
 - ◆ Philip was brought up as a Roman Catholic Clergyman before becoming king
 - ◆ All countries ruled by Philip had Protestantism banned
 - ◆ Philip made use of the Spanish Inquisition to control his people
 - ◆ The Philippines are named after Philip II

Philip II and Militant Catholicism

- ◆ Philip II of Spain
 - ◆ Philip was married 4 times
 - ◆ His second wife was Queen Mary of England (Bloody Mary)
 - ◆ His goal was to return England to Catholicism
 - ◆ He personally disliked the English
 - ◆ Queen Elizabeth I of England becomes an arch rival of Philip II

Philip II and Militant Catholicism

- ◆ Philip II– Champion of Catholicism
 - ◆ He led to the formation of a “Holy League” against the Turks
 - ◆ The Spanish Armada defeated the Turkish fleet in 1571 at the Battle of Lepanto
 - ◆ This Battle helped keep Islam out of Europe

Philip II and Militant Catholicism

- ◆ Philip and the Netherlands
 - ◆ Spanish Netherlands (Netherlands and Belgium) were very rich
 - ◆ Nobles there resented the consolidation of power by Philip II
 - ◆ He also tried to crush Calvinism in the Netherlands
 - ◆ When Calvinists destroyed church property, Philip II sent 10,000 troops to stop the rebellion

Philip II and Militant Catholicism

- ◆ William the Silent
 - ◆ In the northern Netherlands, a rebellion under William the Silent was taking place
 - ◆ The United Provinces of the Netherlands achieved independence from Spain
 - ◆ The New State became the basis for the Dutch Republic
 - ◆ Spain's war with Portugal was one of the factors allowing the Dutch to achieve independence

Philip II and Militant Catholicism

- ◆ The End of Philip II
 - ◆ Philip II died in 1598 and was succeeded by his son Philip III
 - ◆ By 1598 Spain's top position among the European nations was slipping
 - ◆ Too much had been spent on war and Spain was bankrupt
 - ◆ Spain's armed forces were out-of-date and the government was inefficient
 - ◆ Philip III continued to spend money, but on a lavish court life
 - ◆ Power was shifting to England

The England of Elizabeth

- ◆ Elizabeth I (Tudor) 1533-1603
 - ◆ Daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn
 - ◆ Under Elizabeth England became the leader of the Protestant nations
 - ◆ She started England down the road of world domination
 - ◆ Elizabeth proved to be the most capable of the Tudor monarchs

The England of Elizabeth

The England of Elizabeth

◆ England Under Elizabeth I

- ◆ She tried to resolve religious controversy
- ◆ Laws favoring Catholics were repealed
- ◆ The Act of Supremacy named Elizabeth the only supreme governor of the Church
- ◆ The Protestant “Church of England” became the official church
- ◆ In foreign affairs, Elizabeth could not avoid war with Spain

The England of Elizabeth

◆ Francis Drake the Pirate

- ◆ 1577 Drake was sent by Queen Elizabeth to attack Spanish treasure ships in the Pacific Ocean
- ◆ In 1581 Drake was knighted by Elizabeth I for his success
- ◆ To the Spanish, Drake was a common thief, not a hero
- ◆ Philip II offered a reward for the capture of Drake

Francis Drake

The England of Elizabeth

◆ The Spanish Armada 1588

- ◆ Philip II wanted to teach those Protestant English a lesson
- ◆ Victory would return England to Catholicism

The England of Elizabeth

◆ The Defeat of the Armada

- ◆ The Armada was the largest Naval Invasion Fleet ever assembled up to that time
- ◆ Even so, they lacked the manpower and technology to be victorious
- ◆ In several encounters the Armada was beaten by smaller and faster English ships
- ◆ Storms off the coasts of Ireland and Scotland finally did the Spanish Fleet in (*God had sided with the Protestants?!*)

Economic and Social Crisis

◆ From 1560-1650 Europe Experienced Economic and Social Crisis

- ◆ Leading Economic Problem– Inflation– Sharply rising prices due to the influx of gold from the Americas
 - ◆ Introduction of American foods (mainly the potato) led to an increase in European population
 - ◆ A larger population increased the demand for both food and land– causing prices to go up even more
- ◆ By 1600, an economic slowdown had hit Europe

Economic and Social Crisis

◆ 1600 Economic Slowdown

- ◆ By the mid 1600s American mines were producing less gold and silver
- ◆ Pirates preyed on Spanish treasure ships so less was reaching Europe
- ◆ Central and Southern European population began to decline by the 1620s due to warfare, plagues, and famine
- ◆ As population declined, social tension increased among the people

The Witchcraft Trials

- ◆ Europeans had believed in Witchcraft for centuries
 - ◆ In the 1600s Europe underwent a hysteria in seizing and condemning witches

The Witchcraft Trials

- ◆ As many as 100,000 people were charged with witchcraft
 - ◆ Most were common people without property
 - ◆ 75% were women– mostly single or widowed and over 50 years of age

The Witchcraft Trials

The Witchcraft Trials

- ◆ **Accused Witches were tortured into confession**
 - ◆ **The punishment for those who were convicted was burning at the stake**
 - ◆ **By 1650 most of the hysteria was over**
 - ◆ **As governments grew stronger, witch hunts were a distraction**

The Thirty Years' War

- ◆ **Origin of the War**
 - ◆ **German Religious Disputes**
 - ◆ **The Peace of Augsburg settled the dispute between Lutheranism and Catholicism but failed to address Calvinism**
 - ◆ **By 1555, Calvinism was spreading throughout the Holy Roman Empire (Germany)**
 - ◆ **The Thirty Years' War involved religion, politics, and territory, and is called the last of the religious wars**
 - ◆ **1618 Bohemian nobles rebelled against the Hapsburg Holy Roman Emperors**

The Thirty Years' War

- ◆ **House of Hapsburg**
 - ◆ **Much of the Thirty Years' War was a struggle between France on the one hand and Spain & the Holy Roman Empire on the other for domination in Europe**

The Thirty Years' War

- ◆ **War on German Soil**
 - ◆ **Much of the Thirty Years' War was fought in Germany**
 - ◆ **Every major European Nation was eventually involved in the war**
 - ◆ **Casualty rates among the German civilian population may have been as high as 30% due to disease and starvation**
 - ◆ **France emerged as the major power on the continent of Europe**

The Thirty Years' War

- ◆ **The Peace of Westphalia in 1648 Ended the War**
 - ◆ **Some nations gained new territory**
 - ◆ **The Holy Roman Empire was dissolved**

The Thirty Years' War

- ◆ **The New German States**
 - ◆ **The States that made up the Holy Roman Empire were now independent**
 - ◆ **All German States could determine their own religion**

The Thirty Years' War

- ◆ **The Thirty Years' War Was Europe's Most Destructive War Ever**
 - ◆ **The Flintlock musket with the bayonet was a new accurate weapon**
 - ◆ **The flintlock could be reloaded faster than previous weapons**
 - ◆ **Increased use of firearms and greater mobility on the battlefield meant armies had to be better trained and disciplined**
 - ◆ **Governments began to support standing armies**
 - ◆ **By 1700, France had a standing army of about 400,000 troops**

Revolution in England

- ◆ **The English Civil War– the English Revolution (1640-1660)**
 - ◆ **The war was a struggle between the king and Parliament to determine the power of each in governing England**
 - ◆ **The troubles began with the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603**

Revolution in England

Revolution in England

- ◆ **King James I (Stuart) 1603-1625**
 - ◆ **James had been the king of Scotland and was the son of Bloody Mary**

- ◆ He believed in the “Divine right of kings” which meant the kings received their power from God
- ◆ Kings are only responsible to God, because God gave them the right to rule
- ◆ Parliament wanted an equal role in governing England

Revolution in England

- ◆ Religion was also a factor
 - ◆ Puritans– English Calvinists many of which served in the House of Commons
 - ◆ Puritans disagreed with the Church of England, They wanted more church reform
 - ◆ They saw the Church of England as the Catholic Church with a different name
 - ◆ They wanted to move away from the rituals of the church

Revolution in England

- ◆ King Charles I 1625-1649
 - ◆ Son of James I, Charles also believed in the Divine Right of Kings
 - ◆ 1628– Parliament passed a petition prohibiting passing taxes without the consent of Parliament
 - ◆ Charles disagreed with the measure and tried to add more Catholic ritual into the English Church service
 - ◆ Many Puritans fled to the New World

Revolution in England

- ◆ 1642– War broke out
 - ◆ Cavaliers– supporters of the king versus Roundheads– supporters of Parliament
 - ◆ The Roundheads won through the military genius of their leader Oliver Cromwell
 - ◆ Cromwell was a Puritan and his army believed they were doing God’s work

Revolution in England

- ◆ Cromwell’s purges
 - ◆ He removed all non-supporters from Parliament
 - ◆ His supporters in Parliament had Charles I executed in 1649
 - ◆ The English monarchy and the House of Lords were abolished
 - ◆ England was declared a Republic
 - ◆ Eventually all of Parliament was dismissed and a military dictatorship was established

Revolution in England

- ◆ Cromwell Ruled until his death in 1658
 - ◆ After Cromwell’s death, Parliament restored the monarchy (The Restoration)
 - ◆ Charles II (Stuart) took the throne
 - ◆ Cromwell’s body was exhumed and he was executed posthumously
 - ◆ His severed head was displayed on a pole outside Westminster Abby until 1685

Revolution in England

Revolution in England

- ◆ King Charles II 1660-1685
 - ◆ Once the monarchy was restored, Parliament kept much of the power it had gained
 - ◆ The Church of England was restored as the official state religion
 - ◆ Some rights of Catholics and Puritans were restricted

Revolution in England

- ◆ King James II 1685-1688
 - ◆ James II was the last Catholic king to rule England
 - ◆ James named Catholics to high positions in government, the armed forces, and universities
 - ◆ Conflict over religion once again gripped England
 - ◆ James’ son-in-law William of Orange was asked to rule England

Revolution in England

◆ The Glorious Revolution

- ◆ James and his family fled England and William III became King in a Bloodless (Glorious) Revolution

Revolution in England

◆ The Glorious Revolution

- ◆ William and Mary accepted the throne in England in 1689
- ◆ Along with the throne came the English Bill of Rights of 1689

Revolution in England

◆ English Bill of Rights

- ◆ Parliament assumed the right to make laws and levy taxes
- ◆ The rights of citizens to bear arms and have a jury trial were also part of the document
- ◆ The Bill of Rights helped create a government based on the rule of law and the elected Parliament
- ◆ It laid the groundwork for a limited constitutional monarchy

Revolution in England

◆ Toleration Act of 1689

- ◆ The measure granted a degree of freedom of worship to Protestant groups in England
- ◆ It did not apply to Catholics
- ◆ Few English citizens were ever again persecuted for religious reasons
- ◆ By deposing one king and establishing another, Parliament had destroyed the divine right of kings theory of kingship

France Under Louis XIV

◆ The age of Absolutism

- ◆ Louis XIV of France 1643-1715 is a prime example of an absolute monarch
- ◆ Absolute monarchs could make laws, levy taxes, administer justice, determine foreign policy, & control state officials
- ◆ Absolutism also implies the divine right of kings
- ◆ Political stability is achieved when the ruler has total authority

France Under Louis XIV

◆ Louis XIII and Louis XIV are prime examples of Absolutism in 17th Century Europe

- ◆ Both were only boys when they assumed the throne and both had a “royal minister” who held power until they were ready to rule

France Under Louis XIV

France Under Louis XIV

◆ Cardinal Richelieu 1624-1642

- ◆ Richelieu took political and military rights from the Huguenots because they were a perceived threat to the throne
- ◆ Richelieu also thwarted a number of plots by nobles through his system of spies
- ◆ He had the conspirators executed

France Under Louis XIV

◆ Mazarin 1642-1661

- ◆ Louis XIV came to the throne in 1643 at age 4
- ◆ Mazarin ruled in the king's behalf until 1661 when Louis at age 23 took power
- ◆ Mazarin crushed a rebellion by the nobles against the king
- ◆ Many French people saw stability in the government in the form of the monarchy

France Under Louis XIV

◆ Louis wanted to be the absolute ruler of France

- ◆ All had to report directly to him for orders
- ◆ He personally approved every measure of government

- ◆ He called himself the “Sun King” the source of light for his people

France Under Louis XIV

- ◆ His royal court was established at Versailles
 - ◆ Versailles was the king’s household, location of the offices of state, and the location where policy of state was controlled
 - ◆ Versailles was the scene of lavish court life

France Under Louis XIV

France Under Louis XIV

- ◆ Louis Ruled with Absolute Authority in Three areas:
 1. Foreign Policy
 2. The Church
 3. Taxes
 4. His government ministers were to obey his every wish
 5. Louis had an anti-Huguenot policy, and wanted them to convert to Catholicism

France Under Louis XIV

- ◆ Jean-Baptiste Colbert
 - ◆ Served as Minister of Finance under Louis XIV
 - ◆ Colbert was a genius and kept France focused on its mercantilist policies
 - ◆ Louis’ court life and wars were costly and Colbert allowed Louis to peruse both
 - ◆ Louis maintained a standing army of 400,000 men
 - ◆ Louis wanted the Bourbon dynasty to dominate Europe

France Under Louis XIV

France Under Louis XIV

- ◆ Louis waged 4 wars between 1667 and 1713
 - ◆ He did add some territory to France and put a Bourbon on the Throne in Spain
 - ◆ Louis XIV died in 1715, France was In debt and surrounded by enemies

Absolutism in Central and Eastern Europe

- ◆ Two German States– Prussia and Austria emerged after the Thirty Years’ War
 - ◆ Frederick William the Great Elector laid the basis for the Prussian State
 - ◆ He built the forth largest standing army in Europe (40,000 men)
 - ◆ Frederick William used the military bureaucracy to govern the state

Absolutism in Central and Eastern Europe

- ◆ The Austrian Hapsburgs
 - ◆ Former rulers of the Holy Roman Empire
 - ◆ After the Thirty Years’ War they created a new empire in eastern and southeastern Europe (Austria, the Czech Republic, & Hungary)
 - ◆ After the defeat of the Turks in 1687, Austria took control of Transylvania, Croatia, and Slavonia
 - ◆ The Austrian Monarchy lacked central authority
 - ◆ Empire consisted of many ethnic groups whose territory had their own laws and customs

Russia under Peter the Great

- ◆ Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) 1533-1598
 - ◆ Became the first Russian ruler to take the title Czar
 - ◆ Earned the title “The Terrible” through his ruthlessness (he even killed his own son)
 - ◆ Ivan expanded the Russian borders and crushed the power of the nobility (Boyars)
 - ◆ 1598-1613– The Time of Troubles– Period of Anarchy

Early Russian History

Russia under Peter the Great

- ◆ Michael Romanov Czar from 1613-1645

- ◇ The Romanov dynasty will last until 1917
- ◇ Czar Michael was a gentle and pious prince who did not cause trouble for people
- ◇ He trusted his advisors and governmental officials which was both good and bad

Russia under Peter the Great

- ◇ Peter the Great 1682-1725
 - ◇ Peter believed in the divine right of kings and absolute rule
 - ◇ He was fascinated by Western Europe (France in particular) and took steps to modernize Russia
 - ◇ He wanted Russia to have a great army and navy with the latest technology
 - ◇ By the time of his death in 1725 he had fulfilled his wishes

Russia under Peter the Great

Russia under Peter the Great

- ◇ Peter and the Military
 - ◇ Peter drafted peasants for 25 year stints in the army
 - ◇ He formed the first Russian Navy
 - ◇ To rule more effectively, he divided Russia into 3 provinces
 - ◇ He sought to create a police-state with law and order
 - ◇ He introduced western customs and etiquette

Russia under Peter the Great

- ◇ Western Customs
 - ◇ Men had to shave their beards and shorten their coats (Peter would cut them off)
 - ◇ Women had to remove their veils, and he held social gatherings with both sexes and even had dancing
 - ◇ Peter fancied himself a dentist, and would pull the teeth of hapless victims

Russia under Peter the Great

- ◇ War against Sweden
 - ◇ To modernize the Russian military, Peter needed a port with access to Europe through the Baltic Sea
 - ◇ Sweden controlled the Baltic
 - ◇ By defeating the Swedes, Peter had his port
 - ◇ 1703 He constructed a new city St. Petersburg which remained the Russian capital until 1918

Mannerism

Italy– 1520s 1530s

- Ignored the “Rules” of Renaissance Art
- Figures Appeared “Out of Balance”
- Used Images to Illustrate Suffering, Emotion and Ecstasy
- El Greco– (the Greek) Classic Mannerist Artist

Images of El Greco

Baroque Art

Baroque replaced Mannerism

- Inspired by Catholicism
- Combined the Spiritual Movement of the 16th Century with Classic Renaissance Religious Art
- Baroque Churches and Palaces were Used to Inspire Awe among the people
- Gian Lorenzo Bernini– Italian Architect and Sculptor from the Baroque Period

Baroque Art

Gian Lorenzo Bernini

The Golden Age of Literature

England (the Elizabethan Era)

- William Shakespeare

- **Globe Theater– 3,000 People**
- **Admission was Low– Allowed Lower Class to Attend**
- **Shakespeare was both a Playwright and an Actor**
- **Shakespeare was Unmatched in his Skill and Mastery of the English Language**
- **His plays appealed to the Aristocracy and Commoners alike**
- **Shakespeare is today viewed as a genius**

The Golden Age of Literature

The Golden Age of Literature

Spanish Literature

- **Lope de Vega– Wrote as many as 1,500 plays**
 - **Wrote plays to please audiences**
- **Miguel de Cervantes– *Don Quixote***
 - **One of the Greatest Literary Works of All Time**
 - **Blends the Visionary Noble Knight with the Realism of the Earthly Squire “Sancho Panza”**
 - **Message– We Need to be both Visionary, and Realistic**

Classic Authors

Political Thought

Thomas Hobbes

- ***Leviathan*– 1651 Written in response to revolution in England**
- **Before Society was organized human life was: solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, & short**
- **Societies allowed Humans to move beyond self preservation, and be guided by reason and morality**
- **The Great Social Contract– Sacrifice freedom for stability (Government)**
- **Absolute Power preserved Order in society– Rebellions must be crushed!**

Political Thought

John Locke

- ***Two Treatises of Government*– 1690**
- **Argued against absolute power**
- **The Law of Natural Rights– People Should be Free and Equal**
 - **“We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident. . . .”**
- **Government Exists to Protect the People (Social Contract)**
- **Government Has an Obligation to Uphold its end of the Contract**

Political Thought