

# Absolutism



# Definitions

- ▶ Absolute monarchs- kings or queens who believed that all power within their state's boundaries rested in their hands
- ▶ Divine right- idea that God created the monarchy and the monarch acted as God's representative on earth

# France: Religious Unrest

Catholic Guises vs. Protestant Bourbons  
Fought constantly:

St. Bartholomew Day Massacre: August  
24, 1572

3,000 Huguenots killed

# Henry of Navarre (Henry IV)

- Henry of Navarre, married Catherine de Medici's daughter
  - Bourbon Dynasty begins
- Converts to Catholicism in order to help restore order
- Edict of Nantes (1598)- religious freedom for the Huguenots (toleration)

# France

- ▶ Henry of Navarre assassinated:
  - Louis XIII inherits throne
    - ▶ 9 years old
    - ▶ weak king
    - ▶ Named powerful minister: Cardinal Richelieu
      - ▶ Richelieu would in effect be the ruler of France

# Cardinal Richelieu

- ▶ First, punished Huguenots
  - Tear down fortified walls in their cities.
- ▶ Second, weaken nobles power
- ▶ Goal: Make France strongest state in Europe
  - Hapsburgs would be in his way (Thirty Years War)
  - Three Musketeers



# Louis XIV, Sun King

- ▶ Nickname: Sun King
- ▶ Reign at age 5
  - Cardinal Mazarin: Chief Minister
- ▶ He weakened the power of nobles
- ▶ In 1685, he revoked the Edict of Nantes
- ▶ Famous saying: "L'état, c'est moi"
  - "I am the state"
  - Responsible only to God – divine right.

# Jean Baptiste Colbert

- ▶ Was Louis XIV's Minister of Finance
- ▶ He wanted to make France self-sufficient
  - Did not want to rely on imports
    - ▶ High tariffs on imports to discourage.
- ▶ Helped make France wealthiest state in Europe.



# Palace at Versailles

- ▶ Cost over \$2 billion in modern dollars
- ▶ 36000 laborers
- ▶ 6000 horses
- ▶ 15000 acres of gardens, lawns and woods
- ▶ 1400 fountains
- ▶ Palace itself was 500 yards long
- ▶ Small royal city





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# French Expansion

- ▶ Louis wanted to expand the boundaries
- ▶ 1667 - Invaded the Netherlands
  - They gained several towns, but nothing else
  - Many lesser countries joined together to defeat the French

# SPAIN



# Charles V

Holy Roman Emperor  
(1519-1556)

Also Charles I of Spain  
(1516-1556)

Heir to three dynasties

- Habsburg (HRE)

- Valois-Burgundy  
(Netherlands)

- Trastamara (Castile-Leon  
and Aragon)

- Grandson of Ferdinand  
and Isabella





# Catholic Charles

- Best known for opposing the Protestant Reformation
- German Peasant's War
- Spurred on the Counter Reformation

Alliance with Henry VIII  
even after the Act of  
Supremacy.

\*\*\*Niece was Catherine of  
Aragon.\*\*\*



# Charles-Absolute Monarch

Several formal mistresses with  
recognized illegitimate children.

Massive palaces

Limited power of the nobility, no Cortes

Expanded Spain's territory into the  
"new world" instead of raising taxes

Amassed enormous amounts of gold  
and silver



# Charles V

- 1556 voluntarily abdicated and divided his empire between his brother and son.
- Retired to a monastery.
- Charles divided the empire because he believed it was too vast for any one person to rule.
  - Austria to his brother Ferdinand
  - Spain, the Spanish empire in the Americas, the Netherlands, Naples, and Milan to his son, who ruled as Philip II.



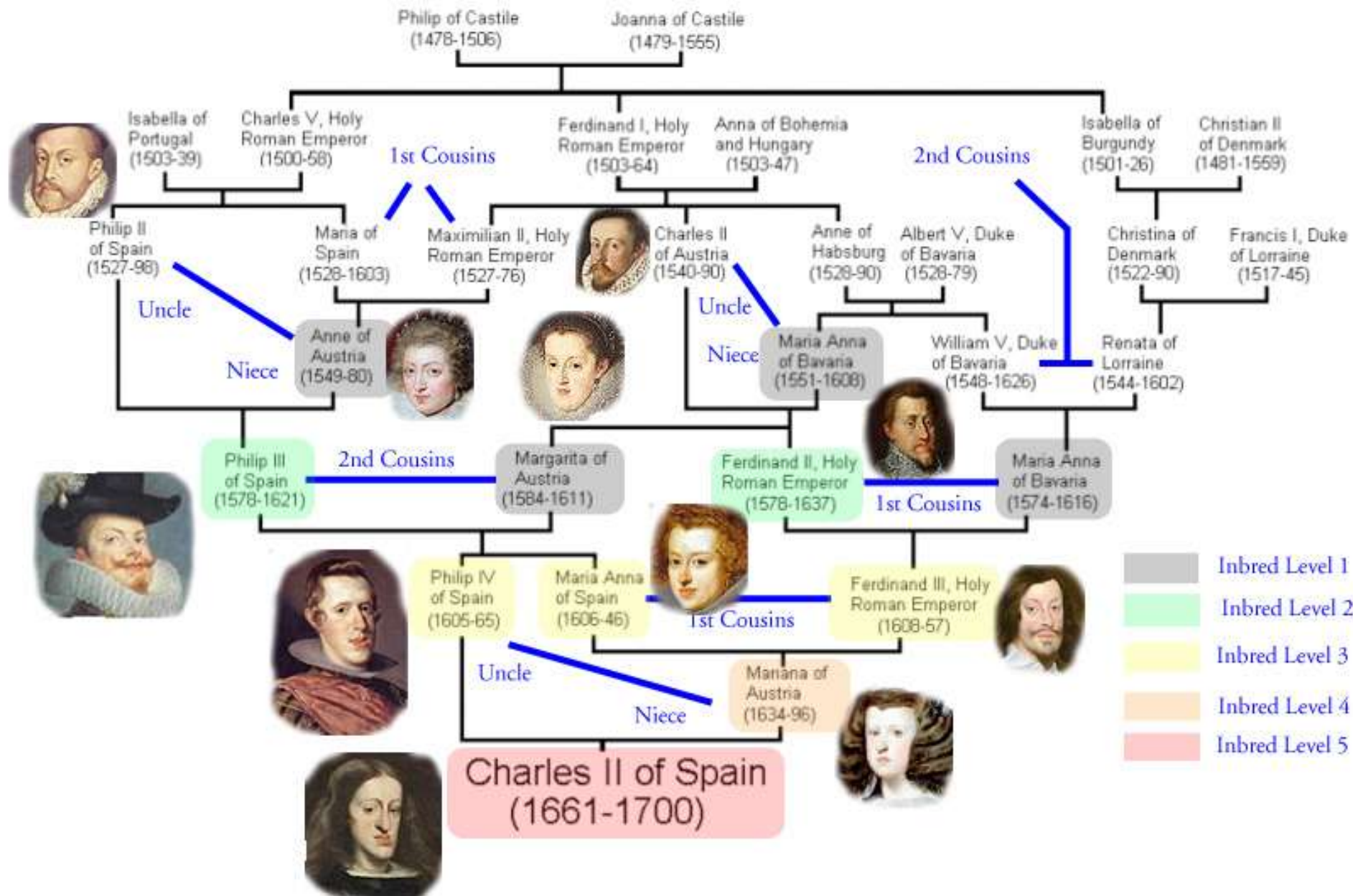
# Phillip II

- ▶ King of Spain and Portugal
- ▶ Italian Wars: Naples and Sicily
- ▶ Married Mary I, daughter of Henry VIII
  - King of England and Ireland





# The Inbreeding of Charles II of Spain (1661-1700)



# Phillip II and Elizabeth I

Fought Protestant  
England against Elizabeth  
I

Mary, Queen of Scots  
Protestant Wind  
Privateers  
Anglo-Spanish wars  
lasted until both of  
them were dead.



# Prussia



# Prussia

- ▶ Ruling Family: Hohenzollern family
- ▶ Late 1600s: Hohenzollern family ambitious
- ▶ In 1640, Frederick William inherited the titled of elector of Brandenburg
  - Brandenburg (northern Prussian territory)
- ▶ Nickname: “Great Elector”
- ▶ Lead his family towards absolute monarchy

# The Hohenzollerns

- ▶ 1640- 1688: Frederick William, the Great Elector (Holy Roman Empire)

King's of Prussia:

- ▶ 1688-1713: Frederick I
- ▶ 1713-1740: Frederick William I
- ▶ 1740-1768: Frederick II (the Great)



# Frederick William

- ▶ Raised a great army
  - Frederick would build it to one of the most powerful in Eastern Europe
  - Guides Prussia through the 30 years War

# Frederick I

First King of Prussia

Tried to imitate Louis XIV lavish  
ways



# Frederick William I

- ▶ Despised French ways
- ▶ Got rid of the luxury of his father.
- ▶ Doubled the Prussian Army
  - Men 6ft-8ft tall – “regiment of giants”





# Frederick William I and Frederick II

- ▶ Frederick William I worried that his son was not military enough to rule
- ▶ Frederick II was a lover of music and poetry
  - He was once beaten in public and tried to escape his father with his "friend" Han
    - ▶ Frederick II was imprisoned and forced to watch his "friend's" execution
    - ▶ These were attempts to toughen him up.

# Frederick II

- ▶ Eventually he would follow in his father's footsteps and become a good military leader
- ▶ War of Austrian Succession
  - Frederick wanted the land of Silesia due to its natural resources (Silesia east of Saxony)
  - He felt he could easily defeat Maria Theresa, Queen of Austria and Bohemia
  - Austria loses war and ceded Silesia to Prussia

# Seven Years War

- ▶ Maria was aligned with Great Britain during the Austrian Succession, but later became allies with France.
  - ▶ The reverse can be said about Prussia
- ▶ 1756 Frederick attacked Saxony
  - Every European power was involved including Russia
- ▶ Was fought in Europe and North America
  - ▶ French and Indian War (US)
- ▶ France lost its colonies in North America and Britain gained India

# Russia



# Peter and Ivan V

- ▶ Peter and Ivan V were co-Tzars
- ▶ Older sister Sophia was regent for the two boys
- ▶ She ruled in the boys names
  - Sophia sent to a Convent in 1689
  - Ivan dies at a young age and Peter rules alone





# Sophia-Regent of Peter and Ivan



# Peter the Great

- ▶ Wanted reform Russian society
- ▶ Wanted a warm water port
- ▶ He stood more than 6 ft
- ▶ By the age of 25 he ventured on a long visit to Western Europe
  - He wanted to keep his identity secret
    - ▶ At one time he worked as a ship carpenter for 4 months in the Netherlands





# Westernization

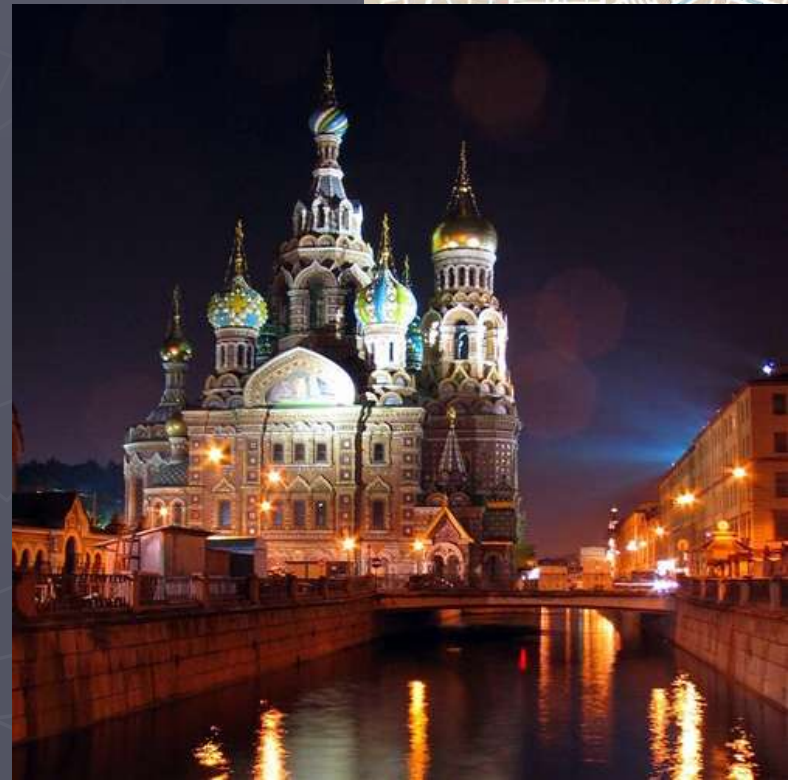
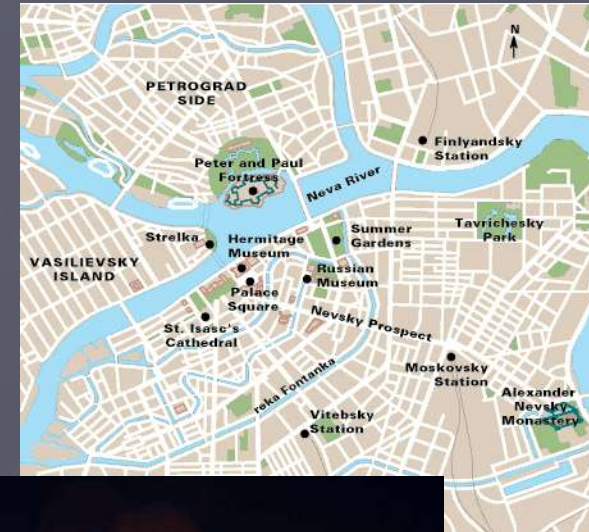
- ▶ Peter wanted Russia to act more like its counterparts in Western Europe
  - Took control of the Russian Orthodox Church
  - Hired European officers to train his soldiers
  - Beard Tax: "Beards are a ridiculous ornament"
  - Ordered the nobles to wear Western fashions
    - ▶ Introduced potatoes to Russia





# St. Petersburg

- ▶ Would be the seaport Peter wanted
- ▶ “window to the west”
- ▶ Originally was a swamp:
  - Along the Neva River (Baltic coast)
- ▶ Somewhere from 25,000 to 100,000 people died in the building of the city



# Living Life on a Grand Scale: Peterhof





# Peterov



# Peterof and Versailles





# Ballroom of Peterof



# Versailles





# Peterof: The Throne Room



# Peterof: The Asian Room





# Peterof: The Crown Room



# Versailles and Peterof





# Peterof Fountains







# Catherine the Great

- ▶ Ascended to throne in 1762 after Peter's death
  - Husband Peter III murdered.
    - ▶ Ruthless and strong ruler
    - ▶ Gained land in the Baltic
    - ▶ Partitioned Poland:
      - Broken up between Russia, Prussia and Austria
      - Gained access to Black Sea. "Warm port" desired by Peter.



# England



# England

- ▶ 1603: Queen Elizabeth I dies.
- ▶ Two problems
  - No heir
  - In debt
- ▶ James Stuart, her nephew, became King of England
  - He was already King of Scotland

# King James I

- ▶ Constant conflict with Parliament
- ▶ Wanted Absolute Monarchy
- ▶ Calvinist
  - Church Reform: King James Version of the Bible



# Charles I

- ▶ Son of King James
- ▶ Would argue with Parliament over money
  - If Charles did not get what he wanted—he would dissolve it so...
    - ▶ He dissolves Parliament
- ▶ Parliament forced him to sign the Petition of Right
  - He would not imprison subjects without due cause
  - He would not levy taxes without Parliament's consent
  - He would not house soldiers in private homes
  - He would not impose martial law in peacetime

# Charles I



- ▶ Ignores the Petition of Rights
- ▶ In 1629 he dissolved Parliament again and gained money:
  - imposing fees and fines on the people
- ▶ Offends Presbyterian Scots:
  - Force them to accept an Anglican prayer book.
  - His goal was to have the kingdom to follow one religion.

# English Civil War

- ▶ 1641 Parliament passed laws that limited royal power
  - Charles tried to arrest the leaders of Parliament in 1642

AS A RESULT

- ▶ 1642-1649 English Civil War
  - Charles gathered his supporters (known as Royalists or Cavaliers)
  - Opposition were Puritans called Roundheads



# Oliver Cromwell

## ► Oliver Cromwell:

- leader in the Puritan army
- most powerful figure in England by wars end



## ► Charles I:

- Held prisoner to be tried for treason
- Found guilty and was publicly executed



# Commonwealth

- ▶ Cromwell established:
  - Commonwealth in England
  - Title was Lord Protector (military dictator)
    - ▶ his followers wanted to name him king
      - ▶ He would refuse it
- ▶ He also looked for religious reform through his Puritan beliefs

# Commonwealth Collapses

- ▶ Cromwell dies
- ▶ New Parliament no longer wanted the military rule
  - Charles I son to become ruler of England





# Charles II

- ▶ During his reign the Parliament passed habeas corpus
  - Every prisoner had the right to obtain a writ or document ordering that the prisoner be brought before a judge



# Next Ruler

- ▶ Problems arose because Charles II had no legitimate children
- ▶ His brother, James was Catholic
- ▶ Two political parties in England debated on who should become king
  - Whigs- opposed James
  - Tories- supported James

# James II

- ▶ James II: King of England
  - Offends the English by flaunting his Catholicism.
  - Appoints many Catholics to high office.

AS A RESULT



# Glorious Revolution

- ▶ Plotted to bring in a Protestant King
  - James oldest daughter was a Protestant and married to William of Orange
  - Parliament asked William and Mary to overthrow James for the sake of Protestants
    - ▶ William will overthrow in 1688: bloodless.

# New Government in England

- ▶ Constitutional monarchy-
  - where laws limited the ruler's power
  - King ruling with Parliament
- ▶ In 1689 Parliament drafted the Bill of Rights
  - No suspending of Parliament's laws
  - No levying of taxes without a specific grant from Parliament
  - No interfering with freedom of speech in Parliament
  - No penalty for a citizen who petitions the king about grievances