

ABSOLUTE MONARCHS

WHAT IS AN ABSOLUTE MONARCH?

A form of Government where the King or Queen has power over all aspects of his/her subjects' lives without limitations from any established laws

What key elements helped Absolute Monarchs maintain their Authority?

1. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
2. BUREAUCRACY (Royal Agents)
3. STRONG ARMIES / NAVIES

WHAT WAS THIS POLITICAL / RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE CALLED?

DIVINE RIGHTS OF KINGS

When do Historians say this Doctrine first developed?

MIDDLE AGES

Who do Historians credit with starting this Ideology?

PEPIN the SHORT



ABSOLUTE MONARCHS

During the Reformation Kings made effective use of this Doctrine for two main reasons?

1. Keep the Citizens in Line
2. Prevent Political Opposition

WHO WERE SOME OF THE FAMOUS ABSOLUTE MONARCHS?

SPAIN



Philip II

FRANCE



Louis XIV

PRUSSIA



Frederick II

RUSSIA



Catherine II

ABSOLUTE MONARCHS



Philip II of SPAIN

NOBILITY:

Limited Power of Nobility

BUREAUCRACY:

Secretary of State
Viceroys & Royal Agents

LAWS:

LEGAL REFORMS
Punishment Fits the Crime

RELIGION:

Limited Church Powers
(Strict Catholic)

TRADE:

Dominated by Foreign
Trade

TAXES:

INCREASE TAXES
on Middle & Lower Classes

ECONOMY:

HIGH INFLATION

MILITARY:

Professional Army & Navy
50,000 men & 400 Ships

CONFLICTS:

DUTCH REVOLT and the
ANGLO-SPANISH WAR

ART/EDUCATION:

PATRON of
Arts & Education

ARCHITECTURE:

ESCORIAL PALACE

ABSOLUTE MONARCHS



Louis XIV of FRANCE

NOBILITY:

Limited Power of Nobility

BUREAUCRACY:

First and Finance Ministers
Royal Agents (Intendants)

LAWS:

LEGAL REFORMS
Civil/Criminal Codes & Courts

RELIGION:

Limited Church Powers
(Primarily Catholic)

TRADE:

High Tariffs on Foreign Trade
Low Taxes on Internal Trade

TAXES:

INCREASE TAXES
on Middle & Lower Classes

ECONOMY:

HIGH INFLATION

MILITARY:

Professional Army
150,000 to 600,000 men

CONFLICTS:

War of Spanish Succession
& French and Indian War

ART/EDUCATION:

PATRON of
Arts & Education

ARCHITECTURE:

PALACE of VERSAILLES

ABSOLUTE MONARCHS



Frederick II of Prussia

NOBILITY:

Limited Power of Nobility

BUREAUCRACY:

War and Finance Ministers
and Royal Agents

LAWS:

LEGAL REFORMS
Punishment fits the Crime

RELIGION:

Religious Tolerance
(Primarily Protestant)

TRADE:

High Tariffs on Foreign Trade
Low Taxes on Internal Trade

TAXES:

Reorganized Tax Systems
of Indirect Taxes

ECONOMY:

HIGH INFLATION

MILITARY:

Professional Army
80,000 men

CONFLICTS:

War of Austria Succession
& Seven Years War

ART/EDUCATION:

PATRON of
Arts & Education

ARCHITECTURE:

PALACE of SANSSOUCI

ABSOLUTE MONARCHS



Peter I of RUSSIA

NOBILITY:

Limited Power of Nobility

BUREAUCRACY:

Nine Man Senate (Advisors)
and Royal Agents

LAWS:

BRUTAL PUNISHMENTS
(Tortures and Executions)

RELIGION:

State Controlled Church
(Russian Eastern Orthodox)

TRADE:

"WESTERNIZATION"
(Opened to Foreign Trade)

TAXES:

INCREASE TAXES 3 Times
on Middle & Lower Classes

ECONOMY:

HIGH INFLATION

MILITARY:

Professional Army & Navy
200,000 Men & 848 Ships

CONFLICTS:

Great Northern War
& Russo-Turkish War

ART/EDUCATION:

PATRON of
Arts & Education

ARCHITECTURE:

PETERHOFF (Tsar's Palace)

ABSOLUTE MONARCHS

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

NOBILITY
LIMITED
POWER

BUREAUCRACY
ROYAL
AGENTS

LAWS
LEGAL
REFORMS

RELIGION
LIMITED
POWER



TRADE
HIGH
TARIFFS

TAXES
MIDDLE &
LOW CLASS

ECONOMY
HIGH
INFLATION

MILITARY
Professional
Army/Navy

CONFLICTS
ALWAYS
AT WAR

ART/EDUCATION
PATRONS

ARCHITECTURE
GREAT
PALACES