Louis XIV took the sun as the symbol of his total power and declared "I am the state."

- He never called a meeting of the Estates-General, the council made up of representatives of all the social classes, during his reign.
- During this time, Louis appointed middle-class intendants to carry out his policies and built the French army into the strongest force in Europe.

All of France’s economic policies were aimed at making the nation the wealthiest state in Europe.

Finance minister Jean-Baptiste Colbert imposed mercantilist policies to bring wealth to the treasury.

He had new lands cleared for farming.

He put high tariffs on imported goods.

He fostered overseas colonies and carefully regulated trade with these colonies.

Versailles was designed to be a symbol of royal wealth and power.

Even Colbert’s efforts could not produce enough income to support Louis’s spending.

An example was Louis’s decision to build the immense palace of Versailles.

The king let nobles live at Versailles tax-free to prevent them from threatening his power. Through elaborate court ceremonies such as the levée, he turned nobles from potential rivals to courtiers angling for privileges.
The age of absolutism

Absolute Monarchy = Absolutism = the king has absolute power/authority

Divine Right Monarchy/Divine Right Theory - kings receive their power from God

Jacques Bossuet - Politics Drawn from the Words of Holy Scripture = spelled out the divine right theory

DIVINE RIGHT MONARCHY

The divine right of kings or divine-right theory of kingship is a political and religious doctrine of royal and political legitimacy. It asserts that a monarch is subject to no earthly authority, deriving his right to rule directly from the will of God. The king is thus not subject to the will of his people, the aristocracy, or any other estate of the realm, including (in the view of some, especially in Protestant countries) the Church. According to this doctrine, only God can judge an unjust king. The doctrine implies that any attempt to depose the king or to restrict his powers runs contrary to the will of God and may constitute a sacrilegious act.

France and absolute monarchy

- France during the reign of Louis XIV -> best example of absolutism
- French culture, language, and manners dominated Europe
- French wars and diplomacy shape the politics of the 17th century
- Monarchs wanted to be like Louis XIV

Foundations of French absolutism

- Period of weakness prior to Louis XIV
- Louis XIII and Louis XIV both boys when came to throne
- Cardinal Richelieu - chief minister to King Louis XIII -> strengthened the power of the monarchy

When Henry IV was assassinated in 1610, his nine-year-old son became King Louis XIII. At first, nobles sought to reassert their power.

Then, in 1624, Louis appointed Cardinal Richelieu as chief minister. Richelieu used all of his cunning to strengthen the central government.

He outlawed Huguenot armies and gave the nobles high posts at court to tie them to the king.
Louis XIII

- The architect of French absolutism
- Eliminated the power of the huguenots
- Kept in check the power of the nobles -> network of spies
- Reformed and strengthened govt power - INTENDANTS - a royal official who collected taxes, recruited soldiers, and carried out the king’s policies in the provinces
- Less successful in financial reform -> too much spending, resistance to taxes

TEKS 8C: Calculate percent composition and empirical and molecular formulas.

Louis XIV became king in 1643 and faced an uprising of nobles, merchants, and peasants.

- Chief minister to young Louis XIV
- Continued Richelieu’s policies
- The Fronde = tax revolt/civil war in France
- Louis will create strong monarchy to check the nobles
- French citizens look to monarchy for stability

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Jean Baptiste Colbert (1619-1683)
- Architect of French mercantilism or "Colbertism."
- He was a bullionist.
- There are four professions of importance to the nation:
  - Agriculture
  - Trade
  - Army
  - Navy
- Uniform weights & measures.
- Opposed tolls on internal trade.

JEAN-BAPTISTE COLBERT — CONTROLLER GENERAL OF FINANCES FOR LOUIS XIV
1. Decrease imports/increase exports
2. Expand quantity and quality of French manufactured goods
3. Start new industries -> tax exemptions, loans, subsidies
4. Improve communications and transportation -> new roads and canals
5. Raise tariffs on foreign goods
6. Create merchant fleet
7. The more Colbert brought in, the more the King spent
   - MERCANTILISM

Mercantilism
The Economics of Absolutism

ECONOMICS
The study of the
PRODUCTION
DISTRIBUTION
CONSUMPTION
of goods and services
The Four Economic Questions

1. What should we produce?
2. How much should we produce?
3. How should we produce it?
4. Who should consume it?

The Four Economic Questions

COMMAND Economy
Mercantilism

MARKET Economy
Liberalism

Jean-Baptiste Colbert
Louis XIV’s Finance Minister
Associated with Mercantilism
Bourgeoisie
Wealthy Merchant’s Son

What is Mercantilism?

A system of political and economic philosophy that the modern national state developed based on the need for economic supremacy in its rivalry with other states.

According to this system, money was regarded as the store of wealth, and the goal of a state was the accumulation of precious metals by exporting the largest possible quantity of its products and importing as little as possible, thus establishing a favorable balance of trade.

The Economic Assumptions of Mercantilism

National Wealth is measured in PRECIOUS METALS
This wealth is **FINITE**

In order for me to get a bigger piece, you have to get a smaller piece.

**Zero-Sum Game**

**ECONOMIC RIVALRY**

**ECONOMICS: A TEAM SPORT**

Favorable Balance of Trade

**EXPORTS > IMPORTS**
The Goal: Domestic Manufacturing

The Means:
Economic REGULATION

Government Incentives
A “Hands-on” Approach
- Subsidies
- Cash Payments
- Monopolies
- Protective Tariffs
- Made in France

Versailles
Made in France
Colonies

French Colonies:
- Canada (Furs)
- Louisiana (Raw Materials)
- St. Domingue (Sugar)

The Backbone of a Self-Sufficient Economy

Colonies were expected to trade exclusively with the mother country. Protective tariffs discouraged trade with other nations and their colonies.

Corruption

Those closest to the decision-making authorities enjoy privileges that are not available to others.

TEKS 8C: Calculate percent composition and empirical and molecular formulas.

The king let nobles live at Versailles tax-free to prevent them from threatening his power. Through elaborate court ceremonies such as the levée — a ritual ceremony performed each morning when King Louis XIV rose from bed - he turned nobles from potential rivals to courtiers angling for privileges.
The Reign of Louis XIV (1643-1715)

- 1661 at age of 23, Louis XIV takes formal power
- Dominates Europe -> “the Age of Louis XIV”
- Restructures/centralizes govt admin
- Bypasses the old nobles -> creates new nobles = the nobility of the robe
- The Edict of Fontainebleau = the revocation of the Edict of Nantes -> huguenot churches and schools closed

DAILY LIFE AT THE COURT OF VERSAILLES

- Louis builds vast new and expensive palace outside of Paris = VERSAILLES
  1. Residence of the King
  2. Reception hall for state affairs
  3. Offices for members of the king’s govt
  4. Nobles lived at Versailles serving the King -> distracts and separates them from real power and real politics

VERSAILLES = LOUIS XIV’s GOLDEN CRIB

- Elaborate ceremony and routine of court life
- Competition among nobles to win the king’s attention and favor
- Versailles becomes the model for all other wannabe absolute monarchs
THE WARS OF LOUIS XIV

1. War against the Spanish Netherlands 1667-1668
2. The Dutch War 1672-1678
3. The War of the League of Augsburg 1689-1697
4. The War of the Spanish Succession 1702-1713

Louis Fights Disastrous Wars

- Attempts to Expand France’s Boundaries
  - Louis fights wars in the 1660s and 1670s to expand France.
  - Invades Spanish Netherlands.
  - Invades Dutch Netherlands.
  - In 1680s, many countries unite against him in League of Augsburg
  - France is weakened by poor harvests, warfare, and high taxes.

Louis Fights Disastrous Wars

- War of Spanish Succession
  - War of Spanish Succession begins in 1701
  - This war attempts to prevent the union of the French and Spanish throne.
  - War ends in 1714; France and Spain lose some possessions.

Louis’s Death and Legacy

- Louis dies leaving mixed legacy
- Rule makes France a major military and cultural power in Europe
- His wars and palace leave France with heavy debts.

War of the League of Augsburg 1689-1697

War of the Spanish Succession 1702-1713
1. Last Spanish Habsburg – King Charles II – semi moron, impotent
2. Names the grandson of Louis XIV as his heir/successor
3. England, the Dutch Republic, Austrian Habsburgs, and some German states form an alliance
4. The war was fought in both Europe and in colonies
5. England emerges from the war as the big winner -> naval force

THE DECLINE OF SPAIN
- Starts the 17th century as a great power -> goes through a long decline
- overspending/bankruptcy by the crown
- outdated military
- weak business class
- nonproductive nobles
- overly powerful catholic church
- attempts at reform by Count Olivares under Philip IV -> fails
- Spain loses in the Thirty Years’ War

Louis XIV ruled France for 72 years.
- His court supported a “splendid century” of the arts in which drama, painting, and ballet flourished.
- Louis sponsored the French Academies, which set standards for the arts and sciences.

At the end of his reign, France was the strongest state in Europe.

Despite these triumphs, Louis made some decisions that led to the decline of France.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He fought costly wars to expand French borders, but was checked by rival rulers hoping to maintain the balance of power.</td>
<td>had to give up some territories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He tried to unite France and Spain but was unsuccessful.</td>
<td>had to give up some territories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When he revoked the Edict of Nantes, some 100,000 hardworking and prosperous Huguenots left France.</td>
<td>had to give up some territories.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Versailles: Home of the "Sun King"
**Versailles Statistics**

- 2,000 acres of grounds
- 12 miles of roads
- 27 miles of trellises
- 200,000 trees
- 210,000 flowers planted every year
- 80 miles of rows of trees
- 55 acres surface area of the Grand Canal
- 12 miles of enclosing walls
- 50 fountains and 620 fountain nozzles
- 21 miles of water conduits
- 3,600 cubic meters per hour: water consumed
- 26 acres of roof
- 51,210 square meters of floors
- 2,153 windows
- 700 rooms
- 67 staircases
- 6,000 paintings
- 1,500 drawings and 15,000 engravings
- 2,100 sculptures
- 5,000 items of furniture and objects d’art
- 150 varieties of apple and peach trees in the Vegetable Garden

**Palais de Versailles**

![Palais de Versailles Image]