THE AGE OF ABSOLUTISM

February 2nd, 2017

TODAY’S CLASS:

1. Homework
2. What was absolutism?
3. Who were some absolute monarchs?
4. What events led toward absolutism’s decline and toward the Enlightenment?
5. European Geography
LOUIS XIV
1638 - 1715

“L’etat, c’est moi.”
- Louis XIV
**THE SUN KING**

- Louis XIV reigned for 61 years and never once called upon **The Estates General** to participate in government
- Called all the shots on his own
- Wanted to be called “The Sun King”
- Built the expensive and lavish **Palace of Versailles** south of Paris
- Squandered much of the national treasury on war
The Age of Absolutism

• 16th and 17th century Europe was dominated by Kings and royal families
  – England: Stuart
  – France: Bourbon
  – Germany: Hanover
  – Austria: Hapsburg
  – Russia: Romanov

• It was thought the absolutism brought stability to turbulent economic times

• People believed in the Divine Right of King’s
  – Monarchs held absolute power and only God could tell them what to do
  – Obedience to the monarch was the same as obedience to god.
Absolutism & The Enlightenment

February 3rd

• Finish Map of Europe
• Absolutism in England
• What factors led to a decline in absolutism?
• Unit 1: Rights & Revolution
  – The French Revolution
“Kings are not only God’s lieutenants upon the earth and sit upon God’s throne but they exercise a manner of divine power on earth”
THE MAGNA CARTA

• 1215 in Runnymede, England
• Dissatisfied feudal barons forced King John to sign this document allowing them greater civil and political liberties
• An early success at taking away some of the absolute powers of the monarch
THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR
(1642 – 1649)

• Royalist supporters of King Charles I (Cavaliers) fought supporters of Parliament (Roundheads).
• Roundheads won
• King Charles I beheaded, monarchy abolished
• Oliver Cromwell made Lord Protector
• After his death, monarchy was restored
Decline of Absolutism

• **Scientific revolution** led to new beliefs about the universe, new inventions
• People had began reading more, thanks to **Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press**
• People began questioning things that had previously gone unchallenged
• This led to an intellectual movement called **The Enlightenment** (late 17th/18th Century)
• Society’s well-established power structures were challenged
The French Revolution: Specific Curriculum Outcomes

1.1 Causes of Revolutions

1.1.1 Identify and understand the general causes of revolutions: new ideas, social conflict, political factors, and economic conditions.

1.1.2 Know, understand and be able to explain the new ideas of The Enlightenment.

1.1.3 Analyze elements of social conflict in 18th century France.

1.1.4 Understand, and be able to explain, how and why France’s Absolute Government functioned without the consent of the governed.

1.1.5 Comprehend the severity of economic conditions as contributing factors to the revolution.