

Rise of Absolute Monarchy in France

***Prior to Louis XIV, Henry IV and Louis XIII (with the help of their advisors) began to increase the power of the monarchy by doing the following:**

- 1) **decreasing the power and the influence of the nobility**
 - 2) **centralizing the economy**
 - 3) **crushing all opposition and using propaganda**
- I. Henry IV and the Duke of Sully
- A. Sought to curtail the privileges of the French nobility
 1. targeted the provincial governors and regional parliaments
 2. supervised regional nobility through *intendants* (royal civil servants)
 - B. Centralized the economy
 1. established government monopolies on gunpowder, mines, and salt
 2. implemented the *corvée* (a labor tax that created a national force of drafted workers)
 3. improved the country's infrastructure
 - a. began a canal system to link the Atlantic to the Mediterranean
 - b. built better roads for internal travel
- II. Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu

***Louis XIII became king when he was only nine years old (his father, Henry IV was assassinated). Richelieu was at first his regent. When Louis became old enough to rule on his own, Richelieu remained his closest advisor.**

- A. Domestic Policy
 1. stepped up the campaign against separatist provincial governments and parlements
 - a. made it clear that the king's law was the only law
 - b. when nobles defied his edicts, they were imprisoned or executed
 2. curtailed the religious freedom of the Huguenots
 3. employed propaganda (through art and the printing press) to defend his actions and indoctrinate the French people
 - B. Foreign Policy
 1. supported the French/Spanish alliance of the queen and Catholic religious unity in France, but was determined to contain Spanish power and influence
 - a. pursued a strongly anti-Habsburg policy
 - b. sent funds to the Protestants during the Thirty Years' War
 2. gained land and political influence for France through the Treaty of Westphalia
- III. Louis XIV and Cardinal Mazarin

***When Louis XIII died in 1643, his son (Louis XIV) was only five years old. Cardinal Mazarin was chosen to be his regent and prepared the young king to govern France.**

- A. Mazarin continued Richelieu's policy of centralization
- B. *Fronde*: revolt of the nobility and some townspeople who were resisting absolute monarchy and wanted to preserve local autonomy (1649-1652)
 - 1. forced Mazarin and Louis to flee Paris
 - 2. taught Louis that heavy handed policies (like those of Richelieu and Mazarin) could endanger the monarchy