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AP Euro period 0  
30 November 2016

Question 6: (CAUSATION) In what ways and to what extent did absolutism affect the power and status of the European nobility in the period 1650-1750

## INTRODUCTION

**Contextualization:** During the medieval age nobility experienced a great amount of power. As Europe started to develop away from the feudal system, nobles began to lose their power. With the power of the monarchy on the rise nobilities influence on their state decreased.

**Thesis:** In the period 1650-1750 there were many ways in which absolutism affected the power and status of European nobility **restatement**. Absolute monarchs affected the power of nobles by limiting the amount of influence they had in legislature or by giving them more power in return for loyalty **X**. Absolutism affected nobles status by giving them a lower status than the monarch **Y**.

*weird example here*

## BODY PARAGRAPH 1

**Topic Sentence:** Absolute monarchy affected the European nobles power by limiting it or making agreements that gave them more power. (X)

**Example:** Louis XIV

### Analysis:

- limited nobility's power to make legislative decisions **R**
- Gave Louis complete power ←
- Reduced the power of the nobles

*how? why? } need to answer for analysis*

**Example:** Frederick William/ The Great Elector

### Analysis:

- Controlled local nobles (junkers) by making political alliances and agreements  
- gave nobles complete control of their serfs in exchange for obedience

- junkers given positions in government
- With this the monarchs had control over the nobles but gave them more influence than in other countries like France

## BODY PARAGRAPH 2

**Topic Sentence:** The status of nobility was mainly lowered by absolutism by giving nobles less status than of the monarchy.(Y)

**Example:** Louis XIV and Versailles

### **Analysis:**

- Louis built Versailles in order to manipulate the nobility
- By inviting them here he caused the nobles to think that they were very important
- Louis would also give nobles jobs that were seen as important in order to appease nobles
- However games played there were rigged so that Louis would always win and showing that he was superior to the nobles
- +Ultimately it gives the nobles a good respectable status but one that is lower than that of Louis

**Example:** Peter the Great and The Table of Ranks

### **Analysis:**

- Peter the Great in his attempt to westernize Russia created the Table of Ranks
- The table of ranks gave nobles their status based upon their willingness to serve the king not their lineage *good!*
- Caused some nobles status to go away if they did not support or serve the tsar
- Showed the Tsars superiority over the nobles because in order to gain their social rank and status they had to serve the Tsar.

## CONCLUSION

**Restated thesis:** Absolutism affected both the power and status of the nobles in Europe during the period from 1650-1750 (restatement). Power of the nobles was either limited or increased by absolute monarchies (X). Absolutism influenced the status of the nobility by lowering it to a status less than that of the monarch (Y).

**Synthesis:** This time period from 1650-1750 in which absolutism affected the power of the nobility can be compared to after the medieval ages when states began to start centralizing their power. In the medieval era the nobility would have more power than the monarch due to the feudal system and causing countries to be decentralized. However, when Europe began to leave the medieval era, some countries began to centralize and in order to do so they needed to focus the power of the country on one person or group of persons. Countries like France and England started to take the power away from the nobility to centralize their state thus affecting the power and status of the nobility

*could discuss*

*(France) Louis } in essay  
Peter }  
(Russia)*

*Synthesis } Prussia*