

# Absolutism for Dummies

One has to wonder how a single person can take over an entire country and be the absolute authority over everything in that nation. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, many monarchs assumed complete control of their countries. In groups you will study these so-called "Absolute" rulers and analyze what they did to gain total power. You will need to focus on their policies and view of government. Once you have figured that out, you will create your Dummies Guide.

## Your Assignment:

1. Step One - "Expert" Groups
  - In small groups you will focus on 1 monarch and become a "expert"
  - You will do the following:
    - ✓ Complete all assigned readings on your monarch
    - ✓ Identify extra information through further research
    - ✓ Fill in your section on the absolute monarch chart
    - ✓ Be ready to teach your expert topic to other groups
  
2. Step Two - "Teaching" Groups
  - In larger groups you will teach your classmates about your monarch
  - YOU ARE NOT TO SIMPLY COPY EACH OTHER'S CHART. YOU NEED TO TEACH EACH OTHER!!
  - You will be doing the following:
    - ✓ Complete all sections of the absolute monarch chart
    - ✓ Create a list of ten rules that absolute monarchs would follow. Think of these as pieces of advice that they might have passed on to an heir. Consider common elements in the reigns of each monarch.
    - ✓ Evaluate the effectiveness of each monarch, and justify your response.
  
3. Step Three - "Dummie" Guide
  - With all your information, you will create a "Absolutism for Dummies" Guide
    - ✓ Introduction - explain to the reader what they will learn.
    - ✓ Summarize the reigns of each absolute monarch: what was it like before their rule, during their rule and what is their legacy.
    - ✓ Dealing with threats - summarize the way to eliminate potential roadblocks to having absolute control.
    - ✓ Ten rules for absolute monarchs
    - ✓ Glossary - define any unclear terms that are used in your guide.
    - ✓ Choose 1 "extra" for your guide. This should be unique to your project, and you are going for entertainment value here as well as informational.

## Absolutism for Dummies Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Focus on Task	Consistently stays focused on the task and what needs to be done. Very self-directed.	Focuses on the task and what needs to be done most of the time. Other group members can count on this person.	Focuses on the task and what needs to be done some of the time. Other group members must sometimes nag, prod, and remind to keep this person on-task.	Rarely focuses on the task and what needs to be done. Lets others do the work.
Working with Others	Almost always listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others. Tries to keep people working well together.	Usually listens to, shares, with, and supports the efforts of others. Does not cause "waves" in the group.	At times listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others, but sometimes is not a good team member.	Rarely listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others. Often is not a good team player.
Contributions	Routinely provides useful ideas when participating in the group and in classroom discussion. A definite leader who contributes a lot of effort.	Usually provides useful ideas when participating in the group and in classroom discussion. A strong group member who tries hard!	Sometimes provides useful ideas when participating in the group and in classroom discussion. A satisfactory group member who does what is required.	Rarely provides useful ideas when participating in the group and in classroom discussion. May refuse to participate.
"Teaching Group" Content	Shows a full understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic.	Does not seem to understand the topic very well.
Dummie Guide Content	All requirements of Dummie Guide are met and are accurately discussed in detail	Most requirements of Dummie Guide are met and are accurately discussed in some detail	Some requirements are not met in Dummie Guide and the information lacks detail and accuracy	Requirements are not met in Dummie Guide as the information is not provided and/or is not accurate
Dummie Guide Attractiveness and Organization	Dummie Guide has exceptionally attractive formatting and well-organized information.	Dummie Guide has attractive formatting and well-organized information.	Dummie Guide has well-organized information.	Dummie Guide's formatting and organization of material is confusing to the reader.

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ x4= /94

## France 1589-1643

(Pages 454-458)

Background information: Strengthening the Monarchy

- 1.) Who was Henry IV? How did he bring peace and unity to France?
  
- 2.) What was the Edict of Nantes? Why do you think Henry IV issued this edict?
  
- 3.) Why was the French tax system unfair?
  
- 4.) Who was Cardinal Richelieu?
  
- 5.) Why did Cardinal Richelieu believe the Edict of Nantes was dangerous?
  
- 6.) How did Cardinal Richelieu weaken the power of the Huguenots?
  
- 7.) How did Cardinal Richelieu weaken the power of regional governns?
  
- 8.) How did Cardinal Richelieu use the Thirty Years War to strengthen France? What treaty ended this war?

## Louis XIV = France

Attitudes and ideas about royal power (quotes for support)	
Actions taken to centralize power (how were "threats" neutralized)	
Domestic policy (culture, economy)	
Foreign policy (wars, overseas problems)	
What was their legacy? (positive or negative)	

**Key Points to Include:** Divine Right of Kings, Palace of Versailles, "Sun King", Jean Baptiste Colbert, Balance of Power, War of Spanish Succession

## Russia: 1480-1689

(Pages 457-462)

Background Information: Isolation and a New Dynasty

1.) What cultural and geographic factors separated Russia from Western Europe?

2.) Who was Michael Romanov and why was the Romanov family important in Russia?

3.) What is a czar? How did the Romanovs build the power of the czar?

## Peter the Great = Russia

Attitudes and ideas about royal power (quotes for support)	
Actions taken to centralize power (how were "threats" neutralized)	
Domestic policy (culture, economy)	
Foreign policy (wars, overseas problems)	
What was their legacy? (positive or negative)	

Key Points to Include: Westernization, St. Petersburg, Service Nobility, the Russian Orthodox Church

## Russia: 1725-1762

(Use Articles of Catherine the Great)

Background Information: Building a Strong Empire

- 1.) What country is Catherine the Great originally from? What was her birth name? (ABC-Clio article)
  
- 2.) Who was Catherine arranged to marry at the age of 15? (ABC-Clio article)
  
- 3.) What was her husband's relationship to Peter I "Great"? (ABC-Clio article)
  
- 4.) What was Catherine's marriage to Peter III like? (ABC-Clio article)
  
- 5.) What events led to Catherine being crowned the Czarina of Russia? (Facts on File article)

# Catherine the Great = Russia

(Note: Use the textbook first, but you will have to rely heavily on the readings)

Attitudes and ideas about royal power (quotes for support)	
Actions taken to centralize power (how were "threats" neutralized)	
Domestic policy (culture, economy)	
Foreign policy (wars, overseas problems)	
What was their legacy? (positive or negative)	

**Key Points to Include:** Serfdom, Enlightened Despot, Autocrat, Partitioning of Poland



## Central Europe in the Age of Absolutism 1600's-1740

(Page 465)

Background information: Habsburg Austria

- 1.) How did the Thirty Years' War affect the Habsburg Dynasty? *(Also look at page 455)*
- 2.) How did the Habsburgs deal with the effects of the Thirty Years' War?
- 3.) Who was Charles VI and what problem did he have to deal with before he died?
- 4.) What was the makeup of the Habsburgs' Austrian empire and how did this make it difficult to rule?

Central Europe in the Age of Absolutism 1600's-1740

(Pages 466-469)

Background information: The Hohenzollerns of Prussia

- 1.) Where was Brandenburg-Prussia located?
  
- 2.) What country was the Hohenzollerns' greatest rival? Why do you think this was the case?
  
- 3.) What religion were the Hohenzollerns?
  
- 4.) How did the Hohenzollerns prosper from the Reformation?

RULER:	Accomplishments:
1640-1688: _____ "Nickname": _____	
1688-1713: _____ "Title": _____	
1713-1740: _____	

## Frederick II "Great" = Prussia

Attitudes and ideas about royal power (quotes for support)	
Actions taken to centralize power (how were "threats" neutralized)	
Domestic policy (culture, economy)	
Foreign policy (wars, overseas problems)	
What was their legacy? (positive or negative)	

**Key Points to Include:** War of Austrian Succession, Diplomatic Revolution, Seven Years' War

## María Theresa: Austria

(Note: Use the textbook first, but you will have to rely heavily on the readings)

Attitudes and ideas about royal power (quotes for support)	
Actions taken to centralize power (how were "threats" neutralized)	
Domestic policy (culture, economy)	
Foreign policy (wars, overseas problems)	
What was their legacy? (positive or negative)	

**Key Points to Include:** Pragmatic Sanction, Marie Antoinette



## Elizabeth I: England

Attitudes and ideas about royal power (quotes for support)	
Actions taken to centralize power (how were "threats" neutralized)	
Domestic policy (culture, economy)	
Foreign policy (wars, overseas problems)	
What was their legacy? (positive or negative)	

**Key Points to Include: Mary Queen of Scots, Spanish Armada, Puritans, Parliament (House of Lords and House of Commons with its 2 classes: the gentry and burghesses)**