

The Classical Academy

UNIT 5 – ABSOLUTISM TO ENLIGHTENMENT

READING SELECTIONS: *This unit will focus on the development of absolute monarchies in Europe and the subsequent movement called the Enlightenment. As we examine these movements, we will consider the following senior capstone questions: (7) What is a just society? (8) What is the proper purpose of government?*

- A. Ellis and Esler. **World History: The Modern Era. Chapter 4 (Pages 140-174.); Chapter 5 (Pages 180-204)**
- B. Morris, Holly J. “Be Afraid, Very Afraid.” *US News & World Report*. Jan. 27-Feb 3. 2003. p. 50.
 - a. How did Elizabeth strengthen her power? What role did Sir Francis Walsingham play during Elizabeth’s reign? What was the Babington plot?
- C. Elizabeth I. “Speech to the Troops at Tilbury.” 11 Nov. 2008.
 - a. What is the historical context behind this speech? What does it reveal about Queen Elizabeth’s character?
- D. Visual: Queen Elizabeth I. The Armada Portrait.
 - a. What is revealed about Queen Elizabeth and her authority by this portrait? What is the importance of fine art in the development of absolute monarchies?
- E. Richelieu, “Political Will and Testament.” p. 202-03 (Sherman)
 - a. Who was Cardinal Richelieu? How did he strengthen the French Monarchy?
 - b. What advice does Cardinal Richelieu give to monarchs? How does his advice compare to the views of Machiavelli?
- F. Saint-Simon, “Memoires: The Aristocracy Undermined in France.” p. 217. (Sherman)
 - a. How did the activities of King Louis XIV undermine the position of the nobility? What options were available for a noble who wanted to maintain or increase his own power?
- G. “An Evaluation of Louis XIV: Primary Sources” (Handout)
 - a. How do these views contrast with Louis XIV’s descriptions of his life at Versailles and his manner of ruling? What were his strengths? Weaknesses?
- H. James I, “The Powers of the Monarch in England.” p. 203 (Sherman)
 - a. How did James I justify the high position and vast powers he felt should rightly belong to kings? What limits are there to monarchical power? How would England’s Parliament respond to James I’s arguments?
- I. Thomas Hobbes, “Leviathan: Political Order and Political Theory.” p. 207-08 (Sherman)
 - a. Why would men form such a commonwealth and why would they give up such power to the sovereign (ruler)? How does Hobbes’ argument compare with that of James I? Why might both those favoring more power for the House of Commons and those favoring increased monarchical power might criticize this argument?
- J. John Locke, “Two Treatise of Government.” In Ellis and Esler. *World History: The Modern Era*. (p. 187)
 - a. According to Locke, how should a land be governed? Why do you think this is the case? What does Locke say can happen if a government fails to protect the rights of its people? How does Locke’s views compare with that of Hobbes?

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- K. The 1689 Bill of Rights – England in Ellis and Esler. World History: The Modern Era. p. 162
- What is the meaning of item 6 and why do you think it was included in the Bill of Rights? Why do you think the members of Parliament included item 9? Why do you think this item might have been important? How does this document compare with the US Bill of Rights which comes later?
- L. Viewpoints: Empress Maria Theresa (Handout)
- What character traits of Maria Theresa do both historians see as valuable? In general, what do both historians see as the effects of Maria Theresa’s reign for the Hapsburg monarchy?
- M. Frederick II (1740-1786): Essay on the Forms of Government (Handout)
- What is the role of the sovereign according to Frederick II? How does his views of government contrast with those of James I or Louis XIV? How are his views influenced by the Enlightenment?
- N. Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” p. 40 (Sherman Volume II – Green cover)
- How does Kant define Enlightenment? What is requisite for people to become enlightened? To what extent does he consider his own era a time of enlightenment?

TERMS CHAPTER 4: In addition to knowing the definition of the following terms (who, what, where, when), know the why it is important to the story of this unit? How are the terms related or connected to the bigger story?

Ch 4.1 (142-146)

Absolutism
Divine Right of Kings
Philip II of Spain
Elizabeth I
Battle of Lepanto
Sir Francis Drake
Treaty of Nonsuch
Babington Plot
“Protestant Winds”
Spanish Armada
Siglo de Oro
Miguel Cervantes
El Greco

Ch 4.2 (148-152)

Huguenots
Henry IV (Henry of Navarre)
St. Bartholomew’s Day
Massacre
Edict of Nantes
Cardinal Richelieu
La Fronde
Louis XIV
Benigne Bossuet
“I am the State.”
Cardinal Mazarin
Versailles
Jean-Baptiste Colbert

Ch 4.3 (154-160)

James I
Charles I
Oliver Cromwell
New Model Army
Petition of Right
Roundheads
Cavaliers
English Civil War
Thomas Hobbes
Charles II & James II
William III and Mary II
Glorious Revolution
English Bill of Rights

Ch 4.5 (168-173)

Peter the Great
St. Petersburg
Table of Ranks

TERMS Chapter 5 (Pages 180-204):

Philosophe
Natural Law
Immanuel Kant
Thomas Hobbes
John Locke
Natural Rights
Social Contract
Denis Diderot
Voltaire
Mary Wollstonecraft
Mary Astell
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Baron de Montesquieu
Cesare Beccaria
Adam Smith
Laissez-Faire
Encyclopedia
Salons
Enlightened Despots
Frederick II – The Great
Joseph II

George III
Stamp Act
George Washington
Popular Sovereignty
Thomas Jefferson
Thomas Paine
James Madison
Benjamin Franklin

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ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

1. What is absolutism? Was absolute monarchy an effective system? Was divine right of kings a valid basis for rule? (Chapter 4 p.141-175; Documents E, G, H, I, J, M, N)
2. How did Philip II extend Spain's power and help establish a golden age? How is the struggle between Spain and England during the 16th century tied to religion? What contributed to the decline of Spain as a world power? (Chapter 4.1 p141-146 Documents B, C, D)
3. Why is Louis XIV considered by many historians to be the model absolute ruler of the seventeenth century? List the ways Louis consolidated and grew the power his monarchy? Which way was most effective? What policies had unintended consequences that weakened France? (Chapter 4.2 p148-152, Documents F, G)
4. Identify and discuss the causes, participants, and outcome of the English Civil War. (Chapter 4.3 p154-162, Documents H, I, J, K)
5. How and why did Russia emerge as a great power? Contrast Peter the Great to Louis XIV. (Chapter 4.5 p168-173)
6. What is the Enlightenment? Based on the ideas of the thinkers, what are the natural rights of the people? Whose role is it to secure those rights? What is the role of government? How did the ideas of the Enlightenment spread? (Chapter 5.1-5.2 181-193, Documents J, N)
7. Describe how beliefs about people and government during the Enlightenment are reflected in the United States Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. (Chapter 5.3 p195-201, 204)