

The Age of Absolutism



Chapter 17

Ms. Rosenberg

Europe's Absolute Monarchies



Chapter 17, Section 1

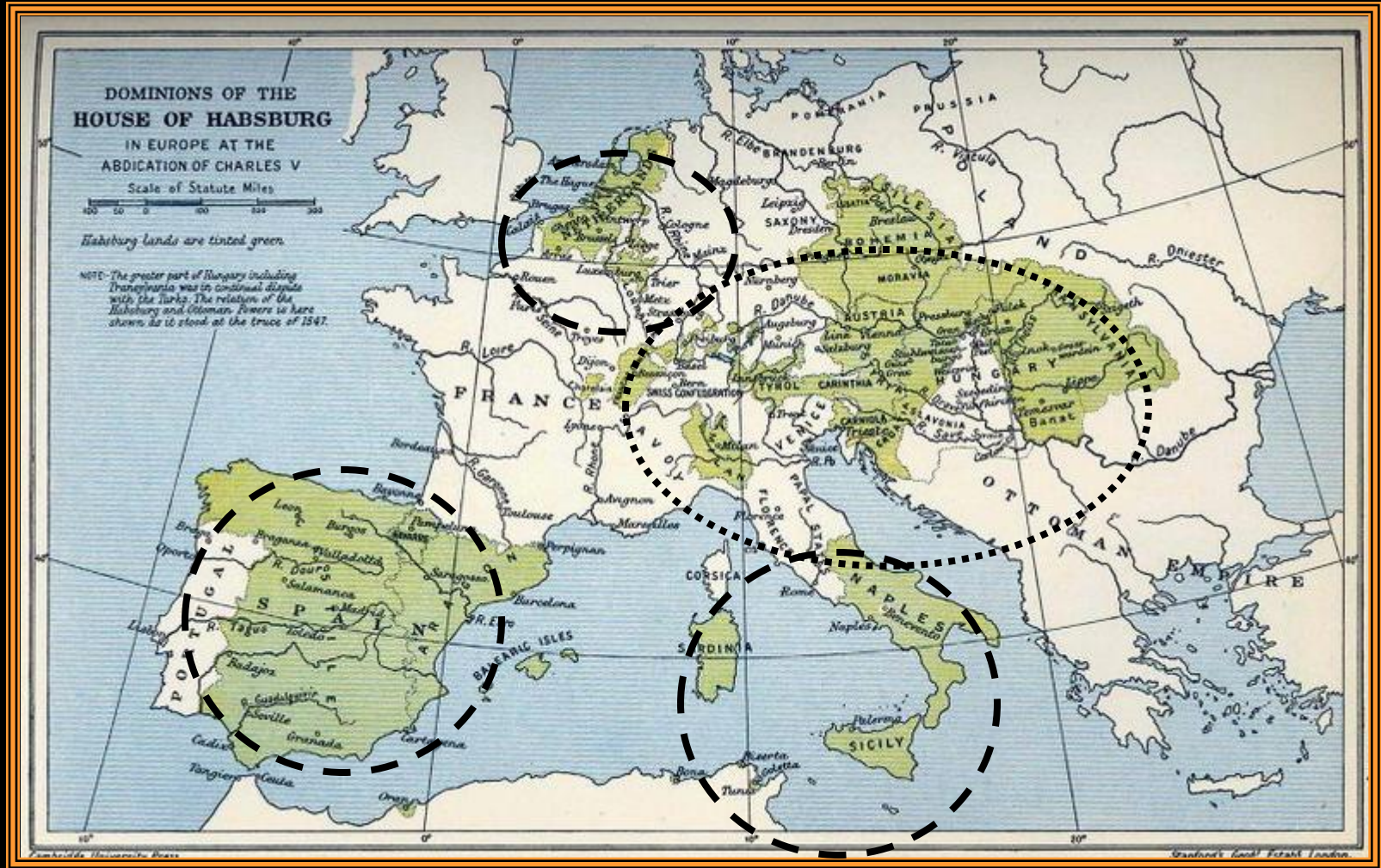
Extending Spanish Power



Charles V & the Hapsburgs

- Spain was the first modern European nation
- In 1519, Charles V became king of Spain and the Hapsburg Empire (Germany, Netherlands)
 - Faced many difficulties in ruling 2 empires
 - Retired as king in 1556, divided empire into separate kingdoms with different rulers

Charles V Divides Empire



Spanish Empire

Holy Roman Empire

Philip II and Divine Right

- Ruled Spain for 42 years
- Devoted to running the government
- Made himself an ABSOLUTE monarch:
 - He had total and complete control over all aspects of running the nation
- He believed he ruled by DIVINE RIGHT – God gave him the authority to be king
- Focused on Religion:
 - Used the Inquisition to ensure Protestants were punished and Catholicism was enforced

The Wars of Philip II

- Fighting in the Netherlands over Protestant vs. Catholic faiths
- Attempted to invade England to punish her for problems caused in the Americas
 - Philip II sent the powerful Spanish Armada (fleet of ships) to attack
 - A combination of weather and better English ships caused the Spanish fleet to be mostly destroyed
- Spanish power around the world began to lessen

Loss of the Spanish Armada



Spain's Golden Age & Decline

- 1550-1650 is called the Golden Age because of the support of art and literature
 - Painters: El Greco, Diego Velazquez
 - Writers: Miguel de Cervantes (*Don Quixote*)
- Economic Decline
 - No strong leaders after Philip II
 - Wars were expensive
 - Taxes and inflation were high
 - Skilled Jewish and Muslim artisans were forced out of Spain

El Greco



Chapter 17, Section 2

France Under Louis XIV



Henry IV Rebuilds France

- Religious tensions caused much violence
- King Henry IV attempted to please Protestants (called Huguenots) and Catholics
 - Converted to Catholicism but issued Edict of Nantes – protected Protestant communities
- Henry's government changes:
 - Improved justice system
 - Building projects (roads, bridges, etc.)
 - Reduced involvement of nobles

Cardinal Richelieu

- Unofficially ran the French government from 1624-1642
- Suppressed power of Huguenots and nobles by destroying their armies and castles
- Gave nobles official positions to keep them loyal to the king



Louis XIV, the Sun King

- Became king at age 5
- Used the sun as a symbol of his absolute power
- The Estates General (French Parliament) never met and did not have a role in the government
- Used the middle class to give important gov't jobs – they stayed loyal
 - Collected taxes, built the army, etc.
- French army became the strongest in Europe



The French Economy

- Increased farmland and mining industries
- Encouraged trade of luxury items
- Taxed imported goods to take care of French craftsmen
- Emphasis on trade with overseas territories
- France became richest European country but Louis XIV was often in need of more money to pay for expensive lifestyle



Versailles Palace

- Massive Versailles palace was a symbol of Louis' power and riches



Louis' Power

- High-ranking nobles were given prestigious jobs serving the king at Versailles
- This kept the nobles under the king's watch and limited any threat of them gaining power
- The arts were encouraged (plays, art, music, dance, etc.)
- Ruled as king for 72 years

French Failures

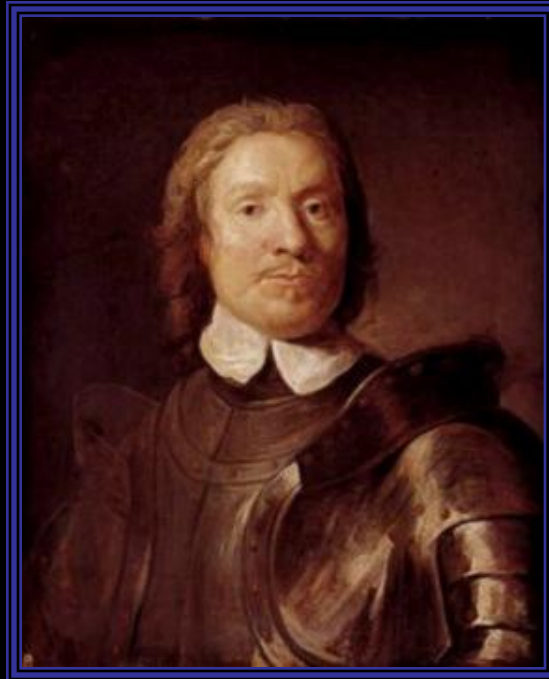
- Costly wars led other European countries to create alliances against France
- Religious persecution against the Protestant Huguenots – also hurt the economy since they made up much of the middle class

French Successes

- Cultural growth
- Temporary period of superiority in Europe

Chapter 17, Section 3

Triumph of Parliament in England



The Tudors

- The Tudor Family led England for more than 100 years.
- Believed in Divine Right but also had a decent relationship with Parliament:
 - Provided Henry VIII with money for wars, made him head of the Church of England
 - Elizabeth generally got along with Parliament
 - Elizabeth died with no direct heir to take over



The Early Stuarts

- The Stuarts, rulers of Scotland, took over England
- Not as popular or talented at working with Parliament – this led to many new problems
- King James I:
 - Claimed Absolute Power, which angered Parliament
 - Parliament refused to give him money before discussion
 - James dissolved Parliament
 - Protestant dissenters (Puritans) demanded changes James disagreed with
 - Created a new translation of the Bible – The King James Bible is still important today

Parliament Fights Back

- Parliament continued to fight with the Stuart kings
- The king was required to get Parliament's permission to raise new taxes but he often violated this
- Parliament put many of the King Charles I's officials on trial and passed a law saying it couldn't be dissolved
- The King's response led to civil war



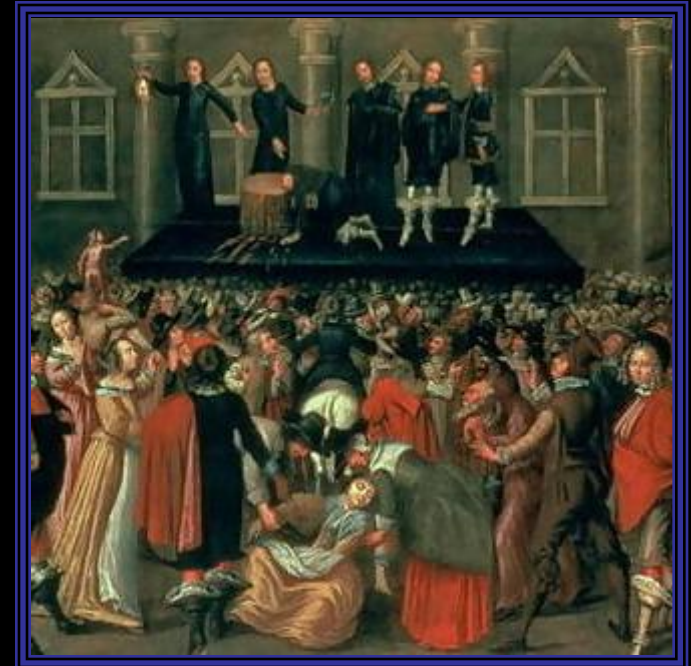
English Civil War

- Lasted from 1642-1649
- Cavaliers vs. Roundheads
 - Cavaliers – Supporters of King Charles, mostly wealthy nobles, well trained in warfare
 - Roundheads – Supporters of Parliament, middle class businessmen and clergy, led by Oliver Cromwell
- Oliver Cromwell – skilled general who led the Roundheads to defeat the Cavaliers



Execution of the King

- King Charles I was arrested and put on trial
- He was beheaded in 1649
- Unusual for a king to be executed by his own people – other European monarchs saw this as a threat to Absolute Power
- Gave a warning to later English monarchs – the ruler cannot ignore the law!



The Commonwealth

- England was declared a Republic – a form of government where elected leaders rule
- The monarchy, House of Lords, and Church of England were abolished
- The Commonwealth of England would be governed by Oliver Cromwell and the House of Commons



Commonwealth Challenges

- Supporters of the King challenged Cromwell in Ireland and Scotland
- Catholics were exiled to Ireland, many were killed
- Groups of poor English tried to get a greater say in the government, were suppressed
- Cromwell took the title “Lord Protector” – he used this to rule England by using the army

The Puritans

- Puritan Christians ruled England and set harsh laws for all to follow:
 - Sunday was for religious observance only, violators were fined
 - Theaters were closed; dancing, gambling, bars were frowned upon
 - Education was provided for all children – literacy was important for reading the Bible
 - Marriage for love was encouraged
 - Other religious groups were allowed back in England, except the Catholics

The Monarchy Returns

- After Cromwell died, the Monarchy returned:
 - People were tired of military rule and strict Puritan laws
- King Charles II helped return England to how it had been before the Commonwealth
- Later rulers had disagreements over Catholic vs. Protestant issues



English Bill of Rights

- Passed in 1689, the document that said Parliament was superior to the monarch
- The monarch was required to allow Parliament to regularly meet
- The House of Commons controlled the money
- Monarchs couldn't interfere with Parliament
- Forbid Catholic monarchs
- Rights of the people: trial by jury, outlawed excessive fines and unusual punishments, outlawed holding prisoners without charging them for a crime

Limited Monarchy

- The new changes to England created a Limited Monarchy – the powers of the king or queen are no longer absolute, a constitution or legislative body (like Parliament) now have some authority over the monarch



Chapter 17, Section 4

Rise of Austria & Prussia



The Thirty Years' War

- The Holy Roman Empire (Germany) was not unified – the emperor had very little power over regional princes
- Causes for war:
 - Religious differences between Catholics (south) and Protestants (north)
 - Attacks against royal officials and local nobles
- Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand, supported the Catholics, member of the Hapsburg ruling family



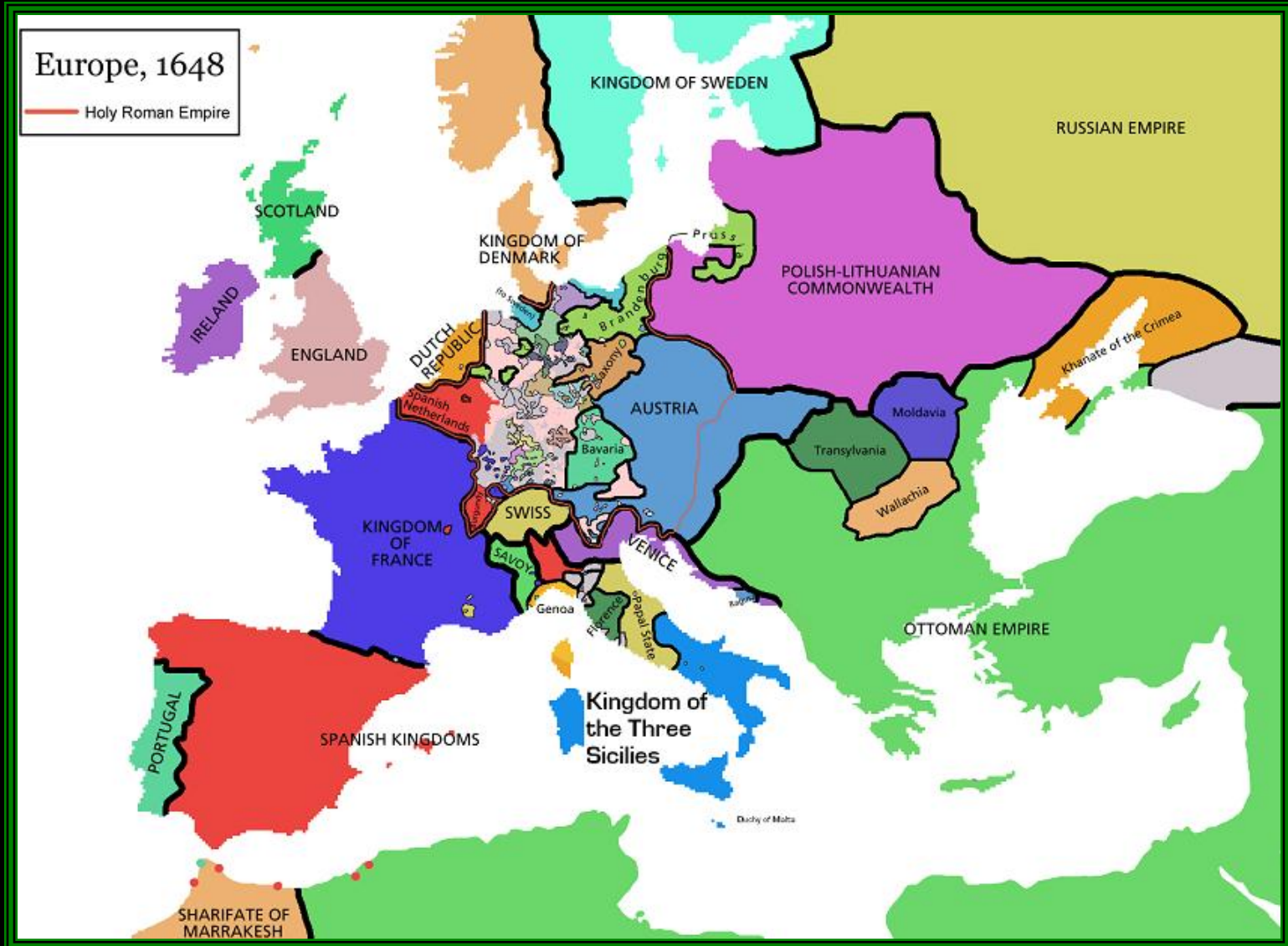
The War Continues

- Other European countries enter war and take sides
- Destructive for all sides:
 - Widespread destruction of villages
 - Large loss of life from attacks by mercenaries
 - Destroyed farmland
 - Famine and disease
- Nearly one third of Germany's population died

Peace of Westphalia (1648)

- A general peace treaty that dealt with many European problems
- France gained territory from Spain and Germany
- Hapsburgs had to accept independence of princes in the Holy Roman Empire
- Netherlands and Switzerland become independent
- Germany divided into 360 independent states

Europe in 1648



Hapsburg Austria

- Expanded Hapsburg Empire from Austria to include Bohemia, Hungary, Poland, North Italy
- Empire was diverse – many cultures, languages, laws were difficult to unite, official religion = Catholic
- Maria Theresa:
 - ruled the Empire despite difficulty in getting people to recognize that she was the ruler (because she was a woman)
 - Made government more efficient, lowered taxes for the poor, had support of the common people



The Rise of Prussia

- Emerges as a Protestant power in 1600s in northern Germany
- Strong central government and very well trained military
- Under Frederick the Great, Prussia added new lands from Austria



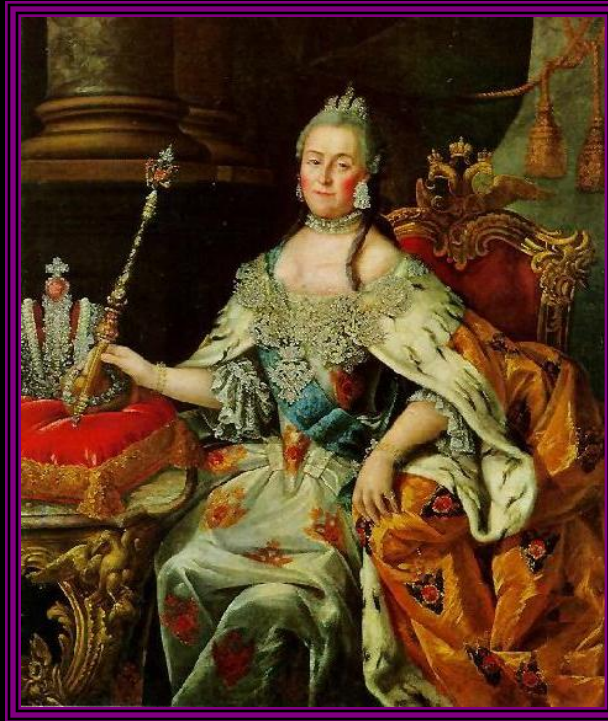
Balance of Power

- European monarchies often formed alliances with each other, which sometimes led to war
- The Seven Years War involved many European countries, who also fought in India, Africa, and North America
- The Treaty of Paris gave Britain land around the world



Chapter 17, Section 5

Absolute Monarchy in Russia



Peter the Great

- Russian czar (emperor) from 1689-1725
- Interested in the advanced nations in Western Europe:
 - Began Russian policy of Westernization – adopting western ideas, technology, and culture
 - Not all Russians accepted this change – Peter had to force reforms



Peter the Autocrat

- Brought control of all aspects of Russia under his own control (military, church, government)
- Forced landowning nobles (called boyars) to serve in government or military jobs
- Forced serfdom – peasants (called serfs) tied to land belonging to nobles, could not leave that land
- Forced nobles to dress in the Western style (no beards, European clothing instead of robes, etc)
- Brutally punished those who resisted

Peter the Reformer

- Imported western technology
- Improved education system by establishing schools
- Improved waterways/canals, manufacturing, and trade
- Ended separation of men and women by encouraging fancy parties



Expansion Under Peter

- Created the largest army in Europe
- Wanted a warm-water port to have access to waterways/trade in the winter
- Defeated Sweden in 1709, gained new lands
- Built city of St. Petersburg – modern, European city built by serfs
- Expanded across Siberia all the way to the Pacific Ocean – became the largest country in the world

Peter's Legacy

- Russia now more involved in European matters
- Expanded land, built strong army
- Used terror to rule, increased gap between rich and poor



Catherine the Great

- Ruled from 1762-1796
- Capable leader:
 - Reorganized government to make more efficient
 - Rewrote Russian law code
 - Provided education to all children
 - Encouraged Western ideas
- Allowed nobles to govern serfs harshly, suppressed peasant revolts
- Expanded size of Russia



Looking Ahead

- Four of Europe's five leading powers were ruled by absolute monarchs by the mid-1700s – Spain, France, Austria, Russia (NOT England)
- Often fought each other for power
- New ideas will soon change the ways of thinking across Europe

