

# Abolutist Monarchs

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## The world's conquest:

- Virginia 1607
- Quebec 1608
- Massachusetts 1620
- New Amsterdam 1625 (New York)
- Maryland 1632
- The North Atlantic (the Mediterranean)

## War

- The Thirty Years War (1618-1648)
- Louis XIV's France (1643-1715)
- Sweden and 'Gustavus Adolphus Magnus'
- The Ottoman Empire's retreat (1683)
- Peter I "the Great" and the rise of Russia (tsar 1682-1725)

## 'Absolutist' Monarchies

- Monarchical authority, growth of government power
- Warfare - definition and reflection of the strength of states
- Dynastic circumstances

## The Mid-17th Century Crisis

- The 30 years War, the Peace of Westphalia (Spain/Austria vs. France et al.)
- France-Spain (the Low Countries, Italy)
- The British Civil Wars, Cromwell (1653-1658)
- The strengths of prevailing political systems
- No challenge to the political, social, and religious bases of society (except Britain)

## Absolutism

- Louis XIV (1643-1715)
- Social and political cohesion of the state, misleading interpretation
- The ruler is limited
- Resistance to the demands of the government (local privileges)
- Emerging "bureaucracy" (façade of Absolut vs. dependency on local institutions/cooperation)
- Attitudes towards monarchical authority (hostility towards despotism, context of legality and tradition)
- Dynasticism failed to provide the ideological context for unity (nationalism of the 19th century)
- Absolutism - persuade the aristocracy to govern in the interest of the ruler
- Absolutism - personal supervision of the government
- Small states (Denmark, Portugal) could see more of absolutism than larger empires
- The modern state system (bureaucracy, army, diplomacy)
- Spain, France, and England
- The growth of national patriotism, absolutism
- Persistent struggle against local centres of power
- The 30 years war (nominally religious conflict)

- Turned into political power
- Struggle (France and the Hapsburgs)
- New conceptualization of God and his relation to the universe
- The natural world "governed" by mathematically determined "laws"
- God increasingly conceived as First Cause of a universe governed by mechanical laws