LOUIS XIV: THE "SUN-KING"

FOUNDATIONS OF FRENCH ABSOLUTISM

- Reign of Henry IV
  - Decreased power of the nobility
  - Paulette – inheritance tax on gov't offices (ROBE)
  - Encouraged expansion of trade
- 1610 – Murder!
  - Marie de' Medici rules for Louis XIII
  - Dominated by nobles until rise of Cardinal Richelieu

RICHELIEU'S IMPACT ON FRENCH ABSOLUTISM

- Raison d'etat
  - Very Machiavellian!
- Continued to centralize power in 5 ways:
  - Subordinated the nobility to the person of the King
  - Use of intendants
    - Quasi-governors of 32 generalities of France
  - Break Habsburg power in 30 Years War
  - Established the French Academy
  - Greater taxation through revenue sharing

CARDINAL MAZARIN AND THE FRONDE

- Mazarin's attempt to increase royal revenue caused the Fronde
- Fronde – 12 year uprising of nobles of the sword and the robe
- 3 major effects:
  - Compromise was necessary
  - Economy needed to be fixed!
  - Shaped the philosophy of Louis XIV

THE AGE OF THE SUN-KING

- Reign (1643-1715)
  - Longest in European history
- Serves as the example of an Absolute Monarch
  - “One king, one law, one faith”
- Devout Catholic
  - Taught that kings were God’s rulers on Earth
- Provided with tutorials in the workings of gov’t by Cardinal Mazarin
  - Learned through direct experience

"COMPLETE DOMESTICATION OF NOBILITY"

- Louis' relationship with the nobles is more of a collaborative one
  - For obedience, he granted privileged social status
  - He separated power from status by excluding high nobles from royal council
    - Forced nobles of the sword to live at Versailles for part of year
    - Used the nobility of the robe to administer government!
  - No Estates-General!
    - Instead, he provided them with courtly culture!
- By 1685, France was the most centralized state in Europe!

VERSAILLES

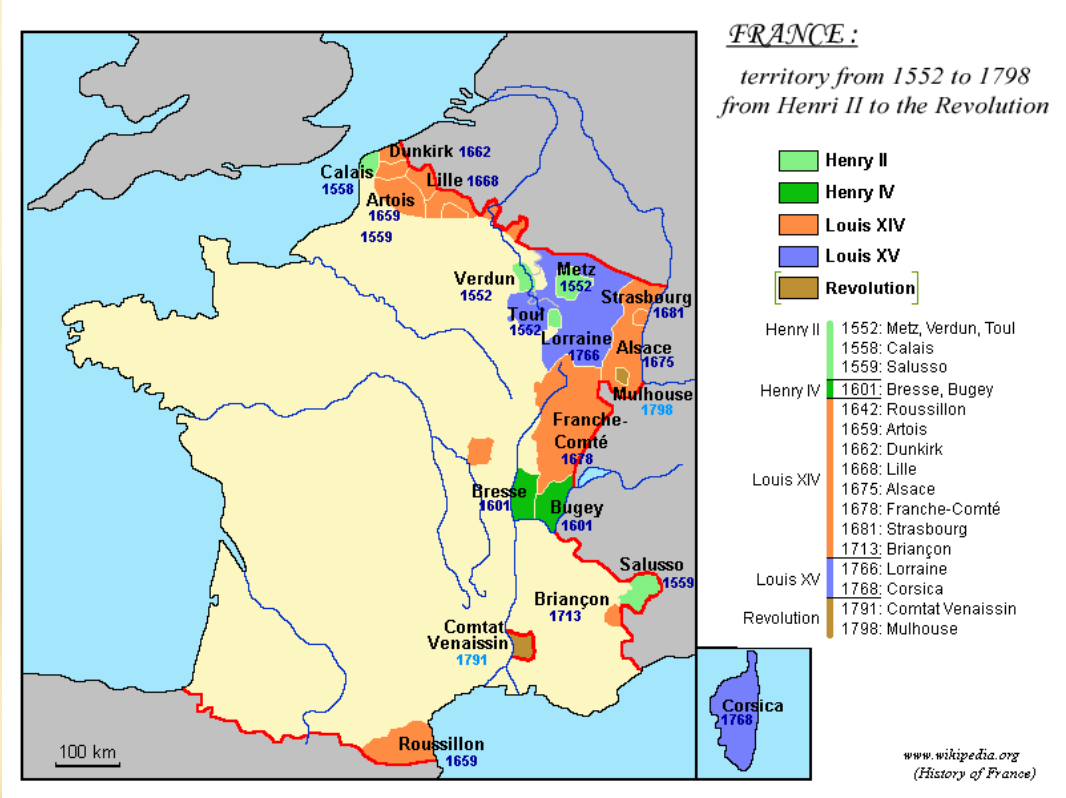
- Royal Court was the center of French government
  - Characterized by grandeur, vastness, and elegance
  - Used to overpower and diminish its visitors
  - Used as a model for the palaces of Peter the Great and Frederick the Great

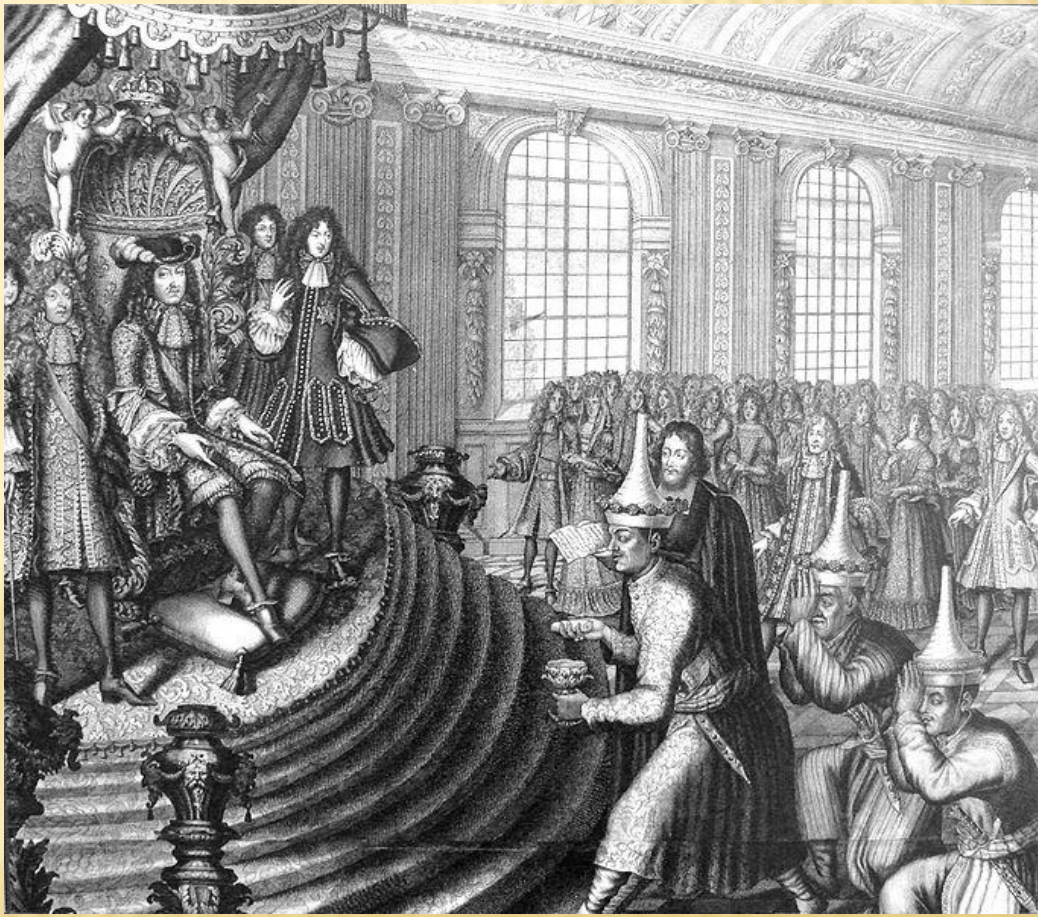
COLBERT AND MERCANTILISM

- Jean-Baptiste was appointed to fix the economy
  - Applied mercantilism!
- Goal: Self-sufficiency
  - Regulated quality of goods
  - Improved transportation
  - Abolished domestic tariffs
  - Created a merchant marine
  - Claim to much of North America

LOUIS' WARS

- Louis was at war 33 of 54 years
- Military revolution!
  - Created a modern fighting machine!
- War of Spanish Succession
  - Dispute over the Spanish throne
  - Louis vs Grand Alliance
  - Settled in the Treaty of Utrecht (1713)
    - Massive debt leading to French Revolution
    - Made Britain a great power!



REVIEW

- How absolute was Louis' rule?
- Was his rule beneficial to French society?
- What legacy does he leave in France?