

# UNIT 3 STUDY GUIDE:

## *Absolutism and Constitutionalism*



<p><b>What is Absolutism?</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges to Absolutism</b>  <i>E-Lecture: <a href="#">Foundations of Absolutism</a></i></p> <p>Aspiring absolutists had to overcome challenges from five established <i>institutions</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N _____</li> <li>2. C _____</li> <li>3. R _____ <b>Bodies</b></li> <li>4. T _____</li> <li>5. U _____</li> </ol>
<p>By contrast,  <b>What is Constitutionalism?</b></p>	
<p><i>E-Lecture: <a href="#">Absolutism vs. Constitutionalism</a></i></p>	

### The Absolutists


<b>Louis XIV</b> <i>of France</i> <a href="#">E-Lecture Available on YouTube</a>	<b>Peter the Great</b> <i>of Russia</i> <a href="#">E-Lecture Available on YouTube</a>	<b>“The Fredericks”</b> <i>of Prussia</i> <a href="#">E-Lecture Available on YouTube</a>
<p>The “_____ King”</p> <p>"L'État, c'est moi"</p> <p>“Un roi, une loi, une foi.”</p> <p>Fronde</p> <p>Versailles</p> <p>Edict of Nantes</p> <p>Gallicanism</p> <p>J.B. Colbert and Mercantilism</p> <p><b>War of _____ Succession</b></p>	<p>_____ (Russian Nobles)</p> <p><i>Ivan the Terrible had already reduced the power of the boyars a century before, but Peter furthered this trend toward absolutism.</i></p> <p>Table of _____  <i>Everyone starts at the bottom, no matter how important their family background</i></p> <p>Russian Orthodox Church Reform</p> <p><b><u>Westernization</u></b></p> <p><b>Peter’s Wars:</b></p> <p>Purpose: _____ Ports</p>	<p>Prussia-Brandenburg</p> <p>“The _____ of the Holy Roman Empire</p> <p>Devastated by the Thirty Years’ War</p> <p><a href="#">House of Hohenzollern</a></p> <p><b>Frederick William I</b>  “<b>The Great Elector</b>”</p> <p>Power to tax by decree</p> <p><b><u>Kings of Prussia</u></b>  Frederick I  Frederick William I  Frederick II “the Great”</p> <p><b>Prussian Militarism</b>  <i>Prussia made up for its small size by maintaining a large, well-trained army.</i></p>

All absolute monarchs maintained large standing armies. Constitutional societies, such as England, were highly suspicious about peacetime standing armies for this reason.

# The Development of English Constitutionalism

## *During the Stuart Dynasty*

The death of Elizabeth I in 1603 brought an end to the Tudor dynasty. James VI of Scotland, of the Stuart dynasty, was invited to reign in England as James I.

<b>James I</b> (r. 1603-1625)		
<b>Charles I</b> (r. 1625-1649)		English Civil War (1641-1651)      Cavaliers vs. _____ <span style="float: right;">(Puritans)</span>
<b>INTERREGNUM</b> <i>a.k.a., Protectorate</i> (1649-1660)	Oliver Cromwell - _____	
<b>Charles II</b> (r. 1660-1685)	"Restless he rolls from whore to whore A _____ monarch, scandalous and poor." <i>-- From a poem by the Earl of Rochester, Charles II's friend</i>	
<b>James II</b> (r. 1685-1688)	Abdicated	
<b>GLORIOUS REVOLUTION</b> (1688)	<b>ENGLISH BILL OF RIGHTS</b>	
<b>William III</b> (of Orange) and <b>Mary II</b> (Stuart) (r. 1689-1702)	John Locke publishes <i>Two Treatises on Government</i>	
<b>Anne</b> (r. 1702-1714)	Queen during the War of Spanish Succession  Childless <b>END OF STUART DYNASTY</b>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b><u>STUARTS GRAPHIC ORGANIZER</u></b></p> <p>-----INTERREGNUM-----</p> <p>-----GLORIOUS REVOLUTION-----</p> </div>

### FACT:


The Stuarts were succeeded by the **House of Hanover**, a German noble house with blood ties to the House of Stuart:

### **Hanoverian Dynasty (1714-1901):**

George I, II, III, and IV, William IV, Victoria


# Philosophers of Absolutism and Constitutionalism

**Jean Bodin and Jacques Bossuet**  
(Divine Right Absolutism)



Bodin and Bossuet both argued that *sovereignty* resides in a monarch and Charles I receiving a crown from a hand above. James I and Charles I tried to put Divine Right theory into practice in England. Charles I paid for this with his life.

Louis XIV, on the other hand, ruled by this philosophy and lived to a ripe old age.

<b>Thomas Hobbes</b> (Philosophical Absolutism)	<b>John Locke</b> (Constitutionalism)
<i>Leviathan</i> <a href="#">Job 24</a> (Description of the Leviathan)	<i>Two Treatises on Government</i>
<b>BACKDROP:</b> English Civil War (Bloody)	<b>BACKDROP:</b> Glorious Revolution (Peaceful)
	<p><b>NATURAL RIGHTS:</b></p> <p>L _____</p> <p>L _____</p> <p>P _____</p> <p>Consent of the Governed / Right of Revolution</p>

<b>WHERE HOBBS AND LOCKE AGREE:</b> Hobbes and Locke both rejected “divine right” theory. Both wrote that the first people are born into a <i>state of nature</i> , in which there was no government. In this state of nature, people have no way of protecting themselves or their property. For this reason, people form governments.	
The only way to keep people from destroying each other is to have an absolute ruler that is so powerful that no one could ever think of challenging him. <b>People choose a sovereign maintain order by governing absolutely.</b> People do not have a right to overthrow the sovereign, as that brings things back to the <i>state of war</i> .	People establish governments to protect their <i>natural rights</i> of <b>LIFE, LIBERTY, and PROPERTY</b> . Governments are agents of the people in this regard, and can only act with the <b>CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED</b> . <b>The people maintain their sovereignty</b> and may overthrow any government that fails to protect natural rights.

# The Dutch Republic

## MERCHANT OLIGARCHY

The Dutch Republic had a complex federal system of government dominated by a combination of wealthy merchants and hereditary nobles. For more information, see my e-lecture:

[What is a Stadtholder?](#) (YouTube)

## COMMERCIAL GIANT IN 17th CENTURY

\_\_\_\_\_ was a natural port city and the center of trade for much of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The Dutch provided the cheapest shipping rates in Europe at the time and dominated European (and, thus, international) commerce during the seventeenth century.

They also established one of the first modern **stock exchanges**, which helped to raise capital for commercial ventures.

## LIMITED RELIGIOUS TOLERATION

*(any toleration was rare at this time in Europe)*

The Dutch Republic was dominated by Calvinist merchants. While the Dutch Republic did not tend to allow religious minorities to express their faith publicly, many Jews and Catholics were able to practice their religion in private without harassment. This policy attracted Jews from other parts of Europe (where they were still being persecuted), who became active in the vibrant business community. The Dutch were some of the first people to figure out that **religious intolerance is not good for business**.

Here is an interesting article about religious toleration in the Dutch Republic:  
<http://www1.umassd.edu/euro/2007papers/bikk.pdf>

## Dutch Golden Age Painting

The massive influx of wealth during the Dutch Golden Age resulted in an unprecedented interest in commissioning paintings among the merchant class. While Dutch artists produced many different kinds of paintings, the most famous pieces of Dutch art tend to picture people in everyday situations, often at work. The individuals pictured often reflect the Calvinist simplicity that was a key element of Dutch Golden Age culture.

For more information on Dutch Golden Age painting, take a look at my [PowerPoint presentation](#) available on Slideshare.



Johannes Vermeer, *The Milkmaid* (c. 1658)