

The Reign of Louis XIV

1

Louis XIV took the sun as the symbol of his total power and declared "I am the state."

- He never called a meeting of the Estates-General, the council made up of representatives of all the social classes, during his reign.
- During this time, Louis appointed middle-class **intendants** to carry out his policies and **built the French army into the strongest force in Europe.**

2

All of France's economic policies were aimed at making the nation the wealthiest state in Europe.

Finance minister **Jean-Baptiste Colbert** imposed mercantilist policies to bring wealth to the treasury.

He had **new lands cleared** for farming.

He put high tariffs on imported goods.

He fostered overseas colonies and carefully regulated trade with these colonies.

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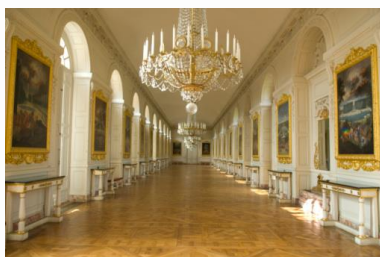
Even Colbert's efforts could not produce enough income to support Louis's spending.

An example was Louis's decision to build the immense palace of **Versailles**.

The king let nobles live at Versailles tax-free to prevent them from threatening his power. Through elaborate court ceremonies such as the **levée**, he turned nobles from potential rivals to courtiers angling for privileges.

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Versailles was designed to be a symbol of royal wealth and power.



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The Age of Absolutism



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THE PRACTICE OF ABSOLUTISM

- Absolute Monarchy = Absolutism = the king has absolute power/authority
- Divine Right Monarchy/Divine Right Theory – kings receive their power from God
- JACQUES BOSSUET – *Politics Drawn from the Words of Holy Scripture* = spelled out the divine right theory

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DIVINE RIGHT MONARCHY

The **divine right of kings** or **divine-right theory of kingship** is a political and religious doctrine of royal and political legitimacy. It asserts that a monarch is subject to no earthly authority, deriving his right to rule directly from the will of God. The king is thus not subject to the will of his people, the aristocracy, or any other estate of the realm, including (in the view of some, especially in Protestant countries) the Church. According to this doctrine, only God can judge an unjust king. The doctrine implies that any attempt to depose the king or to restrict his powers runs contrary to the will of God and may constitute a sacrilegious act.



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FRANCE AND ABSOLUTE MONARCHY

- France during the reign of Louis XIV -> best example of absolutism
- French culture, language, and manners dominated Europe
- French wars and diplomacy shape the politics of the 17th century
- Monarchs wanted to be like Louis XIV

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When Henry IV was assassinated in 1610, his nine-year-old son became King Louis XIII. At first, nobles sought to reassert their power.

Then, in 1624, Louis appointed **Cardinal Richelieu** as chief minister. Richelieu used all of his cunning to **strengthen the central government**.

He outlawed Huguenot armies and gave the nobles high posts at court to tie them to the king.

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FOUNDATIONS OF FRENCH ABSOLUTISM

- Period of weakness prior to Louis XIV
- Louis XIII and Louis XIV both boys when came to throne
- CARDINAL RICHELIEU – chief minister to King Louis XIII -> strengthened the power of the monarchy


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Picture of
Louis XIII

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CARDINAL RICHELIEU



- The architect of French absolutism
- 1. Eliminated the power of the huguenots
- 2. Kept in check the power of the nobles -> network of spies
- 3. Reformed and strengthened govt power – **INTENDANTS** – a royal official who collected taxes, recruited soldiers, and carried out the king's policies in the provinces
- 4. Less successful in financial reform -> too much spending, resistance to taxes

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Louis XIV became king in 1643 and faced an uprising of nobles, merchants, and peasants.

This effort to take power away from the king was called the *Fronde*.

Rioters drove the young king from his palace.

Louis never forgot about this experience. He decided to take complete control of government and solidify his power as an absolute monarch.

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CARDINAL MAZARIN



- Chief minister to young Louis XIV
- Continued Richelieu's policies
- The Fronde = tax revolt/civil war in France
- Louis will create strong monarchy to check the nobles
- French citizens look to monarchy for stability

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THE SUN KING – LE ROI SOLEIL



“ONE KING,
ONE LAW,
ONE FAITH”

Louis XIV

17

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Jean Baptiste Colbert (1619-1683)



- £ Architect of French mercantilism or "Colbertism."
- £ He was a bullionist.
- £ There are four professions of importance to the nation:
 - Agriculture
 - Trade
 - Army
 - Navy
- £ Uniform weights & measures.
- £ Opposed tolls on internal trade.

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Jean Baptiste Colbert (1619-1683)

- £ Supported mandatory labor on national roads.
- £ Favored a large population.
 - Father of 10 or more children would be exempt from taxes.
- £ Favored low wages and child labor.



Colbert & Louis XIV

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JEAN-BAPTISTE COLBERT — CONTROLLER GENERAL OF FINANCES FOR LOUIS XIV

1. Decrease imports/increase exports
 2. Expand quantity and quality of French manufactured goods
 3. Start new industries → tax exemptions, loans, subsidies
 4. Improve communications and transportation → new roads and canals
 5. Raise tariffs on foreign goods
 6. Create merchant fleet
 7. The more Colbert brought in, the more the King spent
- ❖ MERCANTILISM

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Mercantilism

The Economics of Absolutism



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ECONOMICS

The study of the

PRODUCTION
DISTRIBUTION
CONSUMPTION
of goods and services

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The Four Economic Questions

?

1. **What** should we produce?
2. **How much** should we produce?
3. **How** should we produce it?
4. **Who** should consume it?

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The Four Economic Questions

COMMAND
Economy

Mercantilism

?

MARKET
Economy

Liberalism

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What is Mercantilism?

A system of political and economic policy, evolving with the modern national state and seeking to secure a nation's political and economic supremacy in its rivalry with other states.

According to this system, money was regarded as the store of wealth, and the goal of a state was the accumulation of precious metals by exporting the largest possible quantity of its products and importing as little as possible, thus establishing a favorable balance of trade.

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The Economic Assumptions of Mercantilism

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Self-Sufficiency

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The Goal: DOMESTIC Manufacturing

38

The Means: Economic REGULATION

39

~~DOMESTIC~~
COMPETITION

Domestic competition in key industries was deemed to be destructive to the team spirit of mercantilism.

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Government Incentives A “Hands-on” Approach

RISK



Subsidies
Cash Payments



Monopolies



Protective
Tariffs

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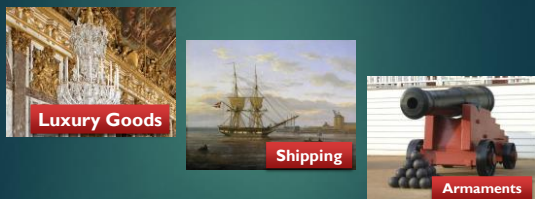
Versailles

MADE IN FRANCE

Photo Credit: iStockphoto

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Preferred Industries



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Colonies

The Backbone of a Self-Sufficient Economy

French Colonies:

Canada
(Furs)

Louisiana
(Raw Materials)

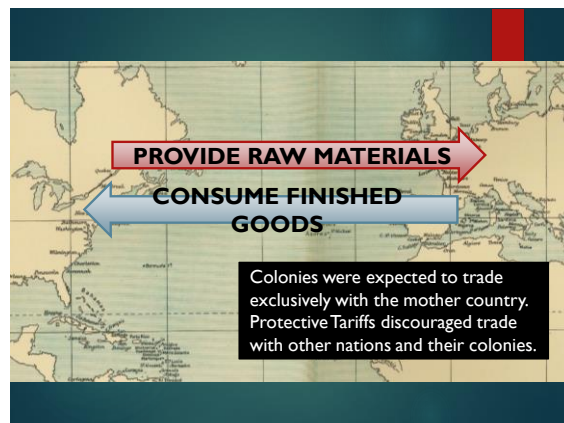
St. Domingue
(Sugar)



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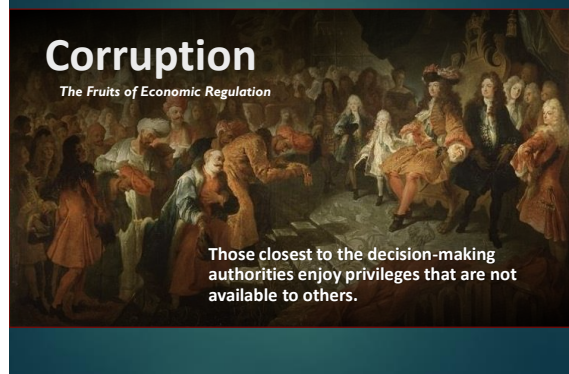
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Corruption

The Fruits of Economic Regulation



Those closest to the decision-making authorities enjoy privileges that are not available to others.

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Even Colbert's efforts could not produce enough income to support Louis's spending.

An example was Louis's decision to build the immense palace of **Versailles**.

The king let nobles live at Versailles tax-free to prevent them from threatening his power. Through elaborate court ceremonies such as the **levée** – a ritual ceremony performed each morning when King Louis XIV rose from bed – he turned nobles from potential rivals to courtiers angling for privileges.

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DAILY LIFE AT THE COURT OF VERSAILLES

- Louis builds vast new and expensive palace outside of Paris = VERSAILLES
- 1. Residence of the King
- 2. Reception hall for state affairs
- 3. Offices for members of the king's govt
- 4. Nobles lived at Versailles serving the King -> distracts and separates them from real power and real politics

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LOUIS XIV

"THE SUN KING"

52



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What aspects of Absolute Monarchy do you see in this painting of Louis XIV?

Funny Story On Louis XIV....Thoughts?

- **Rumor : Louis XIV took only 3 baths in his life. NOT TRUE!**
- In Louis's day, people thought a good, thick, grimy layer of filth would keep you healthy and strong! They believed water spread diseases by penetrating the pores of the skin and then infecting the bloodstream. Most people didn't bathe more than once a year.
- The wealthy did change their linen throughout the day because they believed that the linen wickd away sweat and dirt, but they still stunk. To combat the smells, the men and ladies in Louis's court would douse themselves with perfumes and powders.
- Ironically, Louis was so clean that he was almost fussy about it. He often bathed in a big Turkish bath in his palace at Versailles.
- When not in his bath, he rubbed spirits or alcohol on his skin (perfume gave him headaches), which acted as a disinfectant.
- And, as if that were not enough, he changed his undies three times a day!
- All of this cleanliness must have paid off, because Louis lived to the ripe old age of seventy-seven and was king for seventy-two years, longer than any other French monarch in history.

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A Day In The Life Of A King

- I am now going to take you through a typical day for King Louis XIV.
- On the Right Side, record the main events of his day.
- On the Left Side, what are your thoughts and reactions to these events?

56

Court Regulated Like Clockwork

- A king's day had to be perfectly timed so that the officers serving the monarch knew exactly what they should do.
- The court was regulated like clockwork.
- Referring to Louis XIV, the Duc de Saint-Simon wrote, 'with an almanac and a watch, even at a distance of three hundred leagues, you could say precisely what he was doing'.
-

57

Levee: Ceremonial Rising

- 8 am: 'It is time, Sire', declares the First Valet de Chambre, waking the king.
- The levee, or ceremonial rising, thus begins.



58

The King's Bedroom



59

Waking Up: The Start of the Day

- When Louis XIV wakes, he is checked out by his doctor and surgeon.
- Then his servant washes his face and hands with cold water.
- The king relieves himself in front of all the courtiers.

60

He never had any privacy—and was always on ceremonial display. His aides would even converse with him about state matters as he sat on the toilet!



61

Sees Officials of the Kingdom while He Dresses

- The most important officials of the kingdom are admitted; it is estimated that the usual number of people attending numbered one hundred, all male.

62

Washed and Dressed

- Within fifteen minutes, a crowd crammed into the Royal Chambers.
- This group of nobles was made up of courtiers favored by the King.
- Louis chooses his wig and his clothes, while he drinks two cups of chicken stock soup or bread dipped in wine.
- Then the courtiers dress him.
- It was a great honor to be permitted to watch him don his undergarments, breeches, stockings etc.
- It was an even greater honor to be the noble selected to hand the King his shirt—only after he was presented to the King by the Valet of the Bedchambers.
- This happens five times to accommodate all the courtiers who want the honor.

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Rules For Dressing Louis XIV

- There were so many crazy rules of etiquette during the morning ceremony, I don't know how they kept it straight.
- For example, when it came to helping the King with his coat (justacorps), the Valet of the Bedchambers could help only with the right sleeve.
- Whereas the Master of the Wardrobe could only assist with the left.
- Oh, it gets better! Only the Master of the Wardrobe was permitted to place the King's cravat on him, but he wasn't allowed to tie it.
- That was the job of the Royal Cravatier.
- The King's hat, gloves, and cane had to be handed to him in a certain order and by certain people.
- A rather involved ordeal, wouldn't you say?

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The King in his Bedchamber

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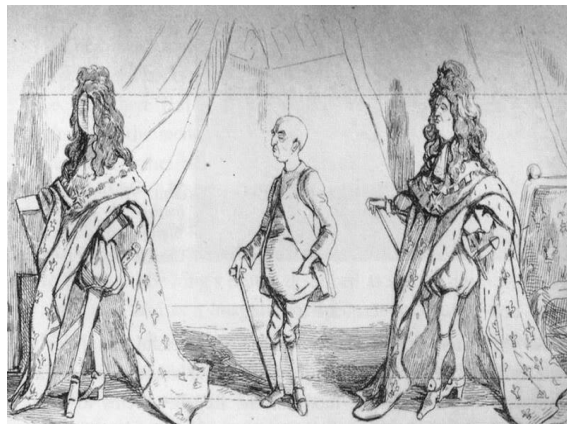
- Thefts were frequent at Versailles, despite the guards and staff.
- Once during the king's levee the royal doctor had his watch stolen.

66

Dressing Louis

- Louis was completely bald by age 35, so he made wigs mandatory.
- Louis the XIV had fourteen personal wigmakers and 1,000 wigs

67



68

Goes to Mass

- 10 am: On leaving the king's apartment, a procession forms in the Hall of Mirrors.
- The king leads the procession of courtiers through the Grand Apartment.
- The public can now see the king and even petition him with a written request.

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The Hall of Mirrors at Versailles



70



Versailles Chapel

•Palatine chapels, the Royal Chapel has two stories.
 •The galleries were reserved for the King, the royal family, and important members of the Court, while the rest of the congregation occupied the ground floor.
 •Consecrated in 1710, and dedicated to St. Louis, ancestor and patron saint of the royal family, the chapel was the last building to be constructed at Versailles under the reign of Louis XIV.

71

Listens to Choir

- In the Chapel Royal, the king occupies the tribune.
- Mass lasts roughly thirty minutes.
- The choir known as the Chapel Music, famous throughout Europe, always sings new music composed by Lully, Lalande, and others.



72

To Visit Louis In His Apartments

- A hat and a sword could be hired at the front gate in order to be properly attired to visit the Grand Apartment.
- Monks were not allowed in.

73

Holds Council

- 11 am: Returning to his apartments, the king holds council in his cabinet.
 - Sundays and Wednesdays are devoted to Councils of State
 - Tuesdays and Saturdays: finances
 - Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays: another Council of State, a Dispatch Council on domestic affairs, a Religious Council, or focus on the king's building program.

74



The King in Council

75

Makes Decisions

- Five or six ministers usually advise the monarch who speaks little, listens a great deal, and always decides.



Minister of Finance Colbert

76

Dinner

- 1 pm: The king dines in his bed-chamber, at a table facing the windows.
- This meal is theoretically private, but Louis XIV admits the men at court, making attendance similar to the levee.



Oyster Lunch

77

Dinner

- It is a huge ceremony with a big number of different characters: guards, officers of mouth, etc.
- The most noble person has the right to give the King his towel in order for the King to clean his hand before eating.
- Six gentlemen serve the King and some of them have useless activities.
- Because of the length of the ceremony the King always ate cold food.

78

The Afternoon Program

- 2 pm: The king always announces the afternoon program in the morning.

79

Promenade

- If he has decided on a promenade, it might be taken on foot in the gardens or in a carriage with ladies.



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The Gardens of Versailles

- In every season, Louis XIV loves to be outside in the open air.
- Every afternoon he goes hunting or for a long walk or carriage ride through the gardens.
- The king is relaxed and in a good mood, so the courtiers like to accompany him to get his attention and ask for favors.
- His gardens even had a zoo filled with animals given to him from countries in Africa and Asia.

81

Gardens at Versailles



82

The Orangery



83

Gardens of Versailles



84

Promenade

- In the early days of Versailles, fountain guards were ordered to whistle when Louis XIV approached, so that the fountains could be fully turned on.

85



86

Fountains, Fountains, and More Fountains!



87

Or Hunting

- Hunting activities, the Bourbons' favorite pastime, will take place on the grounds or in the surrounding forests.



88

Hunting

- During the royal hunt, only Louis XIV was allowed to carry a weapon and had the right to shoot.
- This was to prevent him being injured or killed by a hunting accident.
- Louis was very attached to his hunting dogs and fed them himself.
- He had over 100 hunting dogs and knew all their names.
- On horse and with the help of his dogs, Louis would track a deer for hours by horse.
- Sometimes he hunted by foot with only one or two dogs.

89



Louis XIV and his Court hunting in view of the castle of Meudon

Adam Frans van der Meulen (1632–1690)

90

Hunting

- The female nobles would follow the hunt in horse-drawn carriages.
- At the end, King Louis XIV would offer the best prizes to his favorite women.
- The head officer organized the royal hunts.

91

Social Gathering or Work

- 6 pm: Louis XIV often allows his son to preside over the private social gatherings known as *soirées d'appartement*.



92

Signs Letters

- The king himself might sign the many letters prepared by his secretary...

93

Visits Madame de Maintenon-- -His Mistress

- ... then go to Madame de Maintenon's quarters where he might study an important file with one of his four secretaries of state.



94

In Louis' personal life, he had mistresses. But when he reached his forties, he repented of his infidelity and returned to the queen.



95

Parties at Versailles

- Louis XIV organized big parties which lasted for several days and nights.
- There were hundreds of guests invited, and while at Versailles, they would admire the gardens, go to the theatre, and dance at costume balls.
- In the evenings to end the parties, there would be a fireworks show.

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Louis XIV's Opera Stage



97

Parties at Versailles

- When the king decides to throw a party, he entrusts the preparations to the service of the "Pleasure Menus."
- They were responsible for making costumes, fabricating the decorations, and the preparation of food.
- Louis's parties usually had a theme that were based upon Greek mythology, stories of knights from the Middle Ages, or based upon contemporary poetry.

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Parties at Versailles

- The Grand Canal was a gigantic water feature modeled after the canals of Venice.
- They were in the center of the gardens.
- All of the actual ships in Louis's navy were duplicated in miniature in the canal.
- There were even gondolas in the canal given to Louis by the city of Venice.
- Sometimes as part of the entertainment, Louis had the miniature ships act out battles.

99

Palais de Versailles



100

Supper

- 10 pm: A crowd fills the ante-chamber of the King's Suite to witness this public supper.
- The king is joined at table by the princes and princesses of the royal family.

101

Supper Time

- From 10 to 11PM
- Sit at the "Big Table" or more formal table
- Louis and his family eat in public, while having live music performed for them
- The courtesans serving the meal must remain a standing distance of a certain degree away from the table.
- Only the duchesses have the right to sit on a stool.

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The King Surrounded by Courtiers

103

Supper Time

- Typical supper service consists of 40 plates that will be reused five times during the meal.
- The meal consists of soups, salads, meats, vegetables, and desserts.
- All the dishes are tasted by a servant first to check for poisons.
- Took 1500 food servers kept busy by "the mouth of the king" in the kitchens and to prepare and pour the food.
- The "officers of the mouth" brought the dishes to the table.
- The "officers of goblet" served the drinks.

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Supper Time

- The plates, napkins, and food covers are the colors of gold, scarlet, or silver.
- The cups are crystal.
- The king has a box "the padlock" in which they arrange the utensils and spices.
- Louis XIV preferred to eat with his fingers.
- Since the kitchens are so far from the dining room, the food got cold before being served.
- It is because of this distance that they invented the silver bell food covers to place over plates to keep the food warm. These are still used today in restaurants.

105

Conversation

- Once the meal is over, the king retires to his cabinet where he can indulge in conversation with his close acquaintances.

106

■ Couchee

11.30 pm: The couchee, or public ritual of retiring, is a reverse, shortened version of the levee.

- It was a great honor to hold the candle by which the king was undressed.

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Louis XIV---Center of Everything



109

Political

- Louis XIV marked his reign by being an absolute ruler, which was based on the theory of divine right.
- He believed he was the State.
- He trained the parliament into submission.



110

Political

- Louis also took control of the government of France during his reign. At the time, the day-to-day governing of France was done by three councils:
 - the Court of State
 - the Court of Finances
 - the Court of Dispatches (administered by French law)
- Louis presided over all three councils and met with all high government officials at least once a week.

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Political

- He utilized councilors of his own choosing for different branches of government.
 - Colbert for finance and justice,
 - Louvois for war,
 - Lionne for foreign affairs.
- Louis used the bourgeoisie to build his centralized bureaucracy.
- Curtailed local authorities and created specialized ministries, filled with professionals responsible to him



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Break With Tradition

- excluded family members, princes, old military-based nobility
(*Nobility of the Sword*) from Council
- relied on new judicial nobility
(*Nobility of the Robe*)
 - “reign of the lowborn bourgeoisie” – Duc de Saint-Simon
- local government placed under easily-removable *Intendants*

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How Did Louis XIV Strengthen Royal Power?



Louis took the sun as the symbol of his absolute power and was often quoted as saying, “L’etat, c’est moi”—“I am the state.”

During his 72-year reign, Louis did not once call a meeting of the Estates General. (Legislative Branch)

Louis expanded the bureaucracy and appointed **intendants**, royal officials who collected taxes, recruited soldiers, and carried out Louis’s policies in the provinces.

Louis created the strongest army in Europe, which he used to enforce his policies at home and abroad.

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Political

- early personal reign highly successful in both internal and foreign affairs
- In France:
 - Parlements lost traditional power to obstruct legislation
 - Judicial structure reformed
 - new codes of civil procedure (1667) & criminal procedure (1669)
 - office of lieutenant-general of police for Paris created, (1667)
 - then copied for other towns

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Political

- Louis also insisted that all laws be approved by him before becoming official.
- Louis staffed government bureaucratic offices with upper middle class people.
- This robbed the nobility of the traditional political powers.
- These middle class professionals were paid a salary by the government and were loyal to the monarchy.

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Political Cont.

- Breaking with tradition, Louis excluded from his council members of his immediate family, great princes, and others of the old military nobility
- Relied greatly on the newer judicial nobility
- Local government was increasingly placed under removable officials
- Louis's early reign was highly successful in both internal and foreign affairs
 - Parliament lost their traditional power to obstruct legislation
 - Judicial structure was reformed by the codes of civil and criminal procedure
 - Choose to ignore confusing and redundant laws

Because of the brilliance of his court, Louis was called "Le Roi Soleil" [The Sun King] and "Le Grand Monarque"

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Political

- To ensure that his government employees were loyal, Louis took the following steps:
 1. Used bribery to ensure provincial governors loyal to him were elected
 2. Reduced provincial governor terms from 5 to 3 years (in case they were not loyal they would not be able to cause too much damage)

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Tax collections were reformed.

An intendent system (like our state governors) was used to govern France. It was much more efficient, and this system lasted until the French Revolution.

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Intendents had broad powers.
They were expected to be faithful to the wishes of the King.
They re-enforced the idea of absolutism.

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Louis XIV – Political: Military Reforms

- Created a standing army and appointed a secretary of modern to modernize it.
- Took personal command of the army and directly supervised the military
- Army was professional and trained in the art of warfare
- Soldiers no longer lived off the land.
- Officers in charge of feeding troops
- Ambulance corps created to look after the wounded
- Uniforms and weapons were standardized
- System of training, recruitment, discipline and promotion created

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Political: Military Reform

- Louis fought in four major wars in which he sought fame and an increase in French territory.
- To prevent rebellion within the military ranks he saw to it that for every colonel from a great noble family there was a colonel from a lesser noble or middle class family.
- Troops were raised and paid in the name of the King. Royal inspections made certain that regulations were being complied with.
- This made soldiers obedient to the king, not the commander, so the soldiers would never follow their commander in rebellion.

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Effects of Military Reforms

- With this new style of warfare, France was able to dominate European politics for decades.
- Other European countries were forced to copy this new military system.

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THE WARS OF LOUIS XIV

1. War against the Spanish Netherlands 1667-1668
2. The Dutch War 1672-1678
3. The War of the League of Augsburg 1689-1697
4. The War of the Spanish Succession 1702-1713

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Louis Fights Disastrous Wars

- Attempts to Expand France's Boundaries
 - Louis fights wars in the 1660s and 1670s to expand France.
 - 1667-Invasades Spanish Netherlands.
 - 1672-Invasades Dutch Netherlands.
 - In 1680s, many countries unite against him in League of Augsburg
 - France is weakened by poor harvests, warfare, and high taxes.

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Louis Fights Disastrous Wars

- ❑ Louis's Death and Legacy
 - Louis dies leaving mixed legacy
 - Rule makes France a major military and cultural power in Europe
 - His wars and palace leave France with heavy debts.

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Louis' Wars

- **War of Devolution** (1667–1668): against England, Sweden, Dutch
- **Dutch War** (1672–1678): with Sweden and England against Dutch, Spain, Austria
- **War of the Grand Alliance** (1688–97): against English, Dutch, Spain, Austria, Germanic princes; also fought in Ireland and Americas
- **War of the Spanish Succession** (1701–1714) : with Spain and Germanic princes against Great Britain, Dutch, Austria, Portugal

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Louis Fights Disastrous Wars

- Kept wanting to fight wars to prove France's strength
- Freaked out Europe, so a bunch of European nations formed an alliance to stop France
- Bad harvest + high taxes = suffering people
- War weary country gets in ANOTHER war (War of Spanish Succession) - no European nation wanted France to have any say over the king of Spain.

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Louis XIV and War

- War of Devolution (1667-1668)
 - France tried to take the Spanish Netherlands
 - France lost
 - France gained just a few new towns
- Dutch War (1672-1678)
 - Started by Colbert over trade issues
 - France lost
 - Again, France gained just a few new towns

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Dutch War

- By 1660 France had 20 million people (4 times as many as England)
- The French army, 100,000 in peace time & 400,000 in wartime was ahead of other nation's armies in size, training & weaponry
- Louis invaded Spanish Netherlands (1667) & gained 12 cities
- He also personally led an invasion of Dutch Netherlands (1672)
- The Dutch opened the dikes & flooded the countryside to save themselves, but were forced to give up territory
- Louis tried to fight additional wars, but found it more difficult



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WAR OF THE LEAGUE OF AUGSBURG 1689-1697



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Louis XIV and War

- War of the League of Augsburg (1688-1697)
 - Started by Louvois over "stolen" land
 - France lost
- War of Spanish Succession (1701-1713)
 - Fought for Philip, the grandson of Louis
 - France won
 - Peace terms did not give Louis all he wanted

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WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION 1702-1713



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Louis Fights Disastrous Wars

- War of Spanish Succession
 - War of Spanish Succession begins in 1701
 - This war attempts to prevent the union of the French and Spanish throne.
 - War ends in 1714; France and Spain lose some possessions.

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War of the Spanish Succession

1. Last Spanish Habsburg - King Charles II - semi moron, impotent
2. Names the grandson of Louis XIV as his heir/successor
3. England, the Dutch Republic, Austrian Habsburgs, and some German states form an alliance
4. The war was fought in both Europe and in colonies
5. England emerges from the war as the big winner -> naval force

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THE DECLINE OF SPAIN

- Starts the 17th century as a great power -> goes through a long decline
- 1. overspending/bankruptcy by the crown
- 2. outdated military
- 3. weak business class
- 4. nonproductive nobles
- 5. overly powerful catholic church
- 6. attempts at reform by Count Olivares under Philip IV -> fails
- 7. Spain loses in the Thirty Years' War

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War of Spanish Succession

No heir in Spain

- Louis wanted to increase power beyond France's borders; wars cost dearly
- Most costly war, **War of the Spanish Succession**
- Began when Spanish king died without an heir

Successor

- Three rulers claimed they should name successor
- Louis wanted Spanish throne for oldest son
- Other European monarchs did not want France, Spain so closely connected

Alliances

- 1701, England, Netherlands, Holy Roman Empire went to war against France
- Fighting not limited to Europe, spread to North America as well
- Conflict connected to phase of French and Indian Wars

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End of War of Spanish Succession: Treaty of Utrecht

1713, after many defeats, Louis accepted the Treaty of Utrecht

- Treaty said Louis's grandson got Spanish throne
- Also said France, Spain never to be ruled by same monarch
- Louis had to give up most of territory he had taken
- War benefited England at expense of France, Spain
- Despite setback, Louis XIV remained in power until death, 1715—still absolute monarch

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France Under Louis XIV



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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- End of French expansionist policy
- Completed the decline of Spain
- Vastly expanded Great Britain
- BALANCE OF POWER
- Experience in international cooperation



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Political: Wars and Foreign Policy (cont.)

- Louis' last war was the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-14), which left France in debt and greatly weakened militarily.
- He did however secure the throne of Spain for his grandson.
- In the end, Louis's wars had cost France *too much* in money, blood, and postponed reforms



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The War of Spanish Succession and deaths in the royal family, broke Louis. He died in 1715. The Grande Monarch, whose wars caused so much death, was resented for his pursuit of glory.



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The many wars of the French kings added significant, but not overwhelming, territory

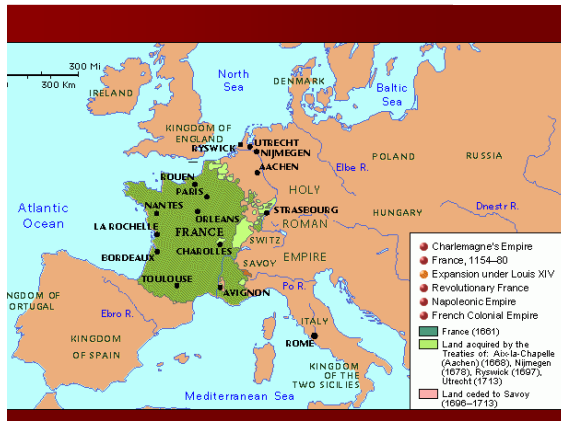


Wars created a huge state debt – for the next 75 years, France tottered on the edge of bankruptcy

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Economic Policies

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In fact, when Cardinal Mazarin was dying, legend has it that he said, "I am leaving France something more than wealth—I am leaving it Colbert"

What did Mazarin mean by these last words?



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Jean Baptiste Colbert

- ▶ Was Louis XIV's Minister of Finance
- ▶ He wanted to make France self-sufficient
 - Did not want to rely on imports
 - ▶ High tariffs on imports to discourage.
- ▶ Helped make France wealthiest state in Europe.

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Colbert and Mercantilism: Building and controlling the economy

- Which is a mercantilist act?
 - Preventing importation of cloth from England
 - Preventing importation of sugar from French Haiti
 - Subsidies to a French shoe manufacturer
 - Encouraging free trade by eliminating tariffs
 - All shipping from colonies must be on French ships
 - French colonies banned from purchase of Dutch goods
 - Encourage Italian manufacturers to build factories in France
 - Grant a monopoly to one company to trade with India

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Together, Louis XIV and Colbert worked hard to support trade and state businesses.



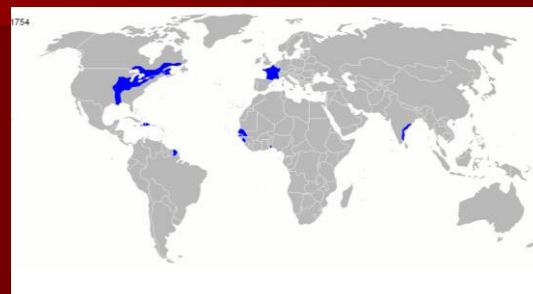
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Expansion of Overseas Empire: 1660



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Expansion of Overseas Empire: 1754



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Economic Decline

- When Colbert died, Louis screwed up the economic policies (by oppressing the Huguenots – sent them running to the hills with their businesses etc.)
- Louis failed to adjust the complicated and unjust tax system.
- The poor carried the tax burden while nobles, clergy, and government were exempt from most payments.

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Economic Decline

- Independent tax collectors often made large profits.
- This heightened the economic differences between regions of France.
- The tax system encourage people to move from heavily taxed regions to regions with lower taxes.
- Higher taxed regions became poorer.

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Louis took France's wealth from Colbert's careful savings and squandered it on two things:

Can you guess what those two were?

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Versailles



174

And War. . .



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Bienvenue
au Château de Versailles



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VERSAILLES = LOUIS XIV's GOLDEN CRIB

- Elaborate ceremony and routine of court life
- Competition among nobles to win the king's attention and favor
- Versailles becomes the model for all other wannabe absolute monarchs



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Louis XIV ruled France for 72 years.

- His court supported a "splendid century" of the arts in which **drama, painting, and ballet** flourished.
- Louis sponsored the French Academies, which set standards for the arts and sciences.

At the end of his reign, France was the strongest state in Europe.

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THE REIGN OF LOUIS XIV 1643-1715

- ❑ 1661 at age of 23 Louis XIV takes formal power
- ❑ Dominates Europe -> "the Age of Louis XIV"
- ❑ Restructures/centralizes govt admin
- ❑ Bypasses the old nobles -> creates new nobles = the nobility of the robe
- ❑ The Edict of Fontainebleau = the revocation of the Edict of Nantes -> huguenot churches and schools closed

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Despite these triumphs, Louis made some decisions that led to the decline of France.

He fought costly wars to expand French borders, but was checked by rival rulers hoping to maintain the **balance of power**.

He tried to unite France and Spain but was unsuccessful.

When he revoked the Edict of Nantes, some 100,000 hardworking and prosperous Huguenots left France.

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Versailles: Home of the "Sun King"



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Drawing of Versailles from above



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Versailles Statistics

- f 2,000 acres of grounds
- f 12 miles of roads
- f 27 miles of trellises
- f 200,000 trees
- f 210,000 flowers planted every year
- f 80 miles of rows of trees
- f 55 acres surface area of the Grand Canal
- f 12 miles of enclosing walls
- f 50 fountains and 620 fountain nozzles
- f 21 miles of water conduits
- f 3,600 cubic meters per hour: water consumed
- f 26 acres of roof
- f 51,210 square meters of floors
- f 2,153 windows
- f 700 rooms
- f 67 staircases
- f 6,000 paintings
- f 1,500 drawings and 15,000 engravings
- f 2,100 sculptures
- f 5,000 items of furniture and objects d'art
- f 150 varieties of apple and peach trees in the Vegetable Garden



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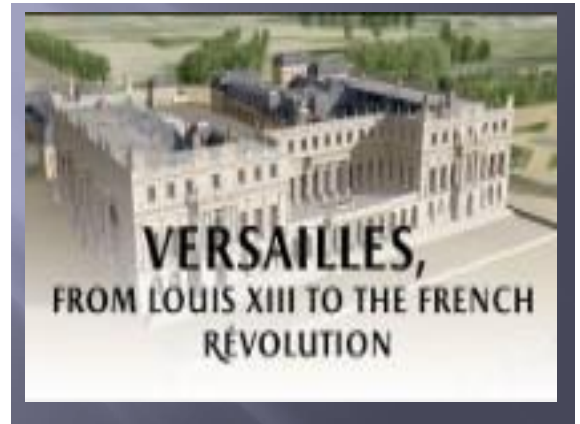
Palais de Versailles



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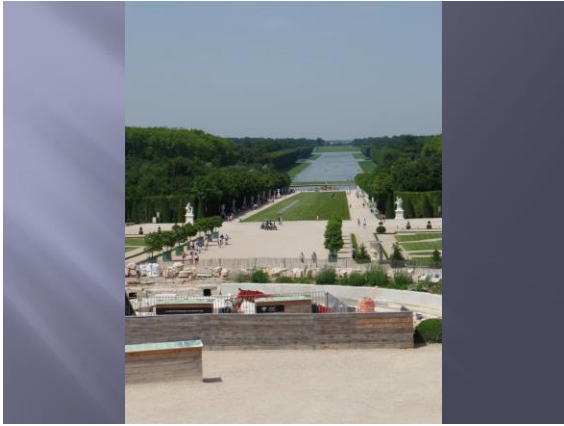
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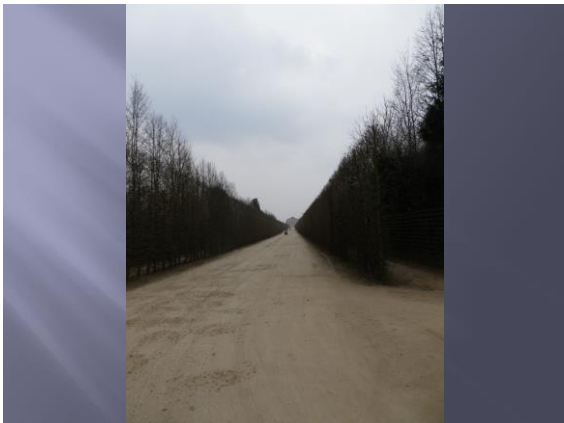
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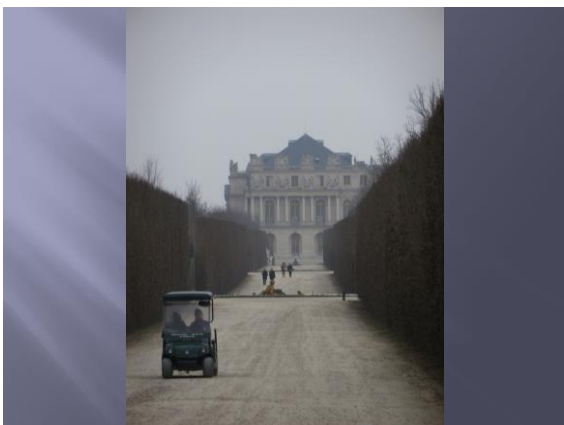
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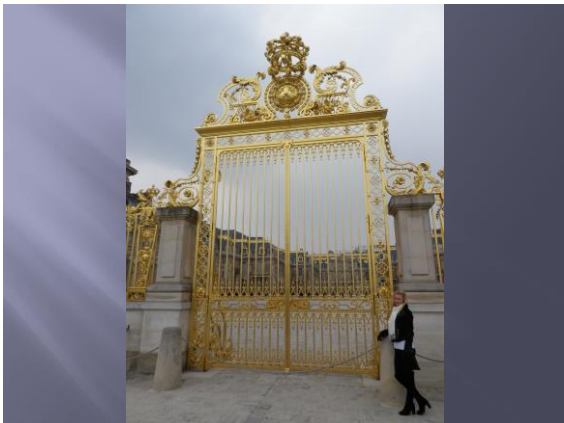
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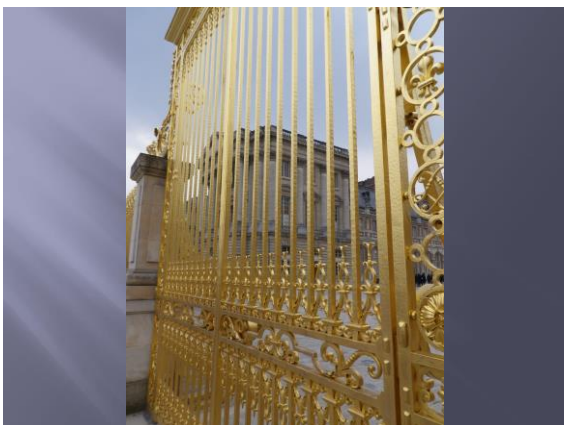
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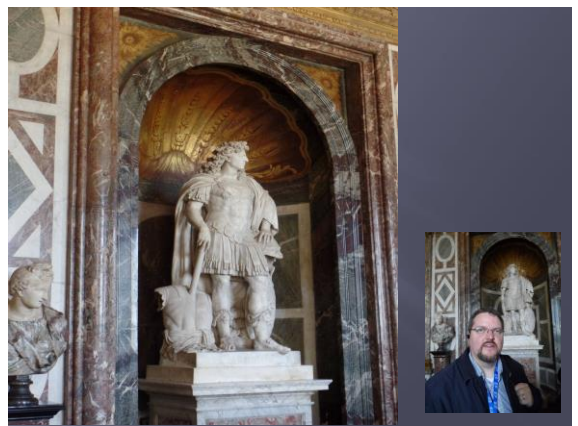
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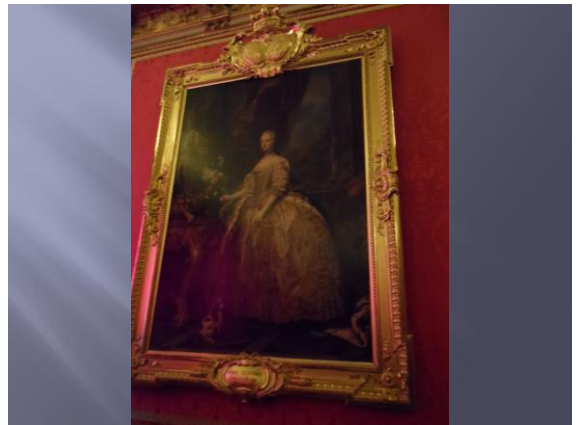
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Hall of Mirrors

- ❑ 73 meters long...more than half a soccer field
- ❑ 12 ½ meters in height...about three stories of a building
- ❑ Here is where the king receives all important foreign visitors like ambassadors
- ❑ Each week there are some parties, masked balls, and concerts held here
- ❑ There is a limit on the number of courtiers who can attend...only those of high status
- ❑ Each of the 17 windows is directly across from huge mirrors that reflect the light and cast a divine glow

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Hall of Mirrors

- ❑ The world-famed Hall of Mirrors at Versailles was designed by Jules Hardouin-Mansart, and the interior decoration was by Charles Le Brun.
- ❑ Like similar galleries in the châteaux and mansions of the time, the Hall of Mirrors served as a passage between the king's and the queen's apartments, and it was here that the courtiers waited upon the king and queen.
- ❑ It was rarely used for great ceremonies or entertainments.
- ❑ The room gets its name from the 17 arched mirrors, corresponding to the 17 round-headed windows in the outer wall.
- ❑ In this historic room the German Empire was proclaimed in 1871 and the Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919.

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Hall of Mirrors

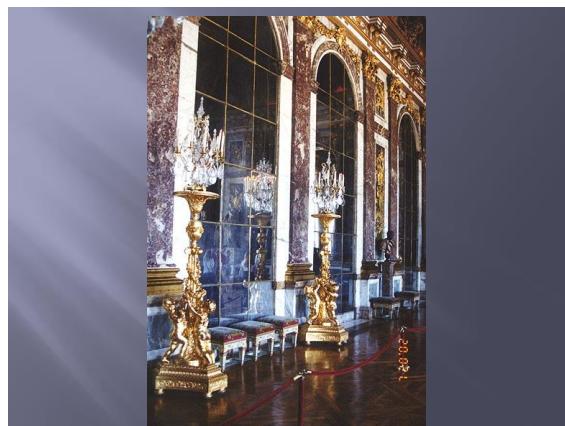
- ❑ Designed in 1678 by Jules Hardouin-Mansart
- ❑ Louis greets important visitors here
- ❑ The mirrored walls reflect the splendor.
- ❑ Painted ceiling of the heavens is to remind the audience of divine right and the glorious moments of the king's life

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Hall of Mirrors



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Palace of Versailles (Hall of Mirrors)



The best example of Baroque architecture at the time. Designed by Charles Le Brun. With its 357 mirrors, 17 glass doors, marble walls, chandeliers and ceiling paintings, it remains — as was the Sun King's intent — a sight breathtaking in its majesty.

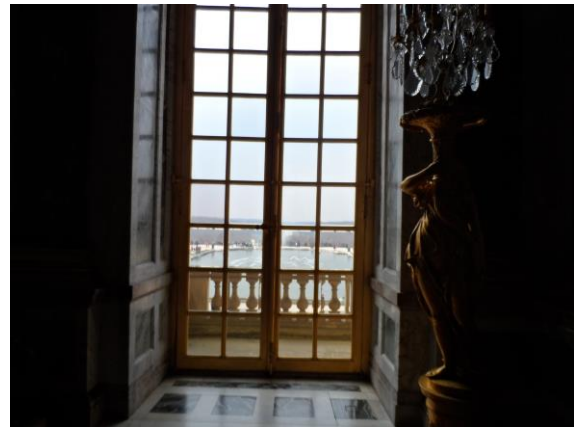
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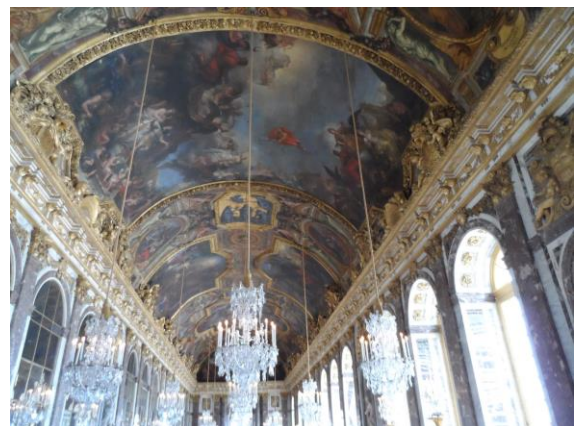
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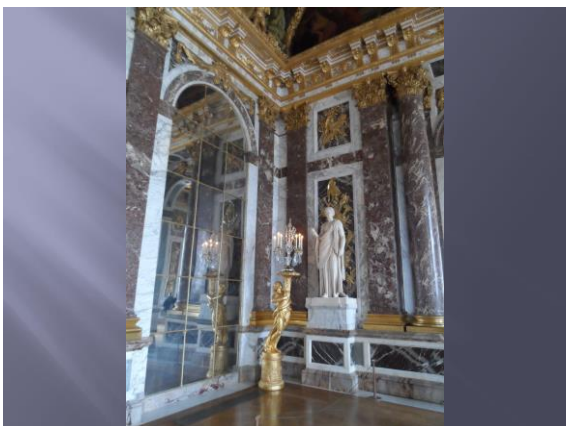
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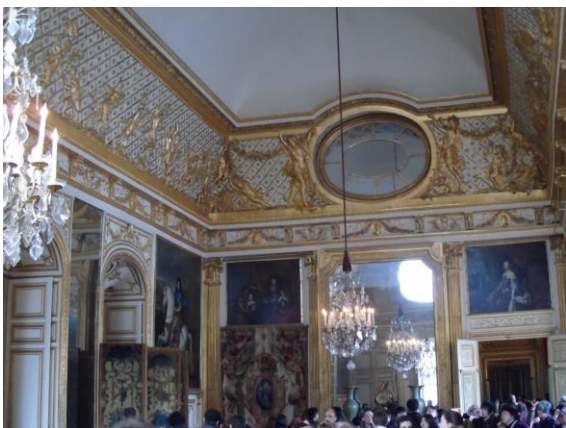
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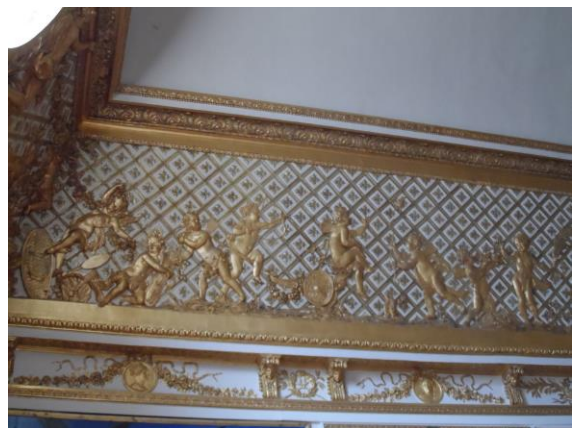
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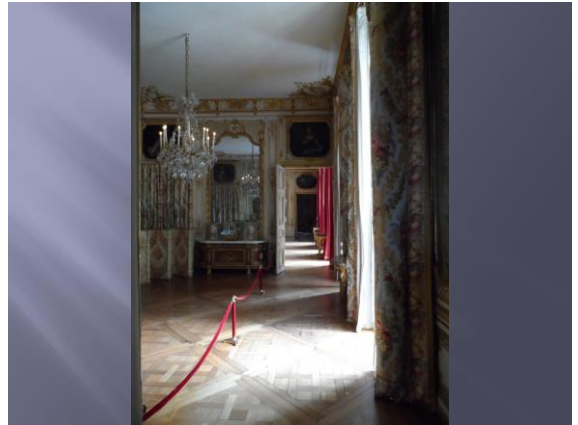
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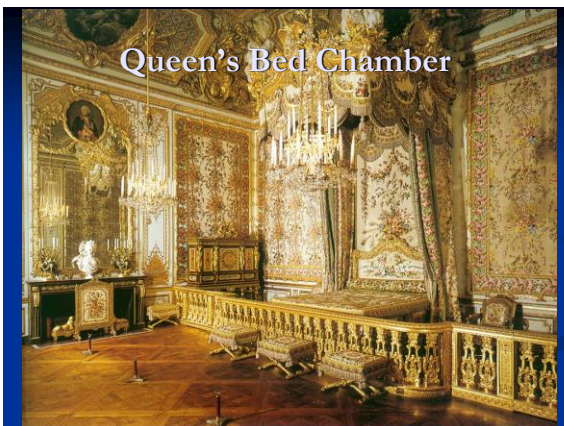
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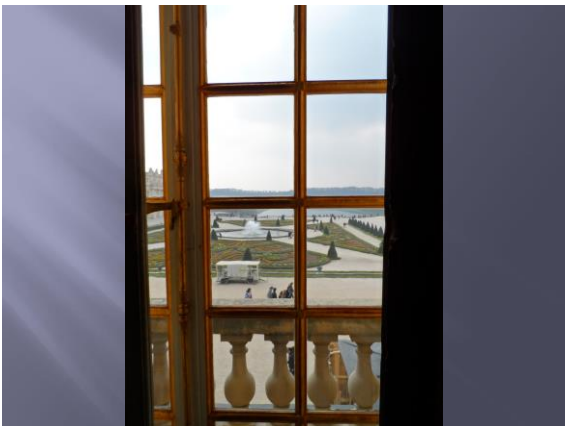
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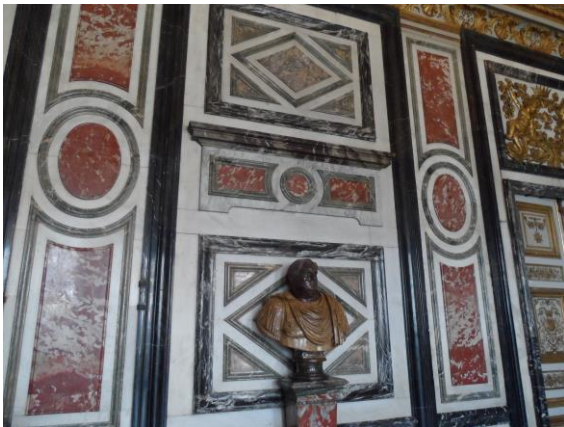
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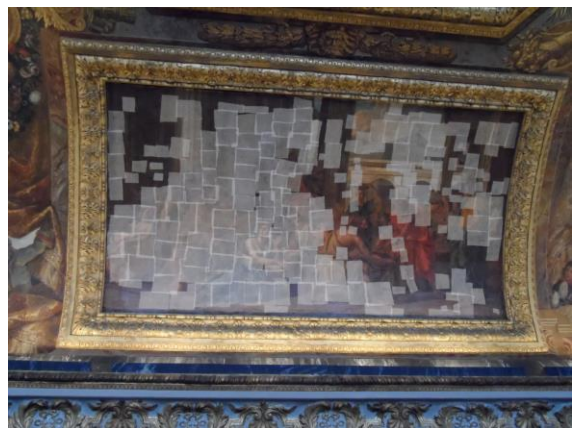
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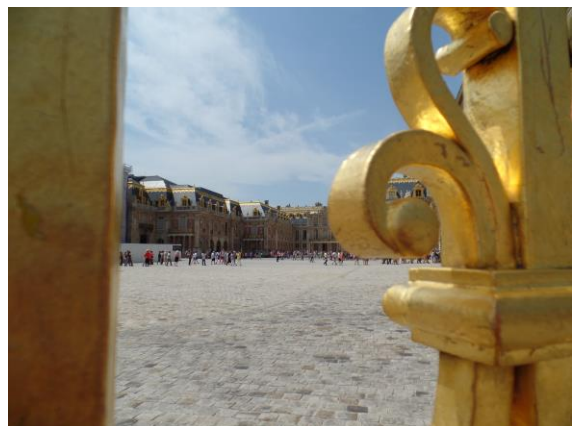
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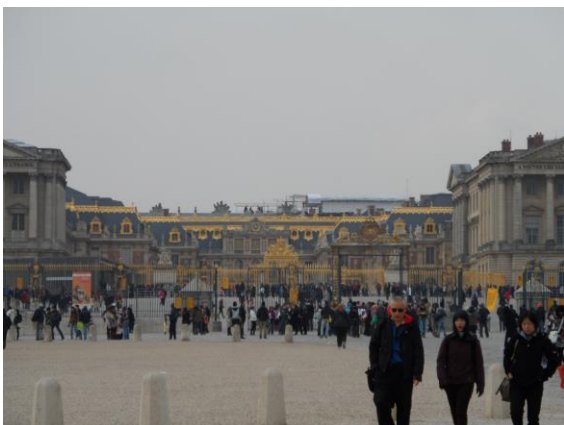
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