



■ Essential Question:

- To what extent are Louis XIV (France), Peter the Great (Russia), & Elizabeth I (England) examples of absolute monarchs?

■ Warm-Up Question:

- What is a monarch?
- What is mercantilism?
- What is the Columbian Exchange?

The Age of Absolute Monarchs



By the end of the Renaissance, new nations were formed in Europe

Many of these nations were ruled by powerful kings with unlimited power known as absolute monarchs

The era from 1600 to mid-1700s was known as the Age of Absolutism

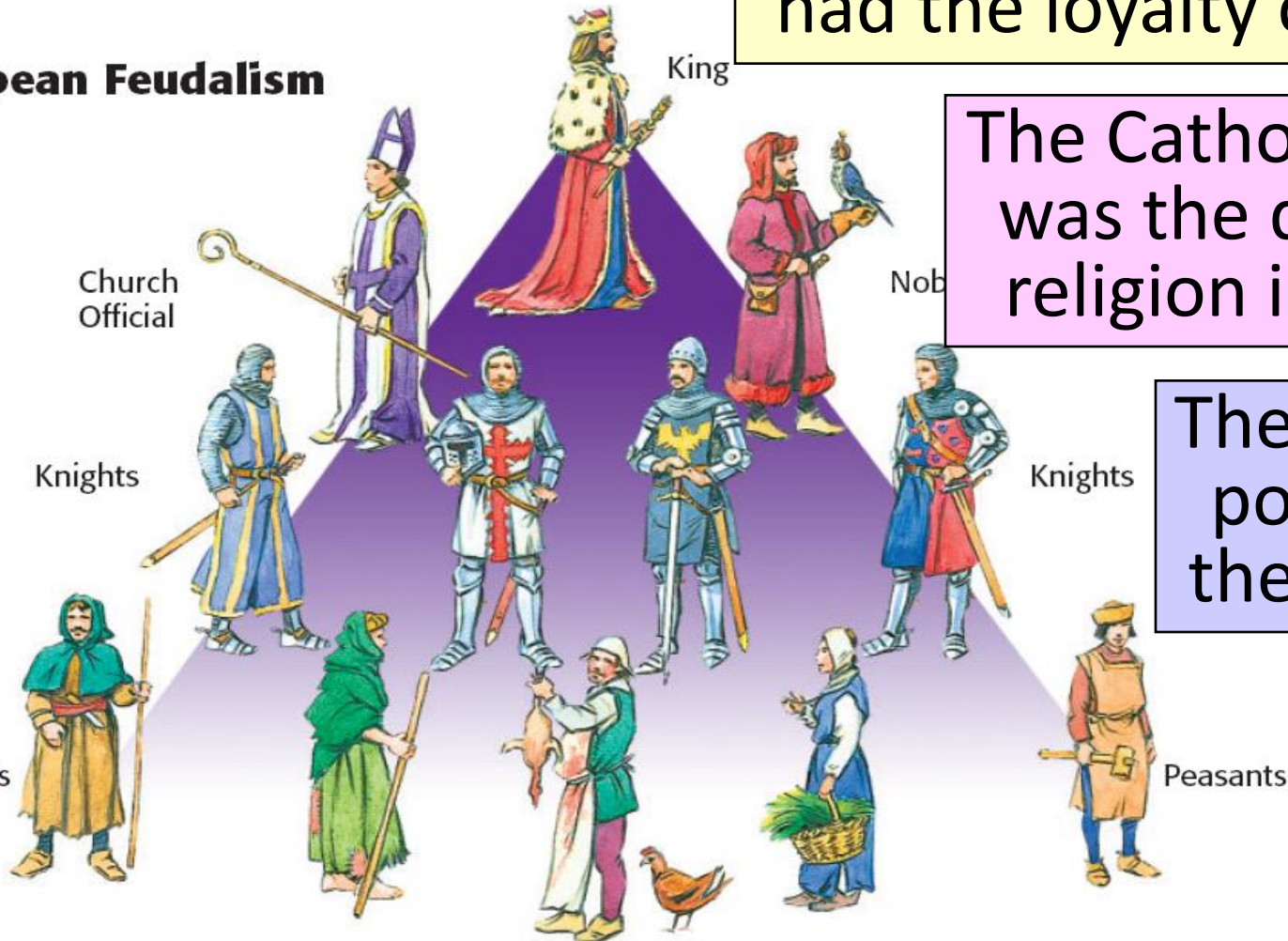
How did European kings gain so much power?

The Rise of Absolute Monarchs

During the Middle Ages, European kings were not very powerful

Instead, feudal lords had real power because they controlled local manors & had the loyalty of knights

European Feudalism



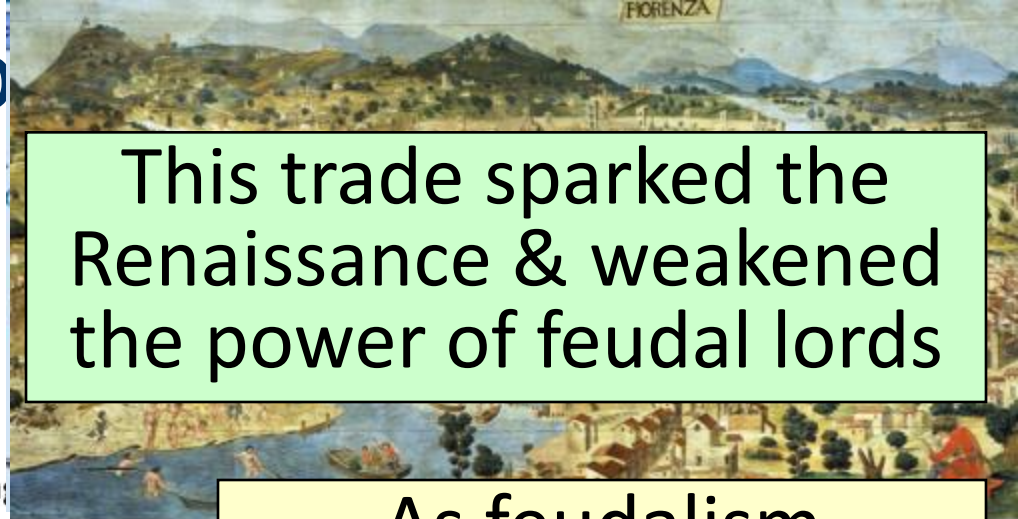
The Catholic Church was the dominant religion in Europe

The Pope had power over the peasants

The Rise of Absolutism

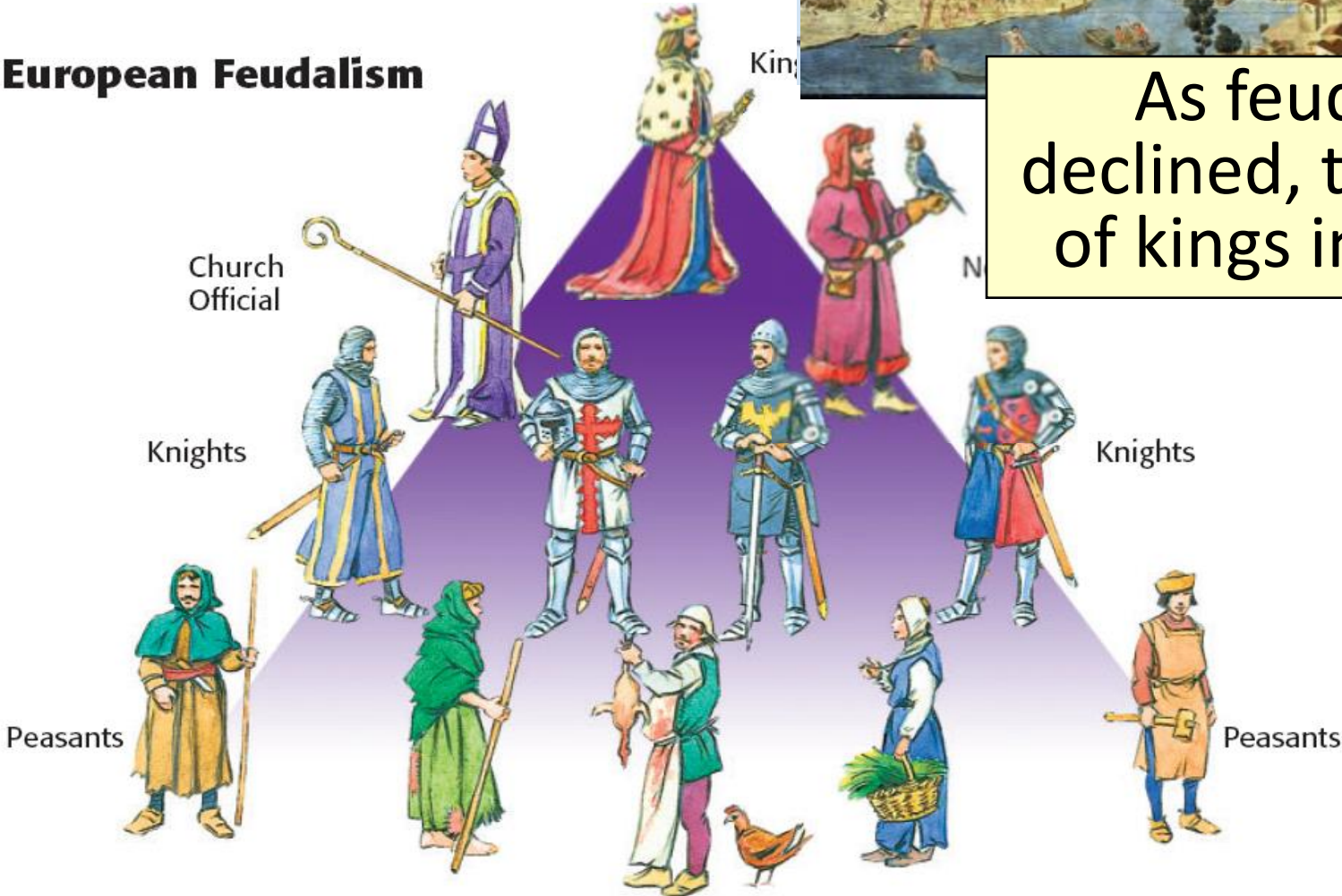
The Crusades stimulated trade & led to the rise of cities in Europe

This trade sparked the Renaissance & weakened the power of feudal lords



As feudalism declined, the power of kings increased

European Feudalism

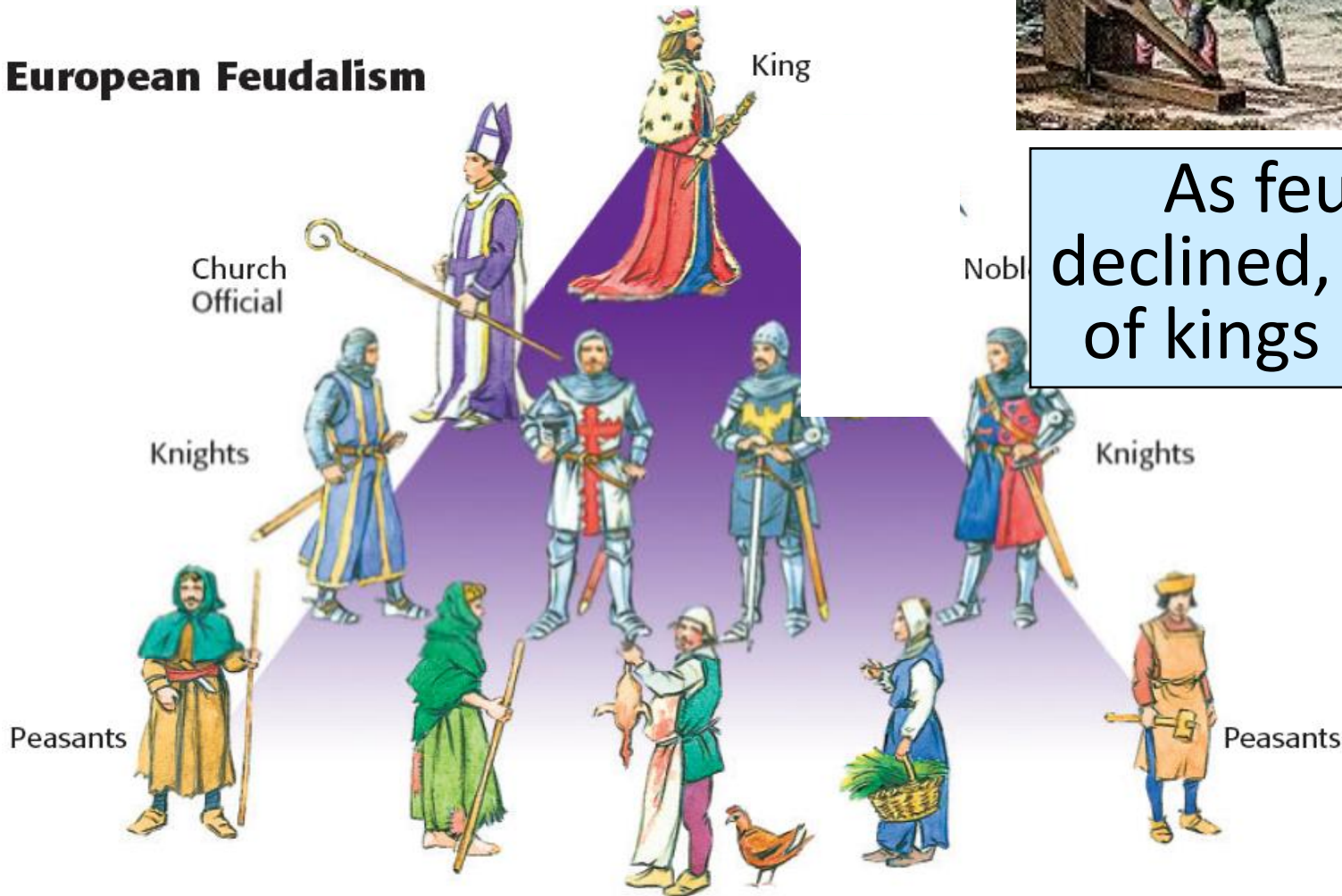


During the Hundred Years War, new weapons like the cannon & longbow weakened the power of the nobles & knights



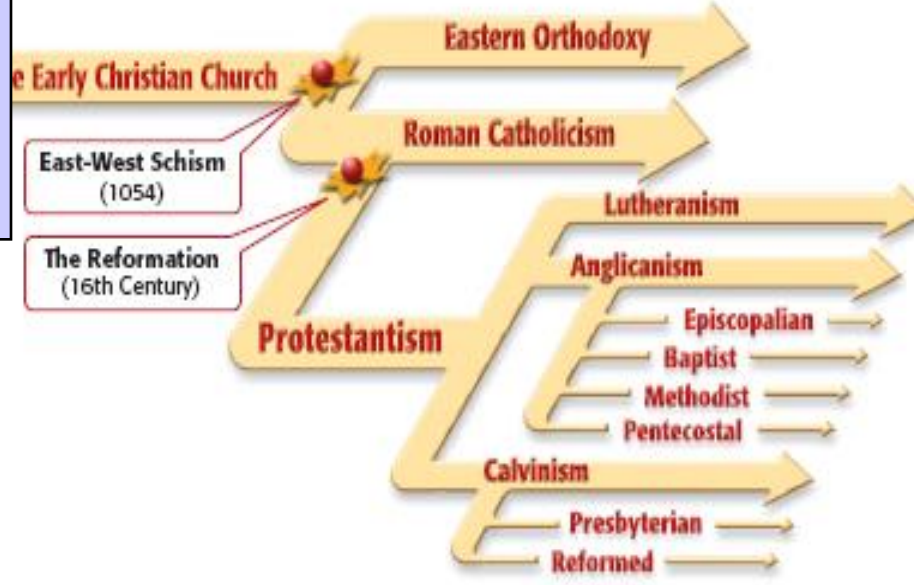
As feudalism declined, the power of kings increased

European Feudalism



The power of the Catholic Church weakened as a result of the Crusades & the Protestant Reformation

Division of Christianity



European Feudalism



Knights



As the power of the church declined, the power of kings increased

Peasants

Peasants

The Rise of Absolute Monarchs



During the Renaissance, European kings taxed merchants & bankers and used the wealth to build powerful armies

Monarchs used their power to build centralized governments to control their nations

Some monarchs used overseas exploration to gain colonies and to increase their wealth & power



By 1600, some European kings had become absolute monarchs

Absolute monarchy is a government in which one king should hold all the power within a country

Frederick the Great of Prussia

Louis XIV of France

Absolute monarchs controlled all aspects of their nations, including taxes, religion, the military, & the economy

Phillip II of Spain

Maria Theresa of Austria



Absolute monarchs believed in divine right, the idea that God created the monarchy & kings answered only to God, not the people



Louis XIV of France

Examine the portrait of French king Louis XIV & find 3 things in the painting that help show Louis as an absolute monarch



France before Ki

Before Louis XIV came to power, France was a nation in conflict between Catholics & French Protestant (called Huguenots)



After Henry IV died, Catholic leaders took control of France, ended the Edict of Nantes, weakened the power of nobles, & increased the power of the monarchy

Louis XIV

By the time Louis XIV came to power, France was an absolute monarchy

Louis XIV ruled France for 72 years & became the classic example of an absolute monarchy

Louis XIV believed that he was the government, ("*L'etat c'est moi*"):
He excluded nobles from gov't decisions & hired bureaucrats to collect taxes & enforce laws



Louis XIV



With this wealth, Louis built a powerful army & transformed France into the most powerful nation in Europe

Louis XIV called himself the “Sun King” because he felt that French power emanated from him

Louis XIV had a positive impact on France:

His economic advisors used overseas colonies & mercantilism to generate new wealth

He encouraged manufacturing to make France self-sufficient

Louis XIV

Louis XIV had a negative impact on France:

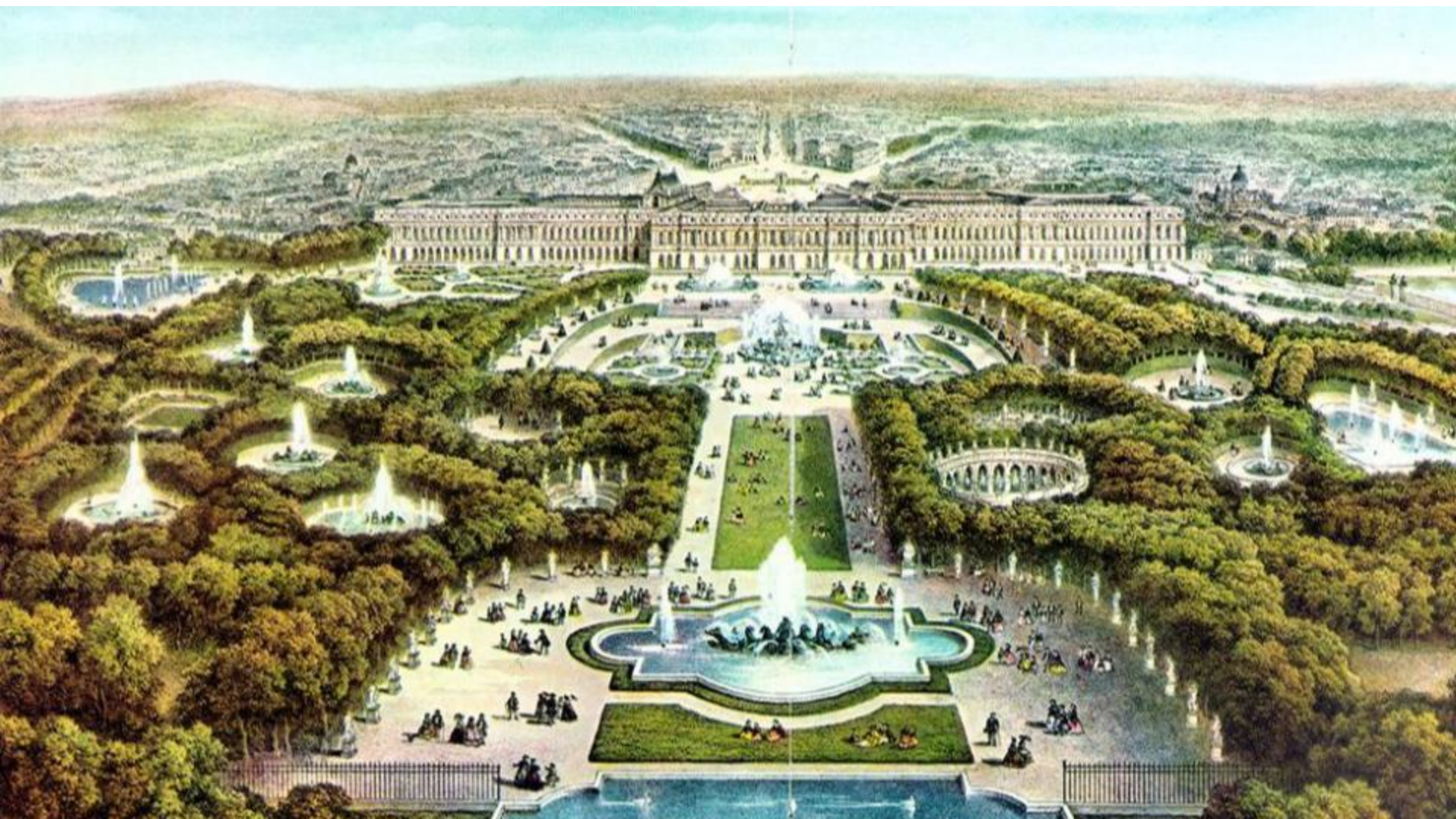
He involved France in expensive wars that failed to gain France new lands & led to massive debts



War of Spanish Succession



He used wealth & art to glorify himself, including constructing a massive palace called Versailles



The Palace at Versailles

Interactive Feature

Louis XIV's palace at Versailles was proof of his absolute power. Only a ruler with total control over his country's economy could afford such a lavish palace. It cost an estimated \$2.5 billion in 2003 dollars. Louis XIV was also able to force 36,000 laborers and 6,000 horses to work on the project.



Many people consider the Hall of Mirrors the most beautiful room in the palace. Along one wall are 17 tall mirrors. The opposite wall has 17 windows that open onto the gardens. The hall has gilded statues, crystal chandeliers, and a painted ceiling.

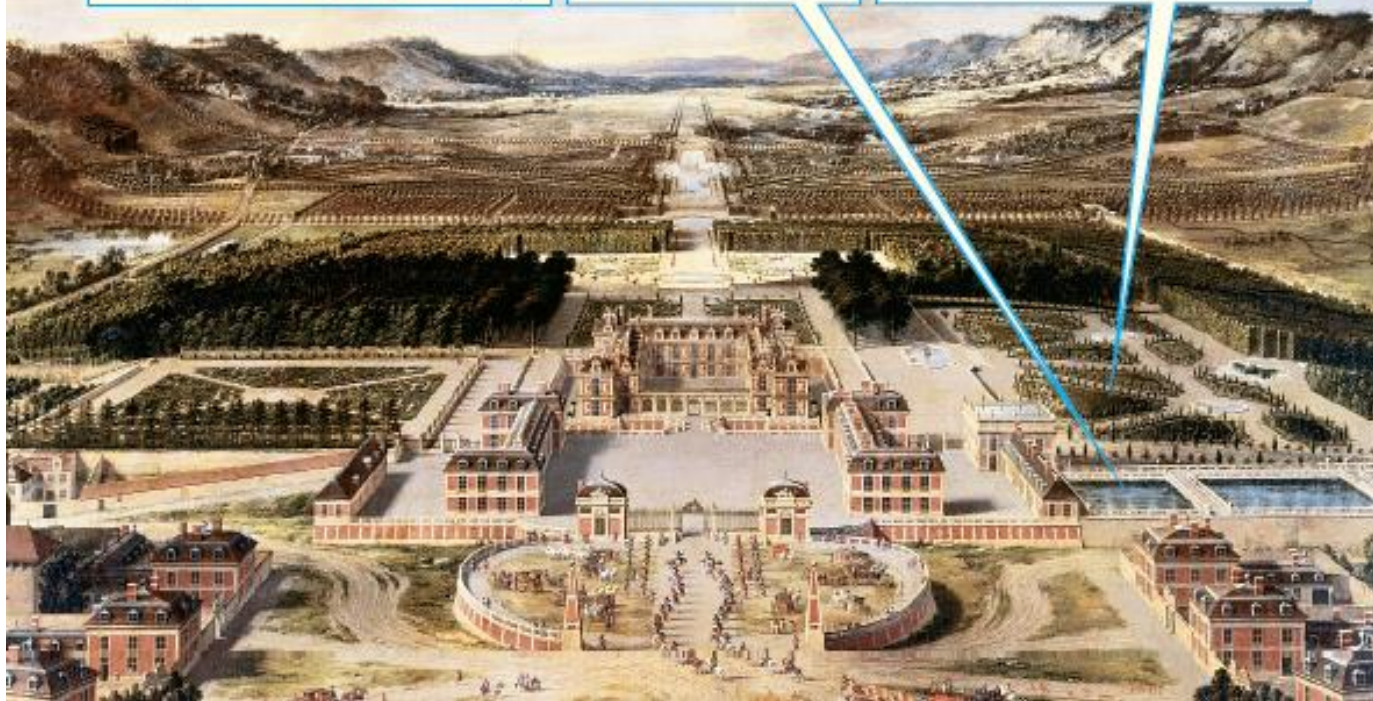


It took so much water to run all the fountains at once that it was done only for special events. On other days, when the king walked in the garden, servants would turn on fountains just before he reached them. The fountains were turned off after he walked away.



The gardens at Versailles remain beautiful today. Originally, Versailles was built with:

- 5,000 acres of gardens, lawns, and woods
- 1,400 fountains



The Legacy of Louis XIV

As a result of Louis XIV,
France became
the most powerful
nation in Europe

But, decades of lavish
spending by monarchs
led to massive debts
& heavy taxes

Eventually, the
French people grew
frustrated & overthrew
the monarchy





Peter the Great of Russia

Examine the
portrait of
Russian king
Peter the Great
& find things in
the painting that
help show his
accomplishments

Russia before Peter the Great

Russia's was influenced

Ivan III successfully liberated Russia from the Mongols & ruled as the first czar ("caesar" or "king")

Over time, czars expanded Russia's borders, increased their power over the nobles, & created an absolute monarchy



 *The Rise of Russia. Russia grew through the addition of large units of territory comprising millions of square acres.*

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. **Region** What khanate controlled Russia? Persia? Korea?
2. **Region** What parts of Asia did the Mongols fail to control?

By the time Peter the Great became czar in 1682, Russia was a large empire

But Russia was not as advanced as Western European nations



Russia was isolated from Western Europe & knew very little about the new ideas of the Renaissance



S
e,
&



...Russia had no advanced industry, no overseas colonies, & an economy of small-scale farmers

Most Russians were feudal peasants working for nobles (called boyars)



Czar Peter the Great wanted to modernize & “Westernize” Russia to catch up with Europe



In disguise, Peter toured Europe to learn new ways to modernize Russia



While in Europe, Peter learned new ideas about shipbuilding, manufacturing, gov't organization, city planning, music, & fashion

When he returned from Europe, Peter imposed new reforms to Westernize Russia:



Adopted European fashions by banning beards for men & veils for women

Adopted a European calendar

Improved farming techniques

Used mercantilism as an economic policy

Created iron & lumber factories

Modernized the army & navy

Made himself head of the Orthodox Church (like Henry VIII in England)

Peter expanded Russia's borders & built a new "European-style" Russian capital at St. Petersburg



The Legacy of Peter the Great

As a result of Peter the Great, Russia became a more advanced, Western nation

But, modernization was a slow process & Russia had not fully industrialized by World War I

During World War I, revolutionaries overthrew the monarchy & created a radical new gov't based on socialism



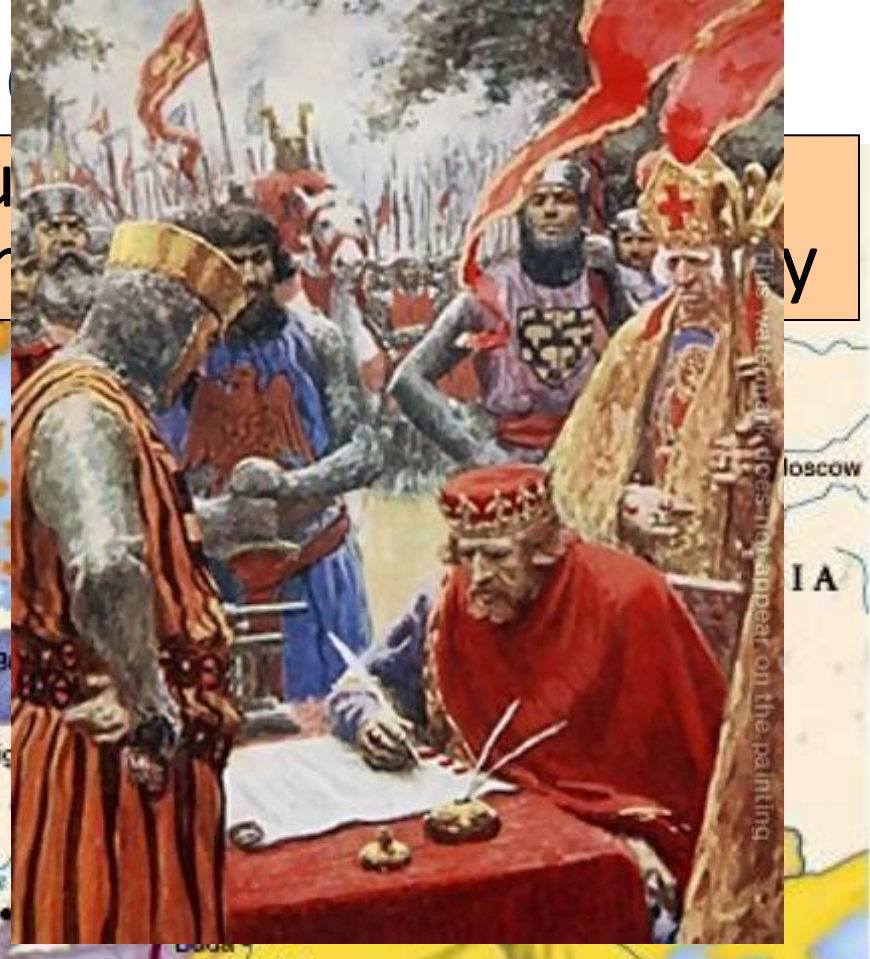
Elizabeth I of England

Examine the
image of
Elizabeth on her
throne & explain
how monarchs in
England might
have ruled
differently than
those in France
or Russia



England before Qu

Unlike other nations in Eu
limited monarchy rather than



During the Middle Ages,
English nobles revolted
against a cruel king
who overtaxed them

In 1215, nobles forced
King John to sign the
Magna Carta which
limited the king's power
& protected citizens' rights



The Magna Carta created a “limited monarchy” & led to the formation Parliament in 1295

Parliament is a legislative group of commoners & lords who work with the king to pass laws & taxes

Henry VII

Arthur

Henry VIII

Margaret

Mary

Mary I
"Bloody Mary"

Elizabeth I

Edward VI

Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, transformed England during the Protestant Reformation by creating the Anglican Church

Elizabeth's sister Mary became queen & tried to convert England back to Catholicism; Protestants who ignored "Bloody Mary" were executed



Charles II

James II

Henry VII

Arthur

Henry VIII

Margaret

Mary

Mary I

"Bloody Mary"

Elizabeth I

Edward VI

After Mary's death in 1558,
Elizabeth became queen

Elizabeth ruled for 45 years
& became the greatest
monarch in English history

Elizabeth refused to share
power with a man & never
married (she was known as
the "*Virgin Queen*")



Charles II

James II

During her reign, Elizabeth worked with Parliament to settle important issues

One of the most important issues was to determine what religion England would be: Anglican or Catholic?



During her reign, Elizabeth worked with Parliament to settle important issues

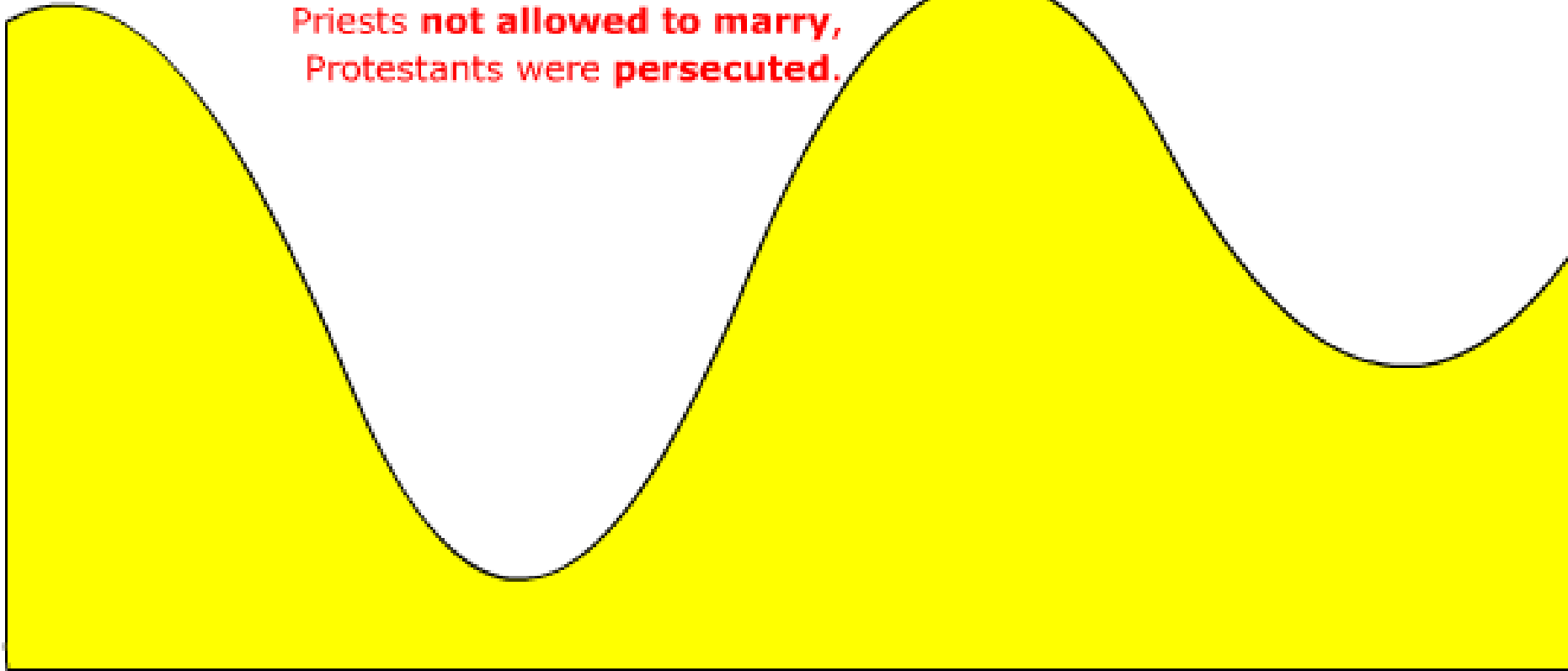
Mary



Henry's daughter (by Catherine of Aragon) -

strongly Catholic.

Pope made Head of the Church again,
Church **services** changed to **Latin**,
Priests **not allowed to marry**,
Protestants were **persecuted**.



During her reign, Elizabeth worked with Parliament to settle important issues

One of the most important issues was to determine what religion England would be: Anglican or Catholic?

Elizabeth & Parliament passed the Act of Uniformity which made Anglicanism the official religion of England...

...but many Catholic traditions & rituals remained

This compromise settled the religious issue in England



She promoted capitalism & mercantilism by encouraging joint-stock companies to invest in overseas exploration & colonization



During Elizabeth's reign as queen, England experienced a golden age in culture, especially literature & theater

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LONDON

Printed by Isaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1617.



Henry VII

Arthur

Henry VIII

Margaret

Mary

Mary I
"Bloody Mary"

Elizabeth I

Edward VI

James V
King of
Scotland

After Elizabeth's death in 1603,
the Stuart family assumed
the monarchy

Unlike Elizabeth, these Stuart
kings refused to work with
Parliament & tried to create an
absolute monarchy in England

Mary Stuart
Queen of
Scotland

James I

Charles I

Charles II

James II



Henry VII

Arthur

Henry VIII

Margaret

Mary

Mary I
"Bloody Mary"

Elizabeth I

Edward VI

James V
King of
Scotland

Conflicts between Parliament
& the Stuart kings led to a
violent civil war in 1642...

Mary Stuart
Queen of
Scotland

James I

Charles I

Charles II

James II

...and a near
civil war in
1688 called
the Glorious
Revolution



After the Glorious Revolution, Parliament required the new monarchs to sign a Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights protected citizens from their gov't:

- The king cannot tax or overturn Parliament's laws
- Protected freedom of speech
- The army cannot be used as a police force
- No excessive bail

Together, the Magna Carta & Bill of Rights created a "constitutional monarchy" in England by serving as written limits on the king's power

Connect *to* Today

U.S. Democracy

Today, the United States still relies on many of the government reforms and institutions that the English developed during this period.

These include the following:

- the right to obtain *habeas corpus*, a document that prevents authorities from holding a person in jail without being charged
- a Bill of Rights, guaranteeing such rights as freedom of speech and freedom of worship
- a strong legislature and strong executive, which act as checks on each other