

Monarchs and Aristocracies

The "Old Regime"

- *Ancien Regime* (pre-1789)
- The First Estate (clergy)
- The Second Estate (nobility)
- The Third Estate (the commoners; merchants, lawyers, business leaders)
- Government represents the interests of the few
- The political and social status quo attacked by the Enlightenment

Russia and Peter the Great

- Peter the Great (r. 1682-1725)
- *The Streltsi* (musketeers)
- Peter was almost 7 feet tall, extremely energetic, fascinated by war and military games (not keeping with Muscovites' idea of a proper czar)
- Trip outside of Russia to hire experts
- Technology (especially naval) - Holland, England, Venice
- Determined to modernize Russia
- The traditions (beards, long robes)
- Opposed by The Ottoman Empire and Sweden
- Modernization and incessant war
- The Turks: Azov (1696)
- Charles XII of Sweden (r. 1697-1718)
- The Swedes: the Great Northern War (1700-1721)
- Narva (1700), Poland
- 1703: St. Petersburg (the capital later)
- The Swedes: Poltava (1709)
- Charles XII, the Russo-Turkish War (1710-1711)
- The Russians made their first appeal to the Balkan Christians
- Peter trapped and surrenders (1711)
- The Peace of Nystadt (1721) with Sweden
- "Window on the West" - the Baltic Coast
- Reforms and mobilization of society
- Landowners owed service to the state ("civil death")
- Compulsory state service for life (at 15)
- Service nobility dependent upon the czar (career, ennoblement, lands)
- Centralized administration, new ministries, provinces (governors)
- Naval, military, artillery academies, state monopolies
- The Holy Directing Synod (1721), the patriarch died (1700)
- Societal opposition: uprisings, son Alexis, nobility, peasants
- Peter fortified existing institutions, autocracy stronger
- Radicalism (beards, dress, the calendar), revolutionary
- Russia's move into central and western Europe
- Formidable military power, the best infantry (occupied Berlin)

Britain (1714-1760)

- Mercantilist criteria:
 - o Commerce, colonies, sea power (Britain the strongest)
- "Salutary neglect" of the colonies
- The Royal Navy - Britain: France

2:1 warships
6:1 merchant
10:1 seamen

- The British Army (not impressive, German mercenaries)
- Supremacy of the Parliament, the House of Hanover (s. 1714)
- George I (r. 1714-1727)
- George II (r. 1727-1760)
- Both intervened in the conduct of war and diplomacy
- Robert Walpole (leader the colony)
 - o Headed the cabinet (1721-1742)
 - o Whig Leader in the Commons
- Whig/Tory - interest group, not party
- Whig - landed gentry
- Gentry lived off the revenues of landed property
- The Britain of Walpole, not a democracy, only gentlemen became army officers, lawyers, clergymen, physicians... The right to vote until 1740s only to gentlemen.
- The ruling class governed the generally vote-less masses

France (1715-1774)

- Easier ennoblement than in England (purchase)
- The French navy neglected
- The army (land power) reformed after the Seven Years War
- The American Revolutionary War
- Louis XIV's legacy - grandiose role for the King, uneasy to fill
- Louis XV (r. 1715-1774), until 1743 indirect rule (regencies)
- Remote personality, impression he cared less about his subjects
- Madame de Pompadour, power behind the throne
- Last of consistent will - fatal flaw in a system relying heavily on the King
- The Orleans regency (1715)
- Re-established the Parlement of Paris' right to protest royal edicts
- The Parlement regained authority to challenge the King
- John Law's scheme opposed by Parlement
- The papal bull *Unigenitus* (1713) on Jansenism, sensitive issue
- Cardinal Fleury's ministry (1726-1743) nearly balanced the budget
- Fatal threats to the solvency and authority of the government

Spain, Italy, Austria and Germany

- Italy - negligible quantity (?)
- Spain ruled Milan, Naples, Sicily
- Austria ruled Lombardy
- Germany - geographical expression (?)
- Three hundred German states: Austria and Prussia
- Austria: recovered Hungary (1699, 1718) from the Ottomans
- Failed to keep the crown of Spain from the Bourbons
- Acquired Belgium and Italian territories (1713)
- Charles VI (r. 1711-1740) and succession issue
- The Pragmatic Sanction (1724) for his daughter Maria Theresa
- Austria, Bohemia, and Hungary - prerogatives of local diets, estates

Prussia

- The Hohenzollerns
- Electors of Brandenburg

- Berlin
- The rulers of Brandenburg-Prussia gathering the lands
- Frederick William, the Great Elector (r. 1640-1688)
- The Great Elector initiated pattern of militarized absolutism
- Authority of ruler vs. the estates of his lands (supremacy)
- Cooperation of the ruler and aristocracy
- Frederick I (r. 1688-1713) assumed the title of King of Prussia
- Frederick William I (r. 1713-1740)
- Devoted to economy, absolutism, the army (doubled the size of the standing army, state armament)