

GIII- Absolutism

Absolutism

- Where a king or ruler has absolute power
- Ruled using the Divine Right Theory (god said they can rule)
- Power is in the hands of ONE person (centralized)
- Examples of Absolute Rulers: Louis XIV in France, Elizabeth I & James I in England, Peter the Great & Catherine the Great in Russia

Louis XIV

- Absolute ruler of France and known as the Sun King
- Ruled for 72 years (1643-1715) and turned France into a cultural center of the world
- Claimed “I am the State” (“L’État, c’est moi”) and abused his power
- Spent taxes on luxuries and wars that placed France in debt which laid the foundation for the French Revolution in 1789

Sample Questions

1. The theory justifying a monarch’s rule by God’s authority is called
 - (1) laissez faire
 - (2) totalitarianism
 - (3) predestination
 - (4) divine right
2. Many European monarchs of the 1600s maintained that they should have absolute power to rule because they
 - (1) needed to defend their nations against threats from the Western Hemisphere
 - (2) thought that all people should have the right to a good ruler
 - (3) had been given their power to govern from God
 - (4) thought that communism was the superior political system
3. The primary goal of most of Europe’s absolute monarchs was to
 - (1) support political freedom for the new middle classes
 - (2) prevent contact with areas beyond Europe’s borders
 - (3) centralize their political control over their nations
 - (4) maintain peaceful relations with nearby nations
4. Which quotation was most likely made by an absolute monarch?
 - (1) “The government that governs best, governs least.”
 - (2) “I am the state.”
 - (3) “The government must be based on a sound constitution.”
 - (4) “It is the parliament that must make the laws.”
5. Which person is credited with saying “L’État, c’est moi” (I am the state)?
 - (1) Louis XIV
 - (2) John Locke
 - (3) Karl Marx
 - (4) Queen Isabella
6. In the partial outline below, which heading belongs after Roman numeral I?
I. _____
 - A. Louis XIV
 - B. Phillip II
 - C. Henry VIII
 - (1) Divine Right Monarchs
 - (2) Supporters of Democracy
 - (3) Religious Reformers
 - (4) Leaders of the Crusades