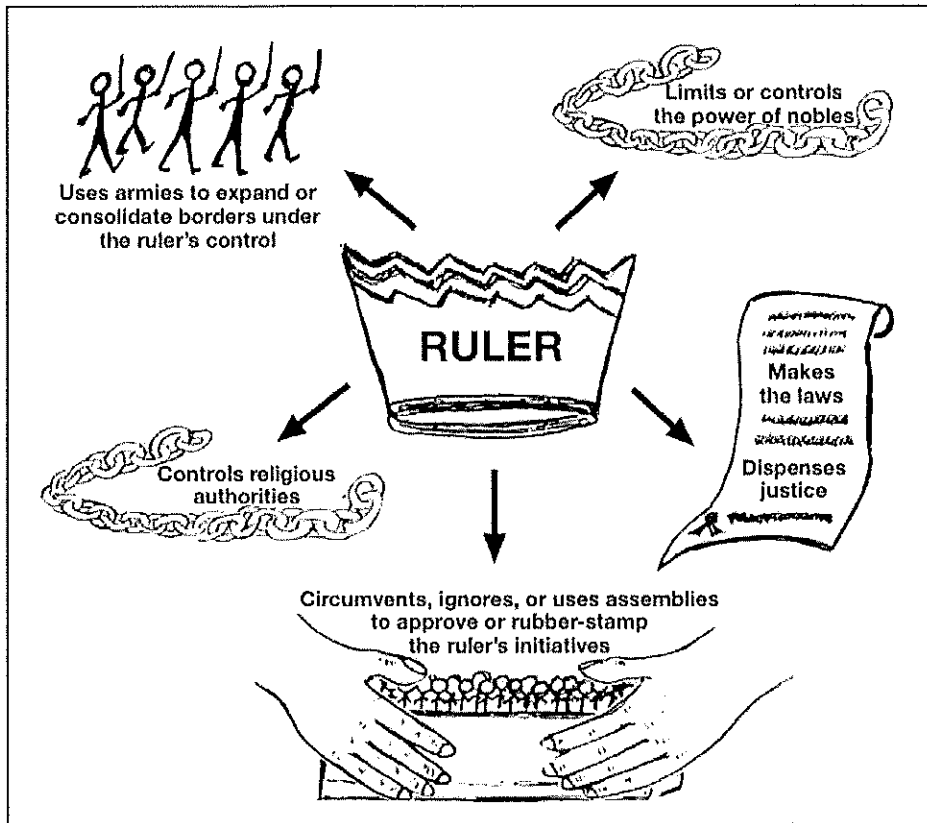


Absolutism DBQ Document Packet

Directions: Read the documents in this packet. Answer the comprehension questions accompanying each document. These documents and comprehension questions will serve as the basis for an essay.

Document 1 (4 points)

Some Characteristics of an Autocrat



#1 Identify two powers of an *autocrat*?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

#2 Based on the characteristics shown in the document, what is the *overall* goal of an autocrat?



Document 2 (3 points)

Excerpt from, Modern History, by Carl L. Becker, published by Silver, Burdett and Company

How Louis Kept the Nobles in Order

...That it might be amusing for the nobles to obey the king, Louis built a splendid new royal residence at Versailles, near Paris, where he established the most brilliant court ever known in Europe. The most influential nobles were encouraged, and even commanded, to leave their castles in the country, where life at best was dull, and to come and live with the king at Versailles. Here the king provided amusements for them, and here he could keep his eye on them. The nobles could not well be discourteous or disobedient to the king while they lived in his house and ate at his table. Almost without knowing it, Louis's noble guests fell into the habit of trying to please him. The king's manners were imitated, his words repeated. All smiled when the king smiled, all were sad when the king was sad, "all were devout when the king was devout, and all were sorry not to be ill when the king was ill." If a noble at court displeased the king, he was sent back to the country to live in his own house, in which case everyone felt—and he did too—that he was in deep disgrace....

#3 What building played a major role in Louis's attempts to control his nobles? _____

#4 According to the source, explain *one* way that Louis attempted to control the nobility?

Document 3 (4 points)

Excerpt from Ten Kings and the Worlds They Ruled, by Milton Meltzer, published by Orchard Books

...More and more Louis tried to impose uniformity in religious affairs. In the 1680s he intensified persecution of Protestants; his actions made the Edict of Nantes [a law legalizing Protestant worship in France] nothing but a scrap of paper. Finally in 1685 he declared that the majority of French Protestants had been converted to Catholicism and that therefore there was no need for the edict. It was revoked. Now Louis launched a reign of terror. He refused to allow French Protestants to leave the country. He promised that those who remained could worship privately, free of persecution, but never kept the promise. Their churches were torn down, their gatherings forbidden, their children made to attend mass. The Waldensians [a type of Protestants] in Savoy were massacred, and six hundred Protestants "caught making assemblies" were executed. Perhaps 250,000 fled abroad to escape persecution...

#5 What was Louis trying to "impose" on France in the 1680s? _____

#6 According to this source, what were two actions taken by Louis to control France's Protestants?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

#7 Why did 250,000 Protestants leave France during Louis's reign? _____

Document 4 (2 points)

In this excerpt, historian Barbara Tuchman is commenting on the effects of Louis XIV's policies towards the Huguenots

...Recent studies have concluded that the economic damage done to France by the Huguenot [French Protestants] emigration has been overrated, it being only one element in the larger damage caused by the wars. Of the political damage, however, there is no question. The flood of anti-French pamphlets and satires issued by Huguenot printers and their friends in all the cities where they settled aroused antagonism to France to new heat. The Protestant coalition against France was strengthened when Brandenburg entered into alliance with Holland, and the smaller German principalities joined. In France itself the Protestant faith was reinvigorated by persecution and the feud with Catholics revived. A prolonged revolt of the Camisard Huguenots in the Cévennes, a mountainous region of the south, brought on a cruel war of repression, weakening the state. Here and among other Huguenot communities which remained in France, a receptive base was created for the Revolution to come...

#8 According to historian Barbara Tuchman, what was *one* political consequence of Louis XIV's policy towards the Huguenots?

Document 5 (3 points)

Excerpt from The State of Russia under the Present Czar, by English engineer, John Perry. He made many observations on Russian life before and after the reign of Peter the Great

It was a very rare thing in Russia before this present Czar's time to have found any man, even among the highest and the most learned of the clergy, to have understood any language but their own...

...this ignorance is not so much to be wondered at when it is considered that they [Russian nobles] neither suffered [allowed] their sons to travel, nor was there ever any university in the country, or considerable school of any learning, till this Tsar's time...

...The Tsar...gave orders that all his boyars [nobles] and people whatsoever that came near his court and that were in his pay should...equip themselves with handsome cloths made after English fashion.

#9 Identify *one* major change to Russian society made during the reign of Peter the Great observed by John Perry while he visited Russia:

#10 According to this source, describe *one* action taken by Peter to make Russia more 'European'?

Document 6 (2 points)

Excerpt from Constantine de Grunwald, "A Window on the West," in Christopher Hibbert, ed., *The Pen and the Sword*, Newsweek Books (adapted)

...On August 8, 1700, Peter made his historic decision to declare war on Sweden, in order to open a maritime route from Russia to the West by the conquest of the Baltic littoral [coastal region]. He had secured the collaboration of Poland and Denmark, but his alliance with these two rivals of Sweden was to prove ineffectual. With nothing to rely on but his own forces, Peter was defeated at Narva by the valiant Swedish King, Charles XII. Refusing to be discouraged by this defeat, Peter raised and equipped new armies; he put immense effort into creating a good artillery; he worked with his own hands on the construction of the frigates [ships] that were to give him mastery of the Baltic. Then his disciplined and well-trained regiments seized the mouth of the Neva River and entrenched themselves along the coveted [desired] littoral. On June 27, 1709, in a battle at Poltava, he put his great adversary, Charles XII, to flight...

#11 According to Constantine de Grunwald, what was Peter hoping to accomplish with his war on Sweden?

#12 According to this source, what was *one* action taken by Peter to overcome his defeat at Narva?

Document 7 (2 points)

Excerpt from *Peter the Great*, by Michael Gibson, published by Wayland Publishers

...How great an effect did Peter have upon Russia? When he came to the throne, Russia was an insignificant state. He made it into a great power feared by all. At his accession [assumption of the throne] Russia had no armed forces except for the inefficient and untrustworthy Streltsy [hereditary military units]. When he died, there was a professional army of 210,000 men. He created a navy out of nothing, leaving behind him a fleet of forty-eight ships-of-the-line and many smaller vessels...

Peter signally [noticeably] failed to create the large, thriving middle class that Russia needed. In spite of the most strenuous efforts, Russia's commerce and industry remained dependent upon the Czar, so that when he died, there were not enough wealthy, far-sighted traders and industrialists to develop what he had begun. This lack of private initiative and enterprise was to remain one of Russia's greatest social weaknesses until the Communist Revolution of 1917...

#13 According to Michael Gibson, what was *one* positive effect Peter the Great's rule had on Russia?

#14 According to this source, identify *one* negative effect Peter the Great's rule had on Russia?
