

Absolute Monarchs DBQ

Homework Due _____

This time period in European history is full of kings and queens that historians refer to as the Absolute Monarchs. Their total control over their people had some positive and some negative consequences. As you read the documents you will need to come to a conclusion about their legacy in history.

Learning Target - I can create a claim and support it with evidence that addresses the question: **Was absolutism a period of prosperity or tyranny in Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries?**

Prosperity: marked by success or economic well-being. Enjoying healthy growth

Tyranny: oppressive power exerted by government

Annotate Documents A-G paying particular attention to the sourcing and monarch for each document

DOCUMENT A

Source: Ideas were expressed by King James I of England in 1609

The state of monarchy is the supreme thing upon earth; for kings are not only God's lieutenants on earth, and sit upon God's throne, but even by God Himself they are called gods... Kings are justly called gods, for that they exercise a... divine power upon earth... God hath power to create and destroy, make or unmake at His pleasure, to give life or sent death, to judge all and to be judged nor accountable to none, to raise low things and to make high things low at His pleasure... And the like power have kings...

DOCUMENT B

Michele Suriano, a Venetian ambassador to Spain, wrote the following about Philip II:

The Catholic King was born in Spain.....here he is treated with all the deference and respect which seemed due to him as the greatest emperor whom Christendom had ever had and to the heir to such a number of realms and to such grandeur.

Although the king resembles his father in face and speech, in his attention to his religious duties, and in his habitual kindness and good faith, he nevertheless differs from him in several of those respects in which the greatness of rulers, after all, lies.

The emperor was addicted to war, which he well understood; the king knows but little of it and has no love for it. The emperor undertook great enterprises with enthusiasm; his son avoids them. The father was fond of planning great things and would in the end realise his wishes with his skill; his son, on the contrary, pays less attention to augmenting his own greatness than to hindering that of others.....the father was guided in all matters by his own opinion; the son follows the opinion of others.

In the king's eyes no nation is superior to the Spaniards. It is among them that he lives, it is they he consults, and it is they that direct his policy; in all this he is acting quite contrary to the habit of his father. He thinks little of the Italians and Flemish and still less of the Germans. Although he may employ the chief men of all the countries over which he rules, he admits none of them to his secret counsels, but utilizes their services only in military matters, and then not so much because he really esteems them, as in the hope that he will in this way prevent his enemies from making use of them."

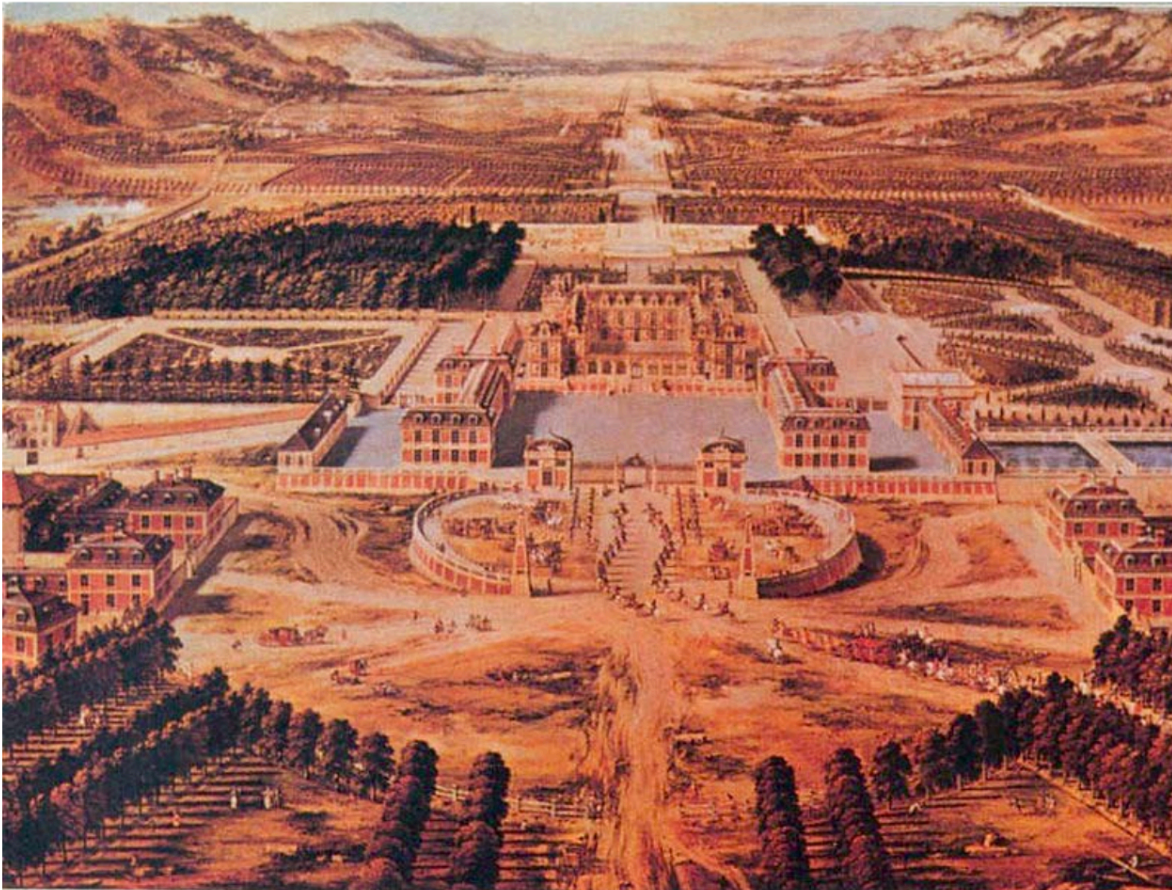
DOCUMENT C

Source: Ideas were expressed by King Louis XIV of France in 1660

The head alone has the right to deliberate and decide, and the functions of all the other members consist only in carrying out the commands given to them... The more you grant... [to the assembled people], the more it claims.. The interest of the state must come first.

DOCUMENT D

The Palace of Versailles, was built by Louis XIV (France). Below is the view of Versailles from the Avenue de Paris”, ca. 1662 by Pierre Patel:



Under the guidance of Louis XIV, the residence was transformed (1661–1710) into an immense and extravagant complex surrounded by stylized French and English gardens. Every detail of its construction was intended to glorify the king

DOCUMENT E

Source: General Alexander Gordon, History of Peter the Great, 1718.

This great emperor came in a few years to know to a farthing the amount of all his revenues, as also how they were laid out. He was at little or no expense about his person, and by living rather like a private gentleman than a prince he saved wholly that great expense which other monarchs are at in supporting the grandeur of their courts. ...He had no letters; he could only read and write, but had a great regard for learning and was at much pains to introduce it into the country. He rose early; the morning he gave to business till ten or eleven o'clock at the farthest; all the rest of the day, and a great part of the night, to diversion and pleasure.

In the year 1703 the tsar took the field early, cantoned his troops in the month of March, and about the 20th of April brought the army together; then marched and invested another small but important place called Neva Chance.... The commodious situation of this place made the tsar resolve to erect on it a considerable town, with a strong citadel, consisting of six royal bastions, together with good out works; this he soon put into execution and called it St. Petersburg, which is now esteemed so strong that it will be scarcely possible for the Swedes ever to take it by force.

DOCUMENT F

Source: 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...

DOCUMENT G

Source: Excerpt from Beards Get Taxed, published by Historychannel.com, describing the policies of Peter the Great (Russia)

Courtiers, state officials, and the military were required to shave their beards and adopt modern clothing styles.

Not everyone obeyed Peter's command. Long, flowing beards embodied Orthodox ideals of manhood, integrity, and piety, and Russian men had worn beards with pride for centuries. Many even considered it a sin to shave their facial hair. Among those who refused to part with their beards were the Boyars, members of the old Russian aristocracy.

At the same time that Peter was searching for a way to enforce his new rule, he was also desperately in need of money. Russia was fighting the Great Northern War with the Swedish Empire, which required unprecedented resources.

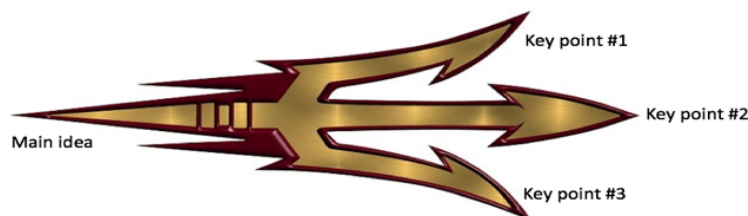
Peter decided to impose a tax on beards, effectively enforcing his program for social modernization as well as collecting state revenue in one strategic move.

Excepting clergy and peasants, Russian men who wanted to keep their beards were required to pay a hefty tax of 100 rubles per year. Those who paid the tax were given a "beard token," which they were required to carry at all times. It was a copper or silver coin with a Russian Eagle on one side and the lower part of a face with nose, mouth, and beard, on the other. The token was inscribed with two phrases: "the tax has been taken" and "the beard is a superfluous burden."

Other reforms followed Peter's beard tax. He ordered nobles to wear Western-style clothing, put an end to arranged marriages, adopted the Julian calendar, and sent many Russians to be educated in the West.



Annotations Score



Claim: Answers the question: **Was absolutism a period of prosperity or tyranny in Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries?** Must include your 3 key points you would discuss in your body paragraphs to describe the impact of absolute monarchs in Europe.

Topic of my **first body paragraph** would be: _____

The quote/image description I would use as evidence of this conclusion would be: _____

_____ From (Doc _____)

My analysis/conclusion as to how this evidence strengthens my argument that absolutism was a time of prosperity or tyranny:

Topic of my **second body paragraph** would be: _____

The quote/image description I would use as evidence of this conclusion would be: _____

_____ From (Doc _____)

My analysis/conclusion as to how this evidence strengthens my argument that absolutism was a time of prosperity or tyranny:

Topic of my **third body paragraph** would be: _____

The quote/image description I would use as evidence of this conclusion would be: _____

_____ From (Doc _____)

My analysis/conclusion as to how this evidence strengthens my argument that absolutism was a time of prosperity or tyranny:

0	1	2	3	4
Please complete as soon as possible	Weak annotations. Claim does not take a position or have 3 key points that apply to that position. Evidence is weak or incorrect. Citations are not present.	Annotations are present. Claim takes a position and attempts to establish strong key points. Evidence is present but lacks connection to claim.	You mostly have it. Annotations show you can focus on the question as you read. Claim makes sense, evidence matches claim, citations are correct.	