

World History and Geography 2020-21

Unit 1

Age of Revolution

1750-1850



Module 1: Absolutism, Divine Right of Kings, and the English Civil War

Day 1
Absolutism

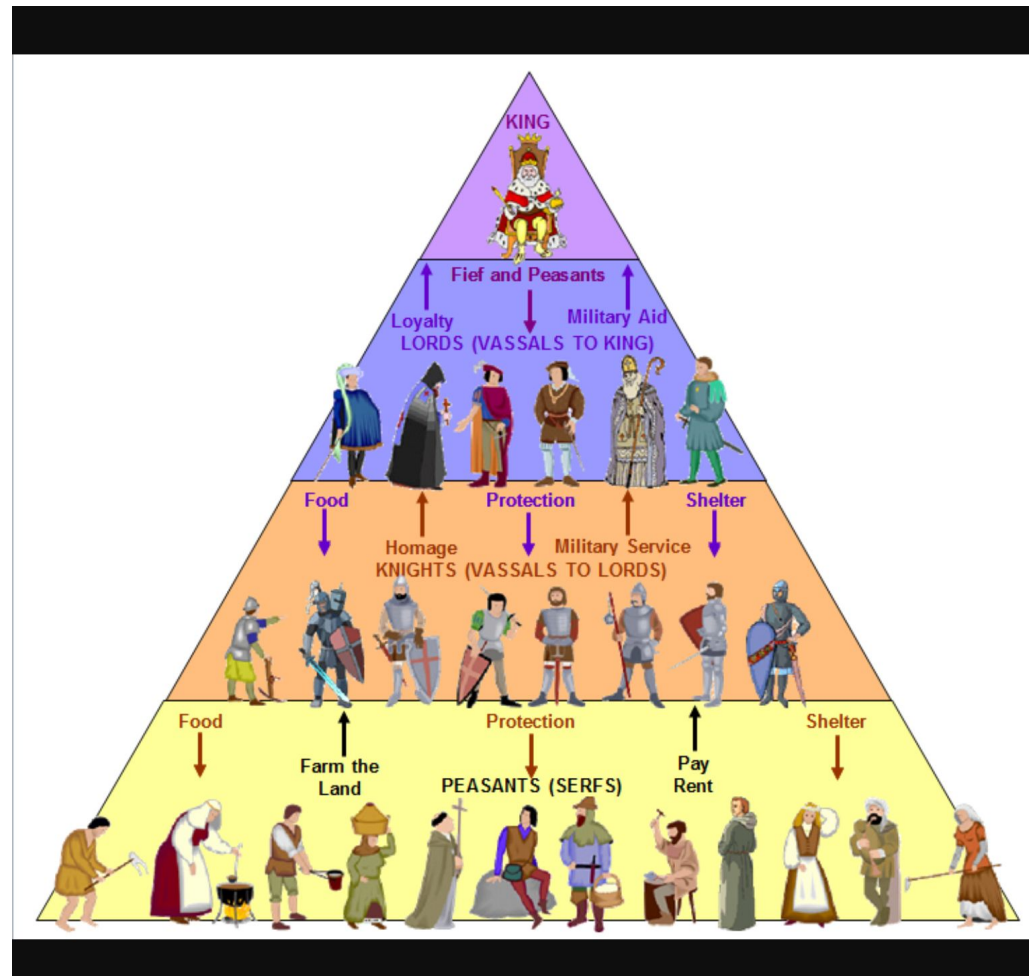
Charles I of England

FYI

This is just a slice of Absolutism from this one era of European history. Absolute monarchs ruled at other times and places as well.

How did people become kings?

- Rooted in feudalism



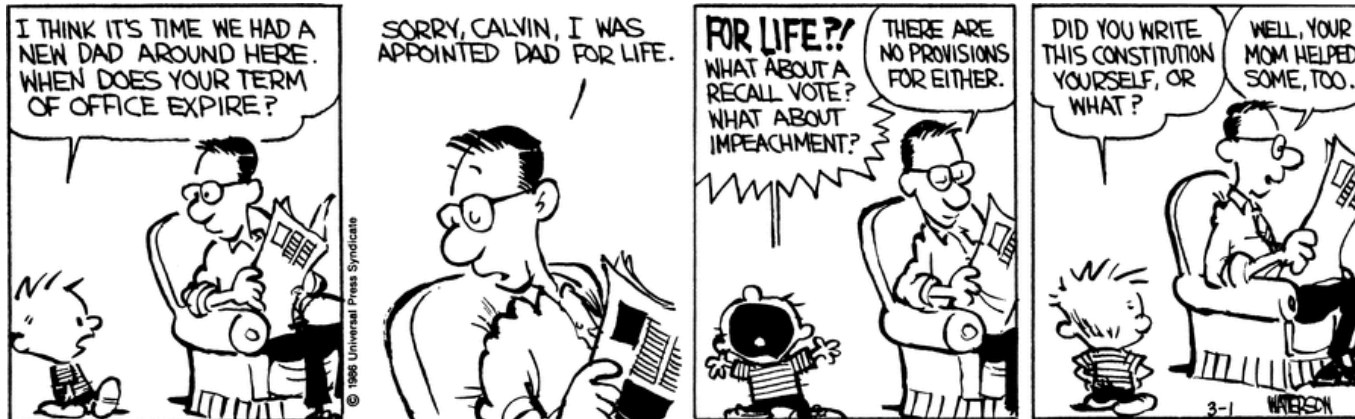
Power of the Monarchy

- Belief that God had granted them the right to the monarchy
- Hereditary rule
- Strength (military)
- Severe punishments for those who defied him.

Absolutism

/ˈabsəl(y)ooˌtɪzəm/

- The political doctrine and practice of unlimited centralized authority and absolute sovereignty, as vested especially in a monarch or dictator.
- Ruler has complete control over his/her subjects.



Absolutism

- 17th and 18th centuries (1600s and 1700s)
- With decline of central church power (the Catholic Church) monarchs began taking more power for themselves.
- European monarchs ruled with absolute power.
- No other governing bodies.

Rise of Absolutism

- Prior to 1500s, the Church held immense power and influence over European monarchies.
- Due to the Reformation, the Church began to lose power in the early 1500s.
- As the Church weakened, monarchies grew in strength.

Examples of Absolute Monarchies



Louis XIV



Louis XIV

- King of France from 1643 until 1715.
- Was known as the “Sun King”.
- In 1661 he assumed all responsibility for ruling the kingdom.
 - Something not seen in almost 100 year.
- Centralized the French government.
 - Took away regional nobles’ power.
- Revoked French Protestants’ right to worship.
- “I am the state.”



Fun Fact:
His was the
longest
reign of any
European
monarch.

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Peter the Great

- Czar of Russia from 1682-1725
- Reformed and modernized Russia.
- Strengthened the Central government.
- Forced landowners to serve in the military.
- Forcibly introduced Western things to Russia (clothing, no beards, women mixing in court).



- 1625-1649
- Was distrusted due to marriage with Catholic woman.
- Dissolved Parliament in 1629.
- Mission to invade Scotland led to English Civil War.
- Executed in 1649

References

- <https://history.howstuffworks.com/historical-figures/royalty1.htm>
- <http://medievalfeudalism11.weebly.com/how-did-monarchs-maintain-and-justify-their-power.html>