European States: Building the “absolute” state of the 17th and 18th centuries

Accumulation of power

Consolidation of power

- Extraction
- Control
- Integration

Multiple dimensions of state power

- Economic
- Military
- Political
- Ideological, including theories justifying absolute or limited government

Evidence

- Quantitative
- Cartographic
- Architecture and art
PRUSSIA
TERRITORIAL EXPANSION
1648-1795

English Miles

REFERENCE
Brandenburg Prussia in 1648
Territory acquired 1648-1795
All territory west of the Rhine, except
Münster, was surrendered by the Peace
of Basel, 1795.

PRINCIPALITY OF NEUCHELTAL
on the same scale as large map

Cambridge University Press
Philip II of Spain, ruled 1555 to 1598

The European ruler most devoted to restoring the power of the Roman Catholic church and to the Catholic Counter Reformation
Henry IV, ruled 1598-1610

Louis XIV, ruled 1660-1715
Henry IV, King of France.

First gentleman of the realm, *primus inter pares* (first among equals, i.e., the great nobles of France)
His majesty, Louis XIV, King of France

Portrait by Rigaud, 1705
The Escorial palace of Phillip II of Spain, reigned 1556-1598
Arrival at the Palace of Versailles, c. 1670
Floor plan of Versailles. The letter “E” marks the location of the King’s bed chamber.
Painting of Louis XIV commissioned to celebrate a victory in the war against the Dutch, c. 1670

The king portrayed as a roman general with allusions to Roman Emperor Augustus I, with roman battle dress, receiving the laurel crown of victory
Louis XIV in ballet costume, c. 1660
A Royal Festival at the Great Canal, Versailles, c. 1670
Hall of Mirrors, Versailles
Emperor Leopold I (Holy Roman Empire) 1640-1705 (ruled 1655-1705) The most formidable rival of Louis XIV, who organized coalitions of other European states to arrest the military expansionism of the French. His own military reputation was crowned by his defeat of the Turks at the gates of Vienna in 1683 and their expulsion from Hungary by the Peace of Karlowitz in 1699.
Schöbrunn Palace, the Hapsburg palace in Vienna modeled after the Versailles of Louis XIV. Plan of the end of the 17th century.
Peter the Great of Russia, ruled 1682-1725, by Nikitin, 1717

Equestrian Portrait of Peter the Great of Russia (ruled 1682-1725) at the Battle of Poltava tapestry
Compare the equestrian portraits of Philip IV and Louis XIV
The Expansion of Russia under Peter the Great. Peter added vital territory on the Baltic Sea to the vast Russian empire.
План Санкт-Петербурга
1705 год.
Адмиралтейство и Корабельная верфь
Plans for Peterhof, the royal palace 13 miles outside of Saint Petersburg that was created by Peter the Great (reigned as Russian Emperor, 1682-1721. Most of the plan was not carried out by Peter but by his successors, especially Catherine II.

As Leopold I, so later with Peter the Great, one sees here the influence of Louis XIV and his court of Versailles.