



# Unit 8 Vocabulary

Age of Revolutions

## Absolutism

- A form of government in which all power is given to one King / Emperor.
- The term comes from the belief in "Absolute" power.

## Divine Right

- A belief that backed up the power of Absolute kings.
- Their power was “Divine” because they had been given the power and authority to rule by God.
  - This meant that their leadership should not be questioned

## King Louis XIV

- King of France
- Believed that he “was the state.”
- Spent huge amounts of money building the Palace of Versailles and fighting several wars to expand the power and territory of France
- Led to a lot of debt for France

## Tsar Peter the Great

- Tsar (King / Emperor) of Russia who sought to modernize Russia and make it more like “western” nations. (England, France, Italy)
- Forced his subjects act and dress more “western”
- Led Russia to become more powerful, but had a reputation for cruelty as a leader.

## Tokugawa Ieyasu

- The absolutist leader who unified Japan under the rule of the Tokugawa Shogunate
- Limited the power of the wealthy
- Introduced Japan to trade with European countries, but closed Japan to the outside world to stop the expansion of Christianity.

## Scientific Revolution

- Period lasting from about 1500 – 1700 that saw a rapid advance in scientific knowledge.
- Key figures:
  - Copernicus
  - Kepler
  - Galileo
  - Isaac Newton

## Enlightenment

- A movement in which thinkers and philosophers tried to use reason to take the ideas of the scientific revolution and apply them to all areas of life (both politics and society).
- John Locke = social contract theory, "natural rights"
- Rousseau = "the good of the many", freedom
- Voltaire = criticism of religion controlling government



## Glorious Revolution

- A political revolution in England in which King James II was replaced as ruler by William and Mary.
- Cause = protestant fear of a Catholic King of England
- It is called the "Glorious Revolution" because the revolution took place without any war or bloodshed.

## Parliament

- The part of the English government that is formed by representatives elected by the voting citizens.
- Responsibilities = make laws and limit the power of the King
- Similar in many ways to the Congress in America.

## English Bill of Rights

- 1689 document that protected the rights of Englishmen from the power of the king.
- Protected rights included:
  - King couldn't suspend parliament's laws
  - No taxes without the approval of Parliament
  - No interfering with the freedom of speech in Parliament

## Constitutional Monarchy

- A form of monarchy in which the power of the king is limited by the law.
- Traditionally the king made the law, so he was "above the law."
- Constitutional Monarchy = the king was forced to obey the law, so the law protected the people

## Seven Years' War

- The war fought between England and France as the two nations competed for imperial power
- The portion of the war that was fought in the American colonies was known as the French – Indian War.
- The cost of this war placed the English government into a lot of debt.

## **“Taxation with Representation”**

- In an effort to pay for the debt created by the Seven Years' War, the English government passed a series of taxes on the colonies.
- The colonies had no voting power in Parliament, so these taxes were passed without their votes.
- Colonists saw this as a violation of their rights.

## Declaration of Independence

- Document written by Thomas Jefferson that stated that the American colonies were breaking away from England and considered themselves an independent nation.
- Jefferson used many of John Locke's ideas in the Declaration.