

Louis XIV

1643 – 1715

Louis XIV (1643-1715):

Louis XIV (known as the “Sun King”) was a French king who believed in his unquestioned authority and attempted to keep the aristocracy out of government. Council orders were transmitted by **intendants** who supervised administration. Louis XIV never called the **Estates-General** and members of the **parlements** also showed little resistance after the failure of the **frondes**.

Finance Minister **Jean-Baptiste Colbert (1619-1683)** improved the economy in the following ways:

- ❖ Reduced Tolls to Encourage Domestic Trade
- ❖ Improved Transportation With Canals
- ❖ Grew the Merchant Marine
- ❖ Organized French Trading Companies
- ❖ Paid Bounties to Shipbuilders to Strengthen Trade

Palace of Versailles:

He moved the royal court to Versailles, an extravagant palace where sixty percent of taxes went to. Versailles served to occupy the time of the aristocrats in order for Louis to control them better.

The King and Religion:

Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes that had given religious freedom to Protestants during the reign of **Henry IV (1589-1610)**. As their rights were taken away, Huguenots fled the country to avoid persecution.

Foreign Policies:

War of Devolution (1667-1668) ✕ A conflict between France and Spain over the Spanish Netherlands; the war was ended with the Aix-la Chapelle.

Dutch War (1672-1678) ✕ Again over the Spanish Netherlands, this war was ended by the Treaty of Nijmegen.

War of the Grand Alliance (1689-1697) ✕ A shifting balance of power led to England, the Netherlands, and Austria fighting against France, somewhat in anticipation of the Spanish Charles II's empty throne after his eventual death; the war ended with the Treaty of Rijswijk.

War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714) ✕ Started after Charles II died without a direct heir, the Habsburgs and Bourbons both wished to have control of the Spanish throne; eventually, at the Treaty of Utrecht, it was decided that Philip, the grandson of Louis XIV, would become Philip V.