

Cardinal Richelieu:

Marie de' Medici first appointed him, and then he speedily rose to be the first minister of the French Crown. Richelieu served under Louis XIII. It's important to note that Marie was a regent for Louis XIII when he was too young to rule. After all, Henry of Navarre (Henry IV) was assassinated, so his sudden ascension to rule was not planned. Therefore, it would be sensible that Richelieu could have been appointed by someone who was not the official monarch.

He split France into generalites. He then had his indendants keep an eye on the nobles in those areas. Basically, they were being used to assert absolutism and sovereignty to the French Monarchy; they did assert royal orders and tried to weaken the nobles, which is key to an absolute government. If you will, they were similar to the missi dominici as they were to report to the king—not anyone else—concerning important matters in the territories. They were not allowed to be from the areas in which they inspected either.

He justified these actions using *raison d'état*, or reason of state.

Richelieu authored *The Political Testament* that was intended for Louis XIII only. He discussed how to become a good king and essentially Richelieu's own policy. He declared to tax nobles more heavily for the military and to keep the peasantry poor lest they rebel. One can see this as he shuffled potential threats in the royal council to heighten his chances of success.

~Why~

Consolidates France

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Holy Roman

Empire

Lost unification

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Louis XIV:

Colbert was in charge of Finances under Louis. The Sun King followed the absolutist policies that Richelieu had started. Moliere was involved in theatre, which Louis avidly enjoyed. This type of activity and love of arts led to him building Versailles and France becoming the language of polite society.

He was involved in the 80 Year's War between the Dutch and Spanish, fighting on the side of the Spaniards.

REVOKED THE EDICT OF NANTES!!! He believed that religious differences would only keep France divided—the opposite of what he wanted for his absolute rule. Furthermore, he never called a meeting of the Estates General, largely because of his mistrust of the nobility since the Fronde, another absolute notion.

The Treaty of Utrecht ended the War of Spanish Succession. He was at war for most of his reign, and his bloated military only further strengthened his power until he Louis lost in this war. This coincidentally led to the balance of power principle—that other nations would join together if a separate one were to become a threat

Oliver Cromwell:

William Laud tried to establish a Book of Common Prayer at the command of Charles I. This was extremely unnerving for Protestants and Puritans, like Cromwell.

The cavaliers were those who supported Charles I in the Civil War, and the roundheads/parliamentarians supported Parliament.

The Navigation Acts were established under Cromwell's protectorate.

Since Oliver, being an English Puritan, disliked the Catholics, he practically massacred the Irish.

Oliver Cromwell (Parliament's powers would essentially go "over" the "crow"n following the Glorious Revolution)

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