

Key Terms

- Absolute Monarchy
 - Ruler with complete authority (over people/government)
- Divine Right
 - Authority to rule came from God

Absolutism in Europe

- Absolute monarchs try to ensure that all power stays in their hands
- They believe that God gives them the right to rule
- Both the centralization of state authority and crises in Europe fuel the growth of absolute rule

Royal Centralization

- Rise of European kingdoms was guided by capable monarchs in Spain, France, and England and their advisors
- Monarchs and advisors limited church power and subordinated the church to the state
- Monarchs imposed uniformity (inquisition)
- Henry VIII's breach from Rome paved the way for royal confiscation of church property

Overview of Spanish Monarchy

Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand

- 15th century
- Catholic
- Brought stability and greatness to Spain
- Oversaw Columbus' expeditions

Charles V

- 16th century
- Grandson of Isabella & Ferdinand
- Married 1st cousin Isabella of Portugal
- Ruler of Spain and Holy Roman Empire
- Catholic
- Gave up crown for monastery... **now what?**
 - Passes legacy onto Son Phillip

Overview of Spanish Monarchy

Phillip II

- Mid-late 16th century
- Catholic
- “It is best to keep an eye on everything”
- Saw himself as guardian of Catholic Church
- Relied on Inquisition to halt the Reformation
- Expanded Spanish empire



DOMINIONS OF THE HOUSE OF HABSBURG

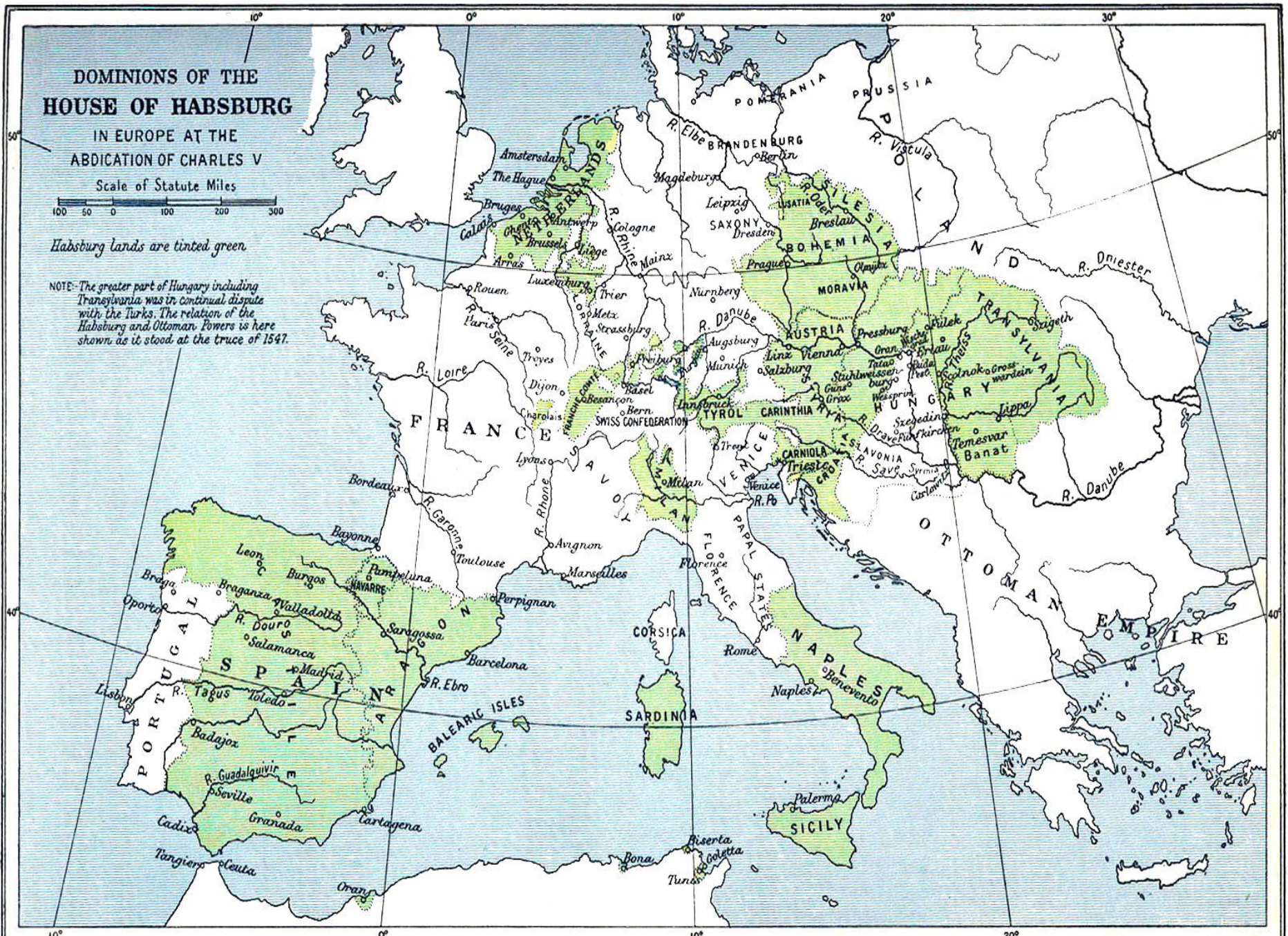
IN EUROPE AT THE
ABDICATION OF CHARLES V

Scale of Statute Miles



Habsburg lands are tinted green

NOTE: The greater part of Hungary including Transylvania was in continual dispute with the Turks. The relation of the Habsburg and Ottoman Powers is here shown as it stood at the truce of 1547.



Map 10

Spanish and The Netherlands Relations

The Netherlands

- Spanish territory
- Strong Protestant representation
- Eventually breaks away from Spanish rule & declares itself independent
 - The Netherlands were getting help from Protestant England
 - Spain sends Armada to stop insurrection
 - Spanish navy; most powerful in all the world
 - 130 ships; 20,000 men; 2,400 pieces of artillery
 - English navy + horrible storms = armada defeat
 - End of Spanish naval glory?

Downfall of Spain

- Late-17th century Spain was shell of former self
- Economy was drained
- Ineffective rulers
- Rise in power of France and England

Overview of French Monarchy

Louis XIV

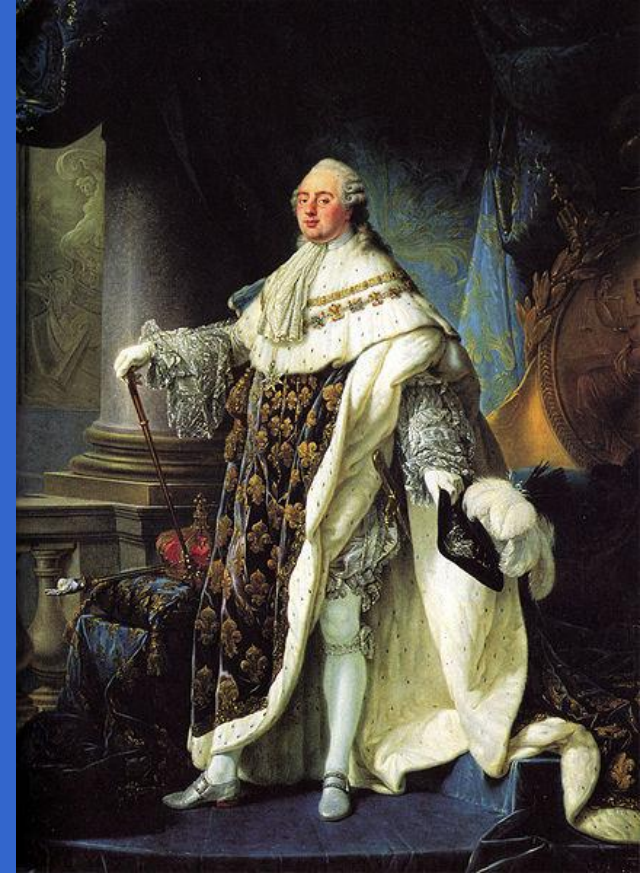
- Late-17th century
- “I am the state”
- Ruled for 72 years
- Great-grandson of Phillip II
- Firm believer in divine right
- “Sun King”
- Built strong army
- Created **Versailles** as symbol of power
 - Palace outside of Paris; the most magnificent building in Europe
 - King’s home and seat of government





Downfall of France

- **King Louis XVI**
 - Late-18th century
 - Only king of France to be executed
 - Bad with \$\$\$
 - King during French Revolution
 - Neglected his people/abused his power
- King Louis' death leads to end of Absolute monarchy



Overview of British Monarchy

- Parliament
 - Legislative governing body
 - English kings clash with Parliament over power and money
- James I
 - Early 17th century
 - Believed in divine right/absolutism
- Charles I
 - James' son
 - Dissolved Parliament in 1625 and ruled as absolute ruler for 11 years
 - Angered Puritans; seemed a Catholic supporter



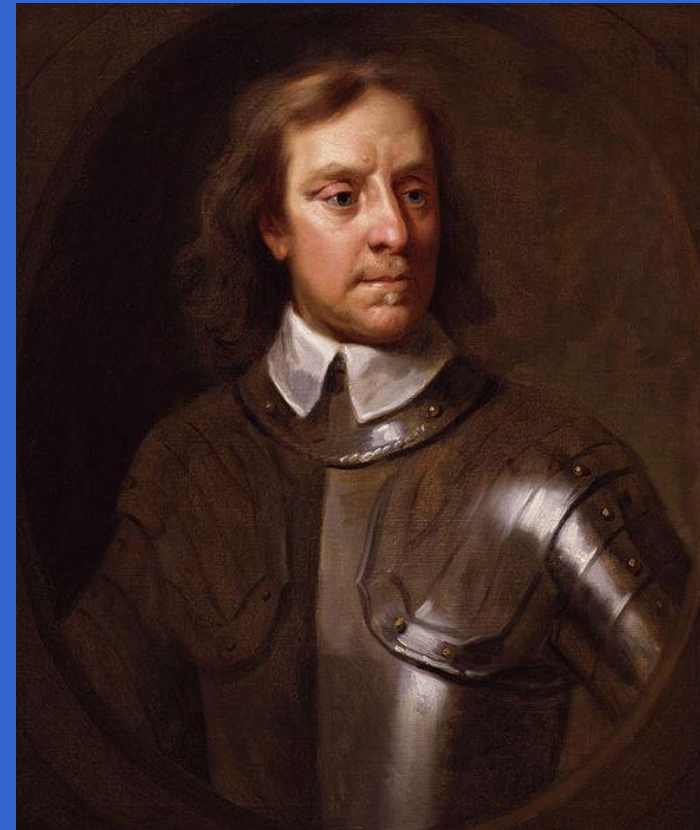
Monarchs Clash with Parliament

- Calls Parliament in 1628 but is forced to sign the **Petition of Right**
 1. He would not imprison subjects without due cause
 2. He would not levy taxes without Parliament's consent
 3. He would not house soldiers in private homes
 4. He would not impose martial law during peacetime

Set forth the idea that law was higher than the king.

English Civil war

- Charles I recalls parliament, but soon sides clash
- Supporters (Royalists) and opponents (Roundheads) of Charles I fought a civil war
- The Puritans, led by Oliver Cromwell, win the civil war
- Charles I is executed, and Cromwell rules as a dictator



Oliver Cromwell

Restoration and Revolution

- After Cromwell's death, the people were tired of military rule
- Restoration → Parliament votes to ask Charles II to rule England
- Theater, sports, and dance are restored (Puritans banned them)
- Parliament passed the **Habeas Corpus Act**, guaranteeing all prisoners **due process**
- Glorious Revolution → bloodless overthrow of King James II

Constitutional Monarchy

- Laws limit the ruler's power
- **Bill of Rights 1689**
- William and Mary consented to the limits on their power
- Problem: monarch could not rule without consent of Parliament and vice versa, disagreements brought gov't to standstill
- Cabinet system develops in which ministers act in the ruler's name

Overview of Russian Monarchy

- **Peter Romanov**

- “Peter the Great”

- **Tsar**

- Russian equivalent of king

- 10 years old when taking throne

- Late 17th century

- Wanted to **westernize** Russia

- Traveled Europe & brought back experts in intellectual fields

- Copy western ideas (Europe/United States)

- Adopted feudalism

- Tortured and killed those who defied him

Overview of Russian Monarchy

- Created powerful army
- St. Petersburg “his” city
- Expanded Russian empire
- Catherine
 - “Catherine the Great”
 - Mid-18th century
 - German princess married Peter III age 15
 - Peter III murdered making Catherine Queen
 - Embraced western ideas like Peter the Great
 - Education = important
 - Expanded empire

See video on Peter the Great [here](#).

Downfall of Russia

- Russian Revolution
 - During World War I – 1917
 - Monarchy collapses in favor of Communism

Age of Absolutism Family Tree

