

CHAPTER 17

Absolutism in Eastern Europe to 1740

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I0. Lords and Peasants in Eastern Europe0
 - A0. The Medieval Background
 - 10. During the period from 1050 to 1300, personal and economic freedom for peasants increased, and serfdom nearly disappeared.
 - 20. After 1300, lords in eastern Europe revived serfdom to fight their economic woes.
 - 30. Laws were passed that bound peasants to land and lord.
 - 40. Lords confiscated peasant lands and imposed greater labor obligations on them.
 - B0. The Consolidation of Serfdom
 - 10. Hereditary serfdom was established or reestablished in Poland, Russia, and Prussia.
 - 20. Weak monarchs could not or would not withstand their powerful nobles' revival of serfdom.
- II0. The Rise of Austria and Prussia0
 - A0. Austria and the Ottoman Turks0
 - 10. In Bohemia the Habsburgs crushed the mostly Protestant nobility, bringing in Catholic newcomers and binding local peasants to them (1618–1650).
 - 20. In the culturally German core of Austria the Habsburgs centralized the government and created a standing army (mid-1600s).
 - 30. The Ottomans reached the peak of their power under Suleiman the Magnificent (r. 1520–1566).
 - 40. The Ottoman Empire was built on a very non-European conception of state and society.
 - 50. The top ranks of the bureaucracy were staffed with the sultan's slave corp.
 - 60. The Ottomans were more tolerant of religious differences than Europeans were.
 - 70. Non-Muslim minorities co-existed with the Muslim majority.
 - 80. After the death of Suleiman, the empire fell into decay.
 - 90. The Habsburgs defeated the Turkish siege of Vienna in 1683 and began increasing their territory at Ottoman expense.
 - 100. The Hungarian nobility, many of them Protestants, continued to insist on their traditional rights and won Habsburg recognition of these in 1713.
 - B0. Prussia in the Seventeenth Century
 - 10. The Hohenzollern family ruled the electorate of Brandenburg and Prussia.
 - 20. The Thirty Years' War weakened representative assemblies and allowed the Hohenzollerns to consolidate their rule.
 - 30. Frederick William, the Great Elector (r. 1640–1688), employed military power and taxation to unify his Rhine holdings, Prussia, and Brandenburg into a strong state.
 - C0. The Consolidation of Prussian Absolutism
 - 10. King Frederick William I (r. 1713–1740) encouraged Prussian militarism and created the most efficient army in Europe.

- 20. Frederick helped lay the foundations of a militaristic nation.
- III0. The Development of Russia0
 - A0. The Mongol Yoke and the Rise of Moscow
 - 10. The Russian aristocracy (boyars) and a free peasantry made it difficult to strengthen the state.
 - 20. The princes of Moscow served the Mongol invaders as officials.
 - 30. Ivan III (r. 1462–1505) assumed the leadership of Orthodox Christianity and distributed conquered land to a new class of military servicemen.
 - B0. Tsar and People to 16890
 - 10. Ivan IV fought wars against Mongol successor khanates in the east and Poland-Lithuania in the west.
 - 20. He launched a reign of terror against the boyar nobility.
 - 30. Increased pressure on the peasants to pay for his wars led to a breakdown of the Muscovite state after his death (the Time of Troubles, 1598–1613).
 - 40. Michael Romanov was elected tsar by the nobility in 1613.
 - C0. The Reforms of Peter the Great
 - 10. Peter the Great sought to reform Russia to increase its military might.
 - 20. He created Western-style schools to train technicians for the army.
 - 30. He borrowed Western technology and hired Western advisers.
 - 40. He modernized the army and made Russia a great power in Europe.
 - 50. He increased the burden of serfdom to pay for Russia's military power.
- IV0. Absolutism and Baroque Architecture0
 - A0. Palaces and Power
 - 10. Architecture reflected the image and power of monarchs.
 - 20. The royal palace was the greatest expression of royal power.
 - 30. Baroque was the dominant artistic style of the age of absolutism.
 - B0. Royal Cities
 - 10. Monarchs built new cities and expanded old ones to reflect their power and vision of the state.
 - C0. The Growth of St. Petersburg
 - 10. St. Petersburg is a good example of the ties among architecture, politics, and urban planning.
 - 20. In 1702 Peter the Great began the task of building a new city.
 - 30. The architectural ideas that informed the city matched Peter's general political goals.
 - 40. Peasants were forced to work on the construction of the city and nobles were ordered to build houses there.

INTERNET RESOURCES0

- 10. Peter the Great: Primary Sources (www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/petergreat.html)
- 20. Catherine the Great: Primary Sources (www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/18catherine.html)
- 30. Royalist Online: Royal Genealogy Database (www.royalist.info)
- 40. Frederick the Great's Military Instructions to His Generals (tetrad.stanford.edu/Frederick.html)
- 50. At the Court of Frederick the Great (www.hoasm.org/XIB/XIBCourtFrederickGreat.html)
- 60. The Ottomans (www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/OTTOMAN/OTTOMAN1.HTM)