APEH Essays Rearranged by Freller
Chapter 06 Absolutism and the Balance of Power in West and East 1640-1740

Political Theories and the Age of Crisis

1. In 1490 there was no such country as Spain, yet within a century it had become the most powerful nation in Europe and within another had sunk to the status of a third-rate power. Describe and analyze the major social, economic, and political reasons for Spain’s rise and fall. AP 1993

2. In the seventeenth century, the Netherlands developed an effective capitalist economy, while Spain did not. Why did the economics develop so differently in the Netherlands, on the one hand, and in Spain, on the other. Acorn 1985

3. Analyze the ways in which both the theory and the practice of monarchy evolved in England from 1603 (the death of Elizabeth I) to 1688-89 (the Glorious Revolution). AP 1987

4. Analyze the influence of the theory of mercantilism on the domestic and foreign policies of France, 1600-1715. AP 1995

5. Describe and analyze how overseas expansion by European states affected global trade and international relations from 1600 to 1715. AP 2001

The Age of Louis XIV in France

6. Louis XIV declared his goal was “one king, one law, one faith.”

Analyze the methods the king used to achieve this objective and discuss the extent to which he was successful. (AP 2003)
7. Phillip II of Spain (1556-1598) built the Escorial and Louis XIV of France (1643-1715) built Versailles. Starting with the pictures of these palaces, below and on the next page, analyze the similarities and differences in the conception and practice of monarchy of these two kings. AP 1988
Britain: Civil War and Monarchy

8. Describe and analyze the changes in the role of Parliament in English politics between the succession of James I and the Glorious Revolution. AP 1993

9. In the seventeenth century, what political conditions accounted for the increased power of both the Parliament in England and the monarchy in France? AP 1982

10. “In seventeenth-century England the aristocracy lost its privileges but retained its power; in seventeenth-century France the aristocracy retained its privileges but lost its power.” Assess the accuracy of this statement with respect to political events and social developments in the two countries in the seventeenth century. AP 1985

Art: from Mannerism to Baroque

Wars of Louis XIV

11. Analyze the impact of the major developments of the Commercial Revolution on Europe’s economy and society in the period 1650 to 1789. (2009 B)

12. Compare and contrast the economic factors responsible for the decline of Spain with the economic factors responsible for the decline of the Dutch Republic by the end of the seventeenth century. (2009 A)

13. Analyze the various effects of the expansion of the Atlantic trade on the economy of Western Europe in the period circa 1450–1700. (2010 A)

Aging Empires to the East

Austria Turns East

Rise of Prussia

Peter the Great

14. Analyze the methods and degrees of success of Russian political and social reform from the period of Peter the Great (1689–1725) through Catherine the Great (1762–1796). (AP 2008 A)

15. Describe the challenges to royal authority in eastern Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and evaluate the effectiveness of those challenges. (2011 B)
16. Compare and contrast the economic and social development of Russia with that of the Netherlands in the period 1600–1725. (2010 B)
Aelbert Cuyp, *The Maas River at Dordrecht*, c. 1650
17. Using the two Dutch paintings above and your historical knowledge, discuss how the paintings reflect the economy and culture of the Netherlands in the seventeenth century. (AP 2007 B)
18. Compare the rise of absolute monarchy and enlightened despotism in Prussia with the rise of absolute monarchy and enlightened despotism in Austria from the late seventeenth century to the eve of the French Revolution. AP 1976

19. “By 1700 it had become evident that Western Europe and Eastern Europe were moving in opposite directions in terms of their basic social structures.” Discuss. AP 1978

20. Analyze the major ways through which Tsar Peter the Great (1689-1725) sought to reform his society and its institutions in order to strengthen Russia and its position in Europe. AP 1989

21. Analyze the military, political, and social factors that account for the rise of Prussia between 1640 and 1786. AP 1991

22. Between 1450 and 1800, many women gained power as rulers, some as reigning queens, others as regents. Identify two such powerful women and discuss how issues of gender, such as marriage and reproduction, influenced their ability to obtain and exercise power. AP 1994

23. In what ways and to what extent did absolutism affect the power and status of the European nobility in the period 1650 to 1750? Use examples from at least TWO countries. (AP 2002)

24. Compare and contrast the goals and major policies of Peter the Great of Russia (ruled 1682-1725) with those of Frederick the Great of Prussia (ruled 1740-1786). (AP 2003 B)

25. Explain why Europe saw no lasting peace in the period between the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 and the Peace of Paris in 1763. (AP 2003 B)