I. Objectives
   A. Why did the basic structure of society in eastern Europe move away from that of western Europe in the early modern period?
   B. How and why did the rulers of Austria, Prussia, and Russia, each in a different social environment, manage to build powerful absolute monarchies that proved more durable than that of Louis XIV?
   C. How did the absolute monarchs’ interaction with artists and architects contribute to the splendid achievements of baroque culture?

II. Lords and Peasants in Eastern Europe: The landed nobility reimposes harsh serfdom on the rural masses
   A. The Medieval Background
      1. Serfdom re-established between 1400-1650 in Bohemia, Silesia, Hungary, eastern Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Russia
      2. Late Middle Ages had been time of expansion, and German settlers offered economic and legal incentives to come East
      3. Black Death led to population decline and higher prices hurt nobles
      4. Political and police power used to reverse trend
      5. Lords use police powers to restrict peasants’ right of free movement
      6. Lords took more and more peasant land and imposed ever heavier tax burdens or labor obligations
         a. As many as 6 days a week taken in labor for the lord
      7. The lord controlled the judicial system, he was prosecutor, judge and jailor
   B. The Consolidation of Serfdom
      1. 1653 in Prussia, all peasants assumed to be in hereditary subjugation to their lords unless they could prove differently
      2. In Russia, right of peasants to move suspended in the 1590s
      3. The Tsar lifted the 9 year period for a runaway serf to become free–now he could always be brought back.
      4. The lord’s authority over serfs was virtually unlimited
      5. Growth of estate agriculture in eastern Germany and Poland
         a. Agricultural commodity prices rose
         b. Land lords squeezed surpluses of wheat and timber from the serfs and sold them for big profits to foreign merchants
         c. The serfs left with much less to eat
         d. Cf picture on p. 567
      6. The difference between east and west with the decline /resurgence of serfs is primarily political
         a. Eastern lords had much more political power
         b. While the New Monarchs were increasing their power, eastern monarchs were elective and losing power.
         c. Eastern kings were primus inter pares
         d. Eastern kings thought in private terms rather than in public
         e. “The western concept of sovereignty, as embodied in king who protected the interests of all his people not well developed in eastern Europe before 1650”
         f. Law controlled by the landlords; no “king’s justice”
         g. Town air did not make one free, as in the west. Privileges of the towns steadily undermined by the landlords–right of refuge lost

III. The Rise of Austria and Prussia
   A. War and the threat of war a key ingredient in allowing absolutist monarchs to reduce power of
landlords
1. Landlords left in control of their peasants
2. Monarch gained control of permanent taxation without consent
3. Monarchs maintained permanent standing armies
4. Monarchs conducted foreign policy without fetters

B. Austria and the Ottoman Turks
1. Hapsburgs turn east and south after the Thirty Years’ War
2. Bohemia
   a. White Mountain 1620
   b. Ferdinand II (r. 1619-1637) Catholicized the Czechs and replaced native nobility with his own people
   c. By 1650, the Bohemian nobility was foreign and loyal to Austria
   d. Then enserfed the Czech peasants
      (1) The robot, 3 days of unpaid labor for the lord, becomes the norm
      (2) 25% worked for the lord every day but religious holidays and Sundays
      (3) Serfs paid taxes
3. Hereditary German lands
   a. Austria, Syria, Tyrol
   b. Ferdinand III (r. 1637-1657) centralized the government
   c. Creates permanent standing army to suppress insurrection
4. The Ottoman Empire
   a. From central Asia, the Ottoman Turks supplanted the Seljuk Turks in Anatolia
   b. Suleiman the Magnificent (r. 1520-1566) peak of power, from Persia and North Africa into Central Europe
      (1) the Balkans, most of Hungary, part of southern Russia
      (2) Besieged Vienna in 1529
   c. All land was the personal property of the Sultan
   d. No landed hereditary nobility
   e. Bureaucratic autocracy
   f. The Janissary corps of (originally Christian) slaves
5. Beginning of decline after 1570
6. Second siege of Vienna in 1683
   a. Alliance with Louis XIV (France will conduct a policy of friendship with the Ottomans since the Ottomans are enemies of the Hapsburgs)
      (1) Army of Habsburg, Saxon, Bavarian, and Polish troops relieve city and reconquer most of Hungary and Transylvania aby 1699
7. Three parts of the Habsburg Empire
   a. The hereditary lands, the kingdom of Bohemia, and the Kingdom of Hungary
      (1) Each part had its own laws
      (2) Each bound only by the Habsburg monarch
      (3) Charles VI (r. 1711-1740) (last Habsburg males) proclaimed the Pragmatic Sanction in 1713
         (a) Habsburg possessions were never to be divided and to be passed to a single heir, male or female.
   b. Frequent rebellion by Hungarian nobility (5-7 % of the population, largest in Europe. Unlike Czechs in 1620, never crushed
      (1) Hungarians were Protestant
      (2) Hungarians developed a nationalist ideal
      (3) Hungarians could ally with the Turks
In 1703, under Prince Rákóczi, while the Austrians are tied up in War of Spanish Succession, they rebel again and force a compromise.

(a) Many traditional privileges restored the Hungarian landholders.

C. Prussia in the Seventeenth Century

1. **Hohenzollern** family and Brandenburg and Prussia
   a. Brandenburg the “sand box of the Holy Roman Empire”
   b. Devastation of the Thirty Years’ War weakened the Estates’
   c. **Frederick William I** (r. 1640-1688) *The Great Elector*
      (1) Established an absolutism
      (2) Forced the Estates to accept a permanent tax to support the army in 1660
         (a) soldiers acted as policemen and tax collectors
         (b) Revenue tripled and army increased ten fold
   d. Crucial factors
      (1) War
         (a) Wars between Sweden and Poland
         (b) Wars of Louis XIV
         (c) Tatars attacked 1657-8
      (2) Nobility concerned only for its own narrow interests
         (a) exemption from taxation and unlimited control of peasants were vital interests.

D. The Consolidation of Prussian Absolutism

1. Elector Frederick III “The Ostentatious” was weak
2. **Frederick William I** “The Solders’ King” (r. 1713-1740)
   a. Obsession with tall soldiers
   b. “A formidable army and a war chest large enough to make this army mobile in times of need can create great respect for you in the world, so that you can speak a word like the other powers."
   c. “I must be served with life and limb, with house and wealth, with honour and conscience, everything must be committed except eternal salvation—that belongs to God, abut all else is mine.”
   d. The Junker class become the king’s officer caste
   e. 12 th largest population had the 4th largest army by 1740
   f. Army was qualitatively the best
   g. Honest and conscientious bureaucracy
   h. Avoided actual war
   i. The “Sparta of the North”–disciplined civil society

IV. The Development of Russia

A. The Mongol Yoke and the Rise of Moscow

1. **Jenghiz Khan** (1162-1227)
2. Conquered China, Persia, Russia, and into Europe before pulling out at 1242
3. Khanate of the Golden Horde controlled the southern Slavs
4. **Alexander Nevsky** of Moscow in 1252
5. **Ivan I Moneybags** (r. 1328-1341) convinced the Metropolitan of Kiev to settle in Moscow
6. By Ivan III (r. 1462-1505) territories around Moscow consolidated
7. Prince of Moscow was the Tsar
   a. Autocrat
8. After the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the Tsar saw himself as heir to the caesars and of Orthodox Christianity
9. Holy Russia was the Third Rome
10. Ivan married a Byzantine princess
11. Ivan used conquered land to create a service nobility committed to serve him as a condition for land holding.

B. Tsar and People to 1689

1. **Ivan IV the Terrible** (r. 1533-1584)
   a. Defeated the khanates of Khazan Astrakhan
   b. Required all nobles to serve the tsar in order to hold land
   c. Beginning 1557 25 years of war against Poland-Lithuania
   d. Use of terror to destroy the power of the boyars, the oprichniki
   e. Ended flight of peasants to the south (origins of the Cossacks) by enserfing all peasants
   f. Bound all townspeople to their towns and jobs
   g. “The people consider themselves as kholops, that is as slaves of their Prince”

2. **Time of Troubles** (1598-1613) following Ivan’s death
   a. Cossack rebellion of Ivan Bolotnikov
   b. 1613, Michael Romanov elected Tsar
   c. Alexis (r. 1645-1676) pious
     1. Patriarch Nikon tried to end corrupted practices of the Orthodox church
     2. The Old Believers
        a. 20,000 burned themselves alive over chanting hallelujah three times instead of twice and crossing themselves with two rather than three fingers.
     3. Stenka Razin Revolt on the lower Volga 1670

C. The Reforms of Peter the Great (r. 1682-1725)
   1. Sees him as primarily interested in military power not Westernization
   2. Ended regency in 1689, at war 35 of 36 years of personal rule
   3. Began building a modern standing army along Western European lines, replacing the older style army
   4. War with the Turks in alliance with Austria and Poland over Azov on the Black Sea
   5. **Great Embassy** esp. to Holland and England to learn about the west
   6. **Great Northern War** 1700-1721
      a. With Denmark and Augustus the Strong of Saxony, the new king of Poland, attacks Swedish control of the Baltic
      1. Young inexperienced king of Sweden Charles XII (r. 1697-1718)
      2. Bound every nobleman to serve for life
      3. Created schools to produce the skilled technicians he needed
      4. Interlocking civil and military bureaucracy with 14 ranks
      5. Recruited talented foreigners
      6. The army
         a. Size of 200,000
         b. Cossacks of 100,000
         c. Conscripts served for life
         d. Taxes on peasants tripled
         e. State owned commercial enterprises
      7. Poltava (1709)
      8. Russia annexes Estonia and Latvia
      9. St. Petersburg, Peter’s window on the West

V. Absolutism and the Baroque
A. Palaces and Power
1. Intended to overawe subjects
2. Visual declarations of equality with Louis XIV
3. **Schönbrunn** in Vienna
4. Royal Palace in Stockholm
5. Prince Eugene of Savoy’s **Summer Palace**
   a. Upper and Lower Belvedere
   b. Architects J. B. Fischer von Erlach and Johann Lukas von Hildebrandt

B. Royal Cities
   1. Ex. Karlsruhe—streets were all straight and focused on the ruler
   2. Würzburg—Prince-Bishop’s palace Architect Johann Balthasar Neumann and ceilings by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo
   3. Broad avenues
   4. Imposing government buildings
   5. Rigorous mathematical layout

C. The Growth of **St. Petersburg**
   1. Peter seized the ground in 1702
   2. His “window on Europe”
   3. Built on islands and a marsh
   4. Large, straight stone paved avenues
   5. Houses in a uniform line
   6. Large parks
   7. Drainage canals
   8. Strict building regulations
   9. Different classes segregated into different sectors of the city
   10. Built by forced labor
   11. Bartolomeo Rastrelli architect of the rebuilt Winter Palace now the **Hermitage**

Absolutism in Eastern Europe Identifications:

- estate agriculture
- Ferdinand II
- Act of Restitution
- robot
- Suleiman the Magnificent
- Janissaries
- Siege of Vienna 1683
- Charles VI and the Pragmatic Sanction 1713
- Hohenzollern dynasty
- Frederick William I, The Great Elector
- Frederick William I, The Soldier’s King
- Junkers
- Sparta of the North
- Alexander Nevsky
- Ivan I Moneybags
- Tsar
- Ivan IV the Terrible
- oprichniki
- Time of Troubles
- Michael Romanov
- Patriarch Nikon and the Old Believers
- Stenka Razin revolt
- Peter the Great
The Great Embassy
Great Northern War
Charles XII of Sweden
Poltava
St. Petersburg
Hermitage
Schönbrunn