**Absolutism in Eastern Europe: c. 1600-1740**

Austria/ HRE

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| Conditions  | Policies  | Results  |
| HRE forced monarchs to turn their attention inward and eastward to consolidate their diverse holdings into a strong unified state. (weakness)- Austria was NOT a national state* 1. Naples, Sardinia, and Milan in Italy
	2. Austrian Netherlands (Belgium)
	3. Hungary and Transylvania (modern-day Romania)

Each had its own laws and political connection to the Emperor  | Ferdinand II (1619-1637) took control of Bohemia during the 30 Years’ WarFerdinand III (1637-1657): centralized gov’t in the old hereditary provinces of Austria proper.**Leopold I** (1658-1705)Severely restricted Protestant worship**Siege of Vienna:** Successfully repelled Turks from gates of Vienna in 1683 (with the help of the Polish: King John III Sobieski) **Emperor Charles VI** (1711-1740)Issued **Pragmatic Sanction** in 1713Hapsburg possessions were never to be divided and henceforth to be passed intact to a single heir.His daughter, Maria Theresa, inherited Charles’ empire in 1740 and ruled for 40 years | * + Habsburg lands were so diverse and included people of so many different cultures and language that it was difficult to establish any sort of unity.
	+ Despite the Pragmatic Solution, less than two months after the death of Charles VI, Frederick II of Prussia invaded the Habsburg province of Silesia in eastern Germany.
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**Prussia and the Hohenzollerns**

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| ConditionsThe Hohenzollern family had ruled the principality of Brandenburg since 1415- looked to add territory in the 16th and 17th century | ResultsThe “Great Elector” established Prussia as a Great Power and laid the foundation for the future unification of Germany in the 19th century |
| Frederick William- the Great Elector* Frederick William demanded obedience from the ***Junkers***—as the German landlords were known—but in exchange allowed them to demand obedience from serfs.

Most significant: Oversaw Prussian militarism and created the most efficient army in Europe. | Frederick I* Fought in two wars against Louis XIV to preserve the European balance of power:
* War of the League of Augsburg (1688-97) and the War of Spanish Succession (1701-1713)
* “King of Prussia”
 | **Frederick William I** (r. 1713-1740) “Soldiers’ King”* **“Sparta of the North”- 3rd largest army**
* Obsessed with finding tall soldiers for his army (6’2+)
* 80% of gov’t revenues went towards the military
 | Frederick II (“Frederick the Great”) – (r. 1740-1786) “Enlightened Despots” Most powerful and famous of the Prussian kings |
| **Ottoman Empire** | **Poland** |
|  could not maintain possessions in eastern Europe and the Balkans in the face of Austrian and Russian expansion- After 1560 the decline in western expansion resulted in the gradual disintegration of the empire* **Suleiman the Magnificent** (r. 1520-1566) was perhaps the most powerful ruler in the world during the 16th century
1. **“Janissary corps”:** those Christian slaves who were not selected for the Ottoman bureaucracy served loyally instead in the Turkish army
2. Ottoman Empire was fairly tolerant regarding religion in its conquered provinces
 |  **liberum veto** – voting in Polish parliament had to be unanimous for changes to be made; thus, little could be done to systematically strengthen the kingdom* Russia and Prussia encouraged certain members to invoke the liberum veto to weaken Poland.
* By 1800, Poland ceased to exist as a sovereign state; carved up by Russia, Austria and Prussia
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Comparison

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| West  | Similar  | East  |
| * The nobility was effectively brought under control
* the middle-class was relatively strong, and peasants were generally free from serfdom.
* Louis XIV built French absolutism upon the foundations of a well-developed medieval monarchy and a strong royal bureaucracy.
* Exploration- Economic growth- increased tax based and slight move away from a agricultural economy (Mercantilism)
 | * Maintained large standing armies
* Employed a secret police to weaken political opponents
* Control of religion
 | * Eastern absolutism was based on a powerful nobility, weak middle class, and an oppressed peasantry composed of serfs.
* Threat of war with European and Asian invaders were important motivations for eastern European monarchs’ drive to consolidate power.
* in reduced political power of the nobility. However, nobles gained much greater power over the peasantry.
* Serfdom
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