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| Exploration | New Monarchs | Reformation |
| 1. A Major step forward in the rise of state power- led to large armies/ navies to spread a nation’s power and the income from trade and colonization for the kings to pay for it all. 2. Exploration broke down the traditional balance of power in Europe leading to Spain’s height of power 3. Conflicts caused states to invested in Sea and military technologies (Steel and Guns) 4. Bourgeoisie became wealth- increase power | 1. Consolidated power and created the foundation for Europe’s first modern nation-states in France, England and Spain. 2. Reduced the power of the nobility and clergy through taxation, confiscation of lands and the building of armies 3. Increased the political influence of the bourgeoisie (at the expense of the nobility) | Religious division and conflicts between states led to continual fighting  Nobles and individuals became attached to Protestant ideals of individualism  States used religious control to increase the power of the state (France, England and Spain)  Increased religious control led to conflict within sates (HRE- Lutheran nobles, England- Catholics, France Huguenot) |
| Causes:   * New Monarchs were using Machiavellian methods of increasing their power * Nobles looked to use religion as a path to limit centralization of power * Exploration lead to the spread of both Catholicism and Protestantism to the New World * Exploration lead to the building of more powerful Nation-States with large armies and navies | **European Wars of Religion: 1559-1648** | Effects:   * Constant war led to greater centralization of power- both Absolutism and constitutionalism * The Church loss most of its influence over states * Nobles also lost power * Civil Wars throughout Europe * HRE and Spain were severely weakened * France, Dutch and England were empowered * Rise of Calvinism in Europe * War lead to greater investment into military technology (Steel, Gunpowder and Science Rev.) |
| Spain ( Dutch) | France | Holy Roman Empire |
| Under Philip, Spain became the dominant country in Europe: “**Golden Age” of Spain**- **Philip II** (1556-98): Like his father, **Charles V**, fanatically sought to re-impose Catholicism in Europe  Spain(Phillip) waged a war against the Turks in the Mediterranean and the Protestants in England and Netherlands  Spain was left drastically weaker because of the wars of Religion. | Many French nobles converted to Protestantism (**Huguenots**) like HRE Nobles wanted to decentralize power.  Religious toleration was given to protestants (**Edict of Nantes**) following **Henry IV** victory in the French Civil Wars (**War of the Three Henrys**)- However this divided France and weakened. | In 1555 the Peace of Augsburg divided HRE religiously- the **Treaty of Westphalia** at the end of the 30 Years’ War (1648) destroyed the HRE dividing it into 360+ states.  But ended the Wars of Religion |