

SUMMARY**18th century Europe. The old and the new regime****a) Absolute monarchies and Parliamentarianism****I. Late 15th century****NEW MODERN STATES**

Monarchs of Spain, France and England limited the power of their aristocracy

1. Centralized governments.
2. Centralized bureaucracies.
3. Permanent royal army.
4. Increasing:
 - collection of taxes
 - financial efficiency

II. 17th century**ABSOLUTISM/ PARLIAMENTARIANISM**

Spain and France : absolutism of the Crown

1. Divine right of the kings: no obstacle for the royal will.
2. The model: French king Louis XIV.

England and the Unified Provinces: the Constitutional State

1. First Revolution: king Charles I against the Parliament (1642-1649), Oliver Cromwell.
2. 1688 (the Glorious Revolution): 1689, Mary & the Bill of Rights.
Parliament: *tories* and *wighs*.

b) European society and early capitalism

The traditional European society (ancient regime) (mainly France & Spain)

1. Rigid Social Classes by birth:
 - a. privileged minority (tax exemptions) -aristocracy and clergy
 - b. unprivileged majority (fiscal pressure) -from the poorest of peasants to a rich merchant.
2. Production in the hands of local monopolies, the craft guilds (fixed prices and wages).
3. The most important economic sector was agriculture, and the biggest landlords belonged to the privileged group.

Early capitalism started in England and the Low Countries, based on the idea of free market, private property, private profit and competence.

4. The main factor for the early capitalist society was international trade. English and Dutch merchants and manufacturers made enormous profits in colonial trade.

In groups of 4/5 students check and discuss these aspects. You might be expected to explain your point of view to the rest of the class.

- What is the opposite of a centralized government?
- Why is a permanent army so important?
- Write two sentences giving information about Louis XIV
- Explain orally who Cromwell was and what he did
- Try to explain all the aspects of a modern society
- What did the English and Dutch merchants make with the profits of the colonial trade?

VOCABULARY. Explain/define the following concepts/ persons/ institutions. Use your own words

- Absolutism
- Charles I
- Glorious Revolution
- Oliver Cromwell
- Bill of Rights
- Guild