Age of Absolutism

Divine Right-Theory that stated that Kings had a god given right to rule their nations as they wished.

"Oh, it's all right with me — as long as I get *equal* divine rights!"

What was the "Age of Absolutism?"

- **Facts:**

1) Europe's Monarchs got stronger

2) Caused by the Age of Exploration

    a) brought in money (<u>Mercantilism</u>)

3) <u>Mercantilism</u>-Wealth of a nation depends on possessions.

    a) Money, Colonies and Resources

"Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Lord Acton

"But, Your Honor, I thought absolute power was supposed to be corrupt."

What Caused ABSOLUTISM?

•<u>Exploration</u>:

1.**World doubled in size**

2.**Because change was scary, people wanted the comfort that was provided by having one (1) person in charge.**

•<u>Political Conflicts</u>:

1.**Europe wanted expansion (Colonization)**

2.**People wanted protection from other, more powerful nations**

- **Protestant Reformation:**

1. **Mistreatment of people**

2. **Religious conflicts (Catholics vs. Protestants)**

- **Absolute Monarchs:**

  -When a Monarch (King or Queen) has absolute power over his or her people and also has unrestricted political power.

Absolute Rulers throughout History (or Europe)

King Louis XIV-Who was he?

- **Ruled France from 1643-1715**

- **France's King for "72" years**

- **Known as "The Sun King"**

Peter the Great

Who was he?

- **Russian Czar from 1682-1725**
- **Czar-Russia's name for their King**
- **Westernized Russia by revolutionizing it**

Westernization

Frederick the Great

Who was he?

- **Ruled Prussia (modern Germany) from 1740-1786**
- **Strengthened the Prussian economy**
- **Made huge strides for individual freedoms:**

a)**Economic**

b)**Political**

c)**Religious**

Henry VIII

Who was he?

- **King of England**

- **Created his own religion because the Pope would not grant him a divorce**

- **Spiritual and political leader of England**

- **Created the Church of England**

Called a "<u>Tyrant</u>"

"Let me answer your question by having you arrested...."

Catherine the Great

Who was she?

- **Empress of Russia from 1762-1796**
- **Longest ruling female in Russian history**

What did she do?

1. **Expanded the cities**
2. **Increased women's freedoms**
3. **Increased rights for all citizens**

Charles V

Who was he?

- **He ruled Spain, Italy and the Netherlands from 1516-1556**
- **Supported Catholicism**
- **Used his power to advance Spain**