

## ***Chapter 4***

# **THE GROWING POWER OF WESTERN EUROPE, 1640–1715**

### 4.17 THE *GRAND MONARQUE* AND THE BALANCE OF POWER

#### *Study Questions*

1. In what ways was western Europe the leading center of cultural diffusion in the mid-17th century?
2. How would you characterize the rule of Louis XIV in France and the role of France in European affairs during his reign?
3. Why did Louis XIV's foreign policy arouse the opposition of the rest of Europe?
4. Explain the nature of the balance of power strategy that was employed against Louis XIV. What were the goals of this strategy in diplomatic history?

#### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. Louis XIV, the king of France, inherited his throne in 1643 at the age of 5, assumed the personal direction of affairs in 1661 at the age of 23, and reigned for 72 years until his death in 1715.
2. Spain was drifting into a condition that a nineteenth-century European later ascribed to Turkey, "the sick man of Europe."
3. Louis XIV's expansion policies followed two main lines.
4. The aim of statesmen pursuing policies of balance power in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was generally to preserve their own independence of action to the utmost.

#### *Identifications*

*Grand Monarque*  
Sun King

Charles II of Spain  
Franche Comté

universal monarchy

## 4.18 THE DUTCH REPUBLIC

### *Study Questions*

1. Describe Dutch cultural and commercial accomplishments in the seventeenth century.
2. What was the relationship between Dutch commercial interests and their overseas explorations? What do the illustrations on pp. 152 and 153 demonstrate about Dutch artistic achievements?
3. Describe the nature of government and of political life in the seventeenth-century Dutch Republic.
4. Why did the Dutch and English come into conflict in the seventeenth century? What were the results?
5. Why did the Dutch become involved in conflict with Louis XIV? What were the consequences of their involvement?
6. What steps did William of Orange take to hold off Louis XIV after becoming the stadholder?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. The Dutch were the most bourgeois of all peoples.
2. The seventeenth century was an age of great Dutch cultural achievements—in political thought, philosophy, science, and painting.
3. Throughout the seventeenth century the Dutch engaged in vast commercial, colonial, and banking undertakings.
4. Politics in the Dutch Republic was a seesaw between the burghers, pacifistic and absorbed with business, and the princes of Orange, to whom the country owed most of its military security.
5. To offset the aggressive, expansionist policies of Louis XIV, the Dutch set into motion the mechanism of the balance of power.

6. William formed an alliance with the minor powers of Denmark and Brandenburg and with the Austrian and Spanish Habsburgs.

### *Identifications*

Estates General of the United Provinces  
William III  
Christian Huyghens  
Anna Marie van Schurman  
Arminians  
House of Orange  
Treaty of Nimwegen

Navigation Act of 1651  
Hugo Grotius  
Baruch Spinoza  
Jan Vermeer  
Bank of Amsterdam  
stadholderate

## 4.19 BRITAIN: THE CIVIL WAR

### *Study Questions*

1. What comparisons can be made between events in England in the seventeenth century and developments on the Continent?
2. Why did Parliament come into conflict with James I and Charles I? How did the special nature of Parliament make its resistance effective?
3. How did the ship-money dispute impact the tussle between Charles I and the Parliament?
4. How did the civil war begin? How did Cromwell emerge as ruler of England?
5. Describe the government of England under the Commonwealth and the Protectorate. What was the regime of the major generals? Why was this regime considered necessary?
6. What policies did Cromwell follow toward Scotland? toward Ireland? in foreign affairs? toward the more radical elements emerging in England?
7. How would you evaluate Cromwell's role in English history?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. For the English the seventeenth century was an age of great achievement, during which they made their debut as one of the chief peoples of modern Europe.

2. Neither to James I nor to his son Charles I would Parliament grant adequate revenue because it distrusted both.
3. Charles I antagonized both property owners and Puritans.
4. Parliament had no sooner defeated the king than it fell out with its own army.
5. Though Cromwell professed a belief in parliamentary and constitutional government, he ruled as a dictator in behalf of a stern Puritan minority.
6. The Puritan Revolution failed to satisfy the most ardent and could not win over the truly conservative, and as a result, Cromwell found himself taking a more autocratic approach.

### *Identifications*

Puritan	Archbishop Laud	Pride's Purge
Presbyterian	prerogative courts	the Rump
Anglican	Levellers	James VI of Scotland
Long Parliament	Diggers	<i>The True Law of Free Monarchy</i>
Solemn League and Covenant	Quakers	Roundheads
Fifth Monarchy Men	Instrument of Government	

## 4.20 BRITAIN: THE TRIUMPH OF PARLIAMENT

### *Study Questions*

1. Explain the general nature of the Restoration in England. Why was the legislation enacted by the Restoration Parliament significant?
2. How did religious matters bring Parliament and James II into conflict again? Which policies of James II precipitated the Revolution of 1688? Why?
3. Summarize the legislation introduced after the Revolution of 1688. Why was William's acceptance of the Bill of Rights important?
4. What were the consequences of the restoration for Scotland and Ireland?
5. What did William III's coalition against France gain from his alliance with England?
6. What was the constitutional significance of the Revolution of 1688 for England? Why have

some historians deglorified the revolution? Cite arguments for and against this point of view.

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. In 1660 not only the monarchy but also the Church of England and the Parliament were restored.
2. During the Restoration, Parliament enacted some far-reaching legislation on land tenure and taxation.
3. Parliament excluded Dissenters from the town “corporations,” or governing bodies and, forbade any dissenting clergymen to teach school.
4. Not long after the Restoration, Parliament and king were again at odds and again, the issue was again religion.
5. The Irish emerged from the seventeenth century as the most repressed people of western Europe.
6. The Glorious Revolution of 1688 has been portrayed as a vindication of the principles of parliamentary government, the rule of law, and even the right of rebellion against tyranny.

### *Identifications*

Charles II	United Kingdom of Great Britain	Dissenters
Glorious Revolution	treaty of Dover	William and Mary
Act of Settlement of 1701	declaration of indulgence	battle of the Boyne
Toleration Act	Test Act	Bill of Rights
penal code for Ireland	Whigs	Tories

## 4.21 THE FRANCE OF LOUIS XIV, 1643–1715: THE TRIUMPH OF ABSOLUTISM

### *Study Questions*

1. Why was the French society a society of contradictions?
2. Why did France dominate Europe during the age of Louis XIV? Describe French cultural contributions and achievements in this age. What made Parisian salons an important part of

the cultural milieu?

3. How did Louis XIV develop the state in its modern form? What was meant by his reputed boast, “L’État, c’est moi”?
4. What arguments were used to justify the divine right of kings in the seventeenth century?
5. Discuss Louis XIV’s (a) military and administrative reforms, (b) economic and financial policies, (c) religious policy and, (d) cultural policies.
6. How would you assess the reign of Louis XIV from a purely domestic point of view?
7. From the illustrations on p. 175, 177, 180, and 182, 186 what does one learn about French classical culture and its influence in this age?

### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. After the disorders of the religious wars in the sixteenth century and the Fronde in the seventeenth century, many people welcomed a strong monarchy.
2. Louis XIV claimed to possess in his own person, as sovereign ruler, a monopoly over the lawmaking processes and the armed forces of the kingdom.
3. Louis XIV’s absolutism rested on the theory of the divine right of kings.
4. Possibly the most fundamental reform undertaken by Louis XIV was to make war an activity of state.
5. Versailles had a debilitating effect on the French aristocracy as a class.
6. Finances were always the weak spot of the French monarchy.
7. Colbert worked to make France economically powerful and self-sufficient.
8. Louis XIV considered religious unity necessary to the strength and dignity of his rule.
9. The reign of Louis XIV brought considerable advantages to the French middle and lower class.

### *Identifications*

parlements	intendants	Commercial Code
Fronde	councils of state	French East India Company
Cardinal Mazarin	tax farmers	revocation of the Edict of Nantes
Bishop Bossuet	Colbert	divine right of kings
Five Great Farms	Nicholas Poussin	Versailles

#### 4.22 THE WARS OF LOUIS XIV: THE PEACE OF UTRECHT, 1713

1. Describe Louis XIV's foreign policy in the years prior to the War of the Spanish Succession. What actions did he take in Alsace and Lorraine?
2. What made the War of the Spanish Succession distinctive from previous wars? Why was the war fought?
3. Summarize the main developments of the War of Spanish Succession. What motives prompted each state to continue to fight?
4. What were the major provisions of the Treaty of Utrecht? How were differences between the great powers settled?
5. What does the illustration on p. 190 tell us about Louis XIV's wars? What did the wars mean for the population as a whole?

#### *Key Discussion Sentences*

1. From the outset of his reign, Louis XIV pursued a vigorous foreign policy.
2. The War of the League of Augsburg began in 1688.
3. The War of the Spanish Succession was the first major modern war that could be called a world war because it was linked to global competition for colonies and trade.
4. Never had the political balance within Europe been so threatened as when Louis XIV sought to accept the Spanish throne and territories for his grandson.
5. The old objective of William III, to prevent domination of Europe by France, was realized at last with the peace of Utrecht.
6. The Treaty of Utrecht left France and Great Britain as the two most vigorous powers of

Europe.

### *Identifications*

Charles II of Spain

Dutch War

Prince Eugene of Savoy

treaties of Utrecht and Rastadt

War of the League of Augsburg

*asiento*

Peace of Ryswick

Grand Alliance of 1701

“The Pyrenees exist no longer”

Treaty of Nimwegen

William III

John Churchill

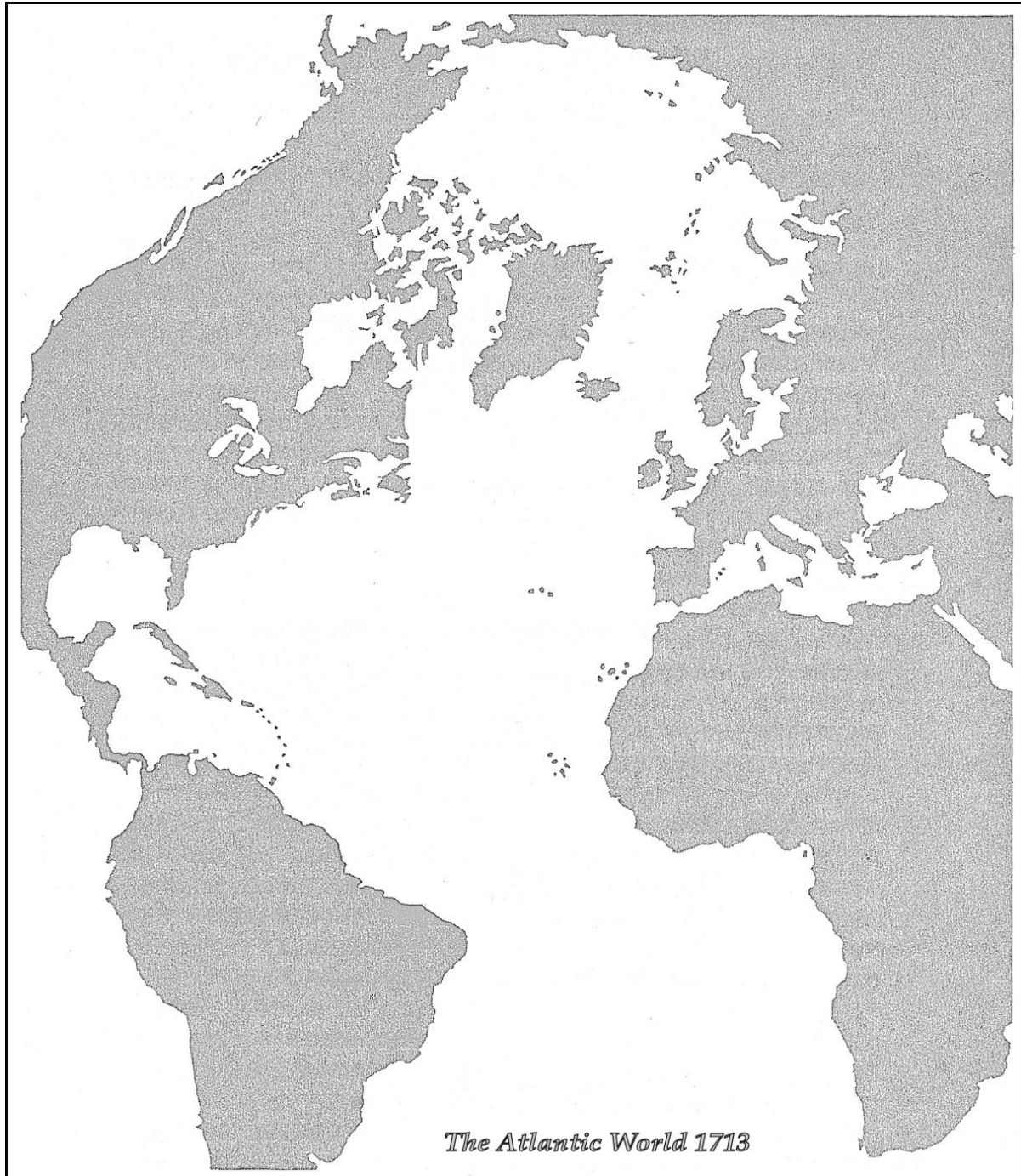
Dutch barrier

Philip V of Spain

### *Map Exercises*

1. How does the map, France from the Last Years of Louis XIV to the Revolution of 1789, on p. 184 in your text illustrate the changes in France’s boundaries during Louis XIV’s reign?
2. On the outline map, The Atlantic World 1713, show the major territorial changes of the Treaty of Utrecht. Identify (a) the territories belonging to the Spanish crown in 1701, (b) the territories that stayed with Spain under the new Bourbon king, (c) the territories that went to the Austrian Habsburgs, (d) the territories that went to Britain from Spain and from France. Source: *A History of the Modern World*, p. 192.
3. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 4.22?





## GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 4

1. France and England took different political and constitutional paths in the course of the seventeenth century. Compare and contrast internal developments in the two countries during this period.
2. Why is it reasonable to speak of the second half of the seventeenth century as the Age of

Louis XIV? What may be said of the Dutch and the English in this same period?

3. How was the balance-of-power concept used to check (a) the Habsburg bid for supremacy in the Thirty Years' War and (b) Louis XIV's bid for universal monarchy in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries?

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 4

1. If the reader were to take a map of Europe, set a compass on the city of Paris, and draw a circle with a radius of 500 miles, a zone would be marked out from which much of modern European and "Western" civilization radiated after about 1640. (p. 147)
2. The aim of statesmen pursuing policies of balance of power in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was generally to preserve their own independence of action to the utmost. (p. 150)
3. In Vermeer's *Geographer*, painted in 1669, there appears something of a symbol of the modern world in its youth. (p. 152)
4. The English classical literature, rugged in form but deep in content, vigorous yet subtle in insight, majestic, abundant, and sonorous in expression, was almost the reverse of French classical writing, with its virtues of order, economy, propriety, and graceful precision. (p. 160)
5. Government in England remained strong but came under parliamentary control. This determined the character of modern England and launched into the history of Europe and of the world the great movement of liberalism and representative institutions. (p. 160)
6. The Puritan Revolution, like others, produced its extremists. (pp. 164)
7. Democratic ideas after the Puritan Revolution were generally rejected as "levelling." They were generally abandoned in England after 1660 or were cherished by obscure individuals and religious radicals who could not make themselves heard. Such ideas, indeed, had a more continuous history in the English colonies in America, where some leaders of the discredited revolution took refuge. (p. 165)
8. The state, while representing law and order within its borders, has generally stood in a lawless and disorderly relation to other states, because no higher monopoly of law and force has existed. The modern state, indeed, was created by the needs of peace at home and war abroad. (p. 178)

9. The idea that law and force within a country should be monopolized by the lawful king was the essence of the seventeenth-century doctrine of absolutism. Royal power was absolute not arbitrary. (pp. 178–179)