



# Western Civilization from 1650 to the Present

Dr. Edrene S. McKay ■ (479) 855-6836 ■ Email: [esm@cox-internet.com](mailto:esm@cox-internet.com)

## TOPIC 3.2. LOUIS XIV AND THE AGE OF ABSOLUTISM

Supplement to Chambers, *The Western Experience*, Chapter 17: The Emergence of the European State System, pp. 590-631.

<p><b>THE SUN KING</b></p>	<p>These PowerPoint presentations in Course Documents show the extent to which the Sun King achieved absolute power in France:</p> <p>“Louis XIV: The Sun King”</p> <p>“A Day in the Life of the Sun King”</p>
<p><b>ONLINE RESOURCES</b></p>	<p>For more information on this topic, explore one or more of the following online resources:</p> <p><a href="#">Chateau de Versailles</a>: Excellent site on the places, people, life, and art of the Age of Absolutism.</p> <p><a href="#">Accounts of Louis XIV</a>: Contemporary accounts of Louis XIV.</p> <p><a href="#">Louis XIV (1638-1715)</a>: Brief biography of the Sun King.</p>
<p><b>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p>Drawing on the resources you have had an opportunity to explore (textbook, course documents, online resources, library resources), answer one or more of the following questions:</p> <p><b>What were his successes and failures of Louis XIV’s reign?</b></p> <p><b>“The success of absolutism in France was more dependent upon ministers of state than upon the kings themselves.” Do you agree or disagree with the statement?</b></p> <p><b>Discuss the roles of Richelieu, Mazarin and Colbert in the development and success of absolute monarchy.</b></p>