Absolutism and Constitutionalism

AP European History · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
political sovereignty /pəˈlɪtɪkl ˈsɒvərɪnti/	**Political sovereignty** is the highest power to make laws.
English Civil War /ˈɪŋglɪʃ ˈsɪvl wɔː/	The **English Civil War** set the king against Parliament.
Parliament /ˈpɑːləmənt/	**Parliament** makes laws in England.
Glorious Revolution /ˈglɔːrɪəs ˌrevəˈluːʃn/	In the **Glorious Revolution**, Parliament replaced the king without a war.
Bill of Rights /bɪl ɒv raɪts/	The English **Bill of Rights** limited the king's power.
divine right /dɪˈvaɪn raɪt/	Kings claimed **divine right**: power given by God.
market economy /ˈmɑːkɪt ɪˈkɒnəmi/	In a **market economy**, prices decide what is made.
Agricultural Revolution /ˌægrɪˈkʌltʃərəl ˌrevəˈluːʃn/	The **Agricultural Revolution** brought new crops and better farming.
freed from traditional restrictions /friːd frɒm trəˈdɪʃənl rɪˈstrɪkʃnz/	Workers were **freed from traditional restrictions** of guilds and lords.
putting-out system /ˈpʊtɪŋ aʊt ˈsɪstəm/	In the **putting-out system**, merchants gave work to families at home.
cottage industry /ˈkɒtɪdʒ ˈɪndʌstri/	**Cottage industry** means making goods by hand at home.

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enclosure	**Enclosure** fenced off common land for private farming.
Mercantilism /ˈmɜːkæntəlɪzəm/	**Mercantilism** made governments control trade to build wealth.
slave-labour system /sleɪv ˈleɪbə ˈsɪstəm/	The **slave-labour system** forced Africans to work on plantations.
Dutch Republic /dʌtʃ rɪˈpʌblɪk/	The **Dutch Republic** grew rich from trade.
oligarchy /ˈɒlɪgɑːki/	A small group of rich merchants ruled as an **oligarchy**.
competitive state system /kəmˈpetɪtɪv steɪt ˈsɪstəm/	In a **competitive state system**, countries constantly competed for power.
balance of power /ˈbæləns ɒv ˈpaʊə/	A **balance of power** stops any one country becoming too strong.
War of the Spanish Succession	The **War of the Spanish Succession** stopped France and Spain joining.
Poland's partition /ˈpəʊləndz pɑːˈtɪʃn/	**Poland's partition** split it between Russia, Prussia and Austria.
absolutism /ˈæbsəluːtɪzəm/	Under **absolutism**, the king has complete power.
Louis XIV /ˈluːi ðə ˌfɔːˈtiːnθ/	**Louis XIV** called himself the Sun King.
Jean-Baptiste Colbert /dʒiːn bæpˈtiːst ˈkəʊlbət/	**Jean-Baptiste Colbert** built up French industry and trade.
Versailles	Louis XIV built the palace of **Versailles**.

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intendant	An **intendant** collected taxes for the French king.
Peter the Great /ˈpiːtə ðə greɪt/	**Peter the Great** made Russia more like western Europe.
Catherine the Great /ˈkæθrɪn ðə greɪt/	**Catherine the Great** expanded Russia's land.

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