

3 Absolutism: claiming and building authority – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary 词汇

Write each word *three times*. 把每个单词抄写三遍。

English	中文	Write it 3 times (English)
Absolutism	专制主义	_____

Recall

- You know a claim to power has to be believed to work.
- You have seen a building designed to impress rather than to be used.
- You know a government needs money before it can do anything.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 The claim

Absolutism 专制主义 claimed that sovereign authority rested in one ruler answerable to God alone. The claim had to be made, argued and displayed - it was never simply held.

Worked example. A palace built to be seen is an argument about authority as much as a residence.

■ 2 The machinery

Claims required money and administration. Rulers built standing armies, professional bureaucracies and new tax systems, and each of these outlived the claim that justified it.

Worked example. A tax office created to fund a king's army still exists when the king does not.



Nobles, provinces, estates and towns held privileges that absolutism threatened. Resistance to centralisation is as much part of the story as the centralising itself.

Worked example. A province defending its old tax exemption is defending a limit on the crown.

Watch out: Absolutism describes a claim and a project, not an achieved condition. No European ruler actually governed without limits.

Practice

2.1 State the claim absolutism made. [2]

2.2 Name three parts of the machinery rulers built. [3]

2.3 Explain why the machinery outlived the claim. [2]

2.4 State who resisted centralisation and why. [2]

2.5 State why absolutism is a claim rather than a condition. [1]
