

HIS 102--03 Louis XIV © February 10, 2000

Raymond J. Jirran

A. *Introduction*

Interest is explicitly in France. The course goal in studying this lesson is **to evaluate human rights**.

B. *Henry IV*

Henry IV (d. 1610) (Hampton, Virginia was founded in 1610) left a strong government at the turn of the Seventeenth Century. See Map 16.3, "The Growth of Cities 1500-1800" on page 572. Note: Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden, Warsaw, Vienna, Amsterdam, Antwerp, London, Brussels, Paris, Nantes, Bordeaux, Barcelona, Granada, Seville, Lisbon, Madrid, Naples, Rome, Florence, Venice, Milan, Genoa, Marseilles, Lyons.¹ Also see Map 16.1, "Speed of News Traveling to Venice" on page 655. Note: Antwerp, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid, Genoa, Venice, Vienna, and Constantinople.²

Henry IV was followed by Louis XIII (1610-1643) who was a minor when he took the throne. In 1617, Louis forcibly ousted his mother, Marie de Medici, from his rightful place ruling. Seven years after the palace revolution, Louis installed Richelieu (1624-1642) as head of the Royal Council, who then fought Louis' battles for him.

Richelieu pursued the *raison d'etat* to the extent of supporting the Protestants against the Catholics. *Raison d'etat* means acting for the good of the state as the ultimate goal. This is characterized by the phrase 'a diplomat is a man sent abroad to lie for his country,' also, 'if it's good enough for France, it's good enough for God.'

Richelieu translated his commitment to the state through effective public policies. French feudalism was a threat to the king, so Richelieu destroyed the castles of the nobility. Representative assemblies were never called. In 1642 Richelieu died, and Mazarin stepped up. In 1661, Mazarin died and Colbert was installed in charge of finances.

C. *Louis XIV*

During the reign of Louis XIV, the nobles lived at the court and therefore were ruined because they lacked that independence which would have resulted from remaining in their own castles. The nobility became satellites, gambling, loving, and dancing. Royal power was exercised through: (1) bureaucracy, especially civil service, with Colbert (1661-83) who was an official responsible directly to the king; (2) Louis' army which came about because of the money that Colbert and the tax-collecting agencies gathered. See Map 17.1A and 17.1B, "The Wars of Louis XIV" on pages 584-585. Note: Calais, Cologne, Strasbourg, and Grenoble.³

Colbert took France from near bankruptcy to a richness which the king would then waste in his wars. This meant Colbert controlled the economy of the nation in the interests of the absolute state, promoting industry and, in the process, breaking down the old guild patterns. He also built highways and canals for transportation. He used protective tariffs. But the king undercut him in the long run.

In 1685, Louis revoked the Edict of Nantes which had given the Huguenots sanctuary in France since 1598. This was his supreme blunder. When some 300,000⁴ Huguenots left, the bulk of the skilled craftsmen and the industrial backbone of the country also left. They went to Holland, the British colonies, and Prussia, as well as what was to become the U. S. The tax base was lost. The 600,000 Huguenots who remained did so often because their wealth was in land. If Paris

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were worth a Mass for Henry IV, who changed religions in order to rule, lesser places were also worth a Mass for lesser Huguenots.

Colbert, himself, in the long run was also undone because of war: The War of Devolution (1667-1668) which the Spanish lost; and which is not indexed after the fourth edition of Chambers; the Dutch War (1672-1678) which a coalition of European countries lost; the War of the League of Augsburg (1689-1697); the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1713), known as Queen Anne's War in the United States, settled by the Treaty of Utrecht, which ended the Bourbon-Habsburg rivalry. See diagram "The Spanish Succession: 1700" in Chambers, page 586.⁵ Louis was one-half Habsburg and one-fourth Bourbon, but he thought of himself as a Bourbon. The Bourbon dynasty is a continuation of the Capetians, who traced their origins to Count Robert the Strong (d. 866). Louis' grandson, Philip of Anjou, received the Bourbon crown south of the Pyrenees mountains, in Spain. This is Philip V in the chart on page 586.⁶ His other grandson, Louis XV, whose father died in 1712, received the Bourbon crown north of the Pyrenees, in France.

Queen Anne's War, or, the War to Save the Pyrenees, was, therefore, successfully fought to keep the Bourbons divided. England took Gibraltar, enough to control the Mediterranean Sea. In the peace treaty, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Hudson Bay went to England, but Quebec and Louisiana were kept by the French. England, therefore, won, although it was not a true victory for either.

The Austrian Habsburgs were stronger because they now had the Austrian and Spanish (modern Belgium) Netherlands; Naples and Sicily also gained independence. Prussia was recognized as a kingdom and Spain from here on in is a fourth-rate power. It is questionable if Louis XIV lost. He did not win, and, therefore, he did lose in the end when England landed on top. The Treaty of Utrecht clearly organized the balance of power in Europe without France as the 'sun'.

For the first time, the Treaty of Utrecht utilized the principle of natural frontiers, without any other historical qualification. The idea of a state bounded by natural frontiers was first expressed by geographers and cartographers under Richelieu. The modern territorial state was beginning to take shape. The Enlightenment would develop the idea even more.⁷

D. Conclusion

In this lesson, the student has seen how Louis XIV so dominated France that France was unable to accommodate to changing economic and political realities. By studying the Introduction; Henry IV; and Louis XIV, the student is better able to evaluate liberty, authority, and human rights according to time, place, personality, and degree of certitude warranted. The student is reminded to read, study, and think.

Supplement

E. Marlborough

In 1934 Winston Churchill wrote Marlborough, His Life and Times. Since that time Marlborough cigarette advertisements have made the name famous. Actually, Churchill cannot be trusted as an historian, so that Marlborough is not all that important.⁸ We know that Churchill cannot be trusted because the professional historians, who double-check his work, do not trust him.

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Marlborough is treated here because historians know that when people regard a non-fact as factual, that regard has an independent importance. Such is the case with Marlborough.

John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough and ancestor of Sir Winston Churchill ran up a "butcher's bill" at Blenheim in Bavaria. This battle is so insignificant that Chambers did not even bother with it in the fifth edition "Map 17.1. The Wars of Louis XIV" on page 670. Blenheim does appear on "Map 17.1A and B. The Wars of Louis XIV" on pages 584-585 in the seventh edition.⁹ That map is confusing. It might do better to show Spain and France and a touch of Italy confronting England, the Germanies (including the Dutch), and Austria. The sixth and seventh edition maps are clearer.

Marlborough used his superior numbers recklessly until he carried the day. The sixth edition of Chambers on page 539¹⁰ ranks Marlborough as a "brilliant general."¹¹ Had he been more prudent, he might be compared to Ulysses S. Grant. Eventually the British grew weary of winning battles at such great cost and came to terms with the Treaty of Utrecht. At this point, Europeans finally stopped fighting with themselves and got on to the business of colonizing the world.¹²

Students frequently ask "What was the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714)¹³ about?" The War of the Spanish Succession (Queen Anne's War) was about France and Spain trying to gang up on the rest of Europe in a manner similar to the way Aragon and Castile ganged up on Spain in the Fifteenth Century. Europe, with the Duke of Marlborough, went to war to prevent a repetition on a grander scale in Europe.

When Marlborough was hassling with Louis, his country also had to deal with Peter the Great to keep him interested in fighting the Great Northern War, mentioned on page 691 in the fifth edition of Chambers but not indexed in the sixth or seventh editions. Had Peter not kept the pressure on the Scandinavians, the German princes might have lost interest in messing with Louis. That, in turn, would have made things more difficult for Great Britain.

The Great Northern War was preceded by the invention of strudel after Vienna was relieved from the Turkish siege in 1683, also mentioned but not indexed in the fifth edition of Chambers on page 692. The only references to the Turkish siege in 1683 are an oblique reference to 1529 on "Map 14.5 The Growth of the Ottoman Empire Under Suleiman the Great, 1520-1566" on page 496 and a direct reference on "Map 17.2 The Austrian Empire, 1657-1718" on page 592.¹⁴ In the seventh edition, Leopold, war with Turks (1685) is indexed for page 585. The Greek cooks brought with them baklava dough; the German cooks their apples, cherries, and other fruit. While the diplomats were negotiating, their cooks were concocting strudel. Even to mention such an accomplishment jars the historical sense. The point is that just as the history of human impact on the environment is underdeveloped, so is the history of the human diet. The broader point is to highlight the underdevelopment of the nourishing aspects of the human in favor of the competitive aspects.

F. Environment

Both how humans have affected the earthly environment through public engineering and planning and how humans have been affected by public health are neglected in mainstream history. As in so many of these supplements, the following comments do stem from mainstream sources as cited in the footnotes, offering directions for understanding current historical interests. The mainstream of what has been written is linked to these new, but non mainstream, interests. Geography is its own technology.

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France is a hexagon. The six sides surround Paris, beginning with the (1) Pyrenees Mountains, (2) to the Rhone-Saone River valley, (3) to Alsace-Lorraine, (4) to the English Channel, (5) to Brittany, (6) to the Pyrenees Mountains. France is well-suited geographically for centralized control. The British Isles are more suited for isolated independence.

The French and the English have made remarkably different responses to burgeoning technology. Where the French have standardized for the sake of efficiency, the English have proliferated for the sake of competition. Colbert is the key name in the difference. A continuity flows from the engineering agencies instituted by Jean-Baptiste Colbert in the Seventeenth Century, to the highways built in the Eighteenth Century, to the waterways and railroads of the Nineteenth Century, to the electric power and economic planning of the Twentieth Century.¹⁵

By 1748 the French military had standardized artillery parts to the point of interchangeability. A military purpose lay behind standardization. By 1775 the bureaucrats had developed maps of all of France for the purpose of standardizing highways. Two hundred elite public engineers, dressed in iron-gray uniforms with silver buttons displaying the Bourbon fleur-de-lis in gold, faced down opposition to standardization throughout France. Tolls might be acceptable for the canals of the England of Adam Smith, but there were to be no tolls slowing down traffic in the France inherited from Colbert.¹⁶

The wave of the future was with railroads. Canal building reached its height in England in the 1790s, leaving England positioned to let railroads prevail in the 1840s because, by then, the canals had served their purpose. The French still had their canals. The Germanies were still too disorganized to do much of anything with either canals or railroads.¹⁷

The United States followed the French canal system as the Erie Canal opened in 1825.¹⁸ Beginning in the 1840s the railroads began to take over from the canals. In 1860 two million tons of goods were still shipped by canal in the United States. The French used the success of the Erie Canal to tout their own canal building. The problem was that the French had no Great Lakes and no Hudson River emptying into the Atlantic at a New York harbor. Railroads had the advantage of going over rather than through mountains without requiring a canal full of water for the task.

G. Conclusion

The course goal in studying this lesson is to evaluate human rights. The right to a safe, pollution-free environment is becoming understood as one of those rights. Students are reminded to read, study, think, and prepare a comment.

Comments on the Seventh Edition of Chambers, pages 578-590

In the opinion of the professor, Chambers is the most scholarly textbook on the market. Chambers well represents mainstream thinking in the history profession. The professor, however, disagrees in many significant ways with mainstream thinking. Some of these disagreements are set forth above and others in the following comments.

Page Column

Paragraph

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0581 2 1 Line
2nd last and last "... that no other European ruler could match ..."

Schönbrunn on page 591, column 1, paragraph 1, line 1 was comparable.

0581 2 2 17 "... easy conversation ..."

Easy conversation in this context defines truth dominating politics.

0583 1 2 3-4 '... both king in council and king in court.'

Both king in council and king in court practically define politics dominating truth.

0586-0587 "... Catholic Jansenists ..."

While Chambers is correct identifying the Jansenists as Catholic, the Professor does not think of the Jansenists as Catholic.

Chambers writes that Louis "... was prevented from implementing the bull--over parlementaire opposition--only by his death in 1715" whereas *The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia* notes,

Forced by the king to accept the bull in 1714, the French Jansenist party gradually withered after the death of sympathetic archbishop Noailles of Paris in 1729, but at Utrecht, a schism produced the Jansenist Church of Holland (1723), which still survives in the twentieth century as a branch of the Old Catholic Church.¹⁹

0587 2 3 10 "... plague came to an end ..."

A reference to this place was made in the February 9, 2000 edition of Topic 101-25 K. The Flea.

0590 1 3 12-13 "Naturally ..."

An indication that historians accept the notion of the natural law.

Endnotes

¹ In the fifth edition of Chambers, see Map 16.2, "Cities of Europe in 1700" on page 653. Note: Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden, Warsaw, Prague, Vienna, Amsterdam, Antwerp, London, Ghent,

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Brussels, Paris, Nantes, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Barcelona, Granada, Seville, Lisbon, Madrid, Naples, Rome, Florence, Venice, Milan, Genoa, Marseilles, Lyons; in the seventh edition, see Map 16.3, "The Growth of Cities 1500-1800" on page 572. Note: Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden, Warsaw, Vienna, Amsterdam, Antwerp, London, Brussels, Paris, Nantes, Bordeaux, Barcelona, Granada, Seville, Lisbon, Madrid, Naples, Rome, Florence, Venice, Milan, Genoa, Marseilles, Lyons.

² In the fifth edition of Chambers, also see Map 16.3, "Speed of News Traveling to Venice" on page 659. Note: Antwerp, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid, Genoa, Venice, Vienna, and Constantinople. In the seventh edition, note the same places on Map 16.1, "Speed of News Traveling to Venice" on page 655.

³ In the fifth edition see Map 17.1, "The Wars of Louis XIV" on page 670. Note: Calais, Cologne, Versailles, Strasbourg, and Grenoble. In the seventh edition, see Map 17.1a and 17.1b, "The Wars of Louis XIV" on pages 584-585. Note: Calais, Cologne, Strasbourg, and Grenoble.

⁴ Roger Mettam, "Louis XIV and the Huguenots," History Today, 35 (May 1985): 20. See the unnamed genealogical diagram on page 672.

⁵ Page 672 in the fifth edition, 586 in the seventh.

⁶ Page 607 in the fifth edition; 586 in the seventh.

⁷ Peter Sahlins, "Natural Frontiers Revisited: France's Boundaries since the Seventeenth Century," The American Historical Review, Vol. 95, No. 5 (December 1990), pages 1434-1435.

⁸ George Hilton Jones, review of Andrew Rothstein, Peter the Great and Marlborough: Politics and Diplomacy in Converging Wars in The American Historical Review, 93 (December 1988): 318.

⁹ Pages 538 and 539 in the sixth edition; 584-585 in the seventh.

¹⁰ Page 540 in the fifth edition, 539 in the seventh.

¹¹ The fifth edition of Chambers on page 671 ranks Marlborough as a "brilliant general."

¹² John A. Garraty and Peter Gay (eds.), The Columbia History of the World (New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1972), pages 741 and 742. There is a good map clarifying the War of the Spanish Succession (Queen Anne's War) on page 741.

¹³ Judith S. Levey and Agnes Greenhall, editors, The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, (New York: Avon Books, 1983), page 798.

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¹⁴ In the fifth edition "Maps 14.5 and 17.2." In the seventh edition, the only references to the Turkish siege in 1683 are an oblique reference to 1529 on "Map 14.5 The Growth of the Ottoman Empire Under Suleiman the Great, 1520-1566" on page 496 and a direct reference on "Map 17.2 The Austrian Empire, 1657-1718" on page 592

¹⁵ Cecil O. Smith, Jr., "The Longest Run" Public Engineers and Planning in France," The American Historical Review, Vol. 95, No. 3 (June 1990), pages 657-689.

¹⁶ Cecil O. Smith, Jr., "The Longest Run" Public Engineers and Planning in France," The American Historical Review, Vol. 95, No. 3 (June 1990), pages 659-661.

¹⁷ Cecil O. Smith, Jr., "The Longest Run" Public Engineers and Planning in France," The American Historical Review, Vol. 95, No. 3 (June 1990), page 665.

¹⁸ Judith S. Levey and Agnes Greenhall, editors, The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, (New York: Avon Books, 1983), page 272. Cecil O. Smith, Jr., "The Longest Run" Public Engineers and Planning in France," The American Historical Review, Vol. 95, No. 3 (June 1990), page 665 uses 1833, which may refer to the opening of the Ohio Canal, from Cleveland to Cincinnati.

¹⁹ W. David Myers, "Jansenism," *The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia: Third Edition* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994), page 688.