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Lecture 27:

Response to Crisis I, Absolutism & the Europe of Louis XIV

Overview of General Crisis + England

- idea of absolutism vs. constitutionalism
- decline of Spain
- rise of France
- rivalry between Dutch & English

Why did British absolutism collapse in the 17th century?

- Long term
- More recent
- Short term triggers

Long term

- Structural tensions
- Fiscal problems
- Religion
- Multiple kingdoms

More recent conflicts

1625-29 - conflict w/ Parliament

↳ Charles I

Personal Rule of Charles I (1629-40)

- attempt to rule as an absolute monarch
- can't enforce system, no \$ w/o Parliament

Short term triggers

- 1637 - Scots Rebellion → Northern invasion
- 1641 - Irish Rebellion → in the name of the king
- 1642 - English Civil War

King raises his own army against Parliament
↳ Charles I
↳ Royalists vs. Parliamentarians

Barry into revolution - both sides think they are conservatives

Events of 1637-1660

- English Civil War
- British War
- War of the 3 Kingdoms
- Puritan Revolution
- British Revolution

} Same event, different name

English Civil War (1642-46, 1648)

- Royalists - Cavaliers
- Parliamentarians - Roundheads
- Scots agree to help Parliament in exchange for a Presbyterian England
- = Parliamentarians reorganize army
- Command of Oliver Cromwell

The "Rump" Parliament - 1648-53

- Trial of Charles I, 20-24 January 1649
- found guilty + executed

England is now a REPUBLIC

The Levellers - Universal Male Suffrage

The Diggers - Proto-Communists

Fifth Monarchists - Jesus is coming soon

Ranters - natural extension of John Calvin's philosophy

- So whether you want

Oliver Cromwell - Lord Protector

Different responses to crisis

France - absolutism

England - constitutionalism

Theory

Royal Absolutism

Divine Right - Power granted by God

Jean Bodin

- Sovereignty is indivisible

- Double obligation - work for the good of the people

Henri IV (1589 - 1610)

- assassinated in 1610

Marie de Medici - regent

Louis XIII

- leans on Cardinal Richelieu

Louis XIV (r. 1643 - 1715)

- Cardinal Mazarin

- Battle of Rocroi (1643) - giant French victory

- La Fronde - results 1648 - 53

Louis XIV + Practice of Absolutism - 5 rules

- 1) King must be godlike - Sun King

- 2) King must be in control - Versailles

- 3) King must be wealthy - Jean-Baptiste Colbert

- 4) King must impose religious conformity - Revoked Edict of Nantes

- 5) King must have an army - Marquis Vauban

Wife of Louis XIV
- expands to the Alps

"L'état c'est moi"

Jacque-Bénigne Bossuet
- justifies Louis in religious terms