"State Building and the Search for Order in the Seventeenth Century"

Chapter 15 Reading Guide *Western Civilization - 10th Ed. - Spielvogel*

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**MAJOR THEMES / BIG QUESTIONS: (as you work through the chapter, bear these questions in mind)**

* Why did a witch-hunting craze begin in the mid-sixteenth century and wane by the mid-seventeenth century? (OS-1, IS-10)
* How did new weapons of the so-called military revolution lead to changes in strategies, tactics, and diplomacy? (OS-3, OS-6, OS-9, SP-5)
* How did the Peace of Westphalia mark the end of the era of religious wars and lessen Hapsburg authority? (Key Concept 1.2.II)
* How did religious differences, the rise of commercial elites, and the struggle for power between Parliament and the king lead to the English Civil War and ultimately the formation of a new type of government? (SP-3, SP-7, SP-11, SP-15, OS-3)
* How did the concept of absolutism influence the rulers of Europe in the seventeenth century and create a new relationship between the government and the people? (SP-2, PP-6)
* How did Peter I modernize Russia? In what ways did Russia remain bound to tradition? (SP-2, SP-3, PP-1)
* How did religion and political power affect the arts in the seventeenth century? (SP-1)

1.) In the blue section on page 432-433, Spielvogel says "The ideal of a united Christian Europe gave way to the practical realities of a system of secular states in which matters of the state took precedence over the salvation of subjects' souls." Analyze this statement. What does it mean? More importantly, what pieces of evidence does Spielvogel use in this chapter to substantiate this argument?

**15.1 Social Crises, War, and Rebellions**

2.) Describe a few economic and social phenomena that occurred from the 1620s to 1650.

3.) What are the major arguments that historians have provided as to why the number of witchcraft trials and executions swelled so much in the 16th and 17th centuries? What specific segment of the population was most vulnerable to being accused of witchcraft?

4.) Put the pieces together, why might so many men in Europe have held women in such low esteem during this time? (hint, think about the prevailing social order)

5.) What factors led to the decline of witchcraft?

6.) The 30 Years' War is often called the "last of the religious wars" By 1609, what conditions in the Holy Roman Empire and across Europe made it so that if the war did erupt, it would be widespread and difficult to end?

7.) What are the four "phases" of the Thirty Years' War, and when did they take place? Why is the war divided into these phases?

8.) What was the Defenestration of Prague? Where and why did it happen? (hint, the book talks about this event on pg 439 but does not refer to it by its proper title. You may want to use google and cross check the info with your book)

9.) How did the phrase "balance of power" contribute to the start of the 30 Years' War? Between Catholics and Protestants, who had the upper hand by the end of the Bohemian phase of the war?

10.) Below is a list of key figures in the 30 Years' War. In the blanks, write whether they supported the Catholic or Protestant cause in the war and where they are from.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Figure** | **Cath./Prot.** | **From/Dynasty** | **Figure** | **Cath./Prot.** | **From/Dynasty** |
| **1. Archduke Ferdinand (Emperor Ferdinand II)** |  |  | **6. Count Tilly** |  |  |
| **2. Frederick V** |  |  | **7. Gustavus Adolphus** |  |  |
| **3. Duke Maximilian** |  |  | **8. Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu** |  |  |
| **4. King Christian IV** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5. Albrecht von Wallerstein** |  |  |  |  |  |

11.) Describe how the power dynamics near the Baltic Sea (in Scandinavia) changed during the Thirty Years' War. What roles did Denmark and Sweden, and their leaders, play in this conflict?

12.) Why was it odd and ironic that France came to the aid of Sweden in the final phase of the war? What major shift did this represent in Europe?  
13.) The Peace of Westphalia is considered a major turning point (the end of our first major time period in this class). What is its significance, and to what extent was was Europe both the same and different afterwards? (HINT, this is DEFINITELY a valid DBQ question, so you may want to put some serious thought into this one...Also, in DBQs you must respond to ALL parts of the question - note it says the same **and** different)

a.) Politically

b.) Economically

c.) Socially

d.) Militarily

**15.2 The Practice of Absolutism: Western Europe**

14.) What is absolutism? What is sovereignty? What is divine right? What are the differences between these terms? How are they connected?

15.) Who is Cardinal Richelieu? What role did he play in the reign of Louis XIII? What means did Cardinal Richelieu use to acquire political influence?

16.) What are "intendants" and what function did they play in French government?

17.) How might Cardinal Richelieu's fiscal policies be considered generally ill-fated? Who do you suppose it affected the most in the French population?

18.) What is a "regency" or a "regent"? What role did this play in the reign of Louis XIV? Who was Cardinal Mazarin?

19.) How did French nobles feel about Mazarin? Why? What is the "Fronde"?

20.) To what extent was the Sun King's authority truly absolute and centralized? In what ways was it not? (Hint, another potential DBQ or SAQ...)

21.) Who was the biggest threat to Louis XIV's rule? How did he resolve this?

22.) What are parlements? How did the King deal with distant provinces?

23.) What was Louis XIV's religious policy? What was the Edict of Fontainebleau?

24.) What role did Jean-Baptiste Colbert play in Louis XIV's reign? What kinds of fiscal policies did he enact?

25.) Why are some historians skeptical of Colbert's economic policies?

26.) In what ways did the Palace of Versailles function as a tool for the King? Why did nobles go along with affairs held at Versailles?

27.) War occurred almost non-stop during the reign of Louis XIV. What were the four major wars that took place during his reign? (to find the names you may have to utilize outside sources) What was the purpose of each, or alternatively, what did he gain (or lose) from each?

a.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

28.) How did the reign of Louis XIV end? Who took over?

29.) Spielvogel argues that Spain was in decline during the 17th century. What evidence does he offer to substantiate this claim?

30.) What effect did the Treaty of Westphalia have on the Holy Roman Empire? What German territory, under which dynasty, began to rise to prominence during the 17th century?

**15.3 Absolutism in Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe**

31.) Who was Frederick William the Great Elector? What are some of his major accomplishments? Who are junkers? How well did they get along with Frederick William?

32.) How did the Austrian Habsburgs (as opposed to the Spanish Habsburgs) proceed after the end of the Holy Roman Empire? What threat did they continue to face in the east? How was this resolved? What effect did the end of the War of Spanish Succession have on the Austrian Empire?

33.) What two powers had the most influence in the Italian peninsula from the mid 1500s to the start of the 18th century? Who took over one of those powers after the Treaty of Utrecht (1713)?

34.) Who was the first "tsar" or "czar" of Russia? Who were the Boyars? What were the "Times of Trouble"? Which dynasty emerged as the next long-standing line of tsars in Russia?

35.) Describe Peter the Great. Does his title match his character? What was his vision for Russia?

36.) Describe how Peter the Great reorganized and centralized Russia's government. What was the Table of Ranks?

37.) What measures did Peter the Great take to expand the military and navy of Russia? How did he go about paying for these endeavors?

38.) What was the "Holy Synod" and what did the procurator do?

39.) In what ways was Russia westernized as a result of Peter the Great's social policies? Who benefited the most? How was Russia still quite backwards from other European areas?

40.) Who was the Great Northern War between? What happened at the Battle of Poltava? Who won this war and what did they receive as a result? What new capital city did Peter create in the image of Versailles?

41.) What unexpected outcome did the Westernizing of Russia have on much of the population?

42.) What role did the Ottoman Empire have in 17th century Europe? What major strengths did it possess? Why did Spielvogel refer to the Ottoman Empire as the sleeping giant? What caused the giant to awaken?

43.) Spielvogel presents a counterargument to the idea of absolutism and suggests that it is misleading to believe that kings actually controlled the lives of their subjects. What pieces of evidence does he present to suggest this?

**15.4 Limited Monarchy and Republics**

44.) Why was Poland weaker and more decentralized by comparison to other European states? What role did the end of the Jagiello dynasty play? What role did the Sejm play? If no central authority controlled Poland, who was in power?

45.) The Golden Age of the Dutch Republic spanned what years? How did the Treaty of Westphalia affect the Dutch?

46.) A quasi-democratic system of government was practiced in the United Provinces. What is a stadholder? What was the States General? Why didn't it ever formulate into an actual monarchy?

47.) Why were the Dutch so economically prosperous for a short time? (hint, several factors are at play here, read all of page 460 before answering)

48.) Elizabeth I was the last of the English Tudor dynasty, who succeeded her to the throne? In what major ways (list at least a few) was he **very** different from Elizabeth I.

49.) Who are the puritans? How did they butt heads with James I?

50.) What is the gentry? What role did they have in England at this time? Where did their religious affiliation lie?

51.) Charles I got along even less with Parliament than his father did. What is the Petition of Right, and how did he feel about it? What was his reaction against Parliament?

52.) How did Charles I raise revenue for England if his power was so limited by the nobles?

53.) What was the event that forced Charles I to finally call together Parliament to ask for help? What happened during the "Long Parliament" to limit the King's authority?

54.) What did Charles I do that caused England to break out into Civil War? What are Cavaliers? What are Roundheads? (hint, you will have to use outside sources to find the answer to the second two)

55.) What was the "New Model Army" and who was its leader? What happened to Charles I during this time?

56.) Parliament was split between a majority and minority? What was the standpoint of the majority? Who controlled the army? What did Cromwell do to achieve an undisputed victory? What was the Rump Parliament?

57.) During the Commonwealth of England how did Cromwell govern? Name some groups who opposed him and how he handled their opposition.

58.) What happened when Oliver Cromwell died? Who was the leader and how was England fundamentally different than before? On the other hand, what did they restore to make things like they were before?

59.) What was the biggest weakness of Charles II, according to Puritan parliamentary members? What was the Declaration of Indulgence? What was the Test Act?

60.) Who are the Whigs and what did they support? Who are the Tories and what did they support?

61.) How did England handle the ascension of James II to the throne and his short 3 year reign?

62.) What was the Glorious Revolution? Who became the new monarchs of England? When they passed the English Bill of Rights, what did it ensure?

63.) What was the Toleration Act of 1689? To what extent was England both similar to and different from other places in Europe, such as France, during the 17th century? (hint, again, this could be a valid writing question, think carefully)

64.) Who was Thomas Hobbes and what were his views on human nature? How was John Locke fundamentally different from Hobbes?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE PRIMARY SOURCES (BOXED DOCUMENTS)

1. “A Witchcraft Trial in France”: What does this document tell us about the spread of witchcraft persecutions in the seventeenth century? What does this document tell you about the legal procedures involved in the trial of witches and how might these procedures have worked to condemn the innocent? What do these passages tell you about early modern European conceptions of justice? What does the trial record suggest about the status of women in the seventeenth century? Page 434

2. “The Face of War in the Seventeenth Century”: What does this document reveal about the effect of war on ordinary Europeans? Compare this description to the descriptions of the treatment of civilians in other wars, even in the twenty-first century. Does Grimmelshausen exaggerate or does this description agree with the other descriptions? Are there elements of satire in Grimmelshausen’s description? If so, what are they? Page 439

3) “The King’s Day Begins”: Page 445 – questions in box

4. “Peter the Great Deals with a Rebellion”: How did Peter deal with the revolt of the Streltsy? What does his approach to this problem tell us about the tsar? Was Peter’s bloody punishment of the rebels typical of seventeenth century rulers? Why or why not? How might Louis XIV have responded to a similar incident? Page 451

5) Opposing Viewpoints: Page 460 – questions in box

6. “The Bill of Rights”: The author states that the “Bill of Rights” laid the foundation for a constitutional monarchy? How? What key aspects of this document testify to the exceptional nature of English state politics in the seventeenth century? Why was there no “bill of rights” in France or Russia in the late seventeenth century? Was England unique, and if so, why? Page 462

7. “William Shakespeare: In Praise of England”: Beside patriotism, what other motives may Shakespeare have had in writing this tribute to England? What are the elements in this excerpt from *Richard II* that makes it one of the most famous evocations of England ever written? Page 468

**Key Terms and Identifications**

1. Thirty Years War
2. Gustavus Adolphus
3. Peace of Westphalia
4. Bishop Jacques Bossuet
5. “divine right”
6. Cardinals Richelieu and Mazarin
7. the Fronde
8. Edict of Fontainebleau
9. Jean-Baptiste Colbert
10. Louis XIV’s wars
11. Peace of Utrecht
12. the Hohenzollerns
13. Treaty of Karlowitz
14. the Romanovs
15. Peter the Great
16. Great Northern War
17. Poland’s Sejm
18. the house of Orange
19. English Civil War
20. Cromwell
21. Levellers
22. the Restoration
23. Test Act
24. James II
25. Glorious Revolution
26. Thomas Hobbes
27. John Locke
28. Bill of Rights
29. Mannerism and El Greco
30. Baroque
31. Rembrandt van Rijn
32. William Shakespeare
33. Racine and Moliere