WORLD HISTORY notes Day 3

AGE OF ABSOLUTISM

Austria, Prussia, Russia

HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

* Voltaire – “The Holy Roman Empire was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire”
* Austria and Prussia were emerging as powerful states within the Holy Roman Empire

1555 PEACE OF AUGSBURG

* allowed for religious toleration
* rulers in each German state could choose their religion
* weakened power of HRE – Charles V
* symbol of power of Protestant movement

1618 30 YEARS WAR

* Bohemia (area within HRE)
* Religion was main cause of war
  + North = Protestant
  + South = Catholic
    - * minority
* Ferdinand II becomes king of Bohemia
  + wanted to re-establish Catholicism
    - closed several Protestant Churches
* Protestants feared increasing persecution - revolted

May 1618 Defenestration of Prague

* Defenestrate =Latin for window (“out the window”)
  + Protestants tossed 2 Catholic officials out a window
  + Ferdinand moved to stop the revolt
* “Religious Alliances” turned revolt from a local problem to a war in Europe
* 1/3 of German people died
  + to try and re-establish population – Congress of Franconia (1650) said men under 60 could not live in a monastery and should have 2 wives

1648 TREATY OF WESTPHALIA

* ended the 30 Years War
* France main winner
* Increased independence of German Princes
* Netherlands / Switzerland gained independence
* Germany divided in +300 semi-separate states – no future unity

AUSTRIA

Hapsburg family controlled Austria and wanted to increase:

* absolute monarchy
* Catholicism

1750 King Charles VI died

* had no male heir
  + - wanted his daughter, Maria Theresa to become monarch
    - Pragmatic Sanction
      * created by Charles VI affirming Maria’s right to rulue
      * 1st female Hapsburg to rule

RULE OF MARIA THERESA

* ruled 40 years
* “savior of the Habsburg Dynasty”
* transformed Austria into a modern state and solidified the Habsburg rule
* eased burdens on serfs by getting nobles and clergy to pay taxes
* stood up to other countries
* strengthened military
* re-organized bureaucracy
* strengthened Catholicism

PRUSSIA

* controlled by the Protestant Hohenzollern family
* Frederick William I
  + Strengthened military
  + Centralized the bureaucracy
* Frederick II “the Great”
  + increased Prussia's wealth
  + doubled its size
  + turned Prussia into a cultural and learning leader
  + made it a great military power

RUSSIA

Isolated, no “modernization”

Backwards – still functioned like in Middle Ages

1682 Peter the Great becomes Czar

* weakened “conservative” nobles
  + nobles resisted change and Peter’s growing power
  + established absolute monarchy
* improved education – math, science, engineering
* improved infrastructure
* increased mining
* expanded “serfdom”
  + job of serfs was to “serve the state”
* established a “warm-water” port
  + St. Petersburg
    - “Window on the West”
* Expanded to North America
  + Alaska (part of Russia until 1862)

Peter used any means necessary to force change:

* Humiliation
* Imprisonment
* Torture
* Forced labor
* death

To grow like Peter the Great wanted to grow – needed a “Warm-Water Port”

* 1709 Battle of Poltava – defeated Swedes
* Built St. Petersburg as his new capital
  + “Window to Europe”
* Expanded control to North America – Alaska (part of Russia until 1862)
  + Bering Strait

1572 Catherine the Great

* German princess who became monarch through marriage

Ruled Russia during its “Golden Age”

* Continued many reforms of Peter the Great
  + “Westernination”
* codified the law code
* expanded education
* set up 1st schools for girls in Europe
* Improved medical conditions
  + provided 1st vaccine for Russians
* expanded Russia’s borders
* allowed Boyars greater control over Serfs