The Simple AP® European History Unit 3 Cheat Sheet

3.1 Contextualizing State Building

The Big Question

Sovereignty: who holds final power in a state: king, nobles, parliament, church or regions?
Westphalia (1648): ends 30 Years' War; German princes sovereign; Dutch independent.

Monarchs vs. Nobles

Nobles want shared rule + local power; kings want taxes & armies w/o their consent.
Richelieu (Louis XIII's minister): crushes Huguenot power, expands royal intendants.
The Fronde (1648–53): French nobles revolt while Louis XIV is a boy → as king he distrusts nobles & builds Versailles to watch them.

Challenge	Who resisted	Result
Fronde	French nobles	Crown wins
Catalonia	Catalans	Spain weak
Dutch Revolt	Netherlands	Independence
English CW	Parliament	King limited
Polish nobles	Sejm	Poland ends

Regional Identities

Minority groups resist: Celtic Scots & Irish, Czechs in the HRE, Dutch vs. Spanish rule.
Ireland: Catholic majority under Protestant English rule; Cromwell's brutal conquest.

⚠ Centralization varies: France → king; England → Parliament; Poland fails & is split.

✓ Contextualize: link 1648 (Westphalia, Fronde) to the rise of strong sovereign states.

3.2 English Civil War & Glorious Revolution

Causes

Stuart kings claim divine right; clash w/ Parliament over taxes, religion & royal power.
Charles I: rules w/o Parliament 1629–40; Scots revolt → needs $ → must recall Parliament.

Timeline

Year	Event	Meaning
1642–49	Civil War	King v. Parl.
1649	Charles I killed	Republic
1653–58	Cromwell rules	Military rule
1660	Restoration	Charles II
1688	Glorious Rev.	James II out
1689	Bill of Rights	Parl. supreme

Cromwell: New Model Army wins; rules as Lord Protector; harsh conquest of Ireland.
Levellers & Diggers: radicals demand votes & shared land → crushed by Cromwell.

Glorious Revolution

James II (Catholic) has a son in 1688 → Parliament invites Protestants **William & Mary**.
Bill of Rights (1689): no taxes or army w/o Parliament; free elections. **Toleration Act**: Protestant dissenters only, not Catholics.
Result: **parliamentary sovereignty**; gentry & aristocrats safe from absolutism.

⚠ Not democracy: Parliament = landed elites. Rights protected property owners.

✓ Causes of the war = money (taxes) + religion (Puritans vs. Laud) + power (divine right).

3.3 Economic Change & Continuity

Agricultural Revolution

More food: Dutch & English farmers lead → lower famine risk, rising population after 1700.
Crop rotation: turnips & clover replace fallow fields → soil stays fertile & feeds livestock.
Enclosure: commons fenced into private farms → efficient, but poor farmers lose land.
New World crops: potato & maize add cheap calories, esp. for the poor in Ireland.

Work & Trade

Putting-out system: merchants give rural families wool to spin & weave at home for pay.
Guilds weaken: govt & guild limits on labor & trade loosen → freer, more competitive markets.

Financial Revolution

Institution	Date	Role
Amsterdam bank	1609	Safe deposits
Joint-stock cos.	1600s	Pool money
Bank of England	1694	Lends to state
Insurance (Lloyd's)	1680s	Spreads risk
Stock exchange	1600s	Trade shares

Bubbles: France's Mississippi & Britain's South Sea schemes crash (1720) → investors ruined.
Property rights: protection from royal seizure → people invest savings in new ventures.

⚠ Continuity: most people still farmed; serfdom lasted in the east (Russia, Poland).

✓ CCOT: pair each change w/ a continuity (enclosure vs. eastern serfdom).

3.4 Mercantilism & the Atlantic Economy

Mercantilism

Core idea: wealth = gold; export more than you import (**favorable balance of trade**).
Colonies supply raw materials & buy finished goods; tariffs protect home industry.
Navigation Acts (1651): English ships only → aimed at the Dutch → Anglo-Dutch Wars.
Colbert (France): royal factories, roads & canals, high tariffs to build up French industry.
Trading companies: English & Dutch East India Cos. get state monopolies on Asian trade.

Atlantic Trade & Slavery

Leg	Goods	Route
1	Guns, cloth, rum	Europe → Africa
2	Enslaved people	Africa → Americas
3	Sugar, tobacco	Americas → Europe

Slave labor expands 1600s–1700s as European demand for sugar & tobacco soars.
Middle Passage: brutal Atlantic crossing; ~12 million Africans shipped; many died.

Consumer Revolution

New goods: sugar, tea, coffee, tobacco → middle-class consumer culture & coffeehouses.
Coffeehouses: spread news, ideas & business deals; Lloyd's insurance starts in one.
Colonial rivalry: Britain, France, Spain & Dutch fight over sugar islands & trade routes.

⚠ European prosperity & consumer culture were tied directly to slave labor in the Americas.

3.5 The Dutch Golden Age

Origins

Dutch Revolt (1568–1648): Calvinists & nobles rebel vs. Spain's taxes & Inquisition.
Independence recognized in 1648 (Westphalia) → the **United Provinces**, a federal republic.

Government

Oligarchy: urban merchants (**regents**) & landowners run things to protect trade.
Stadholder (House of Orange) leads the military; real power stays w/ the 7 provinces.
Tolerance: Calvinist state church, but Catholics, Jews & dissenters mostly left alone.

Economic Power

Strength	Example
Shipping	Fluyt cargo ships
Trade co.	VOC (1602), East Indies
Finance	Amsterdam bank & bourse
Culture	Rembrandt, Vermeer

Amsterdam: Europe's trade & finance hub; tulip mania (1637) shows speculation.
Ideas & print: Dutch presses publish books banned elsewhere; Descartes prints in Leiden.
Decline: wars w/ England & France (1672 invasion); William III later rules England.

⚠ Not a democracy: a merchant oligarchy, the key non-absolutist model in Europe.

✓ Sourcing: Dutch paintings show merchant pride; ask who paid for them & why.

3.6 Balance of Power & Military Revolution

New Diplomacy

After 1648: religion fades as a cause of war; dynastic & state interests take over.
Balance of power: states ally so no one power dominates → coalitions vs. Louis XIV.

Louis XIV's Wars

War	Dates	Outcome
Dutch War	1672–78	France gains
Nine Years'	1688–97	Coalition holds
Spanish Succ.	1701–14	Utrecht 1713

Utrecht (1713): a Bourbon keeps Spain, but the French & Spanish crowns never unite.

The East

Vienna (1683): Habsburgs & Poles beat the Ottomans → Ottoman expansion ends.
Poland: weak elected kings, noble veto → split by Russia, Prussia & Austria (1772–95).

Military Revolution

New warfare: more infantry, guns, mobile cannon & star forts; big standing armies.
Professional armies: drilled, uniformed & paid by the state, not hired mercenaries.
Costs: higher taxes & bigger bureaucracies → favors rich states like France & Sweden.

⚠ War → state building: armies needed taxes & officials, which centralized power.

✓ SAQ: name the war, its treaty & what changed (Utrecht → Bourbons kept apart).

3.7 Absolutist Approaches to Power

Absolutism

Absolute monarchy: king rules by **divine right**; shares power w/ no parliament.
Bargain: nobles lose political power but keep status, land, serfs & tax exemptions.

Louis XIV (r. 1643–1715)

Versailles (1682): nobles live at court chasing royal favor → watched, not ruling.
Intendants: royal agents run the provinces; Estates-General is never called.
Colbert: mercantilist finance minister; tariffs & state industry pay for Louis's wars.
Religion: Edict of Nantes revoked (1685) → Huguenots flee abroad w/ their skills.

Peter the Great (r. 1682–1725)

Area	Westernizing reform
Military	Standing army, navy
State	Table of Ranks (1722)
Church	Holy Synod
Culture	Beard tax, Western dress

Great Northern War (1700–21): beats Sweden at Poltava → Baltic coast & St. Petersburg.
Methods: serf labor builds the new capital; nobles must serve the state; rebels crushed.
Catherine the Great continues westernizing; serfdom grows even harsher under both.

⚠ Absolutism was never total: kings still needed nobles & local elites to govern.

3.8 Comparison & Exam Strategy

Compare the Models

State	Model	Power holder
France	Absolutism	King
Russia	Absolutism	Tsar
England	Constitutional	Parliament
Dutch Rep.	Republic	Merchants
Poland	Noble rule	Sejm → split

Similar: all build bigger armies, taxes & bureaucracies; all protect elites.

Writing Moves

LEQ thesis: "Both X & Y centralized power, but X relied on ___ while Y relied on ___."
Evidence pairs: Versailles vs. the Bill of Rights; Colbert vs. the Bank of England.
SAQ: 1 specific named example + 1 sentence of explanation for each part (A, B, C).

Key Dates

Year	Event
1648	Peace of Westphalia
1649	Charles I executed
1685	Nantes revoked
1689	Bill of Rights
1713	Peace of Utrecht

⚠ Constitutional ≠ democratic; absolute ≠ unlimited. Both systems protect elites.

✓ Thesis idea: war drove state building, w/ or w/o a parliament's consent to taxes.