The Ultimate AP® European History Unit 3 Cheat Sheet

3.1 Contextualizing State Building

The Big Question

Sovereignty struggle: who holds final power (king, nobles, parliament, church)? → **varying centralization**.
Sovereign state: one authority over a defined territory, backed by **secular law**, not church law.
Peace of Westphalia (1648): ends 30 Years' War; German princes gain sovereignty, HRE weakened, Calvinism recognized, Dutch & Swiss independent.

Monarchs vs. Nobles

Nobles want shared rule + regional autonomy (estates, parlements); kings want taxes & armies w/o consent.
Richelieu (Louis XIII's chief minister, 1624–42): crushes Huguenot political power, expands royal **intendants**.
The Fronde (1648–53): nobles + Paris parlement revolt vs. Mazarin during Louis XIV's childhood → Louis later distrusts nobles & Paris → builds Versailles to control them.

Challenge	Who resisted	Result
Fronde, 1648–53	French nobles	Crown wins
Catalan, 1640	Catalonia v. Madrid	Spain weakened
Dutch Revolt	Netherlands	Independence
English CW	Parliament	Limited monarchy
Polish nobles	Sejm, liberum veto	State collapses
Rákóczi, 1703–11	Hungarian nobles	Habsburgs win

Minority & Regional Identities

Language & culture fuel resistance to the dominant group: Celtic Scotland, Ireland & Brittany; Dutch vs. Spain; Czechs in the HRE (Hus, Defenestration of Prague, 1618).
Ireland: Catholic majority under Protestant English rule; Cromwell's conquest (1649) & Penal Laws deepen the divide.

✓ Contextualization point: open DBQ/LEQ by linking 1648 (Westphalia, Fronde) to the rise of strong sovereign states.

⚠ Centralization varies: France → king; England → Parliament; Poland fails to centralize.

3.2 English Civil War & Glorious Revolution

Causes: Stuarts vs. Parliament

James I (r. 1603–25): divine right of kings; clashes w/ Parliament over taxes, religion & royal favorites.
Charles I: Petition of Right (1628) → **Personal Rule** (1629–40) w/o Parliament; **ship money** tax; Archbishop Laud's prayer book → Scottish revolt, Bishops' Wars (1639–40).
Long Parliament (1640): needs $ for Scots war → Parliament demands limits; Puritans attack bishops.

Timeline

Year	Event	Meaning
1642–49	Civil War	Cavaliers v. Roundheads
1649	Charles I beheaded	King tried by Parl.
1653–58	Cromwell, Protector	Military rule
1660	Restoration	Charles II, limits
1688	Glorious Rev.	James II flees
1689	Bill of Rights	Parl. supremacy

Interregnum

Cromwell: New Model Army; Commonwealth then Protectorate; Puritan morals, brutal conquest of Ireland; Levellers & Diggers push radical equality.

Glorious Revolution (1688–89)

James II: Catholic, ignores Test Act; son born 1688 → Parliament invites **William of Orange & Mary**; near-bloodless.
Bill of Rights (1689): no taxes, army or law suspension w/o Parliament; free elections & speech in Parl. **Toleration Act**: Protestant dissenters only, not Catholics or Jews.
Outcome: **parliamentary sovereignty** protects gentry & aristocracy from absolutism; Locke later justifies it.

⚠ Not democracy: Parliament = landed elites. Rights protected property holders, not ordinary people.

✓ Causation thesis: money (taxes) + religion (Puritans vs. Laud/Catholics) + power (divine right) caused the war.

3.3 Economic Change & Continuity

Agricultural Revolution

Productivity ↑: Dutch & English farmers lead → more food, lower famine risk, rising population after 1700.
Crop rotation: Norfolk 4-field (wheat, turnips, barley, clover) ends fallow; Townshend popularizes turnips.
Enclosure: commons fenced into private farms → efficient, but small farmers lose land → labor for towns.
Tools & breeding: Jethro Tull's seed drill (1701) plants in rows; selective breeding → bigger livestock.
New World crops: potato & maize ↑ calories, esp. for the poor (Ireland, Prussia, central Europe).

Labor & Trade Freed

Guilds weaken: labor & commodities freed from govt & corporate (guild) restrictions → freer markets.
Putting-out system (cottage industry): merchants supply raw wool → rural families spin & weave at home → merchant sells. Avoids urban guilds; women & kids work too.

Financial Revolution

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

Property rights: protection from royal confiscation → savings become venture capital (esp. Britain & Dutch).
Bubbles: Mississippi (France) & South Sea (Britain) crash in 1720 → fortunes lost; speculation risks.

⚠ Continuity: most Europeans still farmed & serfdom persisted in the east (Russia, Poland); change was uneven, fastest in Britain & the Dutch Republic.

✓ CCOT essays: pair each change w/ a continuity (e.g., English enclosure vs. eastern serfdom).

3.4 Mercantilism & the Atlantic Economy

Mercantilism

Core idea: wealth = bullion; world wealth is fixed → export > import (**favorable balance of trade**) & hoard gold.
Tools: colonies supply raw materials & buy finished goods; tariffs; monopolies; subsidies for home industry.
Colbert (France): royal manufactures (Gobelins tapestries), roads & canals, high tariffs, French East India Co.
Navigation Acts (England, 1651+): colonial trade in English ships → aimed at Dutch shippers → Anglo-Dutch Wars.
Chartered companies: English & Dutch East India Cos. hold state-granted monopolies on Asian spices, tea & textiles.

Atlantic Trade & Slavery

Leg	Goods	Route
1	Guns, cloth, rum	Europe → Africa
2 (Middle Pass.)	Enslaved people	Africa → Americas
3	Sugar, tobacco	Americas → Europe

Slave-labor system expands in 17th–18th c. as demand for sugar, tobacco, coffee & cotton ↑; plantations in Caribbean & Brazil worked by millions of enslaved Africans.
Middle Passage: brutal Atlantic crossing; ~12 million Africans shipped in all; many died aboard from disease & abuse.

Consumer Revolution

New goods: sugar, tea, coffee, tobacco, rum, silks & cottons → middle-class consumer culture; coffeehouses spread news, ideas & business deals (e.g., Lloyd's).
Global links: colonies supply raw materials, labor & markets for European commerce & later industry.
Colonial rivalry: Britain, France, Spain & Dutch fight over sugar islands & trade routes → global wars.

⚠ Don't separate European prosperity from slavery: CED ties consumer culture to the slave-labor system.

✓ Link forward: mercantilist wealth + consumer demand = groundwork for the Industrial Revolution (Unit 6).

3.5 The Dutch Golden Age

Origins

Dutch Revolt (1568–1648): Calvinist & noble resistance to Habsburg Spain (taxes, Inquisition); Union of Utrecht (1579).
Independence recognized 1648 (Peace of Münster/Westphalia) → **United Provinces**.

Government

Oligarchy: urban gentry (**regents**) + rural landholders run the provinces to promote trade & protect traditional rights.
States General: provincial delegates; **stadholder** (House of Orange) leads military; power decentralized.
Relative tolerance: Calvinist state church, but Catholics, Jews & dissenters mostly left alone; refuge for printers.

Economic Power

Strength	Example
Shipping	Fluyt cargo ships
Trade co.	VOC (1602), East Indies
Finance	Amsterdam bank & bourse
Farming	Drainage, intensive crops
Science	Huygens, Leeuwenhoek
Culture	Rembrandt, Vermeer

Amsterdam: Europe's commercial & financial hub; low interest rates; tulip mania (1637) shows speculation.
Ideas & print: presses publish books banned elsewhere; Descartes prints in Leiden (1637); Spinoza.

Decline

Pressures: Anglo-Dutch Wars vs. Navigation Acts; French invasion (1672, "Disaster Year"); **William III** leads anti-Louis coalitions, then rules England (1689) w/ Mary.

⚠ Dutch Republic ≠ democracy: a merchant oligarchy. It's the CED's model of non-absolutist government on the continent, unlike Louis XIV's France.

✓ Sourcing (2.B): Dutch genre paintings show bourgeois pride; ask who commissioned them & why.

3.6 Balance of Power & Military Revolution

New Diplomacy

After Westphalia: religion fades as a cause of war; **dynastic & state interests** + colonial empires drive it.
Balance of power: states ally to stop any one power dominating → coalitions vs. Louis XIV.

Louis XIV's Wars

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

Peace of Utrecht: Philip V (Bourbon) keeps Spain but French & Spanish crowns never unite; Britain gains Gibraltar & slave-trade **asiento**; Austria gets Spanish Netherlands & Italy.

The East

Siege of Vienna (1683): Habsburgs + Sobieski's Poles defeat Ottomans → Ottoman westward expansion ends for good; Habsburgs take Hungary (Karlowitz, 1699).
Poland: elected kings, **liberum veto** (1 noble blocks the Sejm) → no central power → partitioned by Russia, Prussia & Austria (1772, 1793, 1795); vanishes until 1918.

Military Revolution

New warfare: more infantry, firearms, mobile cannon, elaborate star forts (Vauban); larger standing armies.
Professional armies: drilled, uniformed, paid by the state year-round, not mercenaries hired for 1 campaign.
Costs: heavier taxes + bigger bureaucracy → favors states able to marshal resources: France, Sweden (Gustavus Adolphus), Habsburg Spain; small states lose out.

⚠ Military revolution → state building: war needed taxes & officials, which centralized power. Show the chain.

✓ SAQ evidence: name the war + its treaty + what shifted (Utrecht 1713 → Bourbons kept apart).

3.7 Absolutist Approaches to Power

Absolutism

Absolute monarchy: king rules by **divine right** (Bossuet), w/o sharing power w/ estates or parliament.
Bargain w/ nobles: limit their role in governing but keep their social status & legal privileges (tax exemptions, land, serfs).

Louis XIV (r. 1643–1715)

Versailles (court from 1682): nobles live at court, compete for favor & ritual → watched, not ruling; etiquette = power.
Administration: **intendants** (royal agents) run provinces; Estates-General never called; standing army.
Colbert: mercantilist finance, better tax collection, state industry & navy → $ for Louis's constant wars.
Religion: revokes Edict of Nantes (1685) → Huguenots flee to Dutch Rep., Prussia, England (skills lost).

Peter the Great (r. 1682–1725)

Area	Westernizing reform
Military	Standing army, Baltic navy
State	Table of Ranks (1722)
Church	Holy Synod replaces patriarch
Culture	Beard tax, Western dress
Learning	Academy of Sciences, schools
Capital	St. Petersburg (1703)

Great Northern War (1700–21): beats Sweden (Poltava, 1709) → Baltic access. Serfdom tightened; Streltsy crushed.
Catherine the Great continues westernizing.
Costs of reform: serf labor builds St. Petersburg; nobles forced into state service; new poll tax on peasants (1724).
Spain (Philips II–IV): absolutist but declining: debt, inflation, Catalan & Portuguese revolts (1640) → Portugal independent.

⚠ Absolutism was never total: kings still needed nobles, local elites, tax farmers & the Church to govern. In essays, say "limited by..." to earn the complexity point.

3.8 Comparison & Exam Strategy

Compare the Models

State	Model	Power holder
France	Absolutism	King + intendants
Russia	Absolutism	Tsar, westernizing
England	Constitutional	King-in-Parliament
Dutch Rep.	Republic	Merchant oligarchy
Poland	Noble republic	Sejm → partitioned

Similarities: all build bigger armies, taxes & bureaucracies; all protect elite (noble or gentry) privilege.
Differences: who consents to taxes (no one vs. Parliament); religious policy (Louis's uniformity vs. Dutch tolerance).

Writing Moves

LEQ comparison thesis: "Both X and Y centralized power, but X relied on ___ while Y relied on ___ b/c ___."
Complexity: show limits (Versailles nobles kept privileges; English elites, not the people, gained rights).
Evidence pairs: Versailles vs. Bill of Rights; Colbert vs. Bank of England; Table of Ranks vs. Dutch regents.
DBQ sourcing: Louis XIV's memoirs & Bossuet = propaganda for divine right; Parliament's declarations justify resistance.
SAQ: answer w/ 1 specific named example + 1 sentence of explanation per part (A, B, C); no thesis needed.

Key Dates

1648 Westphalia · **1649** Charles I executed · **1661** Louis XIV's personal rule · **1683** Vienna · **1685** Nantes revoked · **1689** Bill of Rights · **1713** Utrecht · **1795** Poland gone.

⚠ Don't equate constitutionalism w/ democracy or absolutism w/ unlimited power. Both are elite systems w/ real limits & both protect landowners.

✓ Strong thesis: "War drove state building: absolutists raised armies by taxing w/o consent; England did so through Parliament, which won control of taxes."