Chapter 5 Section 2
The Reign of Louis XIV

Setting the Stage: After years of religious wars and power struggles, France was looking desperately for a period of peace and prosperity. And though the power of the nation changed hands many times during the late 16th century and into the 17th century, France finally fell into the hands of the most powerful ruler in their history – Louis XIV.

Louis XIV Comes to Power
When Louis XIV became king following the death of his father, he was only 4 years old. The true ruler of France was Cardinal ________________, head of the Catholic Church in France. Members of the _______________ class hated Marazin because he increased taxes and strengthened the power of the throne. Violence often broke out over Marazin’s decisions, and the young king’s life was often threatened. As Louis grew and gained more power, he never forgot the fear he felt and vowed to become so strong that he would never be threatened by the _______________ again.

Over time, the rebellions and violence ended, mostly due to the following:
1. The nobles distrusted each other more than they distrusted the Marazin and the monarch.
2.
3.

Once Marazin died, Louis gained full control of France at the age of 22.

Louis Weakens the Nobles’ Power
Louis immediately acted to gain full control of his country.
- He excluded the nobles from attending government councils.
- He increased the power of his ________________, his government agents who collected taxes and kept the peace.
- He employed a financial advisor, _______________ _______________ _______________, to make his country more _______________.
- Louis wanted France to manufacture everything within the country, so he created a system based on _________________. (See below)
Louis Fights Disastrous Wars
Under Louis, France became the most powerful nation in Europe. Its population was far larger than France’s closest rivals, and its military was also far superior.

Other European nations, sensing France’s growing power, formed a Europeanwide alliance to create a ________________ ____________, where no one country could dominate the others. This new alliance, together with poor harvests at home and constant warfare brought great suffering to the French people, who longed for a period of peace. Meanwhile, France plummeted deeper into ____________, as the cost of warfare took its toll.

After over 70 years as king of France, Louis XIV died, well aware of the harm he had done to his people.

The Legacy of Louis XIV:

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