

Crowns Gather Power

Compare how Louis XIV and Peter the Great concentrated authority and wealth.

9.9c "Absolutist governments emerged as Western European and Russian monarchs consolidated power and wealth."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline royal policies. Label each P (political control), W (wealth or revenue), or P+W, and explain one connection.

Building Absolutist Rule

- ① Louis XIV sought to strengthen royal authority in France. Court life at Versailles drew many nobles close to the king. Ceremonies, offices, and rewards made access to royal favor valuable. Royal officials called intendants carried out orders in the provinces, supervised administration, and helped collect taxes. Revenue supported a standing army and royal projects. These arrangements reduced some nobles' independence, but Louis still had to work through existing privileges, institutions, and local resistance.
- ② Peter the Great strengthened Russia's state through service obligations, taxation, and military reform. His Table of Ranks linked advancement to state service rather than birth alone. He reorganized the army, built a navy, and fought Sweden in the Great Northern War. During that war, he founded St. Petersburg in 1703 on captured territory near the Baltic. Russia's victory in 1721 secured important Baltic gains. Expanded taxes, including a levy on male peasants, helped fund war and construction but imposed heavy burdens.
- ③ Both rulers sought loyal officials, military strength, and revenue. Louis used court life and provincial administration to reinforce authority. Peter emphasized service and reforms tied to military expansion. Their policies demanded resources from ordinary people as well as nobles. Absolutism meant a claim to concentrated monarchical authority, not unlimited practical control. Wars, debt, resistance, and the need for cooperation could restrict even powerful rulers. Comparing policies shows how each tried to turn wealth and service into political power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Louis XIV use Versailles and court offices to reduce the independence of French nobles?

2 Explain how intendants and tax collection helped Louis XIV consolidate power and wealth.

3 Name one way Peter the Great increased political control and one way he increased Russia's resources.

4 What was one shared goal of Louis XIV and Peter the Great, and what was one difference in how they pursued it?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write four sentences comparing two policies from the passage, one from each ruler. Explain how each increased royal power or revenue, then identify one cost or limit of this approach.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline royal policies. Label each P (political control), W (wealth or revenue), or P+W, and explain one connection. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Louis XIV use Versailles and court offices to reduce the independence of French nobles?	Court ceremonies, offices, and rewards made nobles' access to the king and his favor valuable, encouraging dependence on royal patronage.
2	Explain how intendants and tax collection helped Louis XIV consolidate power and wealth.	Intendants carried out Louis's orders and supervised local government. They helped collect taxes, giving the monarchy money for a standing army and greater control over policy.
3	Name one way Peter the Great increased political control and one way he increased Russia's resources.	He required nobles to serve the state and used the Table of Ranks to tie advancement to service. He expanded taxation, including a tax on male peasants, to pay for war and construction.
4	What was one shared goal of Louis XIV and Peter the Great, and what was one difference in how they pursued it?	Both wanted to strengthen central government and gain revenue for armies and projects. Louis relied on court life and provincial officials, while Peter emphasized state service, military reform, and expansion to the Baltic.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Louis used intendants to carry out orders and help collect taxes. This supported administration and army funding. Peter tied advancement to state service, strengthening nobles' links to government. Both approaches still depended on resources and cooperation, while taxes imposed burdens on ordinary people.

Accept accurate links between named policies and royal power or revenue. The final comparison should use both rulers and identify a supported cost or limit.