

The Reign of Louis XIV

Chapter 21, Section 2

Section Opener

- After a century of war and riots, France was ruled by Louis XIV, the most powerful monarch of this time.

Religious Wars and Power Struggles

- **Henry of Navarre**
 - Henry, who was a French Calvinist (Huguenot) ascends to French throne in 1589 and converts to Catholicism ending the religious wars.
 - **Issues Edict of Nantes—a declaration of religious toleration**



Religious Wars and Power Struggles



- Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu
 - Louis XIII appoints Cardinal Richelieu in 1624 as minister who rules France.
 - Increases power of the Bourbons by limiting Huguenots' freedom
 - Also weakens power of the nobility



- Picture of Louis XIII

Writers Turn Toward Skepticism

- A New Attitude

- Skepticism—the idea that nothing can be known for certain. It resulted from those who were horrified by groups that claimed to be the only ones with a correct set of doctrines.

- Montaigne and Descartes

- Montaigne explores ideas about life's meaning in essays.
- Descartes uses observation and reason to create new philosophy and help develop scientific method.

Louis XIV Comes to Power

- A New French Ruler
 - Louis XIV is the most powerful ruler in French history.
- Louis the Boy King
 - Hatred of Cardinal Mazarin, Louis' minister while he was a boy, leads to riots.

■ Louis Weakens the Nobles Authority

- Louis takes control of the government in 1661.
- He appoints **intendants**—government agents—to collect taxes.

■ Economic Growth

- Jean Baptiste Colbert—finance minister—helps the economy grow. He believes in mercantilism.
- In 1685, Louis cancels Edict of Nantes; Huguenots flee France.

The Sun King's Grand Style

■ A Life of Luxury

- Louis lives very well, with every meal a feast.

■ Louis Controls the Nobility

- Louis keeps nobles at palace to increase his power over them.
- Builds magnificent palace at Versailles

■ Patronage of the Arts

- Versailles is a center of arts during reign of Louis XIV
- Purpose of the arts is to glorify Louis

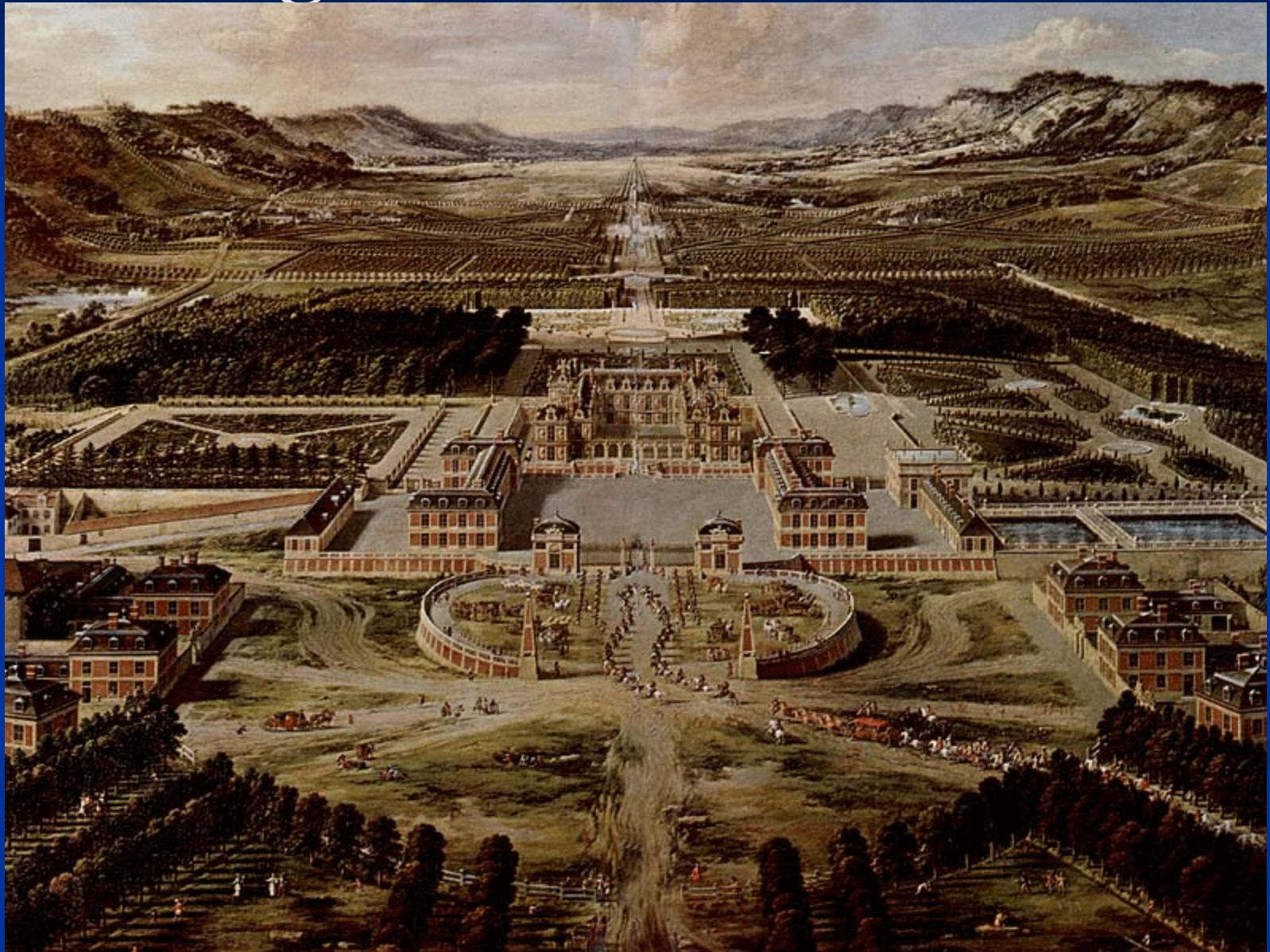
Panoramic view of Versailles Palace



Another view of Versailles Palace



Drawing of Versailles from above



Queen's Bed Chamber



Louis Fights Disastrous Wars

- Attempts to Expand France's Boundaries
 - Louis fights wars in the 1660s and 1670s to expand France.
 - 1667-Invades Spanish Netherlands.
 - 1672-Invades Dutch Netherlands.
 - In 1680s, many countries unite against him in League of Augsburg
 - France is weakened by poor harvests, warfare, and high taxes.

Louis Fights Disastrous Wars

- War of Spanish Succession

- War of Spanish Succession begins in 1701
- This war attempts to prevent the union of the French and Spanish throne.
- War ends in 1714; France and Spain lose some possessions.

Louis Fights Disastrous Wars

- Louis's Death and Legacy
 - Louis dies leaving mixed legacy
 - Rule makes France a major military and cultural power in Europe
 - His wars and palace leave France with heavy debts.