

Data Set 1

The Thirty Years' War

“Perhaps the most significant legacy of Westphalia [the treaty that ended the Thirty Years' War] was a universal yearning for order and stability. The war disrupted trade, destroyed industries, undermined monetary systems, and caused the deaths of more than five million people. It perpetuated an economic depression in central Europe so severe that killing famines became commonplace. Armies on both sides lived from the land. Brutalized and half-starved mercenary soldiers looted, burned, tortured, and raped. Even in unoccupied areas, general disorder and crime prevailed among rural and urban populations, both of which declined drastically. In some places, law enforcement was virtually abandoned. For all who experienced these conditions directly, and for thousands of others who only heard the terrible rumors, restoration of order seemed a goal surpassing all others.”

– Wallbank, 2002, History World International

Data Set 2

“During the time men live without a common power to keep them all in awe, they are in that condition which is called war...In such condition, there is no place for industry...no arts; no letters; no society; and, which is worst of all, continual fear and danger of violent death. And the life of man [is] solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

– Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

“The royal power is absolute...The prince need render account of his acts to no one...Without this absolute authority [he] could neither do good nor repress evil. It is necessary that his power be such that no one can hope escape him...The prince...is not regarded as a private person: he is a public personage, all the state is in him; the will of all the people is included in his. As all perfection and all strength are united in God, so all the power of individuals is united in the person of the prince.”

– Bishop Jacques-Benigne Bossuet, “Politics Drawn from the Very Words of Scripture,” 1679

Data Set 3

“The first stepping stone to the emergence of democracy was the destruction of feudalism and the stabilization of monarchical authority. The old hierarchic social order did not dissolve completely, but it became more elastic and adjusted itself to the new conditions. The stabilization of monarchical authority and the growth of nation-state lessened the importance of feudalism. Till the 15th century, England was a cluster of counties divided among various feudal lords with a monarch dependent on them for military and financial support. The growth of the nation-state diminished the importance of feudal lords. Agreements were made with the feudal barons to serve for pay, with a stipulated retinue of mercenary soldiers. The use of such agreements and of

pay changed the complexion of the army and undermined the territorial basis of feudal service. This helped break down the rigidity of feudal hierarchy.”

– International Center for Peace and Development

Data Set 4

“The state of monarchy is the supremest thing upon earth; for kings are not only God’s lieutenants upon earth, and sit upon God’s throne, but even by God Himself they are called gods...Kings are justly called gods, for that they exercise a...divine power upon earth...God hath power to create or destroy, make or unmake at His pleasure, to give life or sent death, to judge all and to be judged nor accountable to none, to raise low things and to make high things low at His pleasure...And the like power have kings.”

– King James I of England, 1609

Scene 2 from *Man in the Iron Mask*.

In this scene, viewers see the extravagance of Versailles. This portion of the film focuses in on King Louis XIV getting ready to go to a party. He makes a few comments about political policy and speaks privately with a Jesuit priest about conflicts he has had with a particular Jesuit. He is also informed of riots in Paris because of his starving people; he replies that some rotten food be sent to them. Students will get a picture of his extravagance but also of some of the political issues surrounding the supreme power of them monarchy (i.e., that he can have someone killed simply for disagreeing with them and that he is totally unconcerned with the dissatisfaction of his people).