**CLASS NOTES**

Wednesday

9/04/13

1. **Monarch(y)**-A ruler who inherits power by birth, or in special cases elections, and holds that position for life, unless he/she dies, is overthrown or abdicates (resigns the position).
2. **Absolutism** or **Absolute Monarch-**A ruler who holds all the decision making power within a country, and controls all aspects of society.
3. **Divine Right-**The belief that God created the monarchy and the king/queen was God’s direct representative on Earth.
4. **Examples**

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| **Absolute Monarch** | **Ceremonial Monarch** |
| **King Louis XIV “Sun King”-**Part of the Bourbon Family-Reigned as king for 72 years, until he died. Firmly believed in the Divine Right. | **Queen Elizabeth II**-England  Serves as figure head of the United Kingdom. Does not have legislative powers (ability to make laws). She answers to Parliament which follows a constitution much like our Congress follows the U.S. Constitution. |
| **Saddam Hussein**-Iraq-Elected President for life in 1979. Removed from office during a revolution in 2003. |  |
| **King Louis XVI-**Member of the Bourbon family-Great Grandson of Louis XIV. Was beheaded during the Reign of Terror in 1793. |  |

**ABSOLUTISM**

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| ADVANTAGES | DISADVANTAGES |
| * Ruler gets what he wants * Laws and commands get done quickly * Smooth transition of power * Consistent communication-one voice speaks for the whole country | * Not always in touch with the common people * Limited or no power lies with the people * No person or body to check or control the ruler’s power * Can change laws or rules whenever he/she wants. * Often is overthrown because people are upset with actions * Actions can divide a country and lead to a revolution or civil war. |