

Example FRQs

Absolutism and Constitutionalism

1. Machiavelli suggested that a ruler should behave both "like a lion" and "like a fox." Analyze the policies of TWO of the following European rulers, indicating the degree to which they successfully followed Machiavelli's suggestions: Elizabeth I of England, Henry IV of France, Catherine the Great of Russia, Frederick II of Prussia.
2. How were the "new" monarchs in England, France, and Spain different from their medieval counterparts? Be sure to also discuss ways their states were also different than medieval states.
3. Explain the economic developments that shifted the center of European power from Southern Europe to Western Europe between 1450 and 1750.
4. Explain the differences between English government and French government that led to England becoming a Constitutional monarchy by 1700 and France becoming an absolutist monarchy.
5. Explain the factors which led to the rise of central and eastern European states between 1450 and 1800.
6. Peter the Great is called the Great Westernizer. To what extent was he successful economically, socially and politically?
7. Compare and contrast the goals and major policies of Peter the Great of Russia (ruled 1682-1725) with those of Frederick the Great of Prussia (ruled 1740-1786).