



**AP[®] European History
2004 Sample Student Responses
Form B**

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Even though absolute monarchs and dictators attempted to ~~control~~ gain and maintain power they did so ~~in different respects~~ ^{and to different degrees}. Both absolutists and dictators, had a firm control over the army, ~~and frequent wars~~ ^{and had} secret police, but absolutists were more concerned in subduing the nobility and the ~~clerical~~ church while dictators used modern technology ^{and propaganda} ^{to} control the lives of their citizens from cradle to grave!"

Absolutists such as Louis XIV and dictators such as Hitler and Stalin shared many similarities. To ^{gather} maintain their power they had to have the loyalty of their army. Both Louis XIV and Hitler had armies loyal to them. Even the army could not be fully trusted so absolutists and dictators both employed the use of secret police and spies. Louis XIV ~~got~~ ^{used} his intelligence spies to open letters while Hitler's SS ~~eliminated~~ ^{found out details of} his enemies and they could be eliminated, ^{as well as potential} ^{conspirators} Hitler's SS could eliminate "enemies and stalkers".

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of the state. Both Louis XIV, ^{modern dictators} and Hitler, ^{and Stalin} stimulated nationalism by ~~scapegoats~~ ^{blaming minority groups} such as Huguenots and Jews for their problems and establishing religious conformity ~~such as Roman Catholic church~~ ^{as was done in France and the} ~~as forcibly~~ ^{as} Marxist-Leninist U.S.S.R. One of the best foods for nationalism's continuous war which also helps distract attention away from domestic problems, Louis XIV, ^{Hitler} and Stalin all used war to stimulate nationalism even if the human costs were huge. ~~So~~ Louis XIV, Hitler and Stalin all managed to keep a cult of personality whether it was from patronage of the arts, to bombastic speeches, to mysterious seclusion. Absolutist and totalitarian rulers had a great deal of power but it was the totalitarian state that could exert the most power over its citizens.

Absolutists wanted to gain power over the nobility but unlike their 20th century counterparts they

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were not concerned with total control over the lives of ordinary peoples. Louis XIV made the court at Versailles in part to domesticate the nobility and exerted a near total control over their lives with frequent balls and gatherings in their forced ~~to~~ home Versailles where they were forced to live. Ordinary people, with little power, could not do much and Louis XIV did not actually want to control them. Hitler and Stalin realized the power of the masses and attempted to ~~totally~~ totally control them. Skillful propaganda ~~deceived~~ ^{people} people and made them into instruments of a totalitarian state. Modern technology ~~which Louis XIV did not have~~ such as radios and ~~the~~ motion pictures were used by Hitler to gain ~~the~~ control over the hearts and minds of his subjects. ~~the~~ People Under Stalin, people were forced to follow a certain routine and the state decided what they did and where they went. If anyone attempted to rebel, the well-equipped secret police could locate

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and eliminate them. In this way ~~absolutist~~ totalitarian dictators also achieved material result such as ~~the~~ Stalin's forced industrialization of Russia, something Louis ~~XIV~~ could not accomplish.

Even though 17th century absolutist and 20th century dictators share many similarities, ^{in gaining} the 20th century ^{maintaining power} dictator had far ~~more~~ more control ~~over~~ ^{over} an ordinary person's life. This made ~~the~~ 20th century dictatorships ^{far more powerful} so brutal ~~and so strong~~ than Louis XIV was at any time of his reign.

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~~The absolute monarchs of the 17th century had to manage the nobles wisely, but the~~

In order to have a strong central power, the absolute monarchs of 17th century had to deal with the nobles. ~~They had to~~ They had to

suppress the power of the nobles ~~and the papacy~~ without aggravating them too much. Louis XIV of France ~~was~~ was one of the kings who dealt with them skillfully. ~~By hiring the people~~

~~of the~~ the upper-middle class non-nobles ~~as the~~ as the ^{officers to} ~~subverts~~ subverts, he managed to decrease the power of the nobles. At the

same time, he put nobles under him by ^{making elaborate parties} ~~the creation of the~~ and manners. ~~Continuous parties in the palace of Versailles~~

~~made~~ made the nobles use more and more money, thereby reducing ~~their~~ their ~~economic~~ economic power as well as the political one.

The nobles who did not have ^{either} ~~the~~ ~~power~~ the money or the power to govern had to flatter to the king in order to survive.

In addition, Louis XIV created his image as the holy, ~~undisputable~~ undisputable king. As expressed in ~~his~~ his word "I'm the state" or

his nickname "sun king", he had the image of the glorious, divine king. This image was ~~adroitly~~ adroitly created by the king.

He ^{ordered} ~~made~~ portraits to paint portraits of himself which were drawn in such divine manner, and he had daily ceremony

in his palace ~~that~~ that created ~~his~~ such image. By creating the strong image ~~as~~ along with ~~not~~ taking power from the

nobles, he ^{successfully} ~~put~~ put him as the absolute monarch. Also, in the seventeenth century, religion was one ~~of~~ of the

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major issues that had to be dealt with. Because religious division could create internal conflicts, the king ~~was~~ promoted religious unity. He ~~supported~~ ^{supported} ~~Catholics~~ had his country as ^{Catholic}, suppressing the Huguenots. ~~At this time~~ ^{Yet, he did not} accept much intervention from the Pope in Rome, ~~but~~ for his such support was not ~~to~~ because he was devout but because he wanted religious unity.

In the 20th century, much different ~~things~~ issues had to be dealt with in order to be dictators. First, the dictator had to deal ~~not~~ not with the nobles but with the ordinary people. Winning the popular support of the commons was the first ~~big~~ mission, because the people had their right to vote by this time. Also, the ~~so~~ much developed media made the commons ~~more~~ more open and accessible to the politics. Hence, the dictators of ~~the~~ ~~20th~~ 20th century ~~had~~ ^{used} to ~~manage~~ the media and appeal to the mass.

~~For Hitler is the example of such usage of media and appeal to the mass.~~

Another big difference was ~~that~~ they now had to work with their ~~parties~~ political parties, which did not exist in the 17th century. ~~The~~ ~~for~~ for example, Hitler had Nazis, and Mussolini had Fascist party as their supporters.

Hitler ~~is~~ ~~to~~ used the media skillfully to appeal to the mass. He used propagandas, ~~and~~ featuring Nazis as the party to save Germany from economic depression and social unrest. Also, he made many speeches to the mass, thus

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appealing directly to the mass. He created his image as the most creditable, strong, confident man whom the nation should trust. ~~Some~~ Although ~~he~~ ^{Nazi} used violent methods ~~in~~ in the progress of ~~gaining~~ ^{gaining} political power, ~~he~~ Hitler managed to hide such violence and unjust by ~~using~~ ^{manipulating} the media. Even when ~~the~~ Germany was ~~being~~ being defeated, he kept his popularity ~~by~~ by hiding such defeats, which was why the Germans were shocked by their sudden defeat.

~~The similarity between Louis XIV and Hitler was that~~
 The similarity Louis XIV and Hitler shared was that they ^{intentionally} created the strong image of themselves. Yet, the almost two-hundred years of gap ~~was~~ required ~~many~~ differences. Louis XIV had to deal with the nobles, but ~~the~~ Hitler had to appeal to the mass. Louis XIV did not have ~~the~~ media to manipulate, but Hitler did. ~~While Hitler~~ Hitler had his party ~~to~~ to support ^{and} ~~he~~ he had to ~~win~~ win votes, but Louis XIV got his position ~~as~~ as a king ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~his~~ by his blood.