

THE NEW MONARCHIES

I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- A. Rulers attempted to bring civil peace back to kingdoms
- B. Institution of monarchy was a guarantee of law and order
- C. Enlisted help of bourgeoisie who were tired of private wars and marauding nobles. Townspeople willing to let kings rule without parliaments or Estate Generals (strongholds of nobles)
- D. Kings, receiving money in taxes, able to organize armies; pike and longbow enabled foot soldier to stand up to horsemen
- E. Roman law adopted by monarchies – break down feudal or “common” law
- F. Called themselves “sovereign” and addressed as “majesty”; court life to reflect royal power continually developed

II. TWO BASIC OBSTACLES TO THE RISE OF THE “NEW MONARCHIES” WERE BEING REDUCED IN POWER.

- A. Nobles weakened by Hundred Years War, War of the Roses, and Black Death
- B. Catholic Church weakened by the Schism (Spanish Church being the exception)

