

# The New Monarchs

## 1460-1520

GQ: How do we measure power in the 1500's?

GQ: How did new monarchs shape the nation state of the 19<sup>th</sup> century?





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## New Monarchs: c.1460-1520

Consolidated power and created the foundation for Europe's first modern nation-states in France, England and Spain

- This evolution had begun in the Middle Ages
  - Monarchies had grown weaker in Eastern Europe during the Middle Ages.

- However, New Monarchies never achieved absolute power;
- New Monarchies also were not nation-states (in the modern sense) since populations did not necessarily feel that they belonged to a “nation”
  - Identity tended to be much more local or regional).
  - nationalism did not emerge until the late 18th and early 19th centuries.



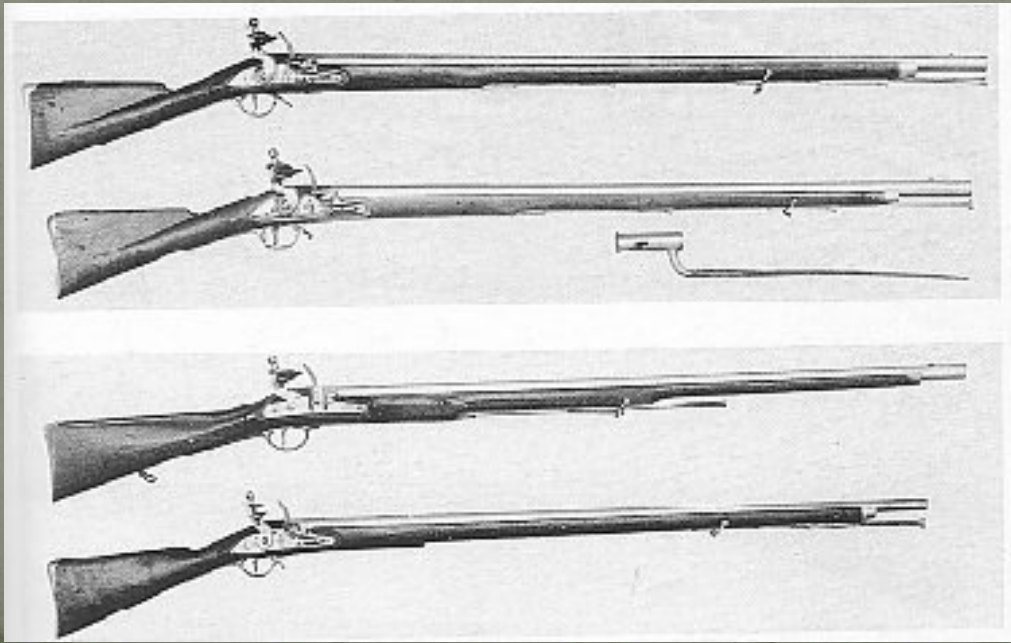
# New Monarchs: c.1460-1520

## New Monarchies and the Nobility

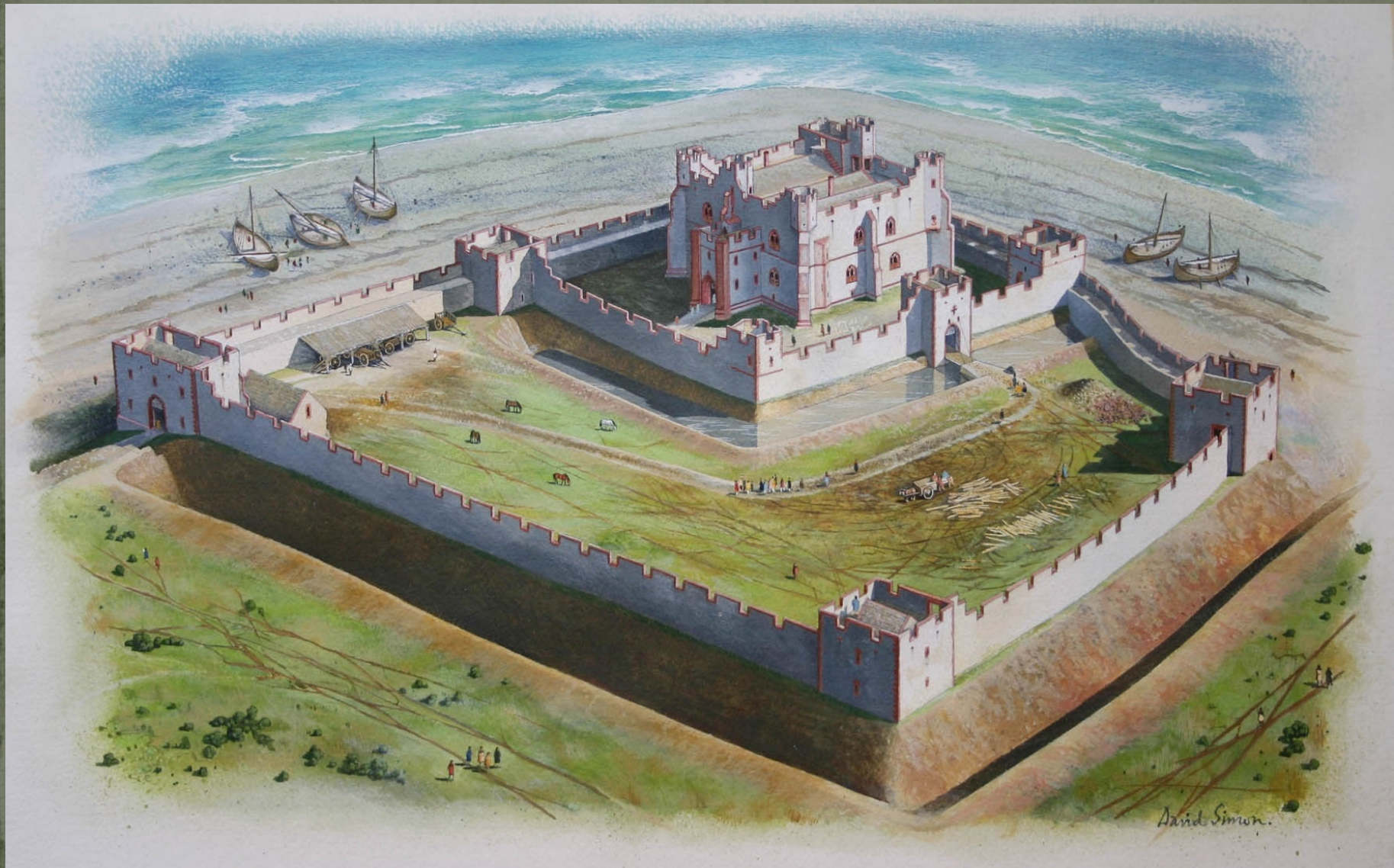
- Reduced the power of the nobility through taxation, confiscation of lands (from uncooperative nobles), and the hiring of mercenary armies or the creation of standing armies
- The advent of gunpowder (that resulted in the production of muskets and cannon) increased the vulnerability of noble armies and their knights
- However, many nobles in return for their support of the king gained titles and offices and served in the royal court or as royal officials.

- New monarchies relied on bourgeoisie for political support
- In return, the bourgeoisie brought in much needed revenues to the Crown
- This was more true in France than in Spain
  - Increased the public (national) debt by taking out loans from merchant-bankers











## New Monarchs: c.1460-1520

### Reduced the political power of the clergy

- State now trumped church (some exceptions)

### Created more efficient bureaucracies

- centralizing control of their realms



New Monarchs: c.1460-1520

## Opposition to monarchical power

- Nobles resented the decline of political influence
- Clergy members saw the pope as their leader, not the monarch
- Independent towns resisted more centralized monarchical control

# FRANCE





# France

- French centralization occurred because of good fortune
- Problems working against centralization:
  - 1. Surrounded by large aggressive neighbors
  - 2. French nobles were semi-independent princes
  - 3. French people were provincial & loyal to local customs & institutions
  - 4. Divided by regional differences, esp. north & south divided by culture and language

# France

Political and economic recovery began after the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)—France emerged intact, but monarchy was greatly weakened

- England was expelled from France
- Defeat of the duchy of Burgundy in 1477 removed the threat of a new state in the eastern part of France



# Louis XI

- Rise of the Valois line of monarchs (a branch of the Capetians)
- **Louis XI “Spider King” (1461-83):**
  - Created a large royal army
  - Dealt ruthlessly with nobles, individually, and within the Estates General (creating a spider web of intrigue and machinations)
  - Defeated competing nobles in Burgundy and Normandy to secure Monarchical power
  - Increased taxes

# Louis XI Continued

- Exerted power over the clergy
- Actively encouraged economic growth
- Promoted new industries
- Encouraged foreign merchants and craftsmen to immigrate to France
- Entered into commercial treaties with England, Portugal and Hanseatic League





J. Chappuis

sculpt.

LOUIS XI of FRANCE.







# Francis I (1515-1547):

- 1520s Francis reorganized the gov't
- Legalized sale of offices
- Formed an inner council to act as chief executive body of France (more management)
- 1527—last Bourbon lands fell to the King—France was unified
- He appeared in person before an assembly that was delaying registering of his edicts and declare them registered and law.
- Estates General did not meet between 1484 and 1560

# Francis

- Concordat of Bologna (1516): The king of France now had power to appoint bishops to the Gallican (French) Church.
- Represented a major blow to papal influence in France
- Yet, French control over these appointments was one reason why France did not become Protestant during the Reformation
- *taille*: Francis instituted a direct head tax on all land and property
- Enabled the French government to expand its budget on such things as a larger army



# ENGLAND



# England

- Wars of Roses (1455-1485)—English Civil War—nobles caused chaos as they fought for control of throne
- Two noble families, the House of York (White) and the House of Lancaster fought a civil war gain crown.



Yorkists victorious and gave rise to the Tudor dynasty (which would rule England until 1603)

Richard III (the last Plantagenet)



# Henry VII (1489-1509)

- Came in as a usurper but restored order & increased the authority of the Crown

Two Biggest obstacles:

- 1. Poverty of the Monarchy
- 2. Power of the Nobility



# Henry VI – Centralization

- 1. Developed modern methods of accounting, record-keeping, & enforcement to make the monarchy fiscally sustainable.
- Used fiscal caution
- Determinedly collected royal revenues
- Relied on the cooperation of the gentry at the local level to help administer the kingdom



2. Asserted his authority over the nobles in both political and legal matters

- Increased the authority of the Royal Council
- Had his councilors serve on the Star Chamber (no jury, local leaders had no influence; decisions were quick & fair)

# Henry VIII

- 1513—defeated Scots which removed a threat
- Created an independent English Church which increased Parliament's power
- Confiscated Church lands which increased royal revenue
- reorganized the administration of the country

Heirs: Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I





# SPAIN



# Ferdinand & Isabella



- Spain centralized through a dynastic marriage

Problem before 16<sup>th</sup> cen:

- Moors in South, Portugal in west
- Spain divided among separate states (2 biggest were Castile & Aragon)
- Had 3 religions & 4 languages
- 1469—Ferdinand of Aragon & Isabella of Castile married—led to 10 year civil war
- 1479—2 Crowns united & they ruled jointly



# Spain

- Marriage of Ferdinand of Aragon (1478-1516) & Isabella of Castile (1474-1504): unified Spain
- 1492, Reconquista
  - Goal was to remove last of the Moors and the Jews and Christianize Spain
  - Loss of Jews and Moors resulted in a significant decline in the Spanish middle-class
- Between 30,000 to 60,000 Jews expelled





# Spain

- Spain wasn't a single state—local provinces guarded their pwr
- Cortes—representative assemblies

1<sup>st</sup> they established order

2<sup>nd</sup> tried to reduce the power of the nobles

- Reduced the number of great nobles in the royal council
- Overhauled the entire administration
  - **Ability, not status would determine appointments**
  - **Hidalgos, lesser aristocrats, became increasingly important in gov't**
  - **They were essential figures in centralization and overseas because they served and wer dependent on Crown**
- Took over leadership of the aristocracy's rich and powerful military orders

# New Monarchs: c.1460-1520

- *hermandades*: alliances of cities to oppose nobles (secured through the rise of the middle class and new wealth)
- Helped bring cities in line with royal authority
- **Spanish Inquisition:**
  - Monarchy enforced the authority of the national (Catholic) church
  - **Tomás de Torquemada**, a Dominican monk, oversaw the Inquisition.
  - The Inquisition targeted *conversos*
  - wave of anti-Semitism began in certain parts of Europe



- 1482-1492 - Kicked Moors off Iberian peninsula and retook Granada
- Helped to create a national identity for Spanish
- 1492—150,000 Jews were expelled
- Also made Castilian the official language of the country
- In Portugal, 4,000 Jews who refused massacred in 1506
- Germany began systematically persecuting Jews in 1509
- Spain did not turn Protestant during the Reformation

# ● HAPSBURG





# New Monarchs: c.1460-1520

## The Hapsburg Empire (Holy Roman Empire)

- The Holy Roman Empire (HRE) consisted of about 300 semi-autonomous German states.
- Each state had its own foreign policy and wars sometimes occurred between states
- The center of Hapsburg power was in Austria and hereditary states nearby.

- There was NOT a “New Monarchy”
- The emperor did not have centralized control, could not levy taxes and or raise armies outside of his own hereditary lands (largely around Austria)
- Hapsburg kings were never able to gain control of the numerous German states, duchies and principalities in the Holy Roman Empire that had enjoyed their own independence.



# New Monarchs: c.1460-1520



- **Maximilian I (1493-1519):** gained much territory in eastern France with his marriage to Mary of Burgundy
- Sparked a fierce dynastic struggle between the French Valois dynasty and the Hapsburgs that would last until 1559.

## New Monarchs: c.1460-1520

- **Charles V: (1519-1556)** most powerful ruler in Europe in the 16th century
- As Holy Roman Emperor, he controlled the Austrian Hapsburg lands while he ruled the Spanish Empire at the height of its power.
- Controlled all Spanish possessions in the new world



- His armies sacked Rome in 1527 that symbolically ended the Renaissance in Italy
- Hapsburg-Valois Wars: HRE was locked in a dynastic struggle with Francis I for control of Burgundy and territories in Italy
- Sought to prevent spread of Protestant Reformation in Germany throughout his reign





# The Rise of the Habsburgs

- The Habsburgs rose to European prominence not through conquest, but through marriage.
- Frederick III arranged for his son Maximilian I to marry Mary of Burgundy.
- Mary was the heiress to the house of Burgundy, she brought the Habsburgs the domains of the Netherlands and the Free Country of Burgundy.









- Maximilian and Mary had a son, Philip, who married the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella.
- Joanna, nicknamed “the mad,” was heiress to the thrones of Aragon and Castile including all other Spanish possessions in Europe and the New World.





# The Union of Spain & Austria

- The marriage of Philip and Joanna united the Spanish and Austrian dynastic possessions under the Habsburg name.
- Philip and Joanna produced several children including:
  - Eleanor, who was married to Francis I (1515-1547), the King of France.
  - Isabella, who was married to Christian II (1513-1523), the King of Denmark



- Mary, who was married to Louis II (1516-1526), the King of Hungary.
- Catherine, who was married to John III (1521-1557), the King of Portugal.
- Ferdinand, who married Anne of Hungary and Bohemia in 1521, by 1526 Ferdinand was elected King of Bohemia after Anne's brother died.
- In 1533 Ferdinand also became King of Hungary.
- Charles, the oldest son of Philip and Joanna stood to receive the entire Habsburg inheritance.





# Charles' Inheritance

- Charles V inherited the combined territories of his 4 grandparents:
  - Austria from Maximilian.
  - The Netherlands and Free Country of Burgundy from Mary.
  - Castile and Spanish America from Isabella.
  - Aragon and its Mediterranean and Italian possessions from Ferdinand.
- In 1519, he was also elected Holy Roman Emperor.