French Monarchy – Dynastic change from Valois to Bourbon

16th Century – French Wars of Religion 1562-1589
  sons of Henry II and Catherine de Medici
  become the last of the Valois Kings of France

1589 – Wars of Religion end with victory of

Henry IV, Bourbon Prince of Navarre 1589-1610 (assassinated)
  start of the Bourbon dynasty (through French Revolution)
  married to Marie de Medici, who becomes Regent for son

Louis XIII (1610-1643) Richelieu as Chief Minister

Louis XIV (1643-1715) Mazarin as Chief Minister (died 1661)
  then personal rule of the King
Louis XIII in 1611

After his father's death in 1610
Cardinal Richelieu
1637

Chief minister to
Louis XIII

Armand Jean du
Plessis

Portrait by Phillipe
de Champaigne
Richelieu
1640
Triptych
Bust of Cardinal Richelieu
by Italian sculptor
Gian Lorenzo Bernini,
1641
Louis XIII
1610-1643
Phillipe de Champaigne
The Fronde (1648 -1653)
The Fronde
Fronde (slingshot) was the name given to that faction; I will give you the etymology of it….. Someone once said, in jest, that the Parlement of Paris acted like the schoolboys, who fling stones, and run away when they see the constable, but meet again as soon as he turns his back. This was thought a very apt comparison. It came to be a subject for ballads, and, upon the peace between the King and Parlement, it was revived and applied to those who still did not agree with the Court ….
We therefore resolved that night to wear hatbands made in the form of a sling, and had a great number of them made ready to be distributed…..
It is inexpressible what influence this trifle had upon the people; their bread, hats, gloves, handkerchiefs, fans, ornaments were ‘a la mode de la Fronde', and we ourselves were more in the fashion by this trifle than in reality. And the truth is we had need of all our efforts to support us against the whole royal family (…).

from the Memoirs of Jean François Paule de Condi, Cardinal de Retz (Volume 2)
“Notice given by a Frondeur exhorting the Parisians to revolt against the tyranny of Cardinal Mazarin.”
Louis XIV crushes the Fronde 1654 Statue by Guérin
Louis as Apollo in court masque

1653
1658
Young Louis
In military action in NE
Portrait of a young Louis XIV, 1661  Charles Le Brun
Nicolas Fouquet, Finance Minister

Building of Chateau Vaux Le Comte  1658-1661
south of Paris

Architect: Louis Le Vau

Landscape architect: André le Nôtre

Painter-decorator: Charles Le Brun

All used by Louis XIV for building Versailles
Chateau Vaux Le Comte  built 1658-1661 by Fouquet, finance minister to Louis XIV
Vue et perspective du Château de Vaux le Vicomte du costé de l'entrée

au coin des Mathurins
Nicolas Fouquet
Finance Minister
1653-1661

titles include
Marquis & Viscount
(noblesse de robe)

famous example of an
“over mighty subject”

arrested after lavish feast at
Vaux Le Comte in 1661

died in prison 1680

later source for story by
Alexander Dumas
<The Man in the Iron Mask>
Jean Baptist Colbert replaces Fouquet as Finance minister from 1661-1683
Construction of Château de Versailles from 1661 - 1715
painting by Adam Frans van der Meulen 1669
The Arrival of the King in Versailles, 1668  panoramic view Pierre Patel
Versailles Hall of Mirrors
Louis XIV at the Taking of Besançon 1674
Adam Frans van der Meulen
Louis XIV
1670’s
Louis XIV

in dress armor

Hyacinthe Rigaud

1701
Portrait of Louis XIV in coronation robes, 1701 Hyacinthe Rigaud
Apotheosis of Louis XIV

Charles Le Brun

1677
Marie Terese with the Dauphin
The Family of Louis XIV in mythological attire

Jean Nocret, 1670
Louis XIV with the Dauphin (heir) and his grandchildren
Louis medallion 1672 with his personal motto

Nec pluribus impar

(Not unequal to many)
Portrait of Jean-Baptiste Colbert the “vile bourgeois” finance minister to Louis XIV 1666

Painting by Claude LEFEBVRE
Colbert Presenting Members of the Royal Academy of Sciences to Louis XIV
Henri Testelin 1667
Detail of Colbert Royal Academy of Sciences presented to Louis XIV
Gobelin Tapestry Factory in Paris founded by Colbert 17th C
Louis XIV Visiting the Gobelins Factory 1673
Charles Le Brun (decorator for Versailles)
Looking on this face where Mars has painted himself,

France, bless the author of your supreme glory.

For that sad heresy now pales with fright.

Here is the hero who deals with them by force,

Who does for your happiness everything one could hope for

From a Father, a Christian, a Conqueror and a King
Equestrian portrait of Louis XIV, Charles Le Brun 1680’s
FRANCE:

territory from 1552 to 1798
from Henri II to the Revolution

Henry II 1552: Metz, Verdun, Toul
Henry IV 1589: Bresse, Bugey
1598: Rousillon
1599: Artois
1602: Dunkirk
1668: Lille
1675: Alsace
1679: Franche-Comté
1681: Strasbourg
1713: Briançon
1768: Lorraine
1768: Corsica
1791: Comtat Venaissin
1798: Mulhouse
France Under Louis XIV
War of the Spanish Succession 1701-1714
after death of the last Spanish Hapsburg Carlos II without an heir
Austria, England & Dutch Republic fight against the French Bourbon dynasty which takes throne of Spain
Louis XIV as Roman Emperor