

Absolute Monarchy versus Democracy

1. Listed below in the first seven rows are the functions of an absolute monarch. For each, define or describe the power exerted for each function.
2. In the second column, give examples of absolute monarchs exerting the power described by each function.
3. In the third column, define how the U.S. democracy that divides these duties between executive, legislative, and judicial branches, or relinquishes duties to delegates or other areas of society.
4. In the last two row, identify advantages and disadvantages of both systems.

Head of:	Absolute Monarchy	U.S. Democracy
Government –		
Church –		
Military –		
Legal System –		
State or Social Structure –		
Family		
Culture –		
Benefits		
Disadvantages		

KEY: Absolute Monarchy versus Democracy

Head of:	Absolute Monarchy	U.S. Democracy
Government –chooses who will represent or advise	Louis XIII – appointed Cardinal Richelieu	Exec: Elected leader has cabinet & advisers Leg: Elected – share in party power Jud: Can limit elected officials by law Lobbies: other groups w/ influence
Church – declares a national church and religion	Elizabeth I – <i>Act of Supremacy</i> – head of church Peter the Great – created Holy Synod Henry VIII – establishes Anglican Church	Exec & Leg – none Jud – ensures separation of state and free exercise of religion (First Amendment) Individual choose
Military – is in control of the military; decides when and with whom their nation will wage war	Elizabeth I – rallies troops against Spanish Armada Philip II fights Ottoman Empire Peter the Great – armies Frederick Wm. – army 80,000 men; Maria Theresa –sends troops; convinces them to fight	Exec: commander-in-chief to ensure no military takeover Leg: controls funding Jud: none Armed forces – generals have control in field
Legal System – is above the law, and often makes, interprets or suspends the law as needed or desired	Ivan the Terrible – formed secret police Henry VIII – <i>Act of Supremacy</i> Frederick the Great – makes laws less harsh	Exec: Recommends legislation & has veto power Leg: Introduces bills & can override veto Jud: determines constitutionality of laws and/or actions People have the right to petition for changes
State or Social Structure – everyone is subservient to the monarch	Peter the Great – ruled military – established system based on merit; Louis XIV – controlled the nobles by moving them to live with him at the Palace of Versailles	Exec: highest political office Leg: national figures – can abuse that privilege, influence & wealth Jud: None Individuals with wealth have influence
Family – members of family follow in succession to the throne; dynasties	Maria Theresa – advised children, made good marriages to ensure dynasty continued Henry VIII – did everything to insure an heir	Exec: “First Family” – leads party & has influence Leg: None Jud: None Families have influence – Kennedy/Rockefeller
Culture – monarch usually exerts control and leadership over events and traditions	Peter the Great – orders adoption of western ideas such as dress into Russia Catherine the Great/Frederick II – Enlightenment ideas Louis XIV – ballet, fashion, architecture	Exec: Has some input through media Leg: Elected officials – legislation reflects cultural trends Jud: laws interpreted according to times Media, art, fashion- all free enterprise have influence
Benefits	One man – quickly solve crisis More efficient Instills national pride	Individual freedoms are important Government is to serve the people, not the people serve the government
Disadvantages	Jealousy in family Ineffective rulers – how to get rid of them Commoners had no say in own lives.	Often moves slowly Differences can appear to be divisive