



## COMPARING ABSOLUTISM TO DEMOCRACY

**Learning Objective:** The students will...

1. Analyze the functions and power of an absolute monarch.
2. Identify examples of monarchs exerting the power(s) of absolute monarchs.
3. Analyze how a democracy executes the functions of government.
4. Identify the advantages and disadvantages of each form of government.

**TEKS:** WH 19B

**Materials Needed:** Copies of Monarchy v. Democracy chart for each pair of students, copies of appropriate world history text, copies of the U.S. Constitution.

**Teaching Strategy:**

1. Divide the students into pairs and give them a Monarchy v. Democracy chart.
2. Together, they should define the seven functions of a government ruled by an absolute monarch.
3. One student should review the age of absolute monarchs during the 15th to 18th centuries, finding two to three examples of monarchs for each function. The other student should review the U. S. Constitution for how a democracy handles each function.
4. After completing the chart, the pair should identify advantages and disadvantages for each government.

**Extension for GT/AP:**

Students can be asked to find specific examples of people in U.S. history handling the functions of government.

## Absolute Monarchy v. Democracy Teacher Key

1. Listed below in the first column are the functions of an absolute monarch. For each, define or describe the power exerted by the 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 divides these duties between executive, legislative, and judicial branches, or relinquishes duties to delegates or other areas of society.
4. In the last two rows, identify the advantages and disadvantages of both systems.

Definition of Function	Example of Absolute Monarchy	Example of U.S. Democracy
<b>Government</b> —Chooses who will represent or advise	Louis XIII: Appointed Cardinal Richelieu	Exec: Elected leader has cabinet and advisers Leg: Elected—share in party power Jud: Can limit elected officials by law Lobbies: Other groups with influence
<b>Church</b> —Declares a national church and religion	Elizabeth I: Act of Supremacy—Head of Church Peter the Great: Created Holy Synod Henry VIII: Established Anglican Church	Exec and Leg: None Jud: Ensures separation of state and free exercise of religion (First Amendment) Individuals: Choose own religion
<b>Military</b> —Is in control of the military; decides when and with whom their nation will wage war	Elizabeth I: Rallied troops against Spanish Armada Philip II: Fought Ottoman Empire Peter the Great: Armies Frederick Wm.: Army of 80,000 men Maria Theresa: Sent troops, convinced them to fight	Exec: Commander-in-Chief to ensure no military takeover Leg: Controls funding Jud: None Armed Forces: Generals have control in the field
<b>Legal System</b> —Is above the law, and often makes, interprets, or suspends the law as needed or desired	Ivan the Terrible: Formed secret police Henry VIII: Act of Supremacy Frederick the Great: Made laws less harsh	Exec: Recommends legislation and has veto power Leg: Introduces bills and can override veto Jud: Determines constitutionality of laws and/or actions People: Have the right to petition for changes
<b>State or Social Structure</b> —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 and wealth Jud: None Individuals: Those with wealth have influence
<b>Family</b> —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 ensure an heir	Exec: First Family—leads party and has influence Leg: None Jud: None Families: Have influence— Kennedy/Rockefeller
<b>Culture</b> —Monarch usually exerts control and leadership over events and traditions	Peter the Great: Ordered 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
<b>Advantages</b>	One man = quickly solve crisis More efficient Instills national pride	Individual freedoms are important Government is to serve the people, not the people to serve the government
<b>Disadvantages</b>	Jealousy in family Ineffective rules—how do you get rid of them? Commoners had no say in own lives	Often moves slowly Differences can appear to be divisive

## Absolute Monarchy v. Democracy

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Definition of Function	Example of Absolute Monarchy	Example of U.S. Democracy
Government—		
Church—		
Military—		
Legal System—		
State or Social Structure—		
Family—		
Culture—		
Advantages		
Disadvantages		