ABSOLUTIST LESSON PLAN

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Absolutist: Frederick the Great Of Prussia

The Age of Absolutists-(c. 1610-c.1789) is a [historiographical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historiographical) term used to describe a form of monarchical power that is unrestrained by any other institutions, such as churches, legislatures, or social elites.

Lecture On Frederick the Great

-Upon ascending to the Prussian throne, he attacked [Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habsburg_Monarchy) and claimed [Silesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silesia) during the [Silesian Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silesian_Wars), winning military acclaim for himself and Prussia. Near the end of his life, Frederick united most of his disconnected realm through the [First Partition of Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Partition_of_Poland).

Frederick was a proponent of [enlightened absolutism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enlightened_absolutism). For years he was a correspondent of [Voltaire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voltaire), with whom the king had an intimate, if turbulent, friendship. He modernized the Prussian bureaucracy and civil service and promoted religious tolerance throughout his realm. Frederick patronized the arts and philosophers. Frederick is buried at his favorite residence, [Sanssouci](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanssouci) in [Potsdam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potsdam). Because he died childless, Frederick was succeeded by his nephew, [Frederick William II of Prussia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_William_II_of_Prussia), son of his brother, [Prince Augustus William of Prussia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Augustus_William_of_Prussia).

-reigned from 1740- 1786

-As king, he guided the growth of the provincial kingdom he inherited toward its place at the head of the German nations.

-He fought to oppose Austrian ambitions, and earned a great reputation as a military commander in the War of the Austrian Succession (1740--8). He seized Silesia, and defeated the Austrians, and in the second Silesian War he gained further territories.

-Frederick the Great skillfully employed the limited Prussian resources to make his kingdom the most powerful German state during the [seven Years War](http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/civil_n2/histscript6_n2/sevenyear.html) (1756-63). In 1772 he participated in the first partition of Poland, and by the time he died he had doubled the area of his country.