

CHAPTER
15

Section 3

CONNECTIONS ACROSS TIME AND CULTURES

Absolutism and Fascism

THEMATIC CONNECTION:

POWER AND AUTHORITY

Beginning in the 17th century, kings and queens sought to rule as absolute monarchs in Europe. In the 20th century, Fascist leaders assumed dictatorial powers in Italy and Germany. How do the Fascist dictators Mussolini and Hitler compare with Louis XIV, Peter the Great, and other absolute monarchs? Use the information in Chapters 21 and 31 to answer the questions.

1. The 17th century was a period of great upheaval in Europe. The decline of feudalism, constant religious and territorial conflicts, and rebellions of overtaxed peasants led monarchs to seek absolute power. What political and social crises led to the rise of fascism in the 1920s and 1930s? _____

2. Rulers can increase their own power by limiting the power of other institutions in society—the Church, representative government, the nobility, and political opponents. Absolute monarchs consolidated their power by limiting the power of the nobility, establishing royal bureaucracies and taking personal control of the central government, and bringing the Church under state control. How did Fascist leaders increase their own power? _____

3. Absolute monarchs sought to control economic affairs by giving tax benefits to expand trade and manufacturing and by creating new bureaucracies to control economic life. How did Fascist leaders take command of their countries' economies? _____

4. In an effort to control every aspect of society and the lives of citizens, absolute monarchs regulated religious worship, social gatherings, and other aspects of daily life. What steps did Fascist leaders take to control the lives of their citizens? _____

5. Absolute monarchs believed that the divine right of kings gave them authority to rule with unlimited power. What beliefs or principles did Fascist leaders use to justify their unlimited power? _____
