Edict of Nantes

In 1598, Henry declared that the Huguenots could live in peace in France and set up their own houses of worship in some cities. This declaration of religious toleration was called the Edict of Nantes.

Cardinal Richelieu

He became, in effect, the ruler of France. For several years, he had been a hard-working leader of the Catholic church in France. Although he tried sincerely to lead according to moral principles, he was also ambitious and enjoyed exercising authority. As Louis XIII’s minister, he was able to pursue his ambitions in the political arena.
Louis XIV

*The most powerful ruler in French history.*

Intendants

*Government agents who collected taxes and administered justice. To keep power under central control, the king made sure that local officials communicated regularly with him.*
Jean Baptiste Colbert

Louis’ minister of finance, Colbert believed in the theory of mercantilism. To prevent wealth from leaving the country, Colbert tried to make France self-sufficient. He wanted it to be able to manufacture everything it needed instead of relying on imports.

War of the Spanish Succession

In 1701, England, Austria, the Dutch Republic, Portugal, and several German and Italian states joined together to prevent the union of the French and Spanish thrones. The long struggle that followed is known as the War of the Spanish Succession.
Which events on your time line strengthened the French monarchy? Which weakened it?

Sample Answer:

Strengthened—1643, Louis XIV becomes king; 1661, Louis takes control of government.

Weakened—1701–1713, War of Spanish Succession.

What impact did the French religious wars have on French thinkers?

It turned them toward skepticism.
How did Jean Baptiste Colbert intend to stimulate economic growth in France?

With mercantilist policies to make France self-sufficient.

What was the result of the War of the Spanish Succession?

France and Spain were not allowed to unite; Britain gained Gibraltar.

Austrian Hapsburgs took Spanish Netherlands.
SUPPORTING OPINIONS Many historians think of Louis XIV as the perfect example of an absolute monarch. Do you agree? Explain why or why not.

Possible Answer:
Agree—He controlled the economy, regulated worship, weakened the nobility, built a magnificent palace to show his power.

RECOGNIZING EFFECTS How did the policies of Colbert and Louis XIV affect the French economy? Explain both positive and negative effects.

Helped—Built up and protected French industries.

Hurt—Drove out Huguenots and overspent on buildings and wars.
SYNTHESIZING To what extent did anti-Protestantism contribute to Louis’s downfall?

_Canceling the Edict of Nantes cost France many skilled workers, and wars against Protestant countries damaged the French economy._