

Enlightened Despots

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Enlightenment: intellectual period of the 18th century based on the idea that society could be improved by the use of reason

Enlightened Despotism:

- grew out of earlier period of absolutism (Louis XIV, Peter the Great, Charles I, etc.)
- change in attitude: acceleration of old institution of monarchy without the religious buttress (did not justify on grounds of divine right). Enlightened despots sought to justify themselves in the light of reason and secular usefulness.

	Frederick the Great	Catherine the Great	Joseph II
Location			
What kind of document is this? What is its purpose?			
What reforms did the monarch bring to their country?			
Which phrases show that they are an enlightened monarch?			

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Location	Prussia (modern Germany and Poland)	Russia	Austria
What kind of document is this? What is its purpose?	Political testament describing his political beliefs	The text is a proposal for new laws that show changes in government.	The letter describing his goals as ruler.
What reforms did the monarch bring to their country?	His reforms included greater religious toleration, freedom of the press, and outlawing torture.	Her reforms included opening hospitals and schools and supported the arts.	His reforms included outlawing torture and the death penalty and allowing for greater freedom of press and religion.
Which phrases show that they are an enlightened monarch?	<p>“politics is the science...”</p> <p>“a well-conducted government must have an underlying concept...likened to a system of philosophy”</p> <p>People of different faiths “live together in peace”</p> <p>“It is of no concern whether the ruler has a religion or whether he has none.”</p>	<p>“not to deprive People of their natural Liberty; but to ...attain the supreme Good”</p> <p>“secure the safety of every citizen.”</p> <p>“all should be subject to the same laws”</p>	<p>“impartial, and liberal principles”</p> <p>“I granted toleration, and removed the yoke, which had oppressed the Protestants”</p> <p>“no man shall be compelled in future to profess the religion of the state.”</p> <p>“owing to the philosophy and the efforts of great men”</p>