

Speaking of one of the most well known people in the world of the past, no one could not deny the name of Louis XIV. He was the King of France who ruled the country from 1643 to 1715. Due to his bounty and appealing in arts and peace, he claimed to emblem himself as the Sun King. The prestigious Versailles Castle was built in his reign to portray his attraction in art and civilizable era. Other than that, Louis XIV also fought for this own country. Desire to expand his kingdom throughout Europe caused the war between France and other Europe nations, especially Spain. During his reign, wars marked Louis XIV powerful state and period of glory, which gave rise in his reputation in today's world.

Louis XIV was born on September 5, 1638. He became the King when he was four after his father Louis XIII death. During his early reign from 1643-1661, Cardinal Mazarin¹ was appointed to be a viceroy. However, Louis XIV got the whole authority to rule France when he turned 23 years old. People in his reign recognized Louis XIV as the King who claimed himself to have an absolute power. Louis gave rise in absolute monarch at the last of 17th century. Louis XIV was also known as the Sun King. He chose the sun to represent his figure because the sun related with God of arts and peace, Apollo². His interested in art was revealed through music, paintings, sculptures, buildings that money was profuse on, and especially on the most remarkably gigantic palace, Versailles, in his century. Not only to expose the prosperity in art but also to expose the eminence of power in his era. In 1628, Louis

¹ Elena Steingrad. "Biography". Louis-xiv.de. 26 November 2007. <<http://www.louis-xiv.de/index.php?id=31>>

² Elena Steingrad. "The Sun King". Louis-xiv.de. 26 November 2007. <<http://www.louis-xiv.de/index.php?id=39>>

XIV established the elaborate court³ in Versailles at the same time with his permanent move into this palace. Other than his interested in visual arts, he also interested in the art of martial. War was said to be the sport of kings. During Louis XIV reign, wars were intense. He strengthened and developed his army to become invincible. By this, he revealed the nation's wealth and sturdy to the outside world and it brought victorious to the kingdom.

First war that announced that vigor of Louis XIV and his nation is the War of Devolution. Louis XIV started the war in 1667 due to the unpaid dowry⁴. Marie Theresa, Louis XIV wife, claimed that she as the daughter of Philips IV would be the next ruler of Spain after her father death. However, when Philip IV died, Charles (Carlos) II, son by his second marriage, became the King. Louis and Marie were furious by that because the Laws of Brabant⁵ granted the rights for first marriage's children to be a true ruler. As a result, 72,000 troops led by France veterans crossed the border of Spain Netherlands while Louis XIV took a command at Lille⁶. His sudden invasion caused England, Dutch, and Sweden to form Triple Alliance, while Spain allied with Portugal. Noticing the unfavorable condition, Louis quickly made secret treaty with Leopold I, the Roman Emperor. In the treaty, they agreed to invade and take control of Spain after Charles (Carlos) II death. In May 1668, the war ended

³ Dr. Harold Damerow. "Louis XIV". Senior Professor of Government and History. 10 October 2009. <http://faculty.ucc.edu/egh-damerow/louis_xiv.htm>

⁴ J.P.Sommerville. "The wars of Louis XIV". <<http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/351/351-14.htm>>

⁵ J.P.Sommerville. "The wars of Louis XIV". <<http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/351/351-14.htm>>

⁶ Elena Steingrad. "Biography". Louis-xiv.de. 26 November 2007. <<http://www.louis-xiv.de/index.php?id=31>>

with Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle by withdrawing the troops from Franche-Comte⁷.

Louis XIV patiently waited and got treasure in return. He maintained many towns, in the Spain Netherlands, which were the defensive strong regions, which Louis XIV could use them for France's advantages in the next invasion. The gains from his first declaration of war uncovered the might of France. In particular, it revealed Louis XIV ability in being majestic king.

Desiring to become the best of the best, Louis XIV didn't stop expanding his territory and power as it was shown in the Dutch War. It took place from 1672-1678. Louis XIV considered Dutch as trading rival and a barrier in order to expand his nation into Spain Netherlands. He commanded Arnauld de Pomponne, French foreign minister, to compromise with England, Sweden, and Germany to be their alliances. After being alliances, England declared war with Dutch and De Ruyter, Dutch Admiral, immediately responded. During the war, French troops had advantages over Dutch army. Eventually, French army conquered the whole province of Utrecht⁸. This situation terrified the Dutch, causing them to beg for peace but Louis XIV denied. Later in 1673, England and France opened up another battle against Dutch at Texel. Due to Dutch army's exhaustion, they then withdrew the troops. Afterwards, Treaty of Westminster⁹ was made, which brought peace and ended this battle. However, the conflict between alliances and Dutch didn't end yet. Holy Roman Empire, Denmark, and Spain began to take side on Dutch. They formed Grand Alliance of The Hague in

⁷ J.P.Sommerville. "The wars of Louis XIV". <<http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/351/351-14.htm>>

⁸ J.P.Sommerville. "The wars of Louis XIV". <<http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/351/351-14.htm>>

⁹ Dr. Harold Damerow. "Louis XIV". Senior Professor of Government and History. 10 October 2009. <http://faculty.ucc.edu/egh-damerow/louis_xiv.htm>

1674 and attacked Sweden, France's ally¹⁰. Even though Louis XIV was surrounded by many rivals, but his enormous army still found a way to success. By the expertise of France, Louis XIV was able to occupy the fortress of Maastricht and Tier which were significantly necessities for inlands waterways control¹¹. Moreover, in 1675 France gained control over Alsace. In the end, Peace of Nijmegen was made by Louis XIV which gave him the priority to possess Franche-Comte but abandoned Maastricht to Dutch¹².

Mightiness of French army during the wars signified the proficiency of King Louis XIV. His prestige was well known by people in the past and present century. The wars he declared brought France to its highest power. Louis XIV was able to gain control over many strong territories, frontiers, and fortresses. The prosperity by conquering many wars caused Louis XIV to become immensely popular. People in many centuries knew him as the King who devoted himself for his nation. His capability was spread throughout the world. At this period of glory, he established the court of reunion in order to give a legal guise for annexation, which developed the strength of French borders. Without Louis XIV, France might not be able to be a powerful country that could gain this much territory and expose its victory world widely. Last but not least, it could be vividly stated that Louis XIV made France to be France today.

¹⁰ J.P.Sommerville. "The wars of Louis XIV". <<http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/351/351-14.htm>>

¹¹ Elena Steingrad. "timeline". Louis-xiv.de. 26 November 2007. <<http://www.louis-xiv.de/index.php?id=41>>

¹² Dr. Harold Damerow. "Louis XIV". Senior Professor of Government and History. 10 October 2009. <http://faculty.ucc.edu/egh-damerow/louis_xiv.htm>