LEQ Outline Unit III - Prompt #6 - In the 17th century, what political conditions accounted for the increased power of both the parliament in England and the monarchy in France?

1. Introduction
   1.1. Contextualization - The 1600s were a time of political upheaval in England and France. The weak Stuart monarchs paved the way for Parliament’s rise to power, but weaker nobles allowed Louis XIV to dominate French politics. The two states ended up moving in opposite directions of each other, with England adopting a parliamentary monarchy while France embraced absolute monarchy.
   1.2. Thesis - The two main paths to political centralization in Europe were parliamentary monarchy and absolute monarchy. England’s parliamentary monarchy limited the power of the monarch and vested much power in the representative body. France’s absolute monarchy gave most power to the king in regard to national affairs, stripping the nobles of much of their power. Both states overcame obstacles to politically centralize.
   1.3. Argument - The Parliament in England and the French monarchy both made significant advances in consolidating their power.

2. Body 1 - Several political conditions contributed to increased parliamentary power in England.
   2.1. Evidence 1 - Widespread distrust of the Stuart monarchs allowed Parliament to consolidate its power.
   2.2. Analysis 1 - The English people viewed the Stuarts as outsiders with Catholic sympathies, guaranteeing widespread popular support for Parliament and its actions to limit the power of the monarchy. When the English Civil War broke out, Parliament’s larger base of support allowed it to reorganize under Oliver Cromwell and achieve victory.
   2.3. Evidence 2 - The Bill of Rights passed under William and Mary gave the English Parliament significant power.
   2.4. Analysis 2 - The Bill of Rights made English monarchs subject to national law and Parliament, and mandated that Parliament be called into session at least once every three years. This ensured that never again would a monarch be able to successfully marginalize Parliament and rule without its consent as the Stuarts tried to do.

3. Body 2 - Several political conditions contributed to increased monarchical power in France.
   3.1. Evidence 1 - Cardinal Richelieu was largely responsible for building up the base for French success.
   3.2. Analysis 1 - Richelieu ruthlessly advocated for political centralization. He weakened the authority of regional governments and elevated the authority of the king. The cardinal went so far as to imprison and execute dissenters. His campaign against the Huguenots allowed France to religiously unite, but at great economic cost.
   3.3. Evidence 2 - Louis XIV distracted the nobles with the palace at Versailles.
   3.4. Analysis 2 - By making his daily routine a social extravaganza, Louis kept the nobles preoccupied. The nobles were too busy with trying to please Louis that they had little time for foreign affairs and challenging the king. It was in the best interest of the nobles to support Louis XIV, this allowed Louis to keep the nobles pacified and under his control.

4. Conclusion - Both the English Parliament and the French monarchy were able to politically gather power in the 1600s. England used the tactics of parliamentary monarchy to weaken the king’s power, while France became an absolute monarchy and weakened regional power.
   4.1. Synthesis - There are some parallels to the development of American government. The original colonial government, ruled from afar in England, did not grant the colonists as much rights as they would like. They were taxed without representation in Parliament. When the United States declared its independence, it abandoned the notion that a monarch was needed for government, taking the English parliamentary monarchy concept a step further and removing the monarch entirely, relying on a representative system of government.