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Period 5  
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Louis XIV declared his goal was “One king, one law, one faith.” Analyze the methods the king used to achieve this objective and discuss the extent to which he was successful.

**Contextualization:** During the late 17th century in France, Louis XIV had succeeded in turning France into an absolute monarchy. He made the monarchy the most powerful and important without destroying local institutions. He once stated that his goal was to have “one king, one law, one faith.” **Thesis:** To reach his goal, Louis had to make sure his people were loyal and following his rule and policies in areas like politics and religion. **Argument:** King Louis XIV was very successful in reaching his objective by controlling the nobility and unifying the religion of the country.

**Body 1:** One of the ways Louis reached his goal was by handling the nobility to his benefit.  
**Evidence:** Louis created the Versailles Palace to help distract the nobility and celebrate royalty.  
**Analysis:** Through getting the nobility distracted, the nobles now felt like they were involved in politics without actually being involved in politics. This worked to the king’s advantage because it allowed him to make political decisions without nobles getting in the way.  
**Evidence:** Louis appointed Richelieu who replaced nobles with royal officials called intendants who were made up of middle-class and minor nobles.  
**Analysis:** With the higher class nobles, the ones who would more likely question Louis’ decisions, out of the way, it was easier for him to create policies and have more power. The lower nobility was farther from the king in terms of power than the higher nobility, so it would be a lot easier to control them if they got out of line. This also proved to be successful as it controlled the nobility to the king’s desire.

**Body 2:** Another way Louis accomplished his true monarchy was through religion.  
**Evidence:** Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes.  
**Analysis:** Since the Edict of Nantes gave Protestants rights to worship, it was important for Louis to take that away from them. If Protestants couldn’t practice their religion, then they wouldn’t be Protestant and will either have to convert to Catholicism or leave. Although this helped make France Catholic, it wasn’t good overall for the country because about 200,000 Huguenots left France and therefore lost many skilled workers and business leaders.  
**Evidence:** The king closed all Protestant churches and ordered all Protestant children to be baptized.  
**Analysis:** By closing the churches, Louis was preventing Protestants from meeting together, crushing any chances of possible rebellion. Also, by baptizing all Protestant children, he’s making sure the next generation is completely Catholic too, and getting that much closer to an all Catholic France. This was also quite effective in Louis’ goal for a united France.

**Conclusion:** Overall, through gaining control of the nobility and unifying the faith, King Louis XIV was quite successful in reaching his goal of “one king, one law, one faith.”  
**Synthesis:** Louis’ attempt to make France Catholic is similar to Isabella and Ferdinand’s Inquisition. Although he was not as harsh, Louis managed to get rid of most other religions besides Catholicism from his country and made France Catholic.