Unit 4 LEQ 4- Arman

**Contextualization:** In the 18th century, power had shifted between the major countries of Western Europe. This shift in power was largely due to the institution of the mercantilist economic model. The mercantilist economic model was a system that measured the wealth of an entire nation by putting government in close control of the economy. **Thesis:** Because of the control it provided, the mercantilist economic model gained the favor of absolute monarchs in powerful countries such as France and Spain. As mercantilism took over traditional economic systems, these rulers changed their involvement in their nation’s economy. **Argument:** This system appealed to absolute monarchs since its primary focus was on the economic prosperity of the home country and therefore caused them to increase their involvement in the nation’s economy. **BP1:** The mercantile economic system appealed to monarchs because its overall goal was to increase the wealth of the home Country.

- **Evidence:** Trade Regulation in the Spanish Colonial System-The Spanish established the flota system that brought a fleet of vessels to America from Spain. Spain intern received ships filled with silver and gold bullions.

- **Analysis:** Although this worked well, the colonists were not allowed to establish trade outside this network. This reflects the purpose of the colonies was to strictly bring wealth and natural resources back to Spain. This brought power to the Spanish crown.

- **Evidence:** Jean Baptiste Colbert becomes controller general of finances and implements mercantilism in France. He shifted the economic system to close national control by increasing taxes.

- **Analysis:** Louis XIV’s rule serves as the turning point in French history with the institution of a strong absolute monarchy. The mercantilist system appealed to him and was instrumental in providing funding for his many wars and increasing his wealth.

**BP2:** The mercantilistic economic model provided many benefits forcing rulers to increase their involvement in their countries economy.

- **Evidence:** British and French colonists were under strict control by increasingly involved monarchs

- **Analysis:** In order to profit from the colonies, European Rulers had to place strict rules on the colonies. Many colonists had come for a better life but their only purpose was to better the state of the home countries. The rulers put up strict tax regulations and imported manufactured goods.

- **Evidence:** The columbian Exchange and slave trade is established by Spanish and French rulers but later used on a large scale by all major European powers with new world holdings.

- **Analysis:** European powers understood that to continuously maintain the benefits the colonies provided them, they had to find a source of labor. They increased involvement in the nation’s economy and colonial affairs allowed them to start the columbian exchange for their benefit.

**Conclusion:** In summation, the mercantilist system held significant appeal to absolute monarchs forcing changes in their involvement in the national economy. The mercantile system gained favor because of its interest in the economy at home and consequently led to increased involvement of monarchs. **Synthesis:** The appeal of mercantilism is is similar to the appeal of unified religion in an absolute monarchy. Louis XIV demonstrates how a close control of the national economy is instrumental in gaining wealth and power. Similarly Louis XIV established Catholicism as the single unified religion, eliminating internal conflict and strengthening his monarchy.