

The Rise of Strong Monarchies!



At a time that is sometimes called ‘The Golden Ages’, we see a lot of changes happening. If we look back throughout history, you can see the consequences that these changes caused, whether the consequences had negative and positive results. I am going to be focusing on the events in the Renaissance that caused the rise of strong monarchies, and how that has effected us to this day.

We start in the early 15th to early 16th century, a time that is known as the Early Renaissance. The force that was the Holy Roman Empire has fallen. Reformers are taking over, and preaching against the Church. The Humanist movement is sparking a new era a science, nature, and art. While this revolution is happening, monarchs are trying to strengthen their empires. A way that they did this was introducing nationalism. The rise of nationalism was was a very distinctive feature of the Renaissance. Fast forward to the Late renaissance, and we start to notice families in power. The House of Tudor in England, or the House of Hapsburgs in Spain. To keep these families in power, there was a lot of marriage. Marriages were

not for love, they were to gain power and allies. In a way, they weren't even marriages, more like a strategic move in an ongoing fight for power. There was also a lot of incest, and that definitely kept certain families in power. A strong monarchy was built by expanding your empire, and marriages did that. Another change that happened was that the current monarch would make decisions that were typically reserved for the Church or the Pope, like what religion the empire would follow. A example that is the Tudor family. Henry VIII was a strong Catholic. Then, when Queen Elizabeth I came along, she changed it up. She switched England's official religion to Protestant Christian. That upset many people. It shows how the Church's power started to slip away. Strong monarchies still exist today, but they are less in charge. Such as the House of Windsor, who still rules over the British Empire, but they don't actually have that much power. It is interesting to see how that has changed over time!!