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Even though absolute monarchs and dictators attempted to control gain and maintain power they did so in different respects and to different degrees. Both absolutists and dictators had a firm control over the army and secret police but absolutists were more concerned in subduing the nobility and the church while dictators used modern technology to control the lives of their citizens from cradle to grave.

Absolutists such as Louis XIV and dictators such as Hitler and Stalin shared many similarities. To maintain their power they had to have the loyalty of their army. Both Louis XIV and Hitler had armies loyal to them. Even the army could not be fully trusted so absolutists and dictators both employed the use of secret police and spies. Louis XIV spied on his intelligence spies to open letters while Hitler's SS eliminated finding out details of his enemies and they could be eliminated as well as potential threats. As a result, Hitler's SS could eliminate “enemies” and stay safe.
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of the state. Both Louis XIV and Hitler, and Stalin stimulated nationalism by separating such as Huguenots and Jews for their problems and establishing religious conformity such as Roman Catholic church as forcibly as was done in France and the Marxist-Leninist U.S.S.R. One of the best foods for nationalism is continuing war which also helps distract attention away from domestic problems. Louis XIV and Hitler and Stalin all used war to stimulate nationalism even if the human costs were huge. Louis XIV, Hitler, and Stalin all managed to keep a cult of personality whether it was from patronage of the arts, to bombastic speeches, to mysterious seclusion. Absolutist and totalitarian rulers had a great deal of power but it was the totalitarian state that could exert the most power over its citizens.

Absolutists wanted to gain power over the nobility but unlike their 20th century counterparts they
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We were not concerned with total control over the lives of ordinary peoples. Louis XIV made the court out Versailles in part to domesticate the nobility and exerted a near total control over their lives with frequent balls and gatherings in their forced home Versailles where they were forced to live. Ordinary people, with little power could not do much and Louis XIV did not actually want to control them. Hitler and Stalin realized the power of the masses and attempted to totally control them. Skillful propaganda seduced people and made them into instruments of a totalitarian state. Modern technology such as radios and motion pictures were used by Hitler to gain the control over the hearts and minds of his subjects. People under Stalin people were forced to follow a certain routine and the state decided what they did and where they went. If anyone attempted to rebel, the well-equipped secret police could locate
and eliminate them. In this way absolutist totalitarian dictators also achieved material result such as Stalin's forced industrialization of Russia, something Louis XIV could not accomplish.

Even though 17th century absolutist and 20th century dictators share many similarities, the 20th century dictator had far more control over an ordinary person's life. This made the 20th century dictatorships far more powerful than Louis XIV, who was at any time of his reign.
The absolute monarchs of the 17th century had to manage the nobles wisely, but this was not easy. In order to have strong central power, the absolute monarchs had to deal with the nobles. They had to suppress the power of the nobles and not aggravate them too much. Louis XIV of France was one of the kings who dealt with them skillfully. By hiring the upper-middle class non-nobles and as the officers to suppress his power, he managed to decrease the power of the nobles. At the same time, he made the nobles use more and more money, thereby reducing their economic power as well as the political one. The nobles who did not have the money or the power to govern had to flatter the king in order to survive.

In addition, Louis XIV created his image as the holy, undisputed king. As expressed in his word "I'm the state" and his nickname "Sun King", he had the image of the glorious, divine king. This image was admirably created by the king. He ordered people to paint portraits of himself which were drawn in such a divine manner, and he had daily ceremony. In this way, he created such an image. By creating the strong image along with not taking power from the nobles, he put himself as the absolute monarch. Also, in the 17th century, Vergil was one of the
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Major issues that had to be dealt with because religious division could create internal conflict. The King was Catholic, supporting the Catholics. Yet, he did not accept much intervention from the Pope in Rome, for his such support was not because he was devout but because he wanted religious unity.

In the 20th century, much different issues had to be dealt with in order to be dictator. First, the dictator had to deal not with the nobles but with the ordinary people. To gain the popular support of the commoners was the first mission, because the people had their right to vote by this time. Also, the more developed media made the commoners more open and accessible to the politicians. Hence, the dictators used the media and appeal to the mass.

Hitler is the example of such usage of public opinion and appeal to the mass.

Another big difference was they now had to work with political parties, which did not exist in the 17th century. For example, Hitler had Nazi, and Mussolini had Fascist party and their supporters.

Hitler also used the media skillfully to appeal to the mass. He used propaganda, featuring Nazi as the party to save Germany from economic depression and social unrest. Also, he made many speeches to the mass itself.
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Appealing directly to the mass, he created his image as the most irrefutable, strong, confident man whom the nation should trust. Although he used violent methods in the progress of gaining political power, Hitler managed to hide such violence and unjust by manipulating the media. Even when Germany was being defeated, he kept his popularity by hiding such defeats, which was why the Germans were shocked by their sudden defeat.

The similarity between Louis XIV and Hitler stored was that they created the strong image of themselves. Yet, the almost two hundred years of gap required many differences. Louis XIV had to deal with the nobles, but Hitler had to appeal to the mass. Louis XIV did not have the media to manipulate, but Hitler did. While Hitler had his party to support and he had to win votes, but Louis XIV got his position as a king by his blood.