

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**7-2.1**

**Review Assessment Limited/Unlimited Gov.  
( From Standards Support Doc)**

**Directions: Read the following information on Limited and Unlimited Government and answer the questions after each selection.**

There are major differences between a limited and unlimited government. In a limited government restraints (restrictions) are placed upon the power of the government, whereas in an unlimited government there is no ability to limit the actions of the government thereby reducing the ability to prevent leaders from having complete control.

**1. What does it mean for a government to be limited?**

**2. What does it mean for a government to have unlimited power?**

When there is limited government, the citizens have individual rights and can participate in the government's decisions. However, in an unlimited government, the citizens may not have rights and freedoms and are expected to obey the government and the ruler.

**3. What is the difference in the rights of citizens in a limit government and an unlimited government?**

In Europe in the 1600's and 1700's, the absolute monarchies would be classified as unlimited governments since there were no restrictions on their power. These monarchies based their power on the idea of "divine right," or the idea that their power came directly from God. Decisions made by the rulers were therefore not questioned by the citizens.

**4. Absolute Monarchies believed they had "divine right." What is divine right?**

France and Russia are two nations that continued to operate under and develop an unlimited government during this time. Both created absolutist systems that concentrated on the monarch having the power. Under the absolute monarchies, the citizens did not have many rights and freedoms. Three common ways that France and Russia displayed unlimited authority were in raising taxes, dissolving the legislative body and in using the military to enforce its policies.

**5. What two nations had absolute monarchies during this time? Did the citizens have any power?**

**6. What three ways did France and Russia show they had unlimited authority?**

The first changes to absolute monarchies in Europe started in England when King John signed the Magna Carta in 1215. The Magna Carta acknowledged that the king was no longer above the law. England's government therefore had the beginnings of an unwritten constitution that would later be built upon by the English Bill of Rights.

**7. What did the Magna Carta acknowledge?**

Some ideas that would come from this were: Constitutional Monarchies, Democracy – granting people authority in the government and Separation of Powers – legislative, executive, judicial powers to several government bodies rather than letting one person make all the decisions.

**8. What is a democracy?**

**9. What does Separation of Powers mean?**