

Name:

Date:

Frederick the Great's view on monarchies...

*A **sovereign** must possess an exact and detailed knowledge of the strong and of the weak points of his country. He must be thoroughly acquainted with its resources, the character of the people, and the national commerce....*

*Rulers should always remind themselves that they are men like the least of their subjects. The **sovereign** is the foremost judge, general, financier, and minister of his country, not merely for the sake of his **prestige**. Therefore, he should perform with care the duties connected with these offices. He is merely the principal servant of the **State**. Hence, he must act with honesty, wisdom, and complete lack-of-bias in such a way that he can render an account of his leadership to the citizens at any moment. Consequently, he is guilty if he wastes the money of the people, the taxes which they have paid, on luxury, pomp, and **debauchery**. He who should improve the morals of the people, be the guardian of the law, and improve their education should not pervert them by his bad example.*

*Princes, **sovereigns**, and kings have not been given supreme authority in order to live in luxurious self-indulgence and **debauchery**. They have not been elevated by their fellow-men to enable them to strut about and to insult with their pride the simple-mannered, the poor, and the suffering. They have not been placed at the head of the **State** to keep around themselves a crowd of idle loafers whose uselessness drives them towards **vice**. The bad administration which may be found in monarchies springs from many different causes, but their principal cause lies in the character of the **sovereign**. A ruler addicted to women will become a tool of his mistresses and favorites, and these will abuse their power and commit wrongs of every kind.*

*The **sovereign** is the representative of his **State**. He and his people form a single body. Ruler and ruled can be happy only if they are firmly united. The **sovereign** stands to his people in the same relation in which the head stands to the body. He must use his eyes and his brain for the whole community, and act on its behalf to the common advantage. If we wish to elevate monarchies above republican governments, the duty of **sovereigns** is clear. They must be active, hard-working, upright and honest, and concentrate all their strength upon filling their office worthily. That is my idea of the duties of **sovereigns**.*

From The Foundations of Germany, J. Ellis Barker, trans. (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1916), pp. 22-23

Key Words:

Sovereign: A supreme ruler.

Prestige: Respect or admiration for someone or something based on their achievements or quality.

State: The civil authority of a country.

Debauchery: Excessive indulgences.

Vice: Immoral or wicked behavior.

Questions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. What are three (3) things that Frederick believes a good monarch needs to do?
2. What are three (3) things that Frederick believes monarchs should not do?
3. Under what circumstances can both a ruler and his/her subjects be happy?
4. Which quote from the reading would support the idea that Frederick believed he should work for the people of his country?
5. What does Frederick mean by the quote "Rulers should always remind themselves that they are men like the least of their subjects"?

On a separate sheet of paper:

6. Write a response agreeing or disagreeing with Frederick the Great's beliefs about monarchies. Include at least two details/examples from his article. *(You may assume the role of anyone including a fellow monarch. Writing may also be in the form of a letter if you so choose.)*