**Preview:** This chapter surveys art in the Netherlands, Flanders, France and England produced in the 17th century. Catholic Flanders remained under Spanish control in this period, and its art is close in spirit to the Baroque art of Italy. The leading Flemish Baroque painter is Peter Paul Rubens, who executed commissions for an international clientele. The Treaty of Westphalia granted the Dutch Republic independence from Spain in 1648, and its predominantly Protestant citizens, including a growing middle class, commissioned portraits, genre scenes, still lifes and landscapes. Frans Hals specialized in lively, inventive portrait arrangements, while Rembrandt van Rijn, who is regarded as the greatest Dutch artist of the era, treated a wide range of subjects in paintings and prints. In France, Louis XIV was the major patron, commissioning artworks for the enormous palace complex he built at Versailles, which exhibits a blend of Italian Baroque and French classical styles. Nicolas Poussin and Claude Lorraine were widely recognized for classical paintings. In England, architects Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren enjoyed international fame for buildings such as Wren’s Saint Paul’s in London, which blend Italian Renaissance, Baroque, and French classical styles.

**CONTEXT: History: 17th Century in Northern Europe:**
- 1648> French monarchy under Louis 14th consolidated absolute power
- French culture, language, fashion dominates tastes throughout Europe
- France becomes the largest and most powerful country in Europe
- Various Royal Academies (architecture, painting, science, arts, & letters, etc.) established in England & France

**Context:**
1. *Divine Rights of Kings/ Absolutism:* "I am the state" Louis XIV  
   = reality and fiction combine to mythologize ruler and divine right to power
2. *Art is the service of royal power*—"le grand siècle"—art functions as:  
   = propaganda  
   = nostalgia for another time/place  
   = myth and landscape make Arcadian dream
3. *Royal Academies* established for arts/sciences (England/France) Rationalism  
   = official tastes through patronage of the king and aristocracy
4. *Baroque Classicism* in architecture  
   = power and authority of king/state asserted through grandiose architectural projects

**Content- Painting: New Subject Matter and new Patronage**
- Religious genre and Kings
Mythological genre       Aristocracy
Allegorical histories    Church
Academic classicalism    
Royal portraits & Portraiture

Vocabulary: Rationalism  Terms/Techniques: impasto
Absolutism               glazes
Academies                camera obscura

Ideas/Concepts related to Northern Baroque Art:
1. Explain "Baroque Classicalism" as relates to the work of Perrault and Le Vau and Poussin.
2. What is the significance of Versailles and why is it the quintessential Northern Baroque masterpiece?
3. What is the significance of the gardens by Le Notre at Versailles?

Amsterdam and the Netherlands

Context – History: 17th Century in Northern Europe
1566 Revolt of the Netherlands against Spanish rule began – split: Flanders remains Catholic/Holland is Protestant
1600 Politically & economically, Spain controlled all major Italian regions and the "low countries" of the Netherlands
1601 Holland & Flanders given independence from Spain. Thirty Years War ends – Netherlands independence 1648

Context
1. Amsterdam a center of trade and commerce – middle class prosperity, world view
2. Holland a Republic with an egalitarian society – the democratization of painting
3. Protestant church is not a patron of the arts – very little religious art commissioned
4. Freedom from Spanish occupation – new sense of nationalism and pride in land
5. Merchant/middle class prosperity – New Patrons of the arts/new subject matter
   Genre, Still life, Landscape, Portraiture, Self portraiture, Group portraiture
6. No sculpture – Why?
7. No innovations in architecture – why?

Vocabulary: Rationalism  Terms/Techniques:
   Mercantile trade      painting: impasto, glazes, camera obscura
   “psychology of light”  printmaking: etching/intaglio, editions – “slates” (relating to printmaking production)
   Vanitas

Basic Ideas/Concepts related to Northern Baroque Art:
1. List reasons for Amsterdam's unique position as a center of commerce and the arts in the 17th century.
2. What are the essential differences between Southern Baroque art and Northern Baroque painting?
3. List the general characteristics of Northern Baroque painting.
4. What is the significance and symbolism of Dutch landscape painting and Dutch still life to the culture?
5. Explain the different uses (depictions) of light by Rembrandt, Vemeer, de la Tour, and van Honthrost.

Baroque Painting Comparisons