FIRST PAPER TOPICS

Requirements

1) Please write a three-page paper in response to ONE of the topics below. The text should be double-spaced. The paper is due at the beginning of class on Monday, September 26.

2) Your paper must be computer-processed. Please give your paper a title, and write your name on the back of the last page. Do not write your name elsewhere on the paper. All pages should be numbered.

3) Citations to texts read in this course should be made in parentheses in your paper. For example, if you refer to a passage on page 13 of Beik’s *Louis XIV and Absolutism*, indicate this in the following manner at the end of your sentence, after the period: (Beik, 13) Full citations to any work not assigned in class should be made in footnote or endnote form.

Topics

1) How absolute was the absolutism of Louis XIV? Analyze Colbert’s *Instructions for the Commissioners* (85-90) to respond to this question. [Hint: you might want to review Bossuet’s *Politics Derived from the Words of Holy Scripture*; and/or Beik’s discussion of absolutism on 2-4.]

2) Why did Louis XIV institute the *Grands Jours* in the Auvergne in 1665? In what ways did these unusual legal proceedings further the goals of the crown in the 1660s?