

# Louis XIV: History of The Sun King of France - Quintessential Classics Illustrated



In the bustling era of 17th-century France, amid lavish palaces and grandeur, stood a figure who embodied power, splendor, and magnificence like no other. Louis XIV, known as the Sun King of France, etched his name into the annals of history through his remarkable reign, which spanned over seven decades. In this Quintessential Classics Illustrated article, we delve into the captivating life and rule of a monarch whose legacy continues to intrigue and inspire to this very day.

## The Early Years of Louis XIV

Born on September 5, 1638, in the Château de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Louis XIV ascended to the French throne at the tender age of four following the death

of his father, Louis XIII. His mother, Anne of Austria, became the regent, steering the kingdom on his behalf until he reached the age of majority.



## Louis XIV - A History of the Sun King of France [Quintessential Classics] (Illustrated)

by Bobby Tsui (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 194 pages  
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As a child, Louis XIV was immersed in the political intrigues of the royal court, observing and learning from his mother and advisers. This early exposure to power politics would lay the foundation for the development of a leadership style that would shape the destiny of France.

### Rise to Power

Upon assuming full control, Louis XIV swiftly established himself as an absolute monarch, centralizing power in his hands and diminishing the influence of the nobility. His ambitious vision for France and his unwavering commitment to enhancing royal authority would soon propel the nation to unimaginable heights.

One of the most significant aspects of Louis XIV's reign was his patronage of the arts. The king's fascination with grandeur and artistic excellence led to the



transformation of the Palace of Versailles into a cultural and architectural masterpiece.

## **The Magnificence of the Versailles Palace**



Under Louis XIV's guidance, the humble hunting lodge at Versailles underwent a metamorphosis, evolving into a grand palace that would become the jewel of

France. The palace, with its opulent halls, lavish gardens, and intricate designs, symbolized the power and prestige of the French monarchy.

Courtiers from across Europe flocked to Versailles, seeking favor and influence at the court of the Sun King. The refined manners, opulent festivities, and intricate court etiquette influenced European aristocracy for generations to come. The Palace of Versailles became the epicenter of political power, art, and culture in Europe, becoming synonymous with the magnificence of Louis XIV's reign.

### **Military Triumphs and Legacy**

Beyond his aesthetic accomplishments, Louis XIV left a lasting impact through his military prowess. The Sun King engaged in numerous wars, expanding the territories of France and cementing its place as one of the most dominant powers in Europe. His military victories, such as the War of Devolution and the War of Spanish Succession, reshaped the political landscape of the continent.



However, Louis XIV's relentless pursuit of power and territorial expansion also exposed the limits of his ambitions. The wars proved costly to the nation, straining its resources and leaving a legacy of discontent among the French people. The Sun King's reign, while celebrated for its magnificence and grandeur, also led to social unrest that would ultimately pave the way for the French Revolution in the centuries to come.

## The Legacy Lives On

The reign of Louis XIV may have come to an end in 1715, but his impact on France and the world remains indelible. His strategic vision, his patronage of the arts, and his fervent belief in absolute monarchy continue to fascinate scholars, historians, and enthusiasts alike.

Quintessential Classics Illustrated takes you on a mesmerizing journey into the life and times of the Sun King of France, Louis XIV. Explore the pages of this captivating history book, vividly illustrated with exquisite artwork that brings his world to life. Delve into the rise and fall of a monarch who forever altered the course of Europe and left an enduring legacy that still shines brightly today.



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We all live a double life: the external life which the world sees, and the internal life of hopes and fears, joys and griefs, temptations and sins, which the world sees not, and of which it knows but little. None lead this double life more emphatically than those who are seated upon thrones.

Though this historic sketch contains allusions to all the most important events in the reign of Louis XIV., it has been the main object of the writer to develop the inner life of the palace; to lead the reader into the interior of the Louvre, the Tuileries, Versailles, and Marly, and to exhibit the monarch as a man, in the details of domestic privacy.

This can more easily be done in reference to Louis XIV. than any other king. Very many of the prominent members of his household left their autobiographies, filled with the minutest incidents of every-day life.

It is impossible to give any correct idea of the life of this proud monarch without allusion to the corruption in the midst of which he spent his days. Still, the writer, while faithful to fact, has endeavored so to describe these scenes that any father can safely read the narrative aloud to his family.

There are few chapters in history more replete with horrors than that which records the "Revocation of the Edict of Nantes." The facts given are beyond all possibility of contradiction. In the contemplation of these scenes the mind pauses, bewildered by the reflection forced upon it, that many of the actors in these fiend-like outrages were inspired by motives akin to sincerity and conscientiousness.

The thoughtful reader will perceive that in this long and wicked reign Louis XIV. was sowing the wind from which his descendants reaped the whirlwind. It was the despotism of Louis XIV. and of Louis XV. which ushered in that most sublime of all earthly dramas, the French Revolution.



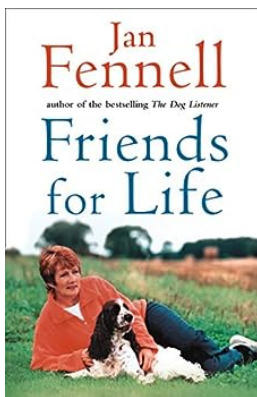
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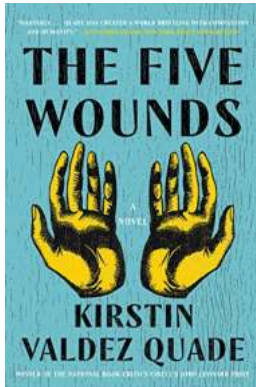
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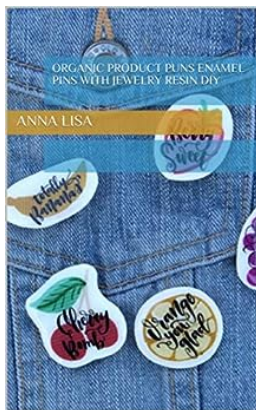
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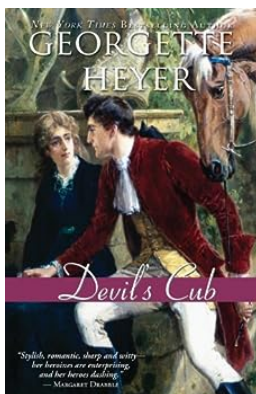
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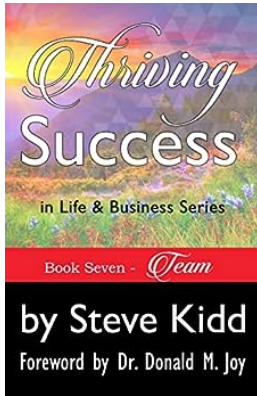
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