**Louis XIV Strengthens Royal Power**

Louis XIV was very involved in the government and expanded it. He had **intendants**, royal officers, who had to collect taxes from the people of France. He also had soldiers who made sure his rules were carried out. These government jobs went to **wealthy middle class men**, not to nobles (rich). He chose wealthy middle class men so he could have a close relationship with them and that he could check the power of the nobles and the Church to make sure they were not doing anything bad. Louie XIV did not fix the tax system. The **poor people of France had to pay a lot of taxes** (money to the government), but the **nobles, clergy, and government had to pay very little taxes**.