**Louis XIV Control over the Noblity**

Louis XIV was very involved in the government and expanded it. 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.

…That it might be amusing for the nobles to obey the king, Louis built a splendid new royal residence at Versailles, near Paris, where he established the most brilliant court ever known in Europe. The most influential nobles were encouraged, and even commanded, to leave their castles in the country, where life at best was dull, and to come and live with the king at Versailles. Here the king provided amusements for them, and here he could keep his eye on them. The nobles could not well be discourteous (rude) or disobedient (defiant/rebellious) to the king while they lived in his house and ate at his table. Almost without knowing it, Louis’s noble guests fell into the habit of trying to please him. The king’s manners were imitated (copied), his words repeated. All smiled when the king smiled, all were sad when the king was sad, “all were devout when the king was devout, and all were sorry not to be ill when the king was ill.” If a noble at court displeased the king, he was sent back to the country to live in his own house, in which case everyone felt—and he did too—that he was in deep disgrace.… Source: Carl L. Becker, *Modern History,* Silver, Burdett and Company