


# Most Enlightened Despot

Of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century



# Frederick II

Frederick the Second should win the award for Most Enlightened Despot (absolute ruler). Frederick II saw himself as “the first servant of the state.” He believed that his purpose was to serve and strengthen his country. This was unlike other monarchs at the time who thought the state existed for them and they were allowed to rule by divine right. Frederick II granted many people religious freedom to believe almost whatever they wanted. He reduced censorship and improved education of young people. He reformed the justice system, making it much better, and abolished cruel torture. Frederick II wrote poetry and conferred with leading Philosophes, Voltaire. For these reasons, Frederick II deserves to be named the most enlightened despot of the the seventeenth century.

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