Description: In this paper, I explore the concept of the sovereign as an object of desire, showing how political hopes for sovereignty were inserted into the art of the Sun King. The glory that Louis XIV as sovereign could bring to France was used to attract nobles to the French court and to justify Colbert's administrative reforms that gave the king new powers. The export of French art and artifacts also spread the desire for sovereignty through the European courts that adopted French style, creating a form of cultural sovereignty that overflowed state boundaries even as the realm of the Sun King defined France as a state.

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