Kaiser Joseph II.



BASICS

- Born: 1741 in Vienna
- Died: 1790 in Vienna because of illness and exhaustion

Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire from 1765–1790

- Member of the hous of Habsburg and ruled the Habsburg monarchy

Family:

- Son of Maria Theresa and Francis I.
- Both wife's died of smallpox
- His daughter died as a child

CAREER

Representative of enlightened absolutism

- Believed in reason, progress and strong state control
- Wanted to modernize and strengthen the empire
- Tried to improve life for ordinary people through reforms

Shortly before the end of his life, he was forced to withdraw many of his reform projects

ACHIVEMENTS

Most important reforms:

- Partial abolition of serfdom
- More rights and freedom for farmers
- German introduced as an official language in many areas
- Patent of toleration–> more religious freedom
- Abolition of torture
- Promotion of schools and education
- Centralization and modernization of the state
- Reform of laws and administration