Crowns and Crosses

How popes and monarchs contested and shared power

9-12.WC.29 "Analyze the relationships between the Papacy and the European monarchs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage, then mark actions that show how popes and rulers affected each other's power.

Who Could Choose a Bishop?

1 In medieval Europe, a bishop was more than a religious leader. Bishops held land, collected income, and sometimes advised kings. That made the choice of a bishop a political question as well as a church matter. In the late 1000s, Pope Gregory VII argued that rulers should not appoint bishops to religious office. King Henry IV of Germany insisted that he needed loyal bishops to help govern. When Henry continued to challenge Gregory, the pope excommunicated him in 1076, cutting him off from the Church. German princes then used Henry's weakened standing to challenge his rule.

2 Henry traveled to Canossa in 1077 and sought Gregory's forgiveness. Gregory lifted the excommunication, but their struggle over appointments continued. Henry later backed a rival pope, while Gregory's allies opposed Henry. The dispute outlived both men. In 1122, Henry V and Pope Calixtus II reached the Concordat of Worms. Church leaders would choose bishops and give them the signs of spiritual office. The emperor gave up that religious appointment but could still grant bishops political rights and lands. Neither side gained everything it wanted: the agreement separated church authority from a ruler's claim to govern through bishops.

3 Other rulers also discovered that conflict with a pope could turn into cooperation. In 1208, Pope Innocent III placed England under an interdict, suspending many public religious services, after King John rejected the pope's choice for archbishop of Canterbury. Innocent excommunicated John the next year. In 1213, John accepted the pope's chosen archbishop and recognized the pope as overlord of England, agreeing to pay annual tribute. Innocent then supported John against rebellious barons. In 1215, he declared Magna Carta invalid after the barons forced John to accept it. Papal support could strengthen a king, but at a cost to his independence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did both Gregory VII and Henry IV care about who appointed bishops?

2. How did Gregory's excommunication affect Henry's political position?

3. How did the Concordat of Worms divide authority between Church leaders and the emperor?

4. Why did Innocent III later support John, despite their earlier conflict?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a ruler wants to tax church land to repair roads, but a pope says the tax threatens the Church's independence. In five or six sentences, propose a settlement and use two details from the passage to explain why either side might accept or resist it.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage, then mark actions that show how popes and rulers affected each other's power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did both Gregory VII and Henry IV care about who appointed bishops?	**Gregory sought Church control over religious appointments. Henry wanted loyal bishops because they held land and helped him govern.**
2	How did Gregory's excommunication affect Henry's political position?	**It weakened Henry's standing, giving German princes an opportunity to challenge his rule.**
3	How did the Concordat of Worms divide authority between Church leaders and the emperor?	**Church leaders chose bishops and gave them the signs of spiritual office. The emperor could still grant bishops political rights and lands.**
4	Why did Innocent III later support John, despite their earlier conflict?	**John accepted the pope's chosen archbishop and recognized the pope as overlord of England, bringing their interests into closer alignment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The ruler could propose a temporary tax that church leaders help oversee. The pope might accept it because repaired roads would benefit people throughout the kingdom, while the ruler would still gain money for the work. At Worms, Church leaders and the emperor each kept some authority, so this settlement would also require both sides to give ground. John gained papal support after recognizing the pope as overlord, but that choice cost him independence. A ruler who wants to avoid such a cost might prefer a limited agreement that ends when the roads are repaired.

Accept other settlements that give both sides a plausible reason to agree or resist and accurately use two distinct passage details. Students should explain a relationship between papal and royal power, not simply name two events.