Crown, Parliament, Empire

Trace how struggles over royal power shaped government and expansion.

MWH.C.3.2 "Explain England's response to Absolutism in Europe, which influenced global thoughts on self-government. Identify the causes, essential events, and effects of the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of changes in royal power, circle two turning-point events, and number three effects on government or empire.

Who Held Power in England?

1. In seventeenth-century Europe, some rulers claimed nearly unlimited authority. In England, King Charles I demanded taxes without Parliament's consent and tried to govern without calling it. Disputes over religion and who could command the army deepened the conflict. In 1642, fighting broke out between royalists and Parliament's forces. Parliament's New Model Army defeated the king; Charles was tried and executed in 1649. England became a republic, but Oliver Cromwell later ruled as lord protector with military backing. After his death, the monarchy returned in 1660. The Civil War showed that a monarch's authority could be challenged by armed subjects.

2. The restored monarchy did not settle the question of power. In 1688, leading English figures invited William of Orange to oppose King James II, whose Catholicism and policies raised fears of unchecked royal rule. James fled, and William and Mary accepted the throne. This change became known as the Glorious Revolution. The 1689 English Bill of Rights barred the monarch from suspending laws or raising taxes without Parliament's consent. It protected parliamentary elections and debate. These rules strengthened a mixed government in which monarch and Parliament shared authority, while Parliament gained supremacy in lawmaking. Political rights, however, remained limited, especially for women and people without property.

3. England's limits on royal power grew alongside tools for expansion. Parliament approved taxes and borrowing that supported a large navy; the Bank of England, founded in 1694, helped the government borrow money. Merchants used improved shipbuilding and navigation to connect Atlantic markets, including colonies built through settlement and trade. Wars with France tested this system. During the Seven Years' War, British naval and military victories helped Britain gain Canada from France in 1763. Trade, public credit, and wartime success helped build a British Empire in North America. English debates about consent and representation later influenced arguments for self-government, even as empire denied many people those freedoms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Charles I's actions and disputes over the army help lead to the Civil War?

2. Why was James II opposed, and how did the Glorious Revolution change who ruled England?

3. Explain how two rules in the English Bill of Rights shifted power from the monarch to Parliament.

4. Trace how Parliament's financial system helped Britain expand in North America after a war with France.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 75 to 100 words connecting resistance to absolute monarchy with Britain's growth in North America. Include one turning point, one limit on royal power, and one causal link among trade or technology, war with France, and empire.

ANSWER KEY

Crown, Parliament, Empire

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of changes in royal power, circle two turning-point events, and number three effects on government or empire. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Charles I's actions and disputes over the army help lead to the Civil War?	**Charles demanded taxes without Parliament's consent and governed without calling it. Disputes over religion and control of the army deepened the conflict until fighting began in 1642.**
2	Why was James II opposed, and how did the Glorious Revolution change who ruled England?	**His Catholicism and policies raised fears of unchecked royal rule. English leaders invited William of Orange to oppose him; James fled, and William and Mary took the throne.**
3	Explain how two rules in the English Bill of Rights shifted power from the monarch to Parliament.	**The monarch could not suspend laws or raise taxes without Parliament's consent. These limits gave Parliament authority over lawmaking and taxation.**
4	Trace how Parliament's financial system helped Britain expand in North America after a war with France.	**Parliament approved taxes and borrowing to support a navy, and the Bank of England helped the government borrow. British victories in the Seven Years' War helped Britain gain Canada from France in 1763.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A crown is not a blank check. Charles I's fights with Parliament over taxes helped spark the Civil War, and his execution proved that a king could be removed. After James II fled in 1688, the English Bill of Rights required Parliament's consent for taxes, limiting the monarch. Parliament could then fund a navy through taxes and borrowing. Improved navigation helped merchants carry goods across the Atlantic. British victories against France contributed to Britain's acquisition of Canada in 1763. Yet many people within the growing empire had little political voice.

Accept other accurate causes and turning points named in the passage. For the museum label, look for a clear explanation linking a change in royal power to a legal limit, and a separate causal link connecting expansion to trade or technology and war.