



Advanced | Exemplar Essay

## Local and Global Powers

### Local and Global Power Plays in the 18th Century



#### Claim and Focus

A precise and significant claim is made (“The European struggle for global dominance was connected to regional issues such as diplomatic negotiations, native alliances, and trade economics, and the leading powers had to navigate these issues strategically”) and the essay maintains a strong focus on defending it, thoroughly fulfilling the demands of the prompt. **Note:** A counterclaim was not required for this task.



#### Analysis and Evidence

The essay cites the most appropriate and valid evidence, developing the claim with substantial support from all nine sources. Insightful reasoning and understanding of the sources is demonstrated through thoughtful explanations (“Britain aimed to establish loyalty to the crown while repairing relations with the conquered inhabitants”).



#### Organization

The essay is cohesive, using precise transitions to show relationships among ideas (“Such was the case,” “Alternatively,” “Consequently”) and a logical progression between paragraphs (“...forging alliances... can prove just as beneficial. Alliances play a crucial role...”). The introduction and conclusion offer appropriate context to the analysis, following from and fully supporting the essay's ideas.



#### Language and Style

A formal style and objective tone are maintained throughout (“Britain was likely inflexible in its demands as to assert dominance in a country over which it wanted (and subsequently gained) supreme control”). Sentence structure is appropriately varied, and domain-specific vocabulary addresses the complexity of the topic (“catalyzed,” “reparations,” “post-war diplomacy,” “sanctions”).



#### Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

## Local and Global Powers



### Local and Global Power Plays in the 18th Century

In the mid-eighteenth century, several European nations were seeking to expand their influence throughout the world. Though some were catalyzed by opportunities to resolve lingering domestic conflicts, the new colonies in the Americas were also at the forefront of the dispute. This fight for global dominance was unquestionably linked to regional issues such as diplomatic negotiations, native alliances, and trade economics, and the leading powers had to navigate these issues strategically.

Whether in times of peace or war, maintaining diplomatic relations with foreign countries is paramount to a nation's success. Post-conflict negotiations can be an opportunity to compromise and repair relations, or the victor can use them to assert its newly acquired governing power. Such was the case with Britain and its tenacious negotiations after the Battle of Plassey. In Document 1, Robert Clive, the British East India Company officer, recounts the transfer of power to the British literally at the Bengali's expense. The settlement included reparations for natives, compensation for military protection, and ownership of the "Land around Calcutta... with permission to charge rents." Britain was likely inflexible in its demands as to assert dominance in a country over which it wanted (and subsequently gained) supreme control. Alternatively, when negotiating with the French colonists on the Caribbean Island of Martinique, Britain aimed to establish loyalty to the crown while repairing relations with the conquered inhabitants. The "Proposed terms of surrender by the French colonists of the Caribbean island of Martinique" lists the demands crafted by the colonists, to which Britain did not concede but did not fully deny either. For example, to the colonists' demand that "[they] shall be strictly neutral,"



Britain responded that they "shall not be obliged to fight against the King of France," (Doc 5). By compromising on the demands, they allowed the colonists a sense of empowerment, fostering respectful relations and promoting peace among the parties involved. The promotion of peace was a principal goal for other European nations at this time that found themselves embroiled in regional conflicts. While Austria allied itself to France in hopes of recapturing Silesia from the Prussians, its empress, Maria Theresa, still focused on restoring peace in the region. In her letter to Maria Antonia, she lamented to the future wife of the ruler of Saxony that "Peace seems further away than ever. I fear that...the Prussians will move against our allies the French, and we will not be able to prevent this," (Doc 3). She knew that peace would not be achievable until Prussia's advances on them and their allies were quelled. Consequently, after a series of defeats by the Austrians, King Frederick of Prussia acknowledged the need "to open peace negotiations with [their] enemies" as quickly as possible, in order to prevent further damage to their diplomatic relationship (Doc 4). A document recounting the aftermath of these negotiations and the subsequent Treaty of Hubertusburg would provide further insight here into post-conflict interactions and the cultivation of peaceful relationships among these nations. Though diplomatic negotiations such as this are essential to establishing order in a new land, forging alliances with its native peoples can prove just as beneficial.

Alliances play a crucial role when planning military strategies and they are equally important when facilitating post-war diplomacy. When the European struggle for global power reached the new colonies in America, leaders of each nation made successful alliances with the natives there. Britain aligned itself to the Iroquois nation to capitalize on their geographic advantage to French settlements. Foreseeing this threat, the Catholic Indians of New York and the Indian Nations of the Great Lakes region formed an alliance to protect themselves against the British: "My brothers, we... thank you...for helping us defend our territory against the British who wish to usurp

these lands;" (Doc 2). It should be noted that France ultimately convened this Council in an effort to expand its powers against the British. This relationship remained influential even after the French suffered defeat in 1763, with Chief Pontiac comparing the benevolent behaviors of their "French brothers" to that of their unsympathetic British colonizers. Advocating self-preservation, he proclaims, "our great father, the French King...tells us to strike the British. Why do we not listen to his words?" (Doc 7). With this encouragement, the Indian Nations launched a damaging sequence of attacks on British forts in a rebellion against the disrespectful treatment and unfair trade policies. As part of the treaty to end this conflict, the British abandoned their trade practices and agreed to accommodate the natives fairly. Perhaps learning from this experience, when the British conquered Manila, they "granted [natives] the free exercise of their religion and...allowed [them] to maintain their personal property." Additionally, when the Augustinians tried to instigate revolt and schemed to prevent the importation of goods, Britain "declared them rebels, confiscated their property, and arrested their leader," (Doc 8). In doing so, they at once protected their relationship with Manila's natives and strengthened Britain's economy by conquering a new territory.

One way to advance economic strength is to enact effective trading policies, therefore European nations needed to maintain strict control of imports and exports even in their territories overseas. César de Choiseul's letter to the French ambassador gives insight into France and Britain's opposing perspectives on how to address violations to trade policies in the Gulf of Mexico. To impede the Spanish smuggling of goods, the British negotiator "proposed [they] insert some clause on the navigation in the Gulf of Mexico," (Doc 6). France claimed such sanctions "would be impossible" to enforce, citing their inability to communicate with the port of Louisiana except by sea. Contraband commerce undermined the economic growth of both nations, and France's unwillingness to curtail this illegal activity was foretelling of their military weakness. Britain recognized the difficulty of enforcing sanctions on an overseas



port, but saw the necessity of establishing trade routes once the war had ended. In Document 9, the British representative for the Turks Islands in the Caribbean proposed the elimination of taxes on Spanish imports and exports in order to encourage open trade within the British territory. This creative approach by Andrew Symmer devalued contraband commerce and fostered further economic prosperity for Britain.

In the European struggle for global power, regional issues presented significant opportunities for the leading nations to expand their influence. Ultimately, Britain proved to be more successful in navigating diplomatic negotiations, native alliances, and trade economics. This expansion of influence not only changed the balance of power in Europe forever, but it set the stage for Britain's global dominance in the 19th century.