



Proficient | Exemplar Essay

Local and Global Powers

Eighteenth Century Power Struggles



Claim and Focus

A clear claim is made based on the topic ("The British were victorious in their quest for global power due to France's weak control of the new colonies and their inferior military") and the essay maintains focus on defending the position. **Note:** A counterclaim was not required for this task.



Analysis and Evidence

Sufficient and appropriate evidence is quoted and referenced from seven of the nine sources in order to develop the claim. While further development and evidence in the fourth paragraph would clarify ideas, explanations adequately tie claims to support and demonstrate an understanding of the sources and topic.



Organization

The organizational structure supports a logical progression of ideas and clear transitions show the relationships among them ("Due to," "while," "In contrast," "ultimately"). The introduction effectively orients the reader and the conclusion follows from the ideas presented.



Language and Style

The essay generally uses precise and domain-specific vocabulary ("contraband trade," "decisive," "stalemate"), and sentence structure is varied throughout. A formal style is maintained, and though some errors are present ("France's weak control of their colonies cost them opportunities"), they do not interfere with meaning.



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



Eighteenth Century Power Struggles

In the middle of the 18th century, several countries were at war. Many European nations were involved in regional conflicts over resources, territories, and trade routes. These regional issues impacted the overall struggle for global domination between the two powerhouses, the British and the French. The British were victorious in their quest for global power due to France's weak control of the new colonies and their inferior military.

In the pursuit of global domination, control of foreign colonies was an important factor. Spain's tariffs and restrictions encouraged smuggling and contraband trade in the Gulf of Mexico. Document 6 illustrates France's inability to regulate this activity in their ports of Louisiana. The French minister of foreign affairs declares that they "have no communication with Louisiana by land, and are absolutely unable to reach it." Due to this obstacle, he asserts that "it would be impossible for us to accept any proposed restriction of our trade." The British handled disrespectful behaviors in a quite different manner though. In "Secret report from a British East India Company employee to the company's board of directors in London," the Augustinian friars were preventing the Spanish from submitting to the British, and even "instigated them to take up arms against" them. The response was decisive. The British confiscated their property, arrested the Augustinian leader, and sent him out of the Philippines (Document 8). In contrast, France's weak control of their colonies cost them opportunities to make higher profits from trade and put them at a disadvantage in the fight for global power.

Unstable control of the new colonies played a role in France's defeat, but their military was their biggest weakness. One of the earliest setbacks to the French was at

the Battle of Plassey, which allowed the British to solidify their military presence and eventually control India. The outcome of this battle is detailed in the first document, a report written by Robert Clive, a British East India Company officer, after defeating the ruler of Bengal and his French allies at Plassey in 1757. Item 1 states that the Bengali general defected to the British and Item 5 declares that "Land around Calcutta will be given to our Company with permission to charge rents." The settlement of this dispute confirmed that the British acquired control of the resources and taxation rights of the land and the alliance of the Mughal empire. France next military misstep was that they opted to dedicate a lot of resources towards protecting the home country. This left them and their allies vulnerable. This is illustrated by the conflicts between the Prussians (allied with the British) and Austria and Saxony (allied with France) in the winter months between late 1761 and early 1762. Document 3 is a letter that the empress of Austria sent to the future wife of the ruler of Saxony showing her fears of an unavoidable battle that would put them all at greater risk. She states, "I fear that sometime during the coming winter the Prussians will move against our allies the French and we will not be able to prevent this." She was correct in her prediction, but the Austrians were able to overcome the Prussians in a series of battles that winter. French allies faced similar problems. While allied forces were focused on battling the Prussians, the British were able to capture the Caribbean Island of Martinique, an overseas French colony. Gaining control of the Martinique territory gave Britain taxation rights to the colony, and all inhabitants became their loyal subjects (Document 5). Document 2 shows another alliance between the French and the Indians of New York and the Great Lakes region, which was successfully maintained throughout extensive conflicts there. In 1763, Chief Pontiac addressed a gathering of Ottawa, Huron, and Potawatomi Indians, seeking to actively engage the British, "we must all swear their destruction and wait no longer" (Document 7). While these allied Native American nations overtook several British forts, Pontiac's Rebellion ultimately

ended in a military stalemate. In both Martinique and the new land, the French didn't provide the sustained support necessary for their allies to defeat the British.

France suffered many domestic and overseas attacks and they were unable to rebound from the constant drain on their military forces. By frequent fighting on domestic soil, they couldn't defend their distant settlements well and Britain was able to gain power. A document that would help to support these conclusions would be a map and sequence of the battles fought from 1756-1763. France's inferior military (that left their home country and allies vulnerable to attacks) and their inability to control foreign settlements allowed the British to overtake territories and ultimately win the European struggle for global power.