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World civ II

Research and writing 18

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During the time of potential French takeover of England, France had an absolute monarchy with a strong centralized government. The King had complete control over the government, and there was no representative body to hold him accountable. On the other hand, England had a constitutional monarchy with a parliament, which provided a system of checks and balances. The parliament consisted of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, both of which had the power to limit the King's authority.

If the French had taken over England, it is likely that they would have implemented their absolute monarchy system, with the King having complete control over the government. This would have meant that the parliamentary system, which was already in place in England, would have been abolished. The philosophers, who were advocating for individual rights and a more democratic government, would have had to change their focus to accommodate the new reality.

Furthermore, the American colonies, which were under British control, would have been affected by this change in government. The French would have imposed their own policies and taxes on the colonies, leading to further tensions and potentially even more significant conflicts.

In conclusion, if the French had taken over England, it would have resulted in a significant shift in government and culture. The absence of a parliamentary system would have led to a more authoritarian government, and the philosophers of the time would have had to adjust their ideas accordingly. Additionally, the American colonies would have experienced a different form of control and potentially altered the course of American history.

Textbook question:

If Louis XIV had successfully invaded and installed a Catholic absolute monarch on the English throne, it would have drastically changed the course of history. The impact of this alternate history scenario would have been felt not just in England, but across Europe and North America.

In the short term, parliamentary government in England would have been severely weakened or possibly abolished altogether. The power of the monarch would have been absolute, and any attempts to limit that power through parliamentary legislation would likely have been met with force. This could have led to civil unrest and even rebellion, as the English people would not have taken kindly to a foreign power imposing their will upon them.

In the long term, the influence of English political and philosophical thought on the rest of the world would have been greatly diminished. Key figures like John Locke,

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who championed the concept of individual rights and the limitations of government power, would have been marginalized or perhaps even silenced altogether. This could have had a profound impact on the development of democratic institutions and ideas around the world.

As for North America, it's possible that French rule could have extended across the continent. However, it's also possible that other European powers would have intervened to prevent French domination of the New World. Alternatively, the English colonies in North America may have fought for independence from French rule, leading to a very different outcome for the American Revolution.

The key concept guiding this alternate history scenario is the idea of power and its limitations. Absolute monarchy is a system of government that concentrates power in the hands of one individual, and historically it has often been associated with tyranny and oppression. On the other hand, parliamentary democracy is based on the idea of shared power and the ability of citizens to have a say in how they are governed. These competing ideas of power and governance have been at the heart of many key historical events, and understanding them is crucial to exploring alternate histories like this one.