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What if the French took over England?

A lot would change if the French took over England in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Within the 16 century, England held a monarchy where, In order: King, Church Barons, Secular Barons, Joint Stock Companies, Gentry, and Urban merchants would rule the upper class meanwhile. In the lower class, you would have the wage laborers. On the other hand, France under King Louis XIV was an absolute monarchy. On the top, you would have the clergy, as Catholicism influenced France. Secondly, you would have the nobility, and third, you would have the Bourgeoisie, Peasants, and laborers. In an absolute monarchy, one would have to submit to the King, and the King would be able to do whatever they wanted, and according to them, they would only need to submit to God. People who supported an absolute monarchy would see it as the only means to control the people. In 1780 England changed its hierarchy chart to a larger one with more classes. Additionally, concerning gender, while females would not equal in terms to men during that time frame, the new hierarchy England created allowed for an open door for women to be closer to men despite them not being equal. However, if King Louis XIV had taken over, this new hierarchy that would emerge would have likely seized to exist, or it would have taken much longer to be created. Generally, in history, barely any societies have a fair system with a monarchy, let alone an absolute monarchy. It is also important to note that in the French hierarchy, only 1% would be in the clergy, ¾% nobility, and the rest in the lower class. Additionally, while England still had those with religious views on top of the hierarchy, many were drifting toward secularism. If the French had taken over, secularism and even enlightenment growth would have been postponed. Both may be seen as a threat to a religious

hierarchy system, such as an absolute monarchy. In terms of culture, England admired music and the English elites. English music could have faded as time passed if the French had taken over. Another possibility is that English music writers could also integrate French music with their English music, as music has always had a history of being created through inspiration and hearing. Other than this, it would have been terrible for the English if France had taken over. It is also important to remember that there had been countless times when the people of England strongly disagreed with unfairness and corruption within their land, so they would have hated the French ruling over them.

Work Cited

Morillo, Stephen. *Frameworks of World History. 1 : To 1550*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2014.