



**AP[®] European History
2004 Sample Student Responses
Form B**

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2.

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Although the Peace of Westphalia and the Peace of Pyrenees secured France's place as NO.1 in Europe in the 17th century, things changed greatly in the 18th century. The constant wars France waged led to a financial crisis on the monarchy's part, and France experienced much turmoil during its revolution of 1789. A liberal France would, however, come back strong and go on to dominate Europe again. However in the 19th century the powers of Europe allied to silence the rampant ~~power~~ France, and a conservative Austria moved into the spotlight.

After an ignoble defeat by the British regarding colonial territories in the Seven Years' War, an embittered France supported American rebellions in hopes of getting back at the British. However both campaigns only undermined the financial status of the French king and the continental giant was reduced to little as it underwent a most rapid, violent change in government in the late 18th century, but soon a revolutionary army spurred passion, and the army expanded to every nook and cranny of Europe as it sought to convey its ideals of liberty to its European neighbors. Under the guidance of a military genius, Napoleon Bonaparte, the French subjugated any nation that opposed it. However, it would ^{be} proven that Napoleon's ambitions ~~was~~ had gone too far when he invaded Russia. The merciless cold of Russia, combined with sporadic Russian attacks from behind, led to a near ~~total~~ total decimation of French power, and marked the beginning of the end of France. ~~Napoleon's defeat and the~~ The powers of

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Europe ~~could~~ allied to fight France, and in 1814, the Congress of Vienna, the sign of French defeat (as well as the defeat of Napoleon), was reached. The basic tenets of the Congress of Vienna were set to ensure that no nation, least of all France, would ever threaten Europe again. The European powers (Great Britain, Prussia, Russia, Austria) sought to reduce France, but not too much, since the existence of a still strong France would be needed in the formula of European power balance.

~~France~~ The Congress of Vienna, however, proved to be the start of a powerful Austria, and Prince Metternich of Austria led Austria to the center of Europe. He maintained Austria's firm grip on power as he implemented a series of policies ~~that~~ ~~that~~ skinned to contain the liberal and nationalistic sentiments aroused by the French campaign and its revolution. However, the encroachment of liberal and nationalistic ideas was inevitable in the course of time, and the year 1848 witnessed a barrage of revolutions all over Europe. Although mostly suppressed few years later, ~~they~~ ~~would~~ these events, accumulated, would lead to the eventual ~~fall~~ decline in Austria's power.

France, although a bit lagging in the first years after 1763, managed to dominate Europe once again by the late 18th century with its liberal sentiments. Anxious European powers ~~had~~ succeeded eventually in containing ~~the~~ France, and a balance of power was sought in the Congress of Vienna. Still, Austria played a larger role in the balance equation, and remained so until 1848.

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K-1
Question 2

From 1763 to 1898 there were several shifts in the balance of power. However, the era can be divided into 3 smaller time periods. One is from 1763-1802. The second is from 1802-1815 and the third is from 1815-1898. At times one country was dominant or ~~the~~ two countries were. Or at times there was equilibrium.

The era from 1763-1802 can be characterized in several ways. France, which had been dominant and had to most had been against it, under Louis XIV was declining. It kept declining until 1789, in which its power dropped severely at the time of the French revolution. At the same time Britain, Austria and the other great powers were increasing in power, and were taking up power that France had lost. ~~How~~ However none of them was dominant as France was. With the fall of France in 1789, the great powers combined filled in the vacuum left by France.

But by 1802, the balance of power

Question?

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changed by Napoleon coming on to the international scene. There is a reason why 1802-1815 is called the Napoleonic era. Napoleon ~~was~~ made France dominant even more so than Louis XIV. He upset the balance of power by defeating ~~France~~ Austria and Prussia and allying with Russia. Only Great Britain was left to face Napoleon for a while but succeeded in stopping him. Also when Napoleon lost the Grand Army to Russia he lost an ally which helped defeat him. Eventually all the great powers defeated him and restored the balance of power.

The era from 1815-1848 was a time where the balance of power was maintained from the outset, that was the goal. It was the topic discussed in the Congress of Vienna and all the other Congresses. France was restored to its pre-Napoleonic borders with a monarch installed. All the monarchs supported each other if a revolt took place in their respective countries. Treaties

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K-3

Question 2

and alliances were signed that maintained the balance. Also no country was very aggressive and wanted to seek control of Europe. The main powers of this time however, were Austria and Britain as they were the key countries in the Congress of Vienna. This balance continued until 1848.