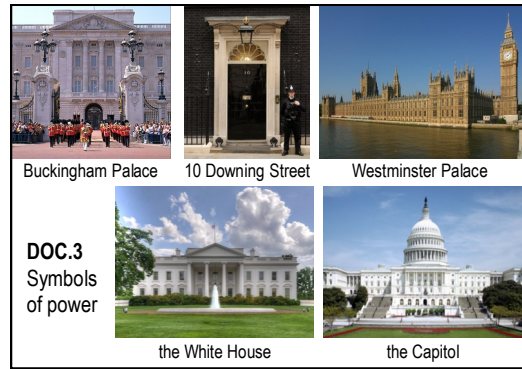


DOC.2 David Cameron has resigned as Prime Minister. He left Number 10 and went to Buckingham Palace just before 5.00pm on Wednesday to formally tender his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II. Mr Cameron recommended that the Queen appoints Ms May as his successor.

Theresa May, who was elected as the new leader of the Conservative party this week, has gone to the palace to inform the Queen regarding forming her government. The PM governs but the monarch is head of state and technically the government acts on his or her behalf. Her Majesty confirmed Ms May's appointment as PM at around 5.45pm.

The last official royal intervention had been one week after the EU referendum and the subsequent PM's announcement he would resign. Her call for "calm" in a "challenging world" have been widely viewed as an apolitical reference to Brexit and the political changes in Britain.

'David Cameron officially resigns', Jon Stone, *BBC News*, Wednesday 13 July 2016.



DOC.5 Americans elected Barack Obama today, turning their backs on a past of slavery and segregation and electing the first African-American to the US presidency. The significance and scale of his historic victory was recognised today by the outgoing president George W. Bush. For most African Americans Obama's election is first and foremost an unprecedented victory — a blow against 400 years of Black slavery, legal segregation and institutional racism.

The White House was built by Black men and women (most were slaves). Slavery, however, was not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution. Black people were not part of "we the people" in the Declaration of Independence, much less citizens for the Constitution. President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1865 abolished slavery but Blacks didn't win the vote and the right to be elected to public office until President Johnson's 1964-5 Civil and Voting Rights Acts after a century of intimidation and a decade of civil rights battles.

'America's first black president', Michael Eric Dyson, *The Guardian*, 5 November 2008.

QUESTIONNAIRE. Give structured and justified answers to the following questions.

I. 1689 UK and 1787 US : new political regimes (docs 1 & 4)

- Historical context**
- In the UK, the 1688 Glorious Revolution led by Parliament overthrew King James II who had abused his power. Parliament gave the crown to William and Mary who accepted the 1689 Declaration of Rights which transformed the monarchy into a new political regime.
 - In 1775 war broke out between Britain and its 13 North-American colonies but in 1783 King George III had to concede defeat. The USA became independent and wrote the 1787 Constitution to set up a new political regime.

1. **Political regimes** What are the differences between the British and US heads of state ? Consequently what are the definitions of a monarchy and a republic?
2. **The separation of powers** Which players (individual or institutions) held the executive, legislative and judicial powers to implement, make and apply the law ? Associate one building of doc.3 to each player. Give a definition of the 3 powers before answering the question. Consequently, how could you define the principle of the separation of powers ? What is it for ?
3. **The balance of powers** Were the executive and legislative powers equally shared or was one power stronger than the other ? What did it mean for the British monarch ? Consequently give the definition of a parliamentary monarchy.
4. **The sovereignty of the people** means that legitimate power comes from the people, that the nation is the basis of power. How can you see that British and American peoples are indeed sovereign ?

II. UK's parliamentary monarchy and US republic today (+ docs 2 & 5)

1. **Democracies** What is a democracy ? Were the US and the UK democracies in 1689 and 1787 ? What about today ?
2. **The Queen's role** Who has the actual/real executive power in today's UK ? So is the Queen useless ?