

ANGLAIS

I. Version

Traduire en français le texte ci-dessous

Barbados and the Queen: it has moved on. Can Britain?

The contrast could hardly be more striking. In Britain, the removal of the statue of a slave trader, name changes for institutions and apologies from some who profited from slavery have produced reams of fevered arguments and fulminations. In Barbados, the removal of the Queen as head of state was as calm and straightforward as the process leading to the change.

Yes, there was a ceremony to swear in the new president, Sandra Mason (at which Rihanna provided rather more excitement than Prince Charles). But this symbolic moment was not one of high passion or drama.

The difference is revealing. For much of the world, decolonisation is not an argument but simply a fact – a work begun several decades ago, and now re-embraced with greater vigour in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement. The new republic is the first former colony for almost three decades to cut its ties to the monarchy, but is unlikely to be the last.

Though “global Britain” hopes to reinvigorate its ties with Commonwealth countries in the wake of Brexit, it fails to recognise that many do not share one jot of its nostalgia. It must look to itself if it wishes to persuade others. A beginning might be to recognise slavery and colonialism not as an anomaly in Britain’s story, but a critical part of its foundations.

Barbados was a model for brutal systems imposed across the Caribbean and Americas, and laws that defined black people as inferior, as well as a vital source of the sugar that fuelled the Industrial Revolution. Prince Charles spoke of “the appalling atrocity of the slave trade, and the unimaginable suffering it caused”. That was a start. While Britain remains reluctant to address the past, others will – and are.

(303 words)

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II. Expression écrite

Répondre en anglais à la question suivante en 200 mots (+/-10%).

Is the British constitutional monarchy falling apart?