

Colonial Wars for North America

I. French Canada

A. France was late in coming to the New World

1. Much religious conflict between Catholics and Huguenots (Calvinists)
2. **Edict of Nantes** (1598): Granted limited toleration to French Protestants
 - a. Religious wars ceased
 - b. France dominant power in 17th c. Europe led by Louis XIV

B. French established **Quebec** in 1608 (a year after Jamestown)

1. Founded by **Samuel de Champlain** ("Father of New France")
2. Entered friendship with local Huron Indians, the enemies of the **Iroquois**
 - Significance: Iroquois, in retaliation, later kept the French from expanding into the Ohio Valley, ravaged French settlements, and allied with the British

C. Government

1. No popularly elected assemblies or trial by jury.
2. French population in New France grew slowly -- only 6,000 whites by 1750 (compared to about 2 million in the 13 colonies)

D. New France expands in North America (*see Unit 1.1 for explorers*)

1. Of the European powers, the French were the most successful in creating an effective trading relationship with the Amerindians.
 - a. British settlers sought to remove or exterminate them.
 - b. Spanish sought Christianize and subdue them via the *encomienda* system (forced labor in towns), *hacienda* system (forced labor in the countryside) and the mission system where forced conversion often occurred..
 - c. The French became great gift givers (the key to getting on with Amerindians who based their inter-tribal relationships on gift giving) during last two decades of the 17th century.
 - i. Trade not seen as a transaction or contract (like in Europe).
 - ii. Trade seen by Amerindians as a continuing process.
 - iii. When one tribe stopped trading with another, it was tantamount to declaring war.

Use space below for notes

2. Beaver trade led to exploration of much of North America:
 - a. Heavy demand for fur in European fashion.
 - b. ***coureurs de bois*** (runners of the woods) were rough frontiersmen heavily involved in fur trading.
 - c. ***Voyageurs***: French seamen who recruited Amerindians into the fur trade
3. Jesuits: Catholic Missionaries who sought to convert Amerindians and save them from the fur trappers (lived among the tribes)
 - a. Some were brutally killed by Amerindians (although in the eyes of Amerindians, Jesuits held up best to torture and were thus more respected).
 - b. Played a vital role as explorers and geographers
4. French establish posts in Mississippi region (New Orleans most important)
 - a. Sought to block Spanish expansion into the Gulf of Mexico
 - b. Forts and trading posts in Illinois country: Kaskaskia, Cahokia, & Vincennes
 - Large amounts of grain sent down the Mississippi River for shipment to the West Indies and Europe

Use space below for notes:

II. Clash of Empires: English, French, & Spanish

A. Four world wars between 1688 and 1763

1. King William's War (1689-1697) and Queen Anne's War (1702-1713)
 - a. British colonials fought French *coureurs de bois* and Amerindian allies (except Mohawks of the Iroquois Confederacy)
 - b. **Treaty of Utrecht** (1713) ended colonial wars for nearly three decades.
 - c. In American colonies, a generation of peace ensued-- "salutary neglect"--without much interference from Great Britain
 - i. Whig prime minister, Robert Walpole, believed if the colonies were left alone to run their own affairs with minimal interference, they would produce more wealth and commerce and cause less trouble.
 - ii. England would simply provide peace, protection, commerce, ensure law and order and send more British immigrants to America to increase numbers of British customers.
2. King George's War (1744-1748) (War of Austrian Succession)
 - a. Spain again allied with France against Britain.
 - b. New Englanders again invaded New France and took the important city of **Louisbourg** commanding the entrance to St. Lawrence River.

e. Peace Treaty of 1748

- i. England gave Louisbourg back to the French in order to help negotiations for a cease-fire in the European war.
- ii. British colonists were furious; felt vulnerable from the North.

3. **French & Indian War** (1754-1763 -- Seven Years' War) --most important of the colonial wars.

a. Main issue was the Ohio Valley

- i. British were pushing west into it; wary of French influence in North America
- ii. French needed to retain it to link Canada with the lower Mississippi valley & Caribbean.

b. **Washington's Ohio Mission** -- Battle near **Fort Duquesne** -- May, 1754

- i. Lt. Col. George Washington sent by Virginia gov't to forks of Ohio River to prevent French from building fort there; hoped instead to build a British fort.
- ii. Washington was defeated and forced to surrender his entire command but allowed to leave with his army intact.
- iii. In effect, Washington triggered a world war.

c. British retaliated by clamping down in Nova Scotia

- i. Relocated 4,000 Nova Scotians throughout the continent including Louisiana.
- ii. French-speaking Acadians became the descendants of modern day "Cajuns"

d. War widened into hitherto largest world war: 25,000 American colonials fought

e. **Albany Congress** (1754)

- i. Great Britain's Board of Trade called leaders from all the colonies to meet in Albany to discuss Indian problem and meet with Iroquois.
- ii. Iroquois refused to commit themselves to the British
- iii. Long-range purpose: greater colonial unity; strong defense against France.

f. **Albany Plan for Union**

- i. Benjamin Franklin created plan for colonial home rule: dealt with defense and Indian affairs.
 - Adopted by delegates
 - Individual colonies rejected it: not enough independence
 - British rejected it: too much independence
- ii. (see Franklin's cartoon: "Join, or Die")

g. British **General Braddock** defeated a few miles from Fort Duquesne by smaller French & Indian forces (1755)

h. British failed in a full-scale invasion of Canada in 1756

Use space below for notes:

- i. **William Pitt** (The "Great Commoner") – became leader of British gov't
 - i. Very popular among the British people; his success in the war led to Ft. Duquesne being renamed Pittsburgh.
 - ii. Strategy: focus on France in North America in order to win the war.
- j. **Battle of Quebec** (1760)
 - i. Pitt appointed General **James Wolfe** to take Quebec
 - ii. British successful on the **Plains of Abraham** (near Quebec) but Wolfe & French commander **Montcalm** were killed.
 - iii. One of most significant battles in British & American history.
- k. **Peace of Paris (1763):** In effect, France was removed from North America
(Technically, land west of Mississippi River still French but not yet settled—France gave it to Spain)
 - Great Britain emerged as the dominant power in North America and as the leading naval power in the world.

III. Friction between the colonies and Britain during and after French and Indian War.

- A. Colonies emerged from war with increased confidence in their military strength
 - Colonial military leaders angry few Americans were promoted in British army and that American officers were treated poorly.
- B. British upset American shippers traded with Spanish and French West Indies
 - 1. Enemy Amerindians were aided by increased foodstuffs
 - 2. British forbade export of all supplies from New England & Middle colonies during last year of the war.
 - 3. Some colonials refused to supply troops: saw economic gain as More important than loyalty to Britain.
 - Only later agreed to commit troops when Pitt offered to substantially reimburse colonies.
- C. American westward colonial expansion increased significantly after the war
 - 1. French barrier west of the Appalachians was removed
 - 2. Spanish and Indian threats removed in many areas
 - 3. Settlers no longer as dependent on British protection in the frontier.

Use space below for notes:

D. Pontiac's Rebellion (1763)

1. Amerindians in Ohio Valley region angered at British treatment during the last years of the French and Indian War.
2. **Chief Pontiac**, Ottawa chief, refused to surrender his lands to the British although France (their ally in the war) had lost and were now gone.
3. Chief Pontiac led an Indian alliance against whites in the Ohio Valley & Great Lakes region in 1763
 - a. 9 of 11 British forts taken; several wiped out.
 - b. Perhaps 2,000 lives lost during first 6 months of conflict, many more driven from their homes on the frontier back to more settled areas.
 - c. It took British 18 months to bring the rebellion under control.
4. British retaliated with germ warfare: blankets infected with smallpox distributed among the Amerindians
5. Rebellion subdued in October, 1763

E. Proclamation of 1763

1. In response to Pontiac's Rebellion, King George III signed an Edict creating royal colonies in all newly acquired lands in the Treaty of Paris.
2. Prohibited colonials to move west of the Appalachians
 - a. Line drawn from Canada to Florida along the crest of the Appalachians only intended to be temporary
 - b. British aim: Settle land disputes with Indians fairly to prevent more uprisings like Pontiac's and organize eventual settlement and defense
3. Colonials infuriated: viewed edict as being permanent.
 - a. Many veterans had fought in the war and felt betrayed
 - b. Land speculators argued that the land was a birthright of British citizens.
4. Colonials generally ignored the Proclamation

Use space below for notes:

Bibliography:

- Bailey, Thomas A., Kennedy, David M.: *The American Pageant, 10th edition*, Lexington, Massachusetts: D.C. Heath, 1994
- Bailyn, Bernard, *The Origins of American Politics*, New York: Vintage Books, 1968
- _____, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap, 1967
- College Board, *Advanced Placement Course Description: United States History*, College Entrance Examination Board, 2005
- Cook, Don, *The Long Fuse: How England Lost the American Colonies, 1760-1785*, New York: Atlantic Monthly Press 1995
- Foner, Eric & Garraty, John A. editors: *The Reader's Companion to American History*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991
- Hofstadter, Richard, *America at 1750: A Social Portrait*, New York: Vintage Books, 1971
- Josephy, Jr., Alvin M., *500 Nations: An Illustrated History of North American Indians*, Alfred A Knopf, New York, 1994.
- Murrin, John, et al, *Liberty Equality Power: A History of the American People*, Ft. Worth: Harcourt Brace 1999
- Nash, Gary : *American Odyssey*, Lake Forest, Illinois: Glencoe, 1992
- Schultz, Constance G., *The American History Videodisc Master Guide*, Annapolis, Maryland: Instruction Resources Corporation, 1995
- Zinn, Howard, *A People's History of the United States*, New York: Harper and Row 1980