

The French and Indian War – Ch. 6, “The Duel for North America,” *The American Pageant* pp. 112-121

Overall main idea: *Britain’s victory in the French and Indian War pushed France out of North America, united colonists, stirred up Native American conflict and caused tensions between Britain and its colonists.*

George Washington Inaugurates War with France

Main idea: *Disputes over the Ohio River region led to the outbreak of war between the British colonists and the French near Fort Necessity.*

Ohio Country was the critical region in dispute between the British and the French – the British colonists wanted to expand there and trade there, but the French wanted to secure the area for fur-trade and the vital connection between its Canadian and Louisiana territories

The French built several forts along the Ohio River, including Fort Duquesne, modern-day Pittsburgh

In 1754, **George Washington** was sent to survey and secure the Virginia colony’s land claims in the Ohio River region, along with 150 colonial militiamen; they met with French troops and the first shots of the French and Indian War were fired

Washington surrendered at Fort Necessity on July 4, 1754, but was permitted to march his troops away

British authorities in Canada uprooted and exiled French Acadians across North America, some of which later became Louisiana “Cajuns”

Global War and Colonial Disunity

Main idea: *The French and Indian War erupted into a worldwide war and caused the American colonies to attempt to unite through the Albany Congress.*

The other Anglo-French colonial wars had started in Europe, but this one began in America with George Washington in the Ohio River region – the French and Indian War, a.k.a. the Seven Years War

Britain and Prussia/Germany vs. France, Spain, Austria and Russia; it was fought across the world; Frederick the Great of Germany defeated multiple armies to help the British win the war

Albany Plan of Union / Albany Congress - In 1754 seven of the American colonies met in Albany, New York, for the first inter-colonial congress; they were trying to unite to defend themselves against the French and Indians, especially to keep the Iroquois on the British side

Ben Franklin published the “Join, or Die” cartoon to encourage unity and spearheaded the Albany Plan of Union; the congress adopted it, but the individual colonies did not; it did not ever come together or succeed

Braddock’s Blundering and Its Aftermath

Main idea: *Bad strategy by the British led to early defeats in America and Europe during the war.*

General Braddock was defeated in an attempt to capture Fort Duquesne from the French; after the defeat, Indians ravaged the frontiers of the British colonies

The British launched a full-scale invasion of Canada, attacking wilderness forts instead of the strongholds at Quebec and Montreal, but were defeated again

Pitt's Palms of Victory

Main idea: *After the appointment of William Pitt, the British succeeded and finally won the war, resulting in the Treaty of Paris and a major shift of territory in America.*

William Pitt began organizing the British war effort in 1757; he concentrated on the Quebec-Montreal-St. Lawrence River area and appointed young generals

The British won major victories at **Louisbourg**, Quebec and Montreal by 1760

The Treaty of Paris 1763:

Ended the French and Indian War

Ceded French territory east of the Mississippi River to Great Britain

Ceded French territory west of the Mississippi River ("Louisiana") to Spain, including New Orleans

Great Britain emerged as the dominant power in North America and on the seas

Makers of America: The French

Main idea: *French Canadians were displaced to Cajun Louisiana and New England but continue to live in Quebec today and continue their culture, despite British conquest.*

Restless Colonists

Main idea: *The French and Indian War caused contempt between the British and the Americans but also led to unity among the different American colonies.*

American colonists gained military experience during the war; Americans also saw British troops as vulnerable

British officers and citizens often look down on Americans as uncivilized and backward while the Americans thought they were being disrespected and uncredited for helping save the British empire

British officials were also mad about not all Americans supporting the war effort to save their colonies; some smuggled goods to the enemy for profit, others refused to provide for the British without heavy payment

The American inter-colonial disunity that had emerged over the years was broken down somewhat and unified by common experience of the war; they realized they had much in common, such as language, customs, ideals and government

War's Fateful Aftermath

Main idea: *The end of the French and Indian War led to Indian conflict, westward expansion of American colonists and tension between the Americans and the British.*

The French were basically kicked out of North America; the Spanish and Indians were much more subdued in the east; Spain lost Florida but still controlled much of the western part of North America

Pontiac's Rebellion – Feeling trapped and desperate after the new change in European powers, Ottawa Chief Pontiac led a large group of Indians against British settlers in the Ohio region between 1763 and 1769, hoping to drive them out; over two thousand settlers were killed and all but three British outposts were captured

The British retaliate swiftly and cruelly, including using smallpox-infected blankets against the Indians; the rebellion died; the British now stationed more troops on the frontier to

defend against large-scale Indian attacks, but they expected the colonists to help provide for their defense

Americans were expanding west over the Appalachian Mountains, led by pioneers like Daniel Boone into Kentucky and Tennessee

Proclamation of 1763 – prohibited American expansion and settlement beyond the Appalachian Mountains; the idea was to prevent more Indian and colonist conflicts, but it actually just angered land speculators and colonists; they flouted the law and continued to expand west; tension and resentment flared between the British and the colonists

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