

Notes: The French and Indian War

I. Background

- French and Indian War last in a series of 4 wars between France and England - this one fought on North American continent
 - a. King William's War
 - b. Queen Anne's War
 - c. King George's War - military costs resulted in England asking colonies to share cost burden of war (in Europe)
 - d. French and Indian War

II. The Beginnings

- France controlled most land between Mississippi River and Appalachian Mts.
- as British colonies got larger and larger, they moved westward in search of more farmland
- French set up more forts and trading posts
- Colonists came into contact with French; battle for control of Ohio River Valley began
- French fur traders treated the Indians far better than colonists in Ohio River Valley

III. The War ("French and Indian War" in America; "Seven Years War" in Europe)

- France built up a line of forts south of Lake Erie along Pennsylvania border
- George Washington was dispatched to warn the French that they were invading on Virginian territory
- Washington gets promoted for delivering the ignored message, and leads a failed attack on the French in 1754
- British were ignorant of colonial needs, and therefore rejected Franklin's Albany Plan of 1754 for a colonial union (and therefore, a way to divide land)
 - Albany Plan - intercolonial government to manage Indian affairs, provide defense, and have the power to levy taxes and pass laws
- British and colonial troops led by Gen. Edward Braddock - killed at Fort Duquesne (where G. Washington had 4 bullet holes in his coat and 2 horses shot from under him)
- Tide turns when William Pitt takes command in 1757 - used much of Britain's funds
- British Sec. of State William Pitt turned the focus on North American continent - recognized that regardless of troop strength, war could not be won without help of Indians
- Most Indians sided with French - finally in 1759, Iroquois Confederacy, sensing French defeat united with British troops to march on Fort Niagara (French held fort)
- In order to keep their hold on colonists and to gain more money out of them, Britain intervened with laws in 1759 and allowed "writs of assistance" (unauthorized search warrants, invasion of privacy) to allow searches for smuggled goods in 1761.
- 1759 - Gen. James Wolfe (BR.) led attack at Quebec - defeated French
- 1760 - British captured Montreal
- Britain won the battle in America in 1762; Britain's funds depleted

IV. The Treaty of Paris

- Peace restored in 1763 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris, in Paris
- All of North America was given to the British, except for two small islands in Newfoundland
- Great Britain got all of Canada and the eastern half of the Mississippi Valley
- Spain got the land west of New Orleans (in a separate treaty)
- Guadelupe and Martinique, French sugar islands, were returned to them by the British, as well as some captured French possessions in India and Africa
- Spain got the Philippine Islands, and Cuba, in exchange for Florida given to Britain

V. Effects of the French and Indian War on Colonists

- Colonists loved Britain (at first) for the money and effort they put into eradicating the French from “their lands”
- Britain’s debt doubled from 1754 to 1763 based on war efforts, and taxes were increased for the British by fivefold
- Free open land now in the Ohio River Valley, and colonists rushed to obtain it. No system was there to divide the land, and conflicts with the Indians started
- British had a low opinion of colonists, and resented their growing wealth
- British and Americans put more pressure on the Indians in the Ohio River Valley, cheating them outrageously and willing to “exterminate them like vermin” and “hunted down with dogs”
- Pontiac led a rebellion which failed in 1763 against the colonists who flooded the Ohio River Valley left open from the War (Ottawa Chief Pontiac reminded Indians west of Appalachians of British promise to keep settlers out - Brits thought that was why Indians had sided with French)
- As a result, Britain issued the Proclamation of 1763, which kept settlers from entering the Ohio River Valley
 - a. closed frontier to western settlement
 - b. ordered settlers already there to leave
 - c. placed frontier under military rule
- This angered colonists, and further unrelated laws from Britain lowered colonial opinion of the mother country, setting the stage for the American Revolution