

13 Colonies and The Road to War



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French-Indian War

- War gave colonial officers and men training in the war, which enhanced their self confidence.
- War helped create an idea of unity among the colonies.
- Colonials found that they could fight just as well as the British, and in the wilderness they surpassed them.
- All north americans resented the British-officer-automatically-out-ranks-you. This contributed to the sense of unity and resentment towards the british.



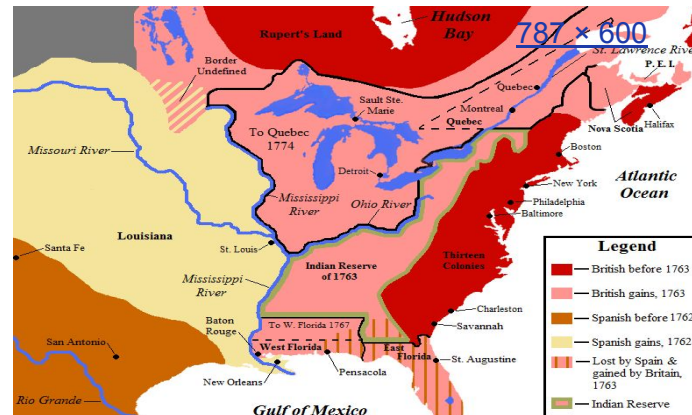
George Washington

- George Washington was the commander of the Virginia regiment battling against the French and Native Americans in the French and Indian war.
- Began political career as a member of Virginia's House of Burgesses
- In 1775 he became a representative to the Continental Congress
- In 1775 he was elected to the command the Continental army.



The Proclamation of 1763

- After the war, British passed a law limiting the west ward settling limit to the Appalachian Mountains. This created stryfe between the Colonists and the British because the they felt like it was another way for the British to control them.
- There were colonists already far out and land speculators that would not be able to use that land to broker so many colonists were very upset.



Britain's National Debt

- War was costly for British, national debt doubled. Because of this Britain decided to tighten its grip on the colonies.
- Passed series of punitive laws. This led to resentment, hostility and eventually rebellion by the colonists.



Increased Taxes

- Sugar, Quartering, and stamp acts, all burdened colonists.
- Stamp act put a tax on all paper products. This outraged the educated class which found a rallying cry with the lower classes.
- They believed that they should not be subjected to taxes from a government where they are not represented. This led to the rallying cry of, "No taxation without representation"
- Ensuing riots and boycotts forced Britain to repeal the act.
- Seeds of discontent were sown, seditious groups began to emerge such as the Sons of Liberty.



Townshend Acts

- After the Stamp Act, British implemented the Townshend acts.
- Sons of Liberty moved to boycott all taxed products, but Britain still tried to enforce it by renaming it “duties”. This only resulted in stronger protests and even violence from the colonists.
- The following economic boycott was effective
- Colonists movement gained traction and momentum.



Boston Tea Party

- Followed the Tea Act which placed a three pence tax on every pound of tea
- The colonists boycotted the tea
- In 1773, colonists dressed as Native Americans and snuck aboard British ships. They threw the East India Tea into the ocean. This costed the company 69 thousand pounds.
- The British then passed the Coercive or Intolerable Act
- The First Continental Congress was created to converse with the King about being treated unfairly.

Colonies Gain Unity

- In order to coordinate efforts against the british, colonies started to convene meeting, to prevent imperial domination.
- These “congresses” as they were called had representatives from sovereign independent political entities, not legislative entities.
- Congresses coordinated written communication and disseminated information.
- These were the beginnings of unified actions and decision making.