BATTLE FOR THE CONTINENT

CHAPTER 4

AP US HISTORY
INTRODUCTION:

• What characteristics are we noting at the end of the 17th Century?
  • A massive struggle was beginning in the North American continent.
  • Three Old World nations: England, France, and Spain
  • The Native American peoples would be involved.

• Four bitter wars tore Europe apart from 1688-1763:
  • 1689-1697: War of the League of Augsburg (King William’s War)
  • 1701-1713: War of Spanish Succession (Queen Anne’s War)
  • 1740-1748: War of Austrian Succession (King George’s War)
  • 1756-1763: Seven Years’ War (French and Indian War)

• All four of the European conflicts were WORLD WARS!

• Nine WORLD WARS have been waged from 1688 to present, and the American colonists/USA is involved in EVERY ONE OF THEM!
FRANCE FINDS A FOOTHOLD IN CANADA
FRENCH AMERICA

- How did French settlements compare to other world powers?
  - French settlements closely resembled those of Spain and Portugal.
  - The French were committed to missionary works.
  - France emphasized the extraction of natural resources – particularly furs.
  - French expansion was thus driven by fur trading.

- How did this trade drive interactions with the Amerindian peoples?
  - Depletion of beaver and deer populations caused Amerindian populations to become more dependent on European goods.
  - Fur trading provided Amerindian populaces with firearms.
  - Violence conflicts over hunting grounds increased!
• **How did religion impact this region?**
  • Catholic missionaries, including the Jesuits, attempted to convert the Amerindian peoples.
  • Their work quickly shifts to the settlements of the French populations.

• **French Settlements in North America.**
  • Settlements were small and slow-growing.
  • Amerindians in French North America were able to maintain greater independence.

• **French expansion and war with England**
  • French expansion occurred aggressively to the west and south.
  • A second fur-trading colony was founded in Louisiana in 1699.
  • War with England in 1759 would force the French to yield Canada to the English and cede Louisiana to Spain.
WHAT TOOK FRANCE SO LONG?

• Like England and Holland, France was ravaged by war in the 1500s!
  • Foreign and domestic troubles caused dissention.
  • The Wars of Religion divided the people: Roman Catholic v. Protestant.

• By 1598: the Edict of Nantes granted limited toleration of religion.
  • Religious wars ceased.
  • France gains power in Europe.
  • King Louis XIV reigned from 1643-1715 – building a MASSIVE empire.

• French explorers arrived in the new world!
  • Samuel de Champlain: “Father of New France” who befriended the Huron – and warred with the Iroquois.
  • New France would be directly ruled by the King!
  • New France grows much more slowly than New England!
KING LOUIS XIV
FRENCH, ENGLISH, AND SPANISH INFLUENCES IN NORTH AMERICA
TRIUMPH AND TENSIONS: THE BRITISH EMPIRE
KING GEORGE’S WAR IMPACTS AMERICA

- Ended in 1748
- Britain and France were still in opposition
- Diplomatic Revolution:
  - Austria allied with France
  - Britain allied with Prussia
- Seven Years’ War erupts!
  - British and French forces are again fighting
  - Fighting takes place in all known continents (except Australia)
- Results of the Seven Years’ War will have a lasting impact!
A FRAGILE PEACE: 1750-1754

• Where did fighting occur in the Americas?
  • The Ohio Valley

• Who claimed this land?
  • Virginia, Pennsylvania, France, Six Nations Iroquois, & the local native tribes

• How was each active during the peace era?
  • Virginia and Pennsylvania worked to help the British among the natives
  • The French constructed forts in the region beginning in 1753
  • Virginia tried to persuade the French to leave through a young surveyor and speculator (George Washington)
  • Natives did NOT trust Washington

• While Washington was fighting in Ohio, the Albany Plan was initiated

http://www.history.org/history/teaching/enewsletter/volume5/november06/primsource.cfm
THE SEVEN YEARS’ WAR IN AMERICA: 1754-1760

• When did this war begin?
  • Technically – 1754 when Washington clashed with the French in Ohio.
  • Officially – 1756 in Europe
• Who started this fight? The English
• From 1754 to 1756, the colonists faced significant attacks from the French supported natives.
  • Fort Duquesne
  • Fort Oswego
  • Fort William Henry
• What helped Britain to win?
  • Iroquois and Ohio Indians agreed to a treaty with Britain – abandoning France
  • William Pitt!
THE END OF FRENCH NORTH AMERICA: 1760-1763

- France began negotiating peace in 1762
- Treaty of Ildefonso (1762)
  - France ceded Louisiana territory to Spain
- Treaty of Paris (1763)
  - France gives up ALL lands and claims east of the Mississippi (except New Orleans)
  - Britain returned Cuba to Spain in exchange for FLORIDA
  - France retained several islands in the West Indies (these will rebel against Napoleon)
  - Eastern Americas belong to Britain
  - The Western Americas belong to Spain
- Mixed Review: Two wars with differing effects
After the Seven Years’ War, Britain tried to tighten control over its expanded colonial empire

- They imposed new taxes on Englishmen at home and overseas to finance the administration of the colonies
- This aroused opposition on both economic and constitutional grounds

George III

- Wanted to govern more actively
- His policies and frequent ministerial changes further upset British-American relations
- British supremacy in eastern North America opened the door to conflict between the mother country and the colonists
- The Seven Years’ War left the British people with a huge debt and heavy taxes

The British wondered why the colonists should be repaid while they were left to suffer under heavy financial burdens?
FRONTIER TENSIONS

• **What increased tensions?**
  • The British had to spend more money and military effort to put down Indian uprisings caused by the western surge of colonists beyond the Appalachians.

• **Proclamation of 1763**
  • Issued by Britain to pacify Chief Pontiac
  • Forbids colonial settlement beyond the Appalachian crest until Britain had negotiated treaties with the Indians. [http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/proc63.htm](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/proc63.htm)

• **What caused further issues?**
  • The colonists were angered by ‘British interference’ with their western land claims.
  • Britain struggled with continuing to protect the frontier and consolidate control over the newly acquired territories.
  • British officials saw no reason the colonials should not be taxed to help defray the expense of maintaining their territory.