



# France vs. Britain

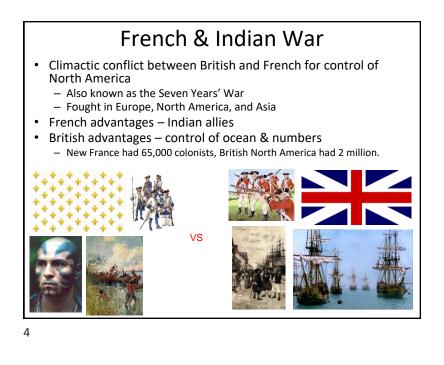
- France and Great Britain were almost continuously at war from 1688 to 1815
  - Since New France bordered New England, Americans were soon drawn into the fighting
  - Four wars spilled over into the colonies
  - New England, especially Massachusetts, suffered the most
    - 2.5% of Boston men died in the fighting

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### **Indian Affiliations**

- New France had more Indian allies (such as the Huron)
  - Reliance on the fur trade and low population meant good relations
- Iroquois League
  - Proud and ruthless warriors
  - Fought the Huron for control of the fur trade in the Beaver Wars, but eventually French & Huron gained the advantage
  - Tried to stay neutral & play the French & British against each other







- Started when French expanded into the Ohio Valley
- A Virginia militia officer named George Washington led a force to build a fort on the disputed territory
  - When he arrived, he saw the French had already built Ft.
    Duquesne there (near modern day Pittsburgh)
  - Washington & Indian allies ambushed a French detachment, killing a few French & capturing 21
    - The Indians scalped the wounded Frenchmen

- Washington & his men retreated and built a fort nearby, but a superior French force eventually compelled their surrender
  - Washington's regiment limped home, and he decided to resign his commission
  - One British politician exclaimed, "The volley fired by a young Virginian in the backwoods of America set the world on fire"





## Albany Congress & Plan of Union

- Colonial congress tried to gain the support of the Iroquois
- Benjamin Franklin proposed the Albany Plan of Union
  - Unite the 13 colonies under one government to better defend against the French (it was rejected)





#### **Braddock's Defeat**

- British sent General Edward Braddock with British & colonial soldiers (along with George Washington) to attack the French
  - Target was Ft. Duquesne
  - Braddock's army was ambushed in the wilderness by French & Indian allies – Braddock was killed along with 900 British & VA soldiers
  - Captured British were burned at the stake by Indians
  - One of the worst British defeats in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

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- Prime Minister William Pitt decided on an Americafirst policy
  - Brought overwhelming force to eliminate the French from North America once and for all
  - Treated colonists as allies rather than subordinate possessions
  - Fostered a spirit of nationalism in the British colonies

#### New France







- The Royal Navy cut off New France while redcoat & colonial armies moved in
- Battle of Quebec (1759) eliminated French power in North America

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