



1

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

2

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



3

French & Indian War

- Climactic conflict between British and French for control of North America
 - Also known as the Seven Years' War
 - Fought in Europe, North America, and Asia
- French advantages – Indian allies
- British advantages – control of ocean & numbers
 - New France had 65,000 colonists, British North America had 2 million.



4



- 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



5

- 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"



6

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)



7

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 18th century



8

- Prime Minister William Pitt decided on an America-first 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



9



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

10

European Claims in North America, 1763

- The war ends with Peace of Paris in 1763
- Consequences
 - Canada becomes British territory
 - English colonists start to identify themselves as *Americans*
- War was expensive! Huge debts for England