

**European Claims in North America, 1763**

British territory (purple)  
Spanish territory (green)

0 400 800 miles  
0 400 800 kilometers

## Heritage of the Seven Years War

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- British citizens in North America and Europe celebrated the Peace of Paris
  - France was gone from North America, & Great Britain was in control of the Atlantic seaboard
  - Who had little reason to celebrate this treaty?

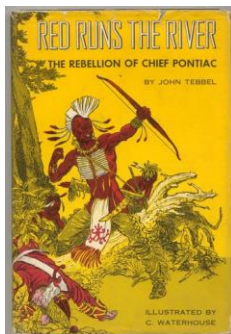


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- After Seven Years War, Indian tribes grew despondent
  - French allies gone
  - British moved into the French frontier forts
  - British also cut off the trade and gift-giving that tribes were used to



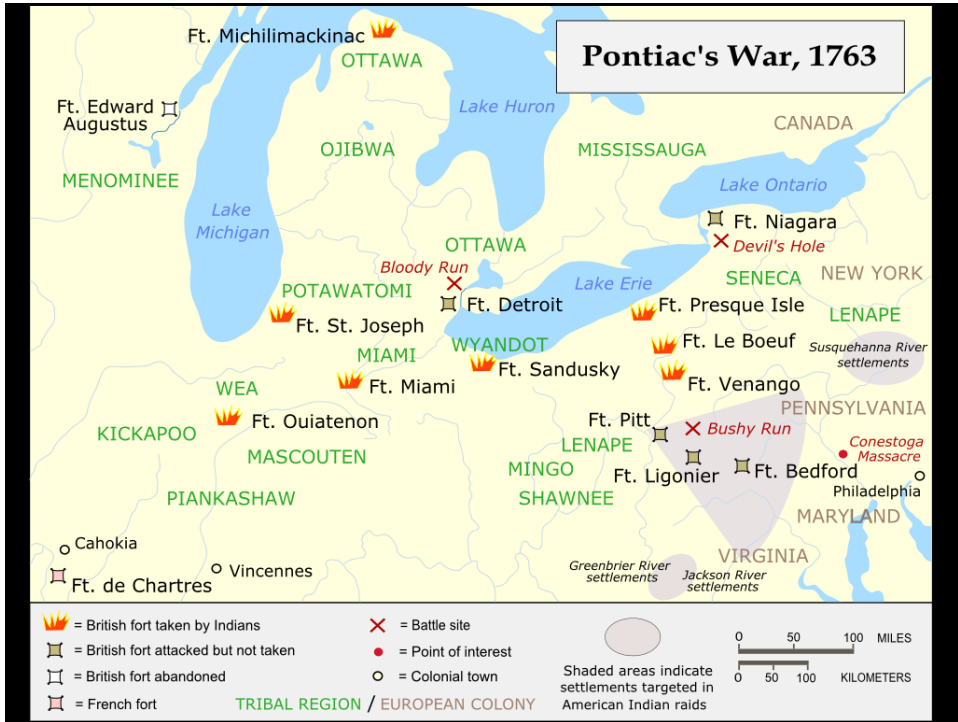
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## Pontiac's Rebellion

- American Indians strike in 1763, attacking frontier forts & settlements.
  - **Captured most British forts around the Great Lakes**
  - **Attacked settlements in PA, MD, & VA, killing several thousand**
  - **Pontiac was the most prominent of several tribal leaders**
  - **Told a British official that the "French never conquered us, neither did they purchase a foot of our country, nor have they a right to give it to you."**

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- Colonists' solution was removal
  - one way or the other
- Britain decided to make peace



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- British limited colonial expansion
  - Proclamation Line of 1763 forbade colonial settlement west of the Appalachians

- **Colonial reaction: We just fought a war against these tribes, and the British are taking their side?**



1775

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- Salutary neglect ended in 1763
  - King George III sought central control
  - Problem: high turnover of Prime Ministers

9

- Prime Minister Grenville wanted to reduce national debt (recent wars were expensive)
  - The Seven Year's War & Pontiac's Rebellion left Great Britain with a massive debt
  - **A colleague said Grenville had "a rage for regulation and restriction."**




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- British were already taxed heavily; colonial taxes were light
- British soldiers were protecting colonists, so shouldn't colonists help pay?
  - Frontier defense was expensive, and if Grenville demobilized the army in America it would cause criticism back home (lots of out-of-work officers)



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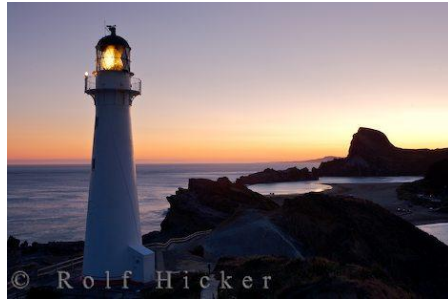
- Colonists felt they had been protecting themselves for over a century – no need for British soldiers

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- Grenville ordered strict enforcement of the Navigation Acts

- What were they?
- Ordered the Royal Navy to patrol for smugglers
- Those caught would no longer be tried by colonial juries but by a maritime court in Canada

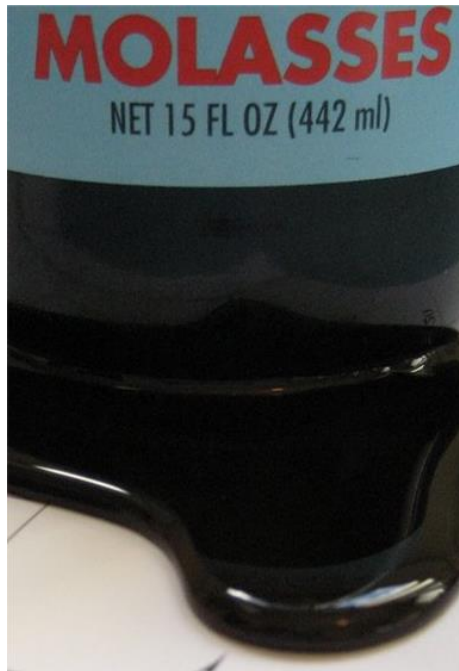
- **This broke with common law tradition and seemed tyrannical to Americans**



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## Sugar Act





- Reduced the duty (or tariff) on imported molasses in hopes that colonists would pay it (previously we had smuggled molasses from French West Indies & paid no taxes)
- Raised the duties on foreign imports to raise revenue



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## Quartering Act

- Colonies requires to supply provisions and barracks to British Soldiers
  - or let them use inns & other buildings

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## Stamp Act -- 1765

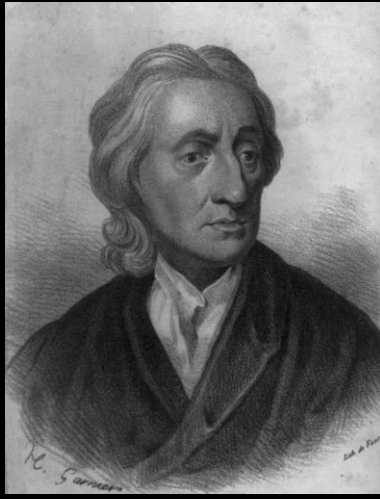
- First direct tax (as opposed to a tariff) in colonial history
  - You had to purchase a stamp from the government and affix it to all printed matter and legal documents




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- For Americans familiar with John Locke, the British government seemed to be breaking their contract to protect the property of their citizens



17

- Only people's representatives had the right to tax; taxes were a gift of the people
- Parliament did not represent the people, colonial assemblies did
  - **Americans didn't have a problem with being taxed (assemblies had done it for decades) but with *Parliament* taxing them**
  - **They thought Parliament could only regulate imperial trade (such as tariffs or duties)**

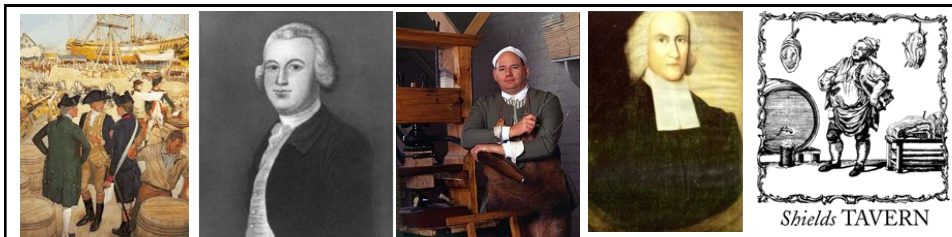


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- Plus there was a standing army in the colonies to enforce the measures



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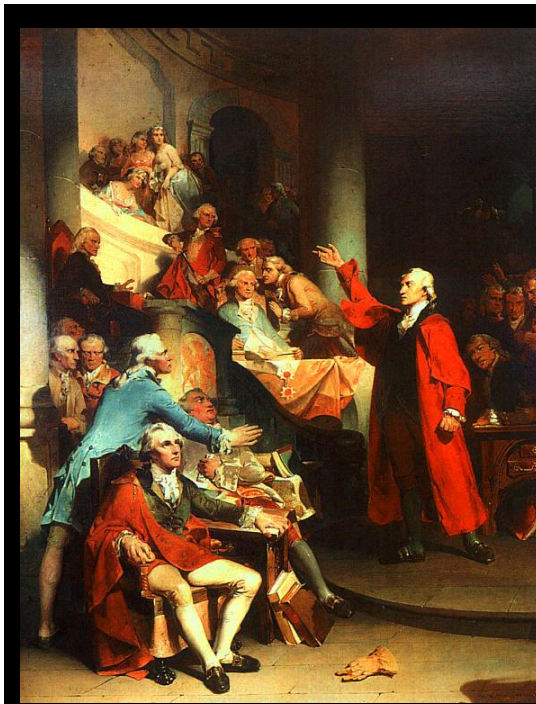
- This affected *all* the colonies, and united them
  - Sugar Act had mostly affected New England merchants
  - Stamp Act Congress in October 1765 brought together delegates from nine colonies to discuss how to best protest the act
  - **Also, instead of just angering merchants this act angered all those who might affect colonial public opinion**
  - **Those who use documents are businessmen, lawyers, journalists, clergymen, and tavern owners**

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- The Stamp Act ignited a storm of protest
  - “No taxation without representation”
  - Colonists started to boycott British goods
    - Known as nonimportation agreements
    - Put pressure on British merchants, who soon pressured Parliament to repeal the act



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- The Virginia House of Burgesses passed the Virginia Resolves, arguing that colonists were entitled to the full rights of Englishmen
  - Resolves were inspired by fiery young politician Patrick Henry
- Other colonies soon followed their example

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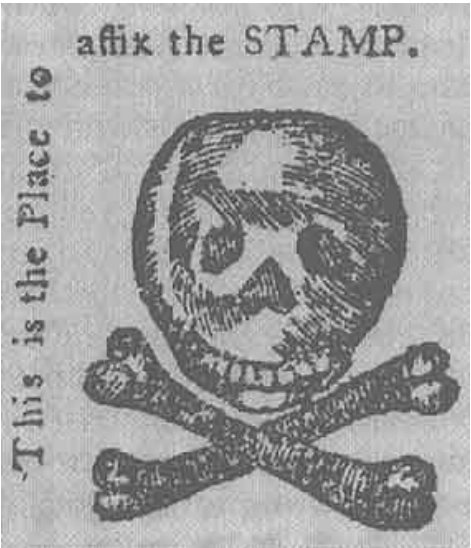
- Militant protesters called themselves “Sons of Liberty”
  - Leader in Boston was Sam Adams
  - Burned effigies of stamp agents
  - Attacked stamp offices and customs officers (tarring and feathering)
  - Soon no one was willing to serve as a stamp agent in the colonies due to intimidation





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- The Stamp Act never took effect
  - Business went on as usual; newspapers affixed a skull & crossbones instead of a stamp

24

- In the meantime Grenville was already out of office
  - Grenville had fallen out with the king over the appointment of government officials
- The Stamp Act was repealed
- However, Parliament simultaneously passed the Declaratory Act
  - Said that Parliament had the right to make laws binding the colonies “in all cases whatsoever”



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- Colonists rejoiced, commissioned statues of King George III, and went back to their lives
  - Few expected that the quarrel would be reopened within a year



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