

CHAPTER 6

The Duel for North America, 1608–1763

PART I: REVIEWING THE CHAPTER

A. CHECKLIST OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to

1. explain what caused the great contest for North America between Britain and France, and why Britain won.
2. describe France's colonial settlements and their expansion, and compare New France with Britain's colonies in North America.
3. explain how the series of wars with France helped foster greater unity among the British colonies.
4. explain how North American political and military events were affected by developments on the larger European stage.
5. indicate how and why the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War) became one of the background causes of the American Revolution.

B. GLOSSARY

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms:

1. **domestic** Concerning the internal affairs of a country. "It was convulsed . . . by foreign wars and domestic strife. . . ." (p. 106)
2. **minister** In politics, a person appointed by the head of state to take charge of some department or agency of government. "France blossomed . . . led by a series of brilliant ministers. . . ." (p. 107)
3. **autocratic** Marked by strict authoritarian rule, without consent or participation by the populace. "This royal regime was almost completely autocratic." (p. 107)
4. **peasant** A farmer or agricultural laborer, sometimes legally tied to the land. "Landowning French peasants . . . had little economic motive to move." (pp. 107–108)
5. **coureurs des bois** French-Canadian fur trappers; literally, "runners of the woods." "These colorful coureurs des bois . . . were also runners of risks. . . ." (p. 108)
6. **voyageurs** French-Canadian explorers, adventurers, and traders. "Singing, paddle-swinging French *voyageurs* also recruited Indians. . . ." (p. 108)
7. **flotilla** A fleet of boats, usually smaller vessels. "The Indian fur flotilla . . . numbered four hundred canoes." (p. 108)
8. **ecological** Concerning the relations between the biological organisms and their environment. ". . . they extinguished the beaver population in many areas, inflicting incalculable ecological damage." (p. 109)

9. **mutinous** Concerning revolt by subordinate soldiers or seamen against their commanding officers. “But he failed to find the Mississippi delta, . . . and was murdered by his mutinous men.” (p. 109)
10. **strategic** Concerning the placement and planned movement of large-scale military forces so as to gain advantage, usually prior to actual engagement with the enemy. “Commanding the mouth of the Mississippi River, this strategic semitropical outpost also tapped the fur trade of the huge interior valley.” (p. 109)
11. **guerilla warfare** Unconventional combat waged by small military units using hit-and-run tactics. “. . . so the combatants waged a kind of primitive guerilla warfare.” (p. 110)
12. **sallies (sally)** In warfare, very rapid military movements, usually by small units, against an enemy force or position. “For their part the British colonists failed miserably in sallies against Quebec and Montreal. . . .” (p. 110)
13. **siege** A military operation of surrounding and attacking a fortified place, often over a sustained period. “After a ten-hour siege he was forced to surrender. . . .” (p. 113)
14. **regulars** Trained professional soldiers, as distinct from militia or conscripts. “. . . they had fought bravely alongside the crack British regulars. . . .” (p. 116)
15. **commissions** An official certification granting a commanding rank in the armed forces. “. . . the British refused to recognize any American militia commission. . . .” (p. 117)

PART II: CHECKING YOUR PROGRESS

A. True-False

Where the statement is true, circle T; where it is false, circle F.

1. T F French colonization was late developing because of internal religious and political conflict.
2. T F The French empire in North America rested on an economic foundation of forestry and sugar production.
3. T F Early imperial conflicts in North America often saw the French and their Indian allies engaging in guerrilla warfare against British frontier outposts.
4. T F Colonists in British North America managed to avoid direct involvement in most of Britain’s “world wars” until the French and Indian War.
5. T F In the early seventeenth century, both France and England committed large regular forces to what they considered the crucial struggle for control of North America.
6. T F George Washington’s battle at Fort Necessity substantially resolved the issue of control of the Ohio Valley.
7. T F The Albany Congress demonstrated a strong desire among some English colonists to overcome their differences and control their own affairs.
8. T F William Pitt’s successful strategy in the French and Indian War was to concentrate British forces and try to capture the strongholds of Louisbourg, Quebec, and Montreal.
9. T F British regular troops under General Braddock succeeded in capturing the key French forts in the Ohio Valley.

10. T F The French and Indian War left France with only Louisiana as a remnant of its once-mighty North American empire.
11. T F American soldiers gained new respect for British military men after the British success against the French.
12. T F The American colonists enthusiastically united in patriotic support of the British cause against the French.
13. T F The removal of the French threat made American colonists more secure and therefore less reliant on the mother country for protection.
14. T F A British commander used the harsh tactics of distributing blankets infected with smallpox to suppress Pontiac's Indian uprising.
15. T F The British government's attempt to prohibit colonial expansion across the Appalachian Mountains aroused colonial anger and defiance of the law.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and circle the corresponding letter.

1. Compared with the English colonies, New France was
 - a. more wealthy and successful.
 - b. better able to maintain consistently friendly relations with the Indians.
 - c. more heavily populated.
 - d. more autocratically governed.
2. The expansion of New France occurred especially
 - a. in the interior mountain areas.
 - b. along the paths of lakes and rivers.
 - c. in areas already occupied by English settlers.
 - d. to the north of the original St. Lawrence River settlement.
3. Colonial Americans were unhappy after the peace treaty following the "War of Jenkins's Ear" because
 - a. it failed to settle the issue that had caused the war.
 - b. it gave the Louisbourg fortress they had captured back to France.
 - c. it created further conflicts with Spain.
 - d. it failed to deal with the issue of Indian attacks on the frontier.
4. The original cause of the French and Indian War was
 - a. conflict in Europe between Britain and France.
 - b. British removal of the "Acadian" French settlers from Nova Scotia.
 - c. competition between French and English colonists for land in the Ohio River valley.
 - d. a French attack on George Washington's Virginia headquarters.
5. The French and Indian War eventually became part of the larger world conflict known as
 - a. the Seven Years' War.
 - b. the War of Jenkins's Ear.
 - c. the War of the Austrian Succession.
 - d. King George's War.
6. Benjamin Franklin's attempt to create intercolonial unity at the Albany Congress resulted in
 - a. a permanent cooperative organization of the colonies.
 - b. rejection of the congress's proposal for colonial home rule both by London and by the individual colonies.
 - c. a sharp increase in Indian attacks on colonial settlements.

- d. a growing colonial sympathy with France in the war against Britain.
- 7. The British forces suffered early defeats in the French and Indian War under the overall command of
 - a. General Braddock.
 - b. General Washington.
 - c. General Wolfe.
 - d. General Montcalm.
- 8. William Pitt's strategy in the assault on New France finally succeeded because
 - a. he was able to arouse more support for the war effort from the colonists.
 - b. he gave full support to General Braddock as commander of the British forces.
 - c. he concentrated British forces on attacking the vital strong points of Quebec and Montreal.
 - d. he was able to gain the support of the British aristocracy for the war effort.
- 9. The decisive event in the French-British contest for North America was
 - a. the British capture of Fort Duquesne.
 - b. the British victory in the Battle of Quebec.
 - c. the American capture of the Louisbourg fortress.
 - d. the British attack on the West Indies.
- 10. Among the factors that tended to promote intercolonial unity during the French and Indian War was
 - a. religious unity.
 - b. common language and wartime experience.
 - c. ethnic and social harmony.
 - d. improved transportation and settlement of boundary disputes.
- 11. The French and Indian War weakened interior Indian peoples like the Iroquois and Creeks by
 - a. establishing new American settlements on their territory.
 - b. eliminating their most effective leaders.
 - c. ending their hopes for diplomatic recognition in Europe.
 - d. removing their French and Spanish allies from Canada and Florida.
- 12. Pontiac's fierce attack on frontier outposts in 1763 had the effect of
 - a. ending good American-Indian relations on the frontier.
 - b. reviving French hopes for a new war.
 - c. convincing the British to keep troops stationed in the colonies.
 - d. stopping the flow of westward settlement.
- 13. The British Proclamation of 1763
 - a. was welcomed by most American colonists.
 - b. angered colonists who thought that it deprived them of the fruits of victory.
 - c. was aimed at further suppressing the French population of Canada.
 - d. halted American westward settlement for several years.
- 14. The French and Indian War created conflict between the British and the American military because
 - a. the American soldiers had failed to support the British military effort.
 - b. the British regulars had carried the brunt of the fighting.
 - c. British officers treated the American colonial militia with contempt.
 - d. American soldiers refused to accept orders from British officers.
- 15. The effect on the colonists of the French removal from North America was
 - a. to increase their gratitude to Britain for defending them in the war.
 - b. to create new threats to colonial expansion from Spain and the Indians.
 - c. to reduce the colonies' reliance on Britain and increase their sense of independence.
 - d. to focus colonial energies on trade.

C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

1. _____ French Protestants who were granted toleration by the Edict of Nantes in 1598 but not permitted to settle in New France
2. _____ Absolute French monarch who reigned for seventy-two years
3. _____ Animal whose pelt provided great profits for the French empire and enhanced European fashion at enormous ecological cost
4. _____ French Catholic religious order that explored the North American interior and sought to protect and convert the Indians
5. _____ Far-ranging, high-living French fur trappers
6. _____ Part of a certain British naval officer's anatomy that set off an imperial war with Spain
7. _____ Strategic French fortress conquered by New England settlers, handed back to the French, and finally conquered again by the British in 1759
8. _____ Inland river territory, scene of fierce competition between the French and land-speculating English colonists
9. _____ Bloodiest European theater of the Seven Years' War, where Frederick the Great's troops drained French strength away from North America
10. _____ Unification effort that Benjamin Franklin nearly led to success by his eloquent leadership and cartoon artistry
11. _____ Military aide of British General Braddock and defender of the frontier after Braddock's defeat
12. _____ Fortress boldly assaulted by General Wolfe, spelling doom for New France
13. _____ The "buckskin" colonial soldiers whose military success did nothing to alter British officers' contempt
14. _____ Allies of the French against the British, who continued to fight under Pontiac even after the peace settlement in 1763
15. _____ The larger European struggle of which the French and Indian War was part

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

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|----------|----------------------------|---|
| 1. _____ | Samuel de Champlain | a. Advocate of colonial unity at a 1754 meeting in upstate New York |
| 2. _____ | Robert de la Salle | b. British document that aroused colonial anger but failed to stop frontier expansion |
| 3. _____ | Albany | c. French colonists in Nova Scotia brutally uprooted by the victorious British and shipped to Louisiana |
| 4. _____ | War of Austrian Succession | d. Conflict that started with the War of |
| 5. _____ | Fort Duquesne | |
| 6. _____ | George Washington | |
| 7. _____ | Benjamin Franklin | |

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|-----------|----------------------|--|
| 8. _____ | General Braddock | Jenkins's Ear and ended with the return of Louisbourg to France |
| 9. _____ | William Pitt | |
| 10. _____ | Plains of Abraham | e. Strategic French outpost at the mouth of the Mississippi |
| 11. _____ | Seven Years' War | f. Indian leader whose frontier uprising caused the British to attempt to limit colonial expansion |
| 12. _____ | Pontiac | |
| 13. _____ | Proclamation of 1763 | g. Blundering British officer whose defeat gave the advantage to the French and Indians in the early stages of their war |
| 14. _____ | New Orleans | h. The Father of New France, who established a crucial alliance with the Huron Indians |
| 15. _____ | Acadians (Cajuns) | i. Site of the death of Generals Wolfe and Montcalm, where France's New World empire also perished |
| | | j. Strategic French stronghold; later renamed after a great British statesman |
| | | k. Militia commander whose frontier skirmish in Pennsylvania touched off a world war |
| | | l. Site of a meeting that proposed greater unity and home rule among Britain's North American colonies |
| | | m. Conflict that began with George Washington's skirmish in Ohio and ended with the loss of France's North American empire |
| | | n. French empire builder who explored the Mississippi Basin and named it after his monarch |
| | | o. Splendid British orator and organizer of the winning strategy against the French in North America |

E. Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 10.

1. _____ A Virginia militia commander attempts an unsuccessful invasion of the Ohio Valley.
2. _____ The "Great Commoner" takes command of the British government and its war effort.
3. _____ Toleration of French Huguenots brings religious peace to France.
4. _____ New France is founded, one year after Jamestown.

5. _____ Britain issues a proclamation to prohibit colonial expansion and thereby prevent another Indian war.
6. _____ The second “world war” between France and Britain ends in British victory and the acquisition of Acadia.
7. _____ British victory on the Plains of Abraham seals the fate of New France.
8. _____ Return of Louisbourg fortress at the end of King George’s War angers colonial New Englanders.
9. _____ War begins badly for the British when Braddock fails to take Fort Duquesne.
10. _____ A great empire builder explores Louisiana and claims it for the French king.

F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause		Effect	
1. _____	The French fur trade	a. _____	Resulted in decisive French defeat and British domination of North America
2. _____	The four “world wars” between 1688 and 1763	b. _____	Prompted widespread Indian assaults on the weakly defended colonial frontier
3. _____	Competition for land and furs in the Ohio Valley	c. _____	Led to Washington’s expedition and battle with the French at Fort Necessity
4. _____	The summoning of the Albany Congress by the British	d. _____	Heightened colonial anger and encouraged illegal westward expansion
5. _____	William Pitt’s assumption of control of British government and strategy	e. _____	Increased American military confidence and resentment of British redcoats
6. _____	Wolfe’s victory over Montcalm at Quebec	f. _____	Decimated beaver populations while spreading the French empire
7. _____	The colonial militia’s military success in the French and Indian War	g. _____	Were echoed by four small wars between French and British subjects in North America
8. _____	Colonial American smuggling and trading with French enemy	h. _____	Represented the first major attempt at intercolonial unity
9. _____	British issuance of the Proclamation of 1763	i. _____	Increased British government’s disdain for colonial Americans and raised doubts about their loyalty to the empire
10. _____	Braddock’s defeat at Fort Duquesne	j. _____	Ended a string of defeats and turned the French and Indian War in Britain’s favor

G. Developing Historical Skills

Using a Map to Understand the Text

Reading maps frequently aids in understanding a point being made in the text—especially when it involves geography or strategy. On p. 115, the text emphasizes that the British did not turn the tide in the French and Indian War until Pitt altered strategy to concentrate on the strategic points of Louisbourg, Montreal, and Quebec. Examining the map on p. 115 helps you to understand why this was so.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why is Quebec more important than, say, Fort Duquesne in relation to the St. Lawrence River and the Atlantic Ocean?
2. Why was it essential to capture Louisbourg before attacking Quebec?
3. What was the strategic situation of remaining French forces in the Great Lakes area once Montreal and Quebec were captured?

H. Map Mastery

Map Discrimination

Using the maps and charts in Chapter 6, answer the following questions:

1. *France's American Empire at the Greatest Extent, 1700*: Around which great river valley was New France first colonized?
2. *France's American Empire at the Greatest Extent, 1700*: Which French colonial settlement on the Great Lakes linked the St. Lawrence and Mississippi river basins?
3. *Fur-Trading Posts*: Along which river, besides the Mississippi, were the greatest number of French fur-trading posts located?
4. *The Nine World Wars*: How many years of peace did Britain and France enjoy between France's loss of Acadia in the War of Spanish Succession and the beginning of the War of Austrian Succession?

5. *Scenes of the French Wars*: The attacks on Schenectady and Deerfield occurred during attacks from which French Canadian city?
6. *The Ohio Country, 1753–1754*: Fort Duquesne was located at the intersection of which two rivers (which unite at that point to form a third river)?
7. *Events of 1755–1760*: Which French Canadian stronghold did not finally fall until a year after Wolfe's defeat of Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham at Quebec?
8. *North America Before 1754/After 1763*: In the peace treaty of 1763, which nation besides Britain acquired North American territory from France?
9. *North America Before 1754/After 1763*: Which North American territory owned by Spain before 1754 was acquired by Britain in the peace of 1763?

Map Challenge

Using the maps in this chapter, write a brief essay explaining why the St. Lawrence River valley was the strategic key to control of the whole center of North America.

PART III: APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

1. Why did the British and their American colonial subjects win the contest with the French for control of North America?
2. In what ways were the American colonists involved in the mother country's struggle with France?
3. How did French relations with the Indians compare with those of Britain and Spain?
4. Why did most Indian peoples fight with the French against Britain and its American colonists in the French and Indian War?
5. Explain why Britain's *success* in defeating the French empire led to *failures* in dealing with its colonial subjects.
6. How did events in France, Britain, and elsewhere in Europe affect the history of North America in this period?

7. Compare France's colonizing efforts in the New World with Spain's and England's colonies. (See especially Chapters 1 and 2.) What factors explain France's relatively weak impact on the New World compared with that of England's and Spain's?
8. When the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War) began, most American colonists were extremely proud and happy to be part of the world's greatest empire. When it ended many of them no longer felt that way, even though the British empire was greater than ever. Why?