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History

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## Lecture 4: Colonial Conflict: 1754-1789

- English colonies, Indian-french war, Revolution

The French and Indian War, 1754:

- Name used to describe North America theater
  - Theater: place that war is happening
- Much larger war: Seven Years' War
- FIW is part of ^
- FIW is North American part of Seven Years' War
- European powers competing over trade, power → Mercantilism
- Salutary neglect; knew that some
- "first great war for empire → was happening in Russia, India, Caribbean, NA
- Global scale

Causes of FIW:

- Americas → competition with French
  - Fur trade
  - Religious competition, French were still Catholic
- English want more access to land
  - Rich: land speculation
  - Speculation: form of gambling, like house flipping
  - Buy land when its cheap, sell it when people want it for high price
- French and English: control of rivers
  - Rivers predominant trade routes in region
  - Easier trade, control of rivers
  - Ohio River → both English and French want control over this river
- Native Americans side with who will benefit them
  - Will French or British profit them more?
  - Formed alliances with either French/British
    - Iroquois confederacy → sided with British
    - Every other Indigenous tribe sided with French
  - Mainly British vs French and Indigenous people

FIW:

- War begins with French victories: 1754, Ft. Duquesne

- Seven colonies formed Albany Congress, mainly northern colonies
  - Unified idea for security, wanted to keep alliance with Iroquois
  - Ben Franklin → Albany Plan of Union
    - Recommended loose confederation/alliance
    - Wanted to raise taxes → war costs money
    - Proposed, but doesn't actually happen because each colony wants control over own affairs
- 1757: William Pitt
  - Wanted to fix strategies, put money + time, transitioned into British winning war
  - 1758: Ft. Pitt/Pittsburgh established
  - 1759: British captured Quebec, 1760: Montreal (major cities in French colonies)
  - French doesn't want to invest time + money in war in NA
  - War starts dying down in colonies in 1760
- 1763: Treaty of Paris
  - Until then, battles on much smaller scale
  - Multiple treaties of Paris
  - 1763 treaties → French give up control of certain areas (east coast to Mississippi river to British, west of Mississippi river to Spanish)
  - British let French keep Caribbean + sugar plantations
  - French just want out\

#### Consequences: Colonial anger:

- Colonists not happy with British government for treatment during war
- Impressment
  - British just forced people to join the army → “impressed into army”, what of families?
  - Confiscate supplies from colonies
    - Took supplies to take care of armies/war from regular civilians
  - Quartering
    - Forced people to allow soldiers to live in their homes
  - Disrespect
    - Even if colonial captain and British captain were the same rank, colonial captain was “lower”
    - Were disrespected as soldiers

#### Consequences: Proclamation of 1763

- After the war, Treaty of Paris → became official law
- Stopped expansion past Appalachian mts even if they have land until the Mississippi
- Concession to indigenous allies
- Don't want to anger Iroquois
- Gives British control
  - Block westward settlement → keeps people in profitable cities, British get to control who moves where, sell land to speculators
- Colonists want revenge on Indigenous people for fighting with French
- Resentment towards British because of this ^
- Settlers had already moved past mts, but it was “official”

- Ineffective
  - How could they enforce the border?
  - People could go past if they wanted
- White settlers ignored Proclamation, indigenous people don't like this

#### Consequences: Pontiac's War:

- Treaty of Paris doesn't consider indigenous people, people are ignoring Proclamation → start fighting
- British
  - Ended weapon sales to indigenous people, even to Iroquois allies
  - Don't dismantle their forts like they said they would, instead they expand them
  - Iroquois → realize they don't want to ally with British
- Goal: reverse outcome of FIW
  - Restore French alliance
  - Doesn't work, because French don't want to come back
- Outcome → British win the war finally
- This leads to increased tensions between indigenous people and colonists

#### Consequences: British end Salutary Neglect

- War cost money! → British left with huge amounts of debt
- To pay debt, have to raise taxes on top of highest tax rate in the world
- People mad about this ^
- British gained land → to defend they started permanent standing army
  - Increase in troops in NA, India, other areas they colonized
  - Colonists don't like this because danger → felt threatened by armed presence everywhere
  - Expensive! Made colonies in Ireland and NA pay for defense, taxes!!
- Enforced mercantilism → mercantilism helps them make money
  - Tightening customs, stopped smuggling, ended ineffective admin, cut back on colonial manufacturing
  - Writs of Assistance
    - After George 3 become King, supports allowing British to search ships/buildings without warrant
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment!

#### Action Reaction: Sugar and Stamp Acts

- Colonies and British government
- 1764: British passed Sugar Act to raise taxes on sugar and molasses (also taxing rum, which they buy a lot of)
- Writs of Assistance: courts of admiralty → if you are smuggling, you don't get trial by jury and have to go to this different court
- Colonists response: boycott sugar, didn't buy it
- 1764: Currency Act → don't allow colonists to have paper money, need coins (gold, silver, etc)
- Currency Act hurts economy because people don't have British coins to pay taxes

- 1765: British passed Quartering Act:
  - Requiring colonists to house soldiers without consent
- 1765: Stamp Act:
  - All paper goods are taxed now
  - Exorbitant tax rates on sheets of paper
  - Violate Stamp Act → sent to court of admiralty
  - All of these going against English common law

#### Sons of Liberty and Stamp Act Congress:

- Specifically because of Stamp Act
- Riots, burning paper, wanted change
- Stamp Act led to Stamp act congress
  - Respond to enforced Stamp Acts
  - 9 colonies met in 1765 wanted unified Stamp Act Congress to discuss this
  - No revolution, only wanted to talk taxation without representation
  - Could not agree on anything
- Enough protest for Stamp Acts to be repealed

#### Declaratory Act and Townshend Acts:

- In place of Stamp Act, they got this
- Parliament can pass any law regarding colonies without colonists getting a say
- Townshend Acts:
  - Disband NY assembly → no longer had representative government
  - Because NY was fighting against Quartering Acts
  - New taxes on ink, lead, tea
  - Cracking down more on smuggling
- Repealed all taxes afterwards except for tax on tea

#### Action Reaction: Boston Massacre and Tea Party:

- Congregationalists in Boston
- Standing British army
- One night, colonists taunt British soldiers, throw rocks and snowballs
- Somebody fires (we don't know who), 5 colonists are killed → March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1773
- British gives East India company privileges that colonists don't have → don't have taxes on imports of tea for East India company but still tax colonists
- Colonists protest, did not buy any East India tea → causes Boston tea party
  - Colonists dress up as indigenous people (because its easier ot blame indigenous people), board a shipment of tea, and dump all the tea into the water

#### Action-Reaction: Coercive/Intolerable Acts and First Continental Congress:

- Because of Boston tea party, Parliament responds by enforcing Coercive/Intolerable Acts
  - Close port of Boston altogether
  - Change rules for British soldiers accused of crimes → don't have to be tried in the colonies, tried in England

- If crime was against colonists, then the colonist would not even be at that trial
- Quartering troops again
- Even more limitation on self-government
- Colonies respond to this with 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress
  - Don't like the Albany Congress → don't want to s
  - Endorse statement of grievances to British
  - Approve resolution to arm colonies for self defense
  - Basically a colony-wide boycotts

#### Loyalists vs Patriots:

- Effect of actions/reactions: people start to take sides
- People who support Britain are Loyalists
- People who want to preserve freedom are Patriots (not revolution yet, just want rights they had previously)
- Consequences of picking a side
  - Censorship of information from the other side
  - Effigy → ex. burning a doll with someone's name written on it
  - Attacked homes and businesses of the other side
  - Public shaming → each party would publish names of people who they didn't like
- People who picked a side were very vocal

#### Fighting Begins:

- Nobody has declared independence!
- 1775: Lexington and Concord, April 19
  - British find out there is cache of weapons belonging to Sons of Liberty
  - Go to Lexington and Concord to confiscate those weapons
  - Paul Revere + William Dawes make a night ride to warn colonial militia that British were coming → colonial militia harassing the British
  - His mission worked, they moved the weapons in time
  - First shots of the Revolutionary War fired here (don't know who)
- Battle of Bunker (Breed's Hill), June 17 1775
  - In Boston, British soldiers vs colonial militia fortified on Breed's Hill
  - Colonial militia runs out of ammo and has to retreat, technically a British win
  - British make more losses because of the battle than what the win was worth

#### Second Continental Congress:

- Convenes May 10, 1775
- Needs another one because of these battles happening
- George Washington shows up in militia uniform → people are thinking about battle
- Still not ready for independence
- Actually organize military defense
- Washington become new head of Continental Army (experience with FIW)
- Congress agrees to try and make peace with British one more time → Olive Branch Petition
  - Last hope for reconciliation

- “Declaration of Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms” → another group says they are completely done, ready to fight
- ^represents divisions between colonies

#### Declaring Independence:

- Olive Branch Petition arrives too late, British have already made decision
- George 3 already authorized measure to crush rebellion entirely
  - Even authorized Virginia’s governor to enable enslaved people to rebel against colonists and join British
- Jan 1776: Shelling of Norfolk, VA: British concretely attacking, firing artillery
- March 1776: Washington drives British out of Boston
- British taking over NY at the same time
- Declaration of Independence
  - Thomas Jefferson (33 years) drafts Declaration
  - Already fighting, British don’t want more conversation, let’s separate
  - This is approved on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1776
  - Colonists have already been fighting for over a year

#### War for Independence (1777-83):

- British take NY
- Washington has to retreat through NJ into PA
- British say if anyone signs loyalty to British, they will forgive all treason → colonists actually take up this offer, actually considering whether colonists will be able to win the war
- Washington fights back, pushes them out of NJ, but British still has NY
- British hope if they hold NY, they will force most extreme colonists into submission
- New England has the troublemakers, so if British hold NY, which blocks New England, they can keep Washington out and force New England into submission
- 1777: Battle of Saratoga
  - Surprising win for colonists
  - Proves that colonists could actually win this, British have to take this more seriously
- 1777-78, winter, Valley Forge:
  - Cold, low supplies, trenches, disease → colonists
  - British have quartering, are cozy and warm
  - People usually pause fighting during winter because conditions are not good
  - Winter is the time for colonial militia to become real army → people with military experience from France come to help train the army
  - February 1778: France recognizes US as independent country, big first step
  - Basically moral support for colonies
- 1779: Spain does not recognize US, but allies with France because they wanted to go against British
  - Don’t directly help the US, more indirect relations

#### Southern Strategy:

- French + Spain are added to picture
- New England + NY not working, but have more support Southern colonies because they don't have all those
- 1778: British decide to move all the fighting to the South → more Loyalists, valuable land
- Guerilla warfare: basically civil war between Loyalists and Patriots
- Army is moved to the South → Used hit and run tactics against the British
- General gets pushed back to Yorktown VA in 1781
- French ships finally show up! Now British can't just run away because French are sitting in the harbor
- The general surrenders, last "real"/major battle of this war
- 1783: Another Treaty of Paris
  - New US is recognized
  - British cede all land they owned between East Coast and Mississippi river