

In what ways and with what consequences did the aftermath of the French and the Indian War (1763) influence the American Revolution (1765-1783)?

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Part A: Plan of Investigation

This investigation evaluates the influence and the consequences of the French and the Indian War (1754-1763) in regards to the American Revolution (1765-1783). In order to evaluate the consequences of the French and the Indian War, the cost and the financial effect of the war on Great Britain and its American colonies will be accessed. This investigation will further examine the ways in which the French and the Indian War affected British policies towards the thirteen American colonies. In order to examine the influence of the French and the Indian War on the American Revolution, this investigation will evaluate how the colonials' responses to new British policies culminated into the American Revolution.

The two sources, *Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to the Revolution* by Edmund Morgan and Helen Morgan, and the *Declaration of Rights and Grievances* will be evaluated for their origins, purposes, limitations and values.

Part B: Summary of Evidence

- 1) Although Great Britain triumphed against France at the end of the French and the Indian War in 1763,¹ the expenses of the war-time efforts were extraordinary.²
 - Great Britain acquired all of Canada and all of French territory east of Mississippi River except for New Orleans, as well as Spanish Florida³ through the Treaty of Paris in 1763.⁴

¹ Borneman, Walter, *The French and the Indian War: Deciding the Fate of North America* (New York: HarperCollins Books, 2006), 296.

² Morgan, Edmund and Morgan, Helen, *The Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to Revolution*, (North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1995), 22.

³ Childers, Ronald, *The Presidio System in Spanish Florida 1565-1763* (Maryland: Society for Historical Archaeology, 2004), 24.

⁴ Gough, Barry, *British Mercantile Interests in the Making of the Peace of Paris, 1763: Trade, War and Empire*. (New York: Edwin Mellen Press, 1992), 156.

- Great Britain's national debt, which stood at £73 million before the war, increased to £137 million by 1763.⁵
 - The annual interest on Great Britain's debt was £5 million, at a time when the government's total income was £8 million per year.⁶
- 2) The French and the Indian War prompted Great Britain to change its colonial policies.
- Great Britain forbade colonial settlements towards the West of the crest of the Appalachian Mountains through the Proclamation of 1763.⁷
 - Prime Minister George Grenville sought to relieve the economic downturn caused by the French and the Indian War⁸ by taxing the colonials through the Sugar Act in 1764⁹ and through the Stamp Act in 1765.¹⁰
 - Under the Stamp Act of 1765, a wide range of fifty paper items, including wills, deeds, diplomas, advertisements, bills, newspapers, and licenses, were taxed and stamped, indicating that the appropriate tax had been paid.¹¹
- 3) British taxation policies towards colonials evoked immediate and radical responses from the colonials.

⁵Cogliano, Francis, *Revolutionary America 1763-1815*, (New York: Routledge, 2009), 49.

⁶ Ibid, 49.

⁷ *Royal Proclamation of 1763*, 1763.

⁸ Morgan and Morgan, 25.

⁹ Ibid, 27. The Sugar Act of 1764 placed tariffs on imported goods including sugar, coffee and wine. It further enforced stringent measures in order to end smuggling, such as ordering the Navy to patrol American ports for smugglers.

¹⁰ Thomas Whately to John Temple, February 9, 1765, *Temple-Whately Letter Book*, Stowe Collection, Huntington Library.

¹¹ Walter, 297.

- In June, 1764, the Massachusetts Assembly organized an inter-colonial meeting known as the Stamp Act Congress.¹² Twenty-seven delegates from nine colonies attended the conference.¹³
 - The Stamp Act Congress declared that the Parliament had no right to tax Americans without proper representation of the colonies on the British Parliament,¹⁴ and argued that the tax would neither benefit the British, nor the colonials.¹⁵
 - Colonials further resisted the Stamp Act through refusal to buy stamps, boycott of British imports, and through the formation of Sons of Liberty¹⁶, which planned riots and attacks on tax collectors.¹⁷
 - At the end of December 1765, mass colonial uprisings and threats led to the resignation of stamp collectors in ten of the thirteen American colonies.¹⁸
 - On March 16, 1766, the Stamp Act was repealed by Great Britain.¹⁹
- 4) Further colonial resistance to Great Britain's numerous attempts of asserting authority and imposing taxations between 1766 to 1773,²⁰ led to an outbreak of armed conflict between Great Britain and the American colonies.

¹² Cogliano, 57.

¹³ Ibid, 57.

¹⁴ *Declaration of Rights and Grievances*. (October 19, 1765) III-IV, XI

¹⁵ Ibid, XI.

¹⁶ Cogliano, 57. The Sons of Liberty was an anti-Imperial organization founded by a group of leading colonial artisans and shopkeepers during the Stamp Act Crisis of 1765.

¹⁷ Walter, 297.

¹⁸ Cogliano, 58.

¹⁹ Morgan and Morgan, 183.

²⁰ Borneman, 298. The British Parliament placed duties on glass, oil, lead paper and tea through the Townsend Acts in 1767.

- Great Britain asserted its complete authority to tax colonials through the Declaratory Act of 1766.²¹
- The British Parliament passed the Tea Act on May 10, 1773, in order to support the East India Company by selling their tea at bargain prices to the colonials.²² The colonials responded by disposing three hundred and forty two chests of British tea during the Boston Tea Party.²³
- In September 5, 1774, fifty-five delegates from twelve colonies gathered in Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress, which declared that Great Britain had no authority over the colonies except in the case of trade legislation.²⁴ It further adopted the Continental Association, which was an agreement to boycott all goods from Great Britain and Ireland.²⁵
- In April 1775, Great Britain attacked Concord and Lexington with nearly 600 troops to arrest rebellious colonial leaders.²⁶
- In response, the colonials organized the Second Continental Congress on May, 1775, which resolved to form a Continental Army against Great Britain.²⁷
- On August of 1775, King George III of Great Britain declared the colonies to be in a state of rebellion, and called upon all civil and military officials to suppress all colonial uprisings.²⁸

²¹ Cogliano, 83.

²² Ibid, 83

²³ Ibid, 85

²⁴ *Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress*, (October 14, 1774), IV.

²⁵ Cogliano, 74.

²⁶ Fischer, David, *Paul Revere's Ride* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), 445.

²⁷ Baack, Ben. *The Economic History Review*, (New Jersey: Wiley, 2001), 641. For the preparation of the Continental Army, the Second Continental Congress appointed George Washington as commander-in-chief, established a variety of army crops and made arrangements for purchase of arms and munitions.

²⁸ Cogliano, 85.

- On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence²⁹, which claimed the American colonies' right to change their government and thus, their right to become independent of Great Britain.³⁰

Part C: Evaluation of Sources

Morgan, Edmund and Morgan, Helen. *The Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to Revolution* (North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1995).

Edmund Morgan's and Helen Morgan's *The Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to Revolution* is a monograph on the Stamp Act Crisis. It provides a detailed account on the connection between the economic downturn caused by the French and the Indian War, the issuing of the Stamp Act by the British Parliament, and the mass colonial uprisings and protests against Great Britain. The purpose of this source is to educate scholars about the connection between the Stamp Act Crisis and the American Revolution by evaluating how the colonial responses to the Stamp Act were prelude to the American Revolution. This monograph is valuable to historians because it provides the perspectives of key British figures like George Grenville on their reasons for changing British policies towards the American colonies, through direct quotations from primary sources such as letters. Additionally, it provides historians with information regarding the reactions of the colonials to the restrictions imposed by British policies, which illustrate their rebellion against Great Britain's authority. On the other hand, the scope of this source is limited to the Stamp Act Crisis from 1763 to 1766, and does not offer historians with information regarding the British policies and colonial actions against Great Britain that occurred subsequent to the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766.

²⁹ *Declaration of Independence*, (1776).

³⁰ Cogliano, 95.

Declaration of Rights and Grievances, (October 19, 1765).

Declaration of Rights and Grievances of October 19, 1765 was a document written by the Stamp Act Congress, after the issue of the Stamp Act by the British Parliament. The purpose of this document is to declare that colonials had full rights of Englishmen, and to declare that taxation measures such as the Stamp Act enforced upon them without their consent were unconstitutional. The *Declaration of Rights and Grievances* is valuable because it provides the official and direct responses of colonial leaders to the Stamp Act. Furthermore, this source provides the view of colonial leaders on how Great Britain's taxation measures would affect ordinary colonials, because this source states that it would be burdensome and impractical for colonials to pay these duties. This source, however, is limited because it does not provide historians with the responses and reactions of ordinary colonials towards the Stamp Act.

Part D: Analysis

The economic downturn caused by the French and the Indian War necessitated Great Britain to change its policies towards the thirteen American colonies. Great Britain's national debt, which stood at £73 million before the war, had increased to £137 million by 1763.³¹ Furthermore, the acquisition of vast new territories through Canada and Mississippi Valley³² increased financial burdens on Great Britain because it would be costly to administer these new lands. As a result, Great Britain prevented further colonial expansion into these western lands through the Proclamation of 1763.³³ The Proclamation of 1763 further served to reduce friction

³¹ Walter, 296.

³² Ibid, 281.

³³ *A Royal Proclamation*, 1763.

between the Native Americans and the colonials.³⁴ Additionally, in order to resolve the financial crisis, Prime Minister George Grenville proposed taxation of thirteen colonies as a means of gaining revenue.³⁵ Americans had benefitted tremendously with their association with Great Britain during the French and the Indian war, because the British military had won the war for them.³⁶ Moreover, the level of duty on colonials was much lower than compared to those on ordinary Britons, with only nine of the fifty items subject to tax exceeding the duty of £1.³⁷ Prime Minister George Grenville used this as a justification for Great Britain to enforce new taxations upon colonials in order to defray the expenses from the French and the Indian war.³⁸ Between 1764 and 1767, the Parliament issued various taxations measures such as the Sugar Act, Stamp Act, and the Townshend Revenue Acts.³⁹

These new colonial policies led to the discontent of the colonials because it restricted their economic potential. American colonials had long hoped to exploit western lands after the French had been driven away.⁴⁰ The Proclamation of 1763, however, restricted the colonials from expanding their territory and their economy.⁴¹ Furthermore, the Sugar Act of 1764 enforced taxation, and ended colonial trade with other nations because it enforced stringent measures to end smuggling.⁴² Similarly, colonial merchants were financially burdened by the Stamp Act as

³⁴ Morgan, Gwenda, *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 81, No. 1 (Virginia: Virginia Historical Society, 1973), 39.

³⁵ Morgan and Morgan, 20.

³⁶ Ibid, 6. Morgan and Morgan state that most of the blood and most of the money for the French and the Indian War had come from England.

³⁷ Cogliano, 54.

³⁸ Ibid, 54. The Stamp Act states that the Parliament deems said Act just and necessary in order to defray expenses of protecting and defending the colonies during the French and the Indian War.

³⁹ Ibid, 31-71.

⁴⁰ Morgan and Morgan, 40. Colonists were interested in settlements of new lands won from the French and speculative profit.

⁴¹ Walter, 281.

⁴² Morgan and Morgan, 27. The Sugar Act of 1764 placed tariffs on imported goods including sugar, coffee and wine. It further enforced stringent measures in order to end smuggling, such as ordering the Navy to patrol American ports for smugglers.

well as the Townshend Acts. The taxations imposed by Great Britain inhibited sales of American merchants by increasing the price of their goods.⁴³ The Tea Act further contributed to the frustrations of Colonial merchants, since Tea sold by the East India Company was comparatively cheaper than those sold by colonial merchants.⁴⁴ Economic restrictions, however, were not the sole cause of frustrations amongst the colonials. The Stamp Act Congress demonstrates that the colonials were opposed to taxation without proper representation in the British Parliament.⁴⁵ Many colonials questioned their rights as Englishmen, and challenged Great Britain's authority to tax them.⁴⁶

The colonials responded to the Acts of the Parliament through protests and boycotts, which culminated into the American Revolution by 1775. British policies throughout the 1760's had imposed economic restrictions on American colonials. While the societal elites amongst the colonials responded through the Stamp Act Congress which claimed that Great Britain had no right to tax the colonies,⁴⁷ ordinary colonials on the other hand, responded more radically through boycotts, violent mass uprisings, mobs and threats towards the stamp collectors.⁴⁸ Great Britain's further attempts to gain revenue by taxing colonials prompted the colonial leaders to organize the First Continental Congress, which agreed to boycott all goods from Great Britain and Ireland.⁴⁹ The Revolutionary War began when Great Britain attacked Concord and Lexington with nearly 600 troops in order to arrest rebellious colonial leaders, resulting in an outbreak of armed conflict between Great Britain and the colonials.⁵⁰ The colonials prepared for war through

⁴³ Cogliano, 51. The Sugar Act severely curtailed trade in the colonies.

⁴⁴ Ibid, 70.

⁴⁵ Ibid, 57.

⁴⁶ Ibid, 57.

⁴⁷ Morgan and Morgan, 119.

⁴⁸ Walter, 297.

⁴⁹ Ibid, 74.

⁵⁰ Fischer, 445.

the formation of the Continental Army against Great Britain.⁵¹ After King George III ordered military officials to quell colonial uprisings during August of 1775, the Second Continental Congress further adopted the Declaration of Independence, which declared the thirteen American colonies' ultimate succession from the British Empire in July of 1776.⁵²

Part E: Conclusion

Over the decade of 1763 to 1773, Great Britain attempted various measures to enforce taxation in order to gain revenue for economic setbacks caused by the French and the Indian War. Great Britain's stringent measures to gain a tighter clasp of its thirteen American colonies resulted in bitter disagreements between the mother nation and its colonies. In addition to the mass uprisings and protests, American colonials demonstrated their will for independence through the Stamp Act Congress and the Continental Congress, which asserted that Great Britain had no authority over the colonials. The Battles of Lexington and Concord ignited the American Revolution in 1775, because it led to the colonies' preparation of the Continental Army against Great Britain, and their adoption of the Declaration of Independence in July 4, 1776. The French and the Indian War's long term financial effects on Great Britain ultimately led to the American Revolution, as disagreements between Great Britain and its American colonies on the matter of Great Britain's authority over the thirteen colonies intensified over the course of 1763-1776.

Part F: Bibliography

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⁵¹ Cogliano, 75.

⁵² Cogliano, 95.

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