

# The French and Indian War





# Causes

- 1. Competition over control of the Ohio River Valley
- 2. Conflict of interests in trade
- 3. Competition for the business of Native Americans
- 4. Traditional conflict between French and British
- 5. Many wars back in Europe increased tensions



# The Two Sides

- French & Indians  
(Huron, Ottawa)
- British & Native American Allies  
(Iroquois)

# How did it start?

- French moves into the “Ohio Country” trigger a response from Virginia.
- Gov. of Virginia sent a young militia major to push the French away from the “Forks of the Ohio”
- This sparked the war.

# The Battle for Fort Necessity

- July 9, 1755, 900 French and Native Americans surprised a force of nearly 1,500 British troops and 450 colonial militia
  - armed citizens who serve as soldiers during an emergency.



# Battle of Fort Necessity

- Fierce three-hour battle
- About a third of the British force was killed or wounded
- British Defeat (Fort was surrendered)
- British commander - General Edward Braddock killed
  - “We shall better know how to deal with them another time”
  - George Washington (young soldier under Braddock) claimed the British ran away like “sheep running away from dogs”

# Albany Plan of Union

- Proposed by Benjamin Franklin (PA) when discussing issues with French and Native Americans
- Called for a grand council of delegates from each colony, all elected by their colonial legislatures
- Would be led by a president general appointed by the King
- Based on the structure and idea of the Iroquois league



# Albany Plan of Union

- REJECTED by the colonial legislatures
- Colonies did not want to give up power to a federal power
- Shows the beginning of conflict between colonial powers and national power
- Provided a basic model for early American gov't
- Franklin criticizes their failure with the first American political cartoon



# The French and Indians Take An Early Lead

- British had more troops but French had stable forts along the rivers
- British continue to use traditional fighting
- French and Native Americas use guerilla warfare
- Braddock's defeat at the Monongehela



# The British Turn the Tide

- William Pitt is appointed Prime Minister
- With added financial support & a commitment to win the war, the British begin to take the lead
- Begin working to take fort by fort
- French begin to give up forts around the Great Lakes and move back to New France
- The Iroquois shift their allegiance to the British believing the French cause was hopeless

# The Fall of Quebec

- The British invaded New France and went for the capital at Quebec
- General James Wolfe led about 9,000 British troops.
- Marquis de Montcalm led 7,500 French troops
- Successfully defended Quebec.



Wolfe



Montcalm

# Fall of Quebec

- Wolfe decides to lay siege (surround the enemy force and block any items from coming in or going out) to prevent any more losses to his own troops
- Siege continued but coming freeze to the waters meant they had to do something fast



# The Fall of Quebec

- Wolfe began moving his troops up a narrow, undefended path on the side of Quebec's cliffs.
- 4,500 British troops ready to attack
- Montcalm moved 4,500 troops out of the city to battle the enemy (did not wait for about 3,000 reinforcements to come)
- French received many losses
- Both Wolfe and Montcalm were killed in the fighting
- A few days later, the city surrendered.



# British take everything

- British took Quebec and then many other key cities begin to fall
- British forces took the city of Montreal
- With Montreal and Quebec fallen – the British control New France
- By 1761, the British had seized Fort Detroit and other French posts along the Great Lakes

# The Treaty of Paris (1763)

- Representatives of Great Britain, France, and Spain signed a treaty in Paris, France.
- Ended the French and Indian War in America and the Seven Years' War in Europe.
- Treaty Points
  - New France east of the Mississippi River to Britain
  - New Orleans given to Spain along with New France west of the Mississippi River.
  - The British returned Cuba, which they had captured during the war, to Spain in exchange for Florida.



# How did the British win the war?

- 1. Parliament sent a whole lot of money to support the effort fearing the impact on the empire if the French won
- 2. Better prepared, better led troops
- 3. Good strategy
- 4. Gain Iroquois as allies



# The Impact of the F & I War On The Colonies

- 1. British thought the colonists did not do enough to defend themselves
- 2. Americans shocked by how long it took British to win
- 3. Americans felt their British leadership did not support them

# The Impact of the F & I War On The Colonies

- 4. Americans lost respect for British military power
- 5. Americans felt disrespected by British
- 6. The colonists BELIEVED that they could move further west because the French no longer occupy that territory