

French and Indian War (1754-1763) and 1763 Treaty of Paris



- ❑ Beginning in 1689, Great Britain and France fought one another in a series of wars for control of European and colonial trade. The French and Indian War was the last of a series of wars fought between the countries and their respective allies.
 - The war began in North America as a result of ongoing British-American expansion into the Ohio River Valley, which was also claimed by France.
 - The French persuaded their Indian allies to join them in preventing further settlement in the disputed region west of the Appalachian Mountains.
 - Great Britain eventually won the war.

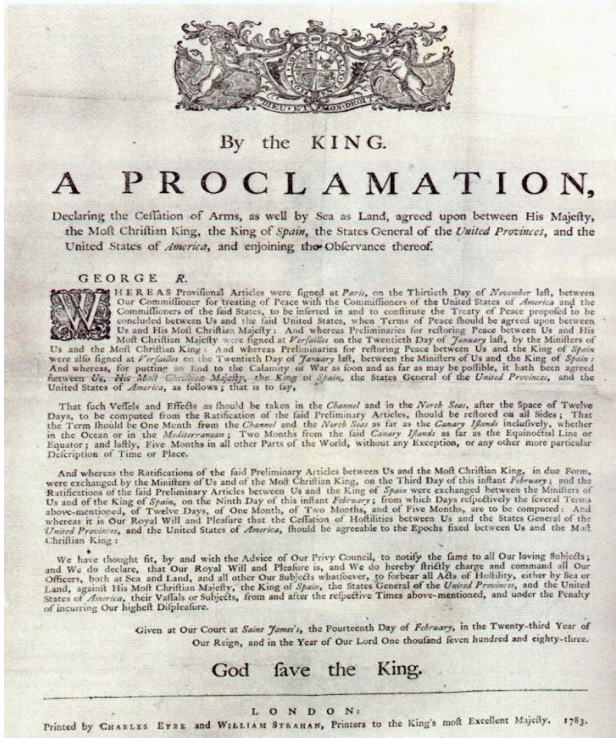


- ❑ The 1763 Treaty of Paris was the negotiated settlement that ended the French and Indian War. Its provisions forced France to turn over control of Canada to Great Britain. France also surrendered its claim to all land east of the Mississippi River, with the exception of the city of New Orleans.

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- ❑ Given that the American colonists successfully fought alongside the British regular soldiers in the French and Indian War, it seems as though the relationship between them would have been strengthened by the coordinated effort.
 - However, the outcome of the war strained the colonial and British relationship and fueled the calls for independence by the colonists.
 - The colonists felt empowered by their military contributions to the war and also felt disrespected by the restrictions and tax burden placed on them after the 1763 Treaty of Paris was signed.
 - The spoils of victory were not enjoyed by the colonists, who believed their militia groups had contributed greatly to the British military success.



- ❑ As a result, the tension created by the French and Indian War and the 1763 Treaty of Paris laid the groundwork for the American Revolution.

Results of the French & Indian War (1754-1763) and 1763 Treaty of Paris

- ❑ The end of the French and Indian War brought Great Britain great benefits.
 - The British were now in control of the largest empire in the world and were in a dominant position in Europe.
 - However, over 70 years of fighting various wars had nearly bankrupted the British government. The French and Indian War had more than doubled the British national debt.
 - As a result, those living in the British isles endured heavy taxation, high inflation, and unemployment during this time.
- ❑ With the French and Indian War over, the American colonists breathed a sigh of relief.
 - European and American Indian threats to the American frontier had ended (or were at least reduced) and allowed American land speculators to sell land in the Ohio Valley.
- ❑ Furthermore, the end of French, Dutch, and Spanish privateers in the Caribbean meant that colonial merchants could expand their regional trade networks and reap handsome profits by dealing directly with the West Indies, Africa, and other parts of the Americas.



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- ❑ As the British government began to insist that the American colonies pay for their security, colonial governments questioned the need for permanent British garrisons.
 - The British government saw the prosperity of its American colonies as a source of revenue to help pay the war debts.
 - The British government hoped to lower colonial administrative costs by passing the cost on to their colonies and through enforcement of existing tariffs or taxes.
- ❑ To ensure that smuggling would be prosecuted, an extensive customs service was established.
 - The King's prosecutors found it difficult to obtain smuggling convictions in colonial courts and created vice-admiralty courts empowered to identify, try, and convict suspected smugglers.
 - These courts were superior to the colonial courts and did not have a jury, but instead a panel of military officers who served as judges.
- ❑ The American colonists believed that the use of courts without juries represented a violation of English civil rights.