

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 Britain's colonists became embroiled in the home country's wars with France.
4. Describe the colonists' role in the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War), and indicate the consequences of the French defeat for Americans.
5. Indicate how and why the British victory in the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War) became one of the 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. . . ."
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. . . ."
3. **autocratic** Marked by strict authoritarian rule, without consent or participation by the populace. "This royal regime was almost completely autocratic."
4. **peasant** A farmer or agricultural laborer, sometimes legally tied to the land and owing obligations to local nobles or gentry. "Landowning French peasants . . . had little economic motive to move."
5. **coureurs des bois** French-Canadian fur trappers; literally, "runners of the woods." "These colorful *coureurs des bois* . . . were also runners of risks. . . ."
6. **voyageurs** French-Canadian explorers, adventurers, and traders. "Singing, paddle-swinging French *voyageurs* also recruited Indians. . . ."
7. **flotilla** A fleet of boats, usually smaller vessels. "The Indian fur flotilla . . . numbered four hundred canoes."
8. **ecological** Concerning the relations between the biological organisms and their environment. ". . . they all but extinguished the beaver population in many areas, inflicting incalculable ecological damage."

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.”
10. **strategic** Concerning the placement and planned movement of large-scale forces so as to gain political or military advantage in confrontation with the enemy. (By contrast, **tactical** refers to specific, variable, smaller-scale methods of waging conflict or achieving strategic objectives.) “Commanding the mouth of the Mississippi River, this strategic semitropical outpost also tapped the fur trade of the huge interior valley.”
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.”
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. . . .”
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. . . .”
14. **regulars** Trained professional soldiers, as distinct from part-time militia or conscripts. “. . . they had fought bravely alongside the crack British regulars. . . .”
15. **commissions** An official government certification granting a commanding rank in the armed forces. “. . . the British refused to recognize any American militia commission. . . .”

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 the nation’s internal religious and political conflicts.
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 delegates to the Albany Congress demonstrated a strong desire to overcome differences among different colonies and to control their own affairs.
8. T F William Pitt’s successful strategy was to concentrate British forces and focus on capturing the French 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 biological warfare tactic 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.

- Compared with the English colonies in North America, New France was
 - more wealthy and successful.
 - better able to maintain consistently friendly relations with the Indians.
 - more heavily populated.
 - more autocratically governed.
 - more divided by serious religious conflict.
- The expansion of New France occurred especially
 - in the interior mountain areas.
 - into the Canadian Pacific West.
 - into areas already occupied by English settlers.
 - to the north of the original St. Lawrence River settlement, around Hudson's Bay.
 - along the paths of North America's interior lakes and rivers.
- Colonial Americans were unhappy about the peace treaty of 1748 following the War of Jenkins's Ear because
 - it refused to acknowledge the great colonial contribution to British victory.
 - it returned the Louisbourg fortress they had captured back to France.
 - it created further conflicts with Spain.
 - it failed to deal with the issue of Indian attacks on the frontier.
 - they thought the treaty was grossly disproportionate to the war's trivial cause.
- The original cause of the French and Indian War was
 - conflict in Europe between Britain and France.
 - British removal of the Acadian French settlers from Nova Scotia.
 - British seizure of Indian lands on the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.
 - a French attack on George Washington's Virginia headquarters.
 - competition between French and English colonists for land in the Ohio River valley.
- The French and Indian War eventually became part of the larger world conflict known as
 - the Seven Years' War.
 - the War of Jenkins's Ear.
 - the War of the Austrian Succession.
 - King George's War.
 - the American Revolution.

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.
 - e. the emergence of New York as the most politically influential of the colonies.
7. The British forces suffered crushing 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.
 - e. Admiral Jenkins.
8. The fundamental flaw in British strategy before William Pitt gained control of the London government was it
 - a. devoted all its energy to winning naval victories, while ignoring the war on the land.
 - b. failed to elicit the full support and cooperation of its Indian allies.
 - c. tried to attack numerous French wilderness forts simultaneously, instead of concentrating on the key French fortresses.
 - d. refused to give sufficient forces to its best colonial general, George Washington.
 - e. concentrated on the St. Lawrence River valley rather than attacking the French in the more vulnerable Mississippi River valley.
9. The decisive event in the French-British contest for North America was the
 - a. British capture of Fort Duquesne.
 - b. British victory in the Battle of Quebec.
 - c. American capture of the Louisbourg fortress.
 - d. British attack on the French West Indies.
 - e. defeat of the Indian leader Pontiac through the distribution of smallpox-infected blankets.
10. Among the factors that tended to promote British colonists' intercolonial unity during the French and Indian War was
 - a. their religious unity.
 - b. their common language and shared wartime experience.
 - c. their ethnic and social harmony.
 - d. improved transportation and settlement of boundary disputes.
 - e. their desire to seize French land.
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. giving control of the Great Lakes to the British colonists.
 - e. removing their French and Spanish allies from Canada and Florida.
12. Perhaps the most enduring result of France's years of colonial rule in North America was
 - a. a permanent French-Canadian minority in Quebec in Canada.
 - b. continuing warfare into the nineteenth century between Britain and France over North America.
 - c. the legal recognition of Roman Catholicism as a minority religion in all the British colonies.
 - d. the creation of a rich tradition of French cuisine and fashion in North America.
 - e. support for the French Revolution by Britain's former North American colonists.

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.
 - e. encouraged Daniel Boone and his followers to cross the Appalachians into Kentucky.
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. the Americans opposed the forced resettlement of French Acadians (“Cajuns”) to Louisiana.
 - d. American soldiers refused to accept orders from British officers.
 - e. British officers treated the American colonial militia with contempt.
15. The most significant effect on the colonists of the French defeat in 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 for protection and increase their sense of independence.
 - d. to focus colonial energies on trade.
 - e. the creation of a strong intercolonial political organization.

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. _____ Catholic religious order that explored the North American interior and sought to protect and convert the Indians
5. _____ Far-running, 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 in 1748, 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 to British General Braddock who defended the frontier after Braddock’s defeat

12. _____ Fortress boldly and successfully assaulted by General Wolfe, spelling doom for New France
13. _____ Prussian king whose defeats of the French and others in Germany provided a key to the British victory in the Seven Years' War
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.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 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 Jenkins's Ear and ended with the return of Louisbourg to France |
| 5. ___ Fort Duquesne | e. Strategic French outpost at the mouth of the Mississippi |
| 6. ___ George Washington | f. Indian leader whose frontier uprising caused the British to attempt to limit colonial expansion |
| 7. ___ Benjamin Franklin | g. Blundering British officer whose defeat gave the advantage to the French and Indians in the early stages of their war |
| 8. ___ General Braddock | h. The Father of New France, who established a crucial alliance with the Huron Indians |
| 9. ___ William Pitt | i. Site of the death of Generals Wolfe and Montcalm, where France's New World empire also perished |
| 10. ___ Plains of Abraham | j. Strategic French stronghold; later renamed after a great British statesman |
| 11. ___ Seven Years' War | k. Militia commander whose frontier skirmish in Pennsylvania touched off a world war |
| 12. ___ Pontiac | |
| 13. ___ Proclamation of 1763 | |
| 14. ___ New Orleans | |
| 15. ___ Acadians (Cajuns) | |

- 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 | |

3. ___ Competition for land and furs in the Ohio Valley
 4. ___ The summoning of the Albany Congress by the British
 5. ___ William Pitt's assumption of control of British government and strategy
 6. ___ Wolfe's victory over Montcalm at Quebec
 7. ___ The colonial militia's military success in the French and Indian War
 8. ___ Colonial American smuggling and trading with French enemy
 9. ___ British issuance of the Proclamation of 1763
 10. ___ Braddock's defeat at Fort Duquesne
- b. Prompted widespread Indian assaults on the weakly defended colonial frontier
 - c. Led to Washington's expedition and battle with the French at Fort Necessity
 - d. Heightened colonial anger and encouraged illegal westward expansion
 - e. Increased American military confidence and resentment of British redcoats
 - f. Decimated beaver populations while spreading the French empire
 - g. Were echoed by four small wars between French and British subjects in North America
 - h. Represented the first major attempt at intercolonial unity
 - i. Increased British government's disdain for colonial Americans and raised doubts about their loyalty to the empire
 - 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.116, 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 *Events of 1755–1760* 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. 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?
2. In what ways were the American colonists involved in the home country's struggle with France?
3. How did French relations with the Indians compare with the Indian policies 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. What did the French and Indian War reveal about Britain's fundamental attitudes toward its North American colonies. How did the British view of the colonists differ from the way the colonists understood themselves and their identity?
7. When the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War) began, most American colonists were extremely proud and happy to be British citizens, part of the world's greatest empire. When it ended many of them no longer felt that way, even though the British Empire was more powerful than ever. Why?